

## Minutes

### CGIAR Consortium Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012  
Montpellier, France

The Consortium Board (CB) of the CGIAR held its seventh meeting in Montpellier on February, 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The participants were Carlos Pérez del Castillo (Board Chair), Carl Hausmann (Vice-Chair), Mohamed Ait-Kadi, Tom Arnold, Ganesan Balachander, Gebisa Ejeta, Ian Goldin, Lynn Haight and Agnes Mwang'ombe (Board Members). Alan Tollervey (Observer, representing the Fund Council (FC)), Jonathan Wadsworth (Executive Secretary of the FC), Pamela Anderson (Observer, representing Center Members), and Consortium Office (CO) staff (Bruce Fraser, Daniela Alfaro, Denyse Faulkner, Gordon MacNeil, Elise Perset, Enrica Porcari, Ruth Malan, Susan Faure, Stefania Grando and Vinciane Koenigsfeld) joined the meeting during the discussion of agenda items 6 through to 16. Anne Marie Izac apologized for not being able to attend the meeting.

The CB met for two full days, with a previous meeting on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, (AM) which focused mainly on the preparation for the joint meeting (PM) with Centers' Directors General and Board Chairs. The following key decisions were taken by the Board during the two-day meeting:

- *Allow a period of 3 weeks for the Centers to review and comment on the proposed CGIAR Branding guidelines. After that time, the CB will approve them virtually.*
- *Approval of 2012 CRP Financial Plan.*
- *Approval of the IA Principles Document for submission to the FC for its approval as part of the COF.*
- *Approval of the Templates for interim Annual Reporting from the Consortium to the FC concerning the CRPs and Centres.*

#### **Agenda item 1 - Welcome and opening remarks**

The Board Chair welcomed all members to the meeting. He acknowledged the progress made with the reform and highlighted developments (approval of all CRP portfolio, CGIAR IA principles, Consortium Budget approved by the last FC, progress in the mainstreaming of gender into all CRPs, progress on Monitoring principles of the CRPs, confirmation that the Consortium Office building will be constructed by end of 2013). He then went on to highlight priorities for 2012 (CEO selection, International Organization Status, Resource Mobilization Strategy), and outstanding concerns to share with Board Members, namely, the circumstances leading to the continued negative perception of the reform process by some Centres and Donors.

#### **Agenda item 2 - Approval of the agenda, housekeeping items**

The agenda was approved as stated with the addition of an item to discuss the joint initiative between the CGIAR and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and One Corporate System (OCS).

### Agenda item 3 - Executive Committee report

The Executive Committee (Ex-Co) was created with the objective of ensuring a smooth and efficient transition period following the resignation of the former CEO. The Board welcomed the Ex-Co report, which reflects the activities and progress since its creation on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The Ex-Co is comprised of Carlos Pérez del Castillo (Chair), Carl Hausmann (Vice-Chair), Ganesan Balachander and Lynn Haight. The Board Members wished to minute their appreciation for the considerable work undertaken by the Board Chair and the CB Executive Committee members during this transition period after the resignation of the former CEO on September 30, 2011, which was essential to ensure that there was no disruption in the Consortium activities as well as ensuring the full implementation of decisions and activities during this period.

### Agenda item 4 - CB Committees' Activities

On 30 January, 2012, five CB Committees were virtually approved by the CB for overseeing the different Consortium Board functions. With the exception of the Ex-Co, which had already presented its report, the other Committees' Chairs updated the Board on the outcome of their meetings held prior to the Board Meeting, their respective activities and on the work plans for 2012, as follows:

The **Audit and Risk Management Committee** (ARC) members, comprised of Lynn Haight (Chair) and Tom Arnold, informed on the following requests discussed in the Committee:

- i. It would be useful to have the status and budget for the individual centers' internal audit arrangements
- ii. The CB will require information on centers' internal audit deficiencies whether or not they received the complete report and the Audit Committee should continue to negotiate
- iii. The CB should become aware of any potential overrun in the OCS total budget
- iv. The CB wishes the CO Director of Finance to determine the Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance level of the centers' board.

The internal audit plan for the CO was approved by the Committee. The internal audit plan for the CO, OCS report, D & O insurance Policy for 8 million USDs was circulated among CB members.

The **Science, Programs and Partnerships (SPPC)** members, comprised of Ganesan Balachander (Chair), Mohamed Ait-Kadi, Gebisa Ejeta and Agnes Mwang'ombe reported to the Board on the issues discussed during the SPPC meeting. In order to keep the SPPC fully aware of developments on CRPs, the Chair emphasized the need for the CO Science team to provide regular updates on matters relating to CRPs and their progress. The Chair plans to hold virtual meetings on a quarterly basis with the other members of the Committee to monitor progress, update the full Board accordingly and to provide advice and suggestions to the CRP proponents through the Science team at the CO.

In addition, the SPPC supports the way in which the important issues of linkages among CRPs, partnerships arrangements, management and governance of the CRPs, quantitative and qualitative measures of progress and drawing lessons and learning from experience are squarely addressed in the

templates. A recommendation was made to the CO to undertake a mapping of the partnerships in the CRP portfolio in preparation for the Conference in Uruguay.

In reiterating the concerns on the way the system level CRPs have been developed, the Committee highlighted the need to engage soonest in the analysis of the whole CRP portfolio, identifying synergies, including the possibilities for common research sites, and detecting possible duplication and overlaps. The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress being made with the mainstreaming of the gender component into the CRPs.

The Committee reacted to the SRF Action Plan, which seeks to set research priorities, design a process for Foresight at SRF level and to identify appropriate metrics for connecting SLOs to the CRPs. The draft Action Plan is still at the preliminary stage with consultation being held with different stakeholders, including the ISPC with regards to their possible inputs and support. The Committee encourages the CO Science team to work on the process with clear guidelines within a defined time line, considering the GCARD 2012 process.

The **Members Interest Committee** (MIC), comprised of Lynn Haight (Chair), Carl Hausmann, Pamela Anderson, and Sara Boettiger. The Chair reviewed the last two MIC minutes and undertook to make sure that in future all minutes would be circulated to Board members. She indicated the extent of discussions undertaken by the Center representatives to ensure that this Montpellier meeting was a success. The Board was reminded that the MIC exists as a two-way conduit, and not only to hear and process comments from the Centers. Thus matters that any member of the Board would like to bring up with this Committee should be forwarded to the Chair of the Committee for the next call.

As a result of the meeting with the Board Chairs in Montpellier, the MIC had been requested to (firstly) prepare an expansion of the document discussed with them on the relationship between Boards of Centers and the Consortium Board, and then (secondly) to incorporate the results of the questionnaire, now being circulated amongst the Centers on CRP management, to that document in order to further clarify the relationship as it relates to CRPs.

The Chair of the **Nominations and Evaluations Committee** (NEC), Carl Hausmann, informed the Board about the on-going CB evaluation. The report from NACD, the firm in charge of the evaluation, is expected to be completed by the end of March 2012. Following the reception of the report, a work plan will be proposed by the NEC. In addition, the current CB renewal slate is also on-going, including an open discussion on the NEC proposal. A single renewal slate will be presented for the Member Centers to vote on tentatively by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The search of the new CB members will begin after the approval of the current CB renewal slate.

The NEC is composed of the Chair, Ganesan Balachander, Ian Goldin, Robert Zeigler and Paul Zuckerman.

### **Agenda item 5 - CEO selection Process**

The CEO selection was an issue of key importance and high priority at the February 2012 CB meeting.

The Board Chair briefed members to date about the search and selection process. In October 2011, the Board created a CEO Selection Committee comprised of Carlos Pérez del Castillo, Carl Hausmann, Ganesan Balachander, Lynn Haight and Pamela Anderson, as Center's representative. SRI Executive Search was appointed to assist in the search and selection of the new CEO.

The CEO Selection Committee met in Miami on February 4 to 6, 2012 for a round of interviews with the four short-listed candidates. The two final candidates were invited to come to Montpellier to give a presentation on what the challenges of the CGIAR are and how would they address them. A broader participation was sought in the final stages of the CEO selection process to ensure more transparency. The full CB including Donors' and Centers' representative to the Board, Centers' Directors and Board Chairs attended both presentations and provided their written assessment. The CB appreciates the feedback received. The CB expects to conclude this process in the very near future and will communicate its final determination at that time.

### **Agenda item 6 – Communications**

Enrica Porcari, the Acting Director of Communications, updated the Board on the activities undertaken since the last CB meeting. The CGIAR branding guidelines were developed collectively by the CO in collaboration with the Heads and Directors of Communications of each Centre. Within the new branding, CGIAR is no longer an acronym but a name with the tagline of "for a food secure future"

The CB expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the re-branding team and stated its full backing to these guidelines, supporting its use system-wide, particularly by CRPs. However, taking into consideration the Centers' request, the CB agreed to a 3-week period for the Centers' revision and feedback on the proposed CGIAR Branding guidelines. Following this period and taking into account the comments, the CB will approve these guidelines virtually. The Centers' representative to the CB offered to be the spokeswoman. She will distribute the guidelines to all Director-Generals, gather their comments and revert to the Board. It was suggested to the Acting Director of Communications to study means and ways of improving internal CGIAR communications. The FC Executive Secretary requested that the other CGIAR system units (Fund Council and ISPC) provide their feedback as well.

On the issue of IRRI's move to irri.org email addresses, the Acting Director of Communications expressed her opinion that in order to preserve the momentum and credibility of the CGIAR reform process, IRRI should retain its cgiar.org identifier for email. The choice of technology is their prerogative. However, if IRRI opts for an email system different from the CGIAR-wide standard, they need to implement pass-through services to retain the cgiar.org email address. The CB strongly supports the use of a unified CGIAR brand for all components of CGIAR, Centers, CGIAR Research Programs, Consortium and Fund. The creation of the Consortium had among its objectives, to speak with one voice under the CGIAR brand. Deviation of any Consortium member from that objective has to be avoided. The Acting Director of Communications informed the Board that IRRI DG has requested information on technical ways to revert to the use of cgiar.org email addresses without losing some of

the advantages of the alternative email platforms of their choice. This matter will be pursued by the Acting Director of Communications directly with IRRI.

The Acting Director updated the Board on the event “Rio+20”, which is an excellent opportunity to display a united CGIAR Communications front. CRP 5 “Water, Land and Ecosystems: Improved natural resources management for food security and livelihoods” will be launched from a united CGIAR booth at the Planet Under Pressure event in London, one of the events on the road to the Rio+20 event. On June 18, a half day event focusing on CGIAR new research agenda will be organized in Rio, at the same event, the new CGIAR website “[www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)” will be officially launched.

The new [cgiar.org](http://cgiar.org) website, currently being revamped, aims at, while retaining the institutional elements, give full visibility to our system-wide research (CRPs). Consequently, each CRP will be showcased in the [cgiar.org](http://cgiar.org) website, providing updates and background information

The Acting Director of Communications also provided an update on the activities related to collective purchases of software and journals that are being carried out.

**Note:** after the discussion on this item was finalized, CB members Tom Arnold and Agnes Mwang’ombe left the meeting to join a teleconference on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

### **Agenda item 7 - SRF Action Plan**

The Board welcomed the SRF Action Plan presented by Stefania Grando, CO Program Officer. The presentation focused on the three main components of the Action plan: priority setting process, building foresight and linkage between CRPs and SLOs.

The Board discussed the role of the ISPC on the Priorities Setting process, basically on methodologies and criteria. With the objective of submitting the SRF Action Plan for approval at the November 2012 Funders Forum, the CB Chair will discuss with the ISPC Chair the means to coordinate the reception of inputs to this Plan.

When the linkage between CRPs and System Level Outcomes (SLOs) was discussed, the Centers’ representative indicated that Sustainable Development Goals would replace Millennium Development Goals, suggesting that CGIAR may align itself with the new matrix. The value of new matrix was discussed, considering that global issues are still unresolved.

In addition, since donors give paramount importance to independent evaluation, a discussion on the role of the Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) ensued.

In a global scenario, as CGIAR is competing with other organizations to obtain financial resources, the representative of the FC emphasized the need to develop comprehensive evidence of research results to illustrate impact to CGIAR donors. The SPPC (Science Committee) will contribute to this process.

### **Agenda item 8 - Gender**

The Board Chair introduced Jacqueline Ashby who, since December 2011, has been the Senior Advisor on Gender and Research. Her consultancy is focused on strengthening the link between CRPs and Gender issues, promoting cohesiveness across these research programs.

The Board welcomed her and expressed their appreciation for the work performed over the first three months, with the support of the CO Program Officer (Andrew Ward). Jacqueline Ashby reported on progress and achievements in the following areas:

- i. The CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Research Network has been established—all 15 CRPs participate in a facilitated network to mutually support implementation of gender research;
- ii. Mainstreaming of gender issues into CRPs: CRP Lead Centers have appointed lead scientists to coordinate centers' work on gender for 13 over the existing 15 CRPs;
- iii. Preparation of gender strategy for each of the CRPs underway: five drafts of Gender Strategies have been received and three reviewed;
- iv. Eleven CRPs are actively communicating with the gender advisor about preparation of the gender strategy and/or network participation;
- v. One third of CRPs (5) will produce their gender strategies by June 2012 and in all, two-thirds are expected to be completed by December 2012

The Senior Advisor is organizing a meeting of the new gender network in New Delhi on March 12, back-to-back with the Global Conference on Women in Agriculture on March 13 to 15, 2012. The Chair of the SPPC and one CO Program Officer will also participate.

### **Agenda item 9 - 2011 Financial Reports**

The CO Director of Finance and Corporate Services briefed the CB on the 2011 CGIAR Provisional Financial Report (system level) and on the Consortium Financial Report (office level).

Given that the FC meeting will be at the beginning of March, some Centers did not have sufficient time to audit the 2011 financial statements. Consequently, the submitted CGIAR Financial Report will need to be revised later in 2012. It was suggested that the Board request the FC to re-schedule its first 2013 session to allow more time for statements to be audited.

#### **At system level**

The Director updated that 2011 total revenue is USD 717 million (compared to USD 668 million in 2010) and results are in surplus, 28 million (USD 39 million in 2010). According to the preliminary figures, there were no center deficits in 2011, and there had been non in 2010 either.

Five CRPs were up and running in 2011: two were fully operational (approved in 2010, started in January), three started in July. The current expenditure level for these 5 CRP is USD 227 million, which corresponds to the provisions made by the Centers. The amount will be adjusted in July with the audited statements.

The stability funding mechanism created some misunderstanding as both its purpose and functioning were unclear to some center staff. The aim was to make sure that Center unrestricted revenue would be kept at stability level so that no Center would end up with less funding than in 2010 (while technically they are restricted funds, window 1-2 resources are considered "unrestricted" for the purposes of the stability calculation). As this mechanism will not be applicable in 2012, there is no plan for stability funding in the future. An emergency funding mechanism, with a different calculation process, however, might be needed to help some Centers, particularly those still waiting for CRPs to be approved.

Reserves are kept at a reasonable level throughout the System but guidelines will need to be elaborated in order to clarify what are appropriate reserve levels. The Director suggested that an external consultancy firm may need to be hired in order to assess the risks and needs at Centers and at System level.

### **At the Office level**

The Financial consultant of the CO informed that 2011 budget was prepared when resource information for 2011 was very unclear, however, overall it worked well and there was no operating deficit. Bilateral funds (grants) allowed some flexibility. There were important savings on personnel cost (e.g.: Director of Communication remained vacant throughout 2011). The costs of the external firm to search the new CEO have been regarded as a 2011 expense.

The CO does not have reserves at Office level except for 1.1 million from the Alliance which are available for special needs. The positive variance 2011 could be retained subject to approval of the FC. The CGIAR internal audit unit will carry out an audit of 2011 expenses. Cash flows that came through (Genebanks, Stability Funding) will need to be taken into consideration when the report will be issued. In the course of 2011, it was decided that the CO would participate into the OCS to join the nine centers participating. The costs of OCS were charged fully in the year so there will be no depreciation expenses incurred in later years.

The CB Chair requested the Director to address the comments provided by the Executive Secretary of the FC in order to clarify the spreadsheets of the CO Financial report to be presented at the upcoming FC7.

The CB noted that the FC needs to have a discussion on how best to address the recovery of the CSP (Cost Sharing Percentages)

### **Agenda item 10 - 2012 Financial Plan**

The Financial Consultant updated the Board on the 2012 Consortium Office and Consortium Board budgets. In principle, overall budget amounts were held at the 2011 budget levels. And in the context of the CO and CB being "System Offices" and subject to Peer Review, it can be expected that annual operating budgets in the near future will continue to be "capped" at around current levels. Thus there is no growth scenario in the "core" budgets. Other activities can be undertaken when outside funding

can be obtained. For 2012, there is outside funding from the Netherlands (IP) and SDC (IP and OCS) which have been built into the 2012 Work Programme and Budget

In reference to the 2012 CRP Financing Plan, the Director of Finance reminded the Board that the proposed plan focuses on the CRPs only. It does not include funds for Genebanks or System cost and no stability funding has been budgeted.

For budgeting purposes, it was assumed that All 15 CRPs will be operational, at least to some degree. The 2012 financial requirement is for USD 809 million out of which about 50% (USD 400 million) from W1 and W2.

The current estimated 2012 W1 & W2 availability is USD 290 million based on the carryover of unspent funds from 2011 (as a result of the slow start of some CRPs) and on the estimate of the expected 2012 funding. There are uncertainties and this forecast will need to be updated throughout 2012.

The modeling exercise was started based on a matrix of 2009-2010. As the estimated availability is USD 290 million, a recalculation CRP by CRP was performed in order to guarantee equity and minimal funding gaps. The minimum level of funding according to this model is 72 per cent.

Even though total funding level has not yet been reached, growth is considerable, and Centers expressed their satisfaction with this modeling exercise.

An integrated CRP harmonization exercise will need to start in 2012 in order to address structural issues, e.g. management charges and unbalanced W1-2 growth requirements between CRP's in year 2; as well as, an adjusted financial model for the next FC meeting. The integration of the Challenge Programs into the CRPs will also need to be completed. The Finance Director requested the CB to authorize the four CRPs that budgeted the 2% recovery cost at W1 and W2 level (Wheat, Maize, CCAFS and GRiSP) to keep these 2% as their budgeting was a result of a lack of initial guidelines and the funds received have long been used. The CB approved this measure.

The CB requested that the final version of the table be distributed. The CB approved the submitted financing plan at the level of USD 288.5 million, instead of USD 287m. The CB commended the Director of Finance and Corporate Services' work. The CB noted that the Centers are satisfied with the logical, consistent and balanced modeling proposal that allows minimal funding gaps (72 percent funding minimum). The Board also took note of the FO suggestion to initiate prioritization by performance and results rather than mechanically, but all concerned recognize that this is a major task and it is still quite early as not all CRP's have been approved. However, the need for a strategic review in future years was clearly accepted

#### **Agenda item 11 - CRP Budget Harmonization**

The CO Director of Finance presented the concepts for CRP Budget Harmonization. The CB considered that there is insufficient time for preparing a reasonable model of strategic harmonization for approval at the next FC in November 2011, but recognized that some adjustments in budgets are needed - for example the management components can be reviewed for consistency, future years' allocations of restricted funds can be updated, among others. A logical trajectory of funding from 2013 onwards is

needed since the CRP budgets have extreme variability in approved level of W1-2 resources, partly reflecting different assumptions of restricted funds when the CRP's were being developed. Furthermore, the CB considers that this budget harmonization should be prepared in collaboration with the science team of the CO. The CB emphasizes the need to ensure that sufficient resources are available to implement this undertaking.

The CB Chair considers that the CO science team and the SPPC Committee should analyze the CRP portfolio to identify duplication, overlaps and gaps, prior to its integration into financial plans so as to have a fully integrated harmonization model exercise.

### **Agenda item 12 - CRP Portfolio update**

The Board welcomed the update on the CRP portfolio presented by Stefania Grando. The CB asked the CO to work at the CRP portfolio level on four main issues: Gender, interactions among CRPs, partnerships, and CRP management and governance structures.

Agricultural system CRPs should be moved forward as part of the new area of the core competency of the CGIAR, clearly defined in the SRF. The CB Chair will advocate on different levels to push forward on these CRPs, basically those that have not received full approval by the FC (CRP1.1 and 1.2).

The CB emphasized the need to do prioritization at the portfolio level looking for the future generation of CRPs.

The CB also discussed how the ISPC may contribute to development of a methodology that the Consortium might use for prioritizing investments across the CGIAR research portfolio, as well as for foresight.

### **Agenda item 13 - Common Operational Framework (COF)**

After the approval of the CB and FC, two documents, CGIAR Intellectual Assets (IA) Principles and the Harmonised Reporting, will become chapters of the COF.

The CO Legal Counsel reported that following the CB approval of the Consortium IA Policy in May 2011, the Consortium decided to elaborate the CGIAR Principles on the Management of the Intellectual Assets to be included in the COF. The transparency provision of this document was the most discussed issue with the Centres. Currently, the Centres unanimously support the CGIAR Principles draft as well as a strong majority of donors. The implementation Guidelines are to be developed subsequently by the Consortium and Centers.

Following a query by the Board Chair, the Executive Secretary of the FC indicated that in acknowledging the extensive compromises made by both Centers and Fund Donors in order to reach this common position, donor IP/IA group hopes that these IA Principles will be adopted at the next FC on an interim basis for the next two reporting cycles (approximately 2 years) to create an evidence base and provide learning to facilitate a productive review process at the end of the interim period.

The CB approved the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets and therefore they are now ready to be submitted to the FC for approval. Following the request of some donors, the CO will prepare examples of restrictions to global access to maximize impacts to be presented at the March 2012 FC meeting.

Stefania Grando, CO Programme Officer, informed the Board on the work undertaken to date towards the establishing of reporting templates for CRPs. After the approval of the Monitoring Principles by the CB last November, the CO prepared the first draft harmonized reporting Chapter for the Common Operational Framework. Discussions with donors on the draft reporting templates had led to a stand-off on the part of some donors, who stated that they would not approve the present draft template. They expressed the wish to see more mention of 'targets', greater portfolio analysis, greater ability to measure if outputs and outcomes are on track, and a good link between the CRPs and SLOs. The CO therefore suggested that an interim reporting template could be tabled at next FC meeting, for reporting on 2011 progress (mainly for the four CRPS functioning for 6 months or more in 2011).

Considering that the Harmonized reporting was not up for approval, the CB approved the templates for interim Annual Reporting. This document will be discussed at the next FC meeting. By the end of this year, the CO will assess the efficacy of the Templates based on the feedback of different stakeholders. Consequently, by the end of 2012, a new Template will be part of the COF, which will eventually be used by all 15 CRPs when reporting their progress in 2013.

#### **Agenda item 14 - Feedback and recommendations from inter-Centre meeting**

The CB takes notes of the 7 recommendations raised by the Centres related to Branding, reserves, ISPC, IEA, HR & Gender at workplace, IA Principles and Resource Mobilization. Please refer to the Joint Meeting Minutes to see the recommendations and the respective replies of the CB Chair.

#### **Agenda item 15 - Resource Mobilization**

The Executive Secretary of the FC presented an overview of the CGIAR Fund inflows and outflows. He also indicated that the CB has a central role in the CGIAR Fund Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) to bring together CRPs achievements and results for the Fund to present to donors when requesting greater and predictable funding. The Fund is preparing a RMS based on three principles: 1) Voluntary, multi-year replenishment; 2) multi-layered replenishment approach, and 3) compact between funders and Consortium (linking funding to results).

The FC Executive Secretary indicated that the reform intends to channel donors' contributions to Window 1 (highly desirable) and Window 2 (less desirable), even though at present some donors still use Window 3 for their assistance.

He further indicated that the CB has a central role in coordinating, catalyzing, and bringing components of the system together to work in a coordinated way. The CB considered that the RMS presented by the FO is a comprehensive proposal that includes the roles of the different CGIAR actors and the need to function in a coordinated fashion. Additionally, the Centres' representative



commented that one of the tasks of the CB is to enable Donors to feel sufficiently confident in the system so they can release control on the funding and trust the reformed system to perform.

The Consortium will strongly contribute on the strategy and on the action plan proposed, with the goal of showing concrete results and connect those with the CRP portfolio. The overall objective is to achieve results that can be presented to Donors in order to obtain more predictable funding.

### **Agenda item 16 - Any other Business**

Tom Arnold briefed the CB on the teleconference in which he and Agnes Mwang'ombe participated on February 29<sup>th</sup> regarding the joint Initiative CGIAR- CAADP. This initiative includes signing a joint MOU between African Union and the Consortium, developing a Science Agenda for African Agriculture, mapping and the performance of an alignment exercise organized by IFPRI with African partners and other CG Centres, together with technical workshops designed for the countries who have prepared CAADP investment plans.

The CB agreed that both board members should continue to be involved in this initiative until the new CEO is recruited. At that moment, the new CEO will analyze this initiative and evaluate the involvement of the Consortium.

In principle, the CB agreed to sign the MOU between the African Union and the Consortium while requesting the CO to review the legal and programmatic implications for the CGIAR.

*As the remaining agenda items were discussed "in camera", no minutes were taken.*