

Concept Note for the CGIAR National Consultation Forum on Sites

The Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which operates through the Research Programs (CRP), has launched a second phase of CRP Research Programs II. These include several research agendas to effectively contribute to achieving research and development goals of each country.

Previous research focus for CRPs and implementation sites had been set independently by each center. After CGIAR review, it was suggested that:

- a) The CRPs and research centers further develop integration of research and development strategies in the respective countries,
- b) In consultation with the countries concerned, they will revise and rationalize the number, location, and level of test sites in each country starting from the perspectives of national research systems, goals, and the CGIAR strategy.

In order to coordinate the research activities for development, all the CGIAR Centers and their respective CRP programs are in the process of developing plans for each country. The goal is to identify integration sites where CGIAR innovations are expected to benefit millions of people. The key purpose of this process is to increase the integration of objectives. CGIAR centers will focus on improving centers coordination and collaboration in the geographical selection of appropriate integration sites, and to constitute specific sites for research at national level.

Considering the investment interest of several CRP programs, Rwanda has been selected by the Consortium to be one of the countries that will participate in this integration approach.

The site integration development plans in each country will be included in the proposals of each CRPs II programs. This will show how the CGIAR centers will work together to align their national strategies and priorities. The objectives of this national consultation forum in Rwanda are to assist the centers

1. Determine the priority needs that can be addressed by the CGIAR
2. Understand how the CGIAR integration efforts can complement those of other national partners and programs to achieve the desired results
3. Develop a site integration plan for the country
4. Develop a progressive plan of stages and impact assessment of the integrated implementation
5. Develop a strategy for research resources mobilization for the implementation of the integration plan
6. Develop a governance structure, communication plans and coordination mechanisms

The expected outcomes of this forum is to provide inputs that will be used to develop a:

- a) Site plan of integration
- b) Progressive plan for monitoring progress and impact assessment
- c) Governance structure and coordination mechanism
- d) Resource mobilization plan
- e) Communication plan

International Potato Center is currently leading the Site Integration process in Rwanda and will compile a site integration plan and forward it to the CGIAR offices. The CGIAR will in turn consolidate an integration plan of all the sites from the National Consultations.