

WHY SITE INTEGRATION? INTRODUCTION TO THE CONCEPT OF SITE INTEGRATION

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues and Friends,

As many of you are aware, the main aim of this integration process is to explore how CGIAR centers can work better together and align their activities and research agenda to the country's priorities so that impact can be delivered in a more coherent, sustainable and cost effective way that responds to national and Global Development Goals.

Research and development to improve agriculture and mitigate and adapt the effects of climate change are key in ensuring both national and household food security. The potential of the agriculture sector in Rwanda to reduce poverty and malnutrition, improve incomes and contribute to national developmental goals cannot be overstated.

As a member of the donor community, we have supported the CGIAR in many ways; directly through either the CGIAR fund council, for CRP (CGAIR research program) activities or to country programs in Africa and Asia. In Rwanda, for example, USAID has funded many CGIAR activities. Currently, we support XX centers with xxx amount of money for various activities under the FtF portfolio. DFID and EU also provide funds to many CGIAR centers some of which are provided to local partners present here.

Working together and more closely with each other is expected to lead to more efficient use of donor funding and reduction in the duplication of efforts. Given the rich technical capacity, knowledge base and evidence from research that CGIAR generates, working together and sharing ideas/finding in common areas or sites is an excellent opportunity to further advance agricultural systems research for development and improved livelihoods of farming communities. This is why many donors including those of the UN system have and are embracing the notion of integration and remain excited about its prospects. Integration and alignment of activities and deliverables are important in ensuring that development projects do not focus only on activities that support donors/centers needs but primarily also meet country's priorities in a coordinated format which donors support.

Our quest as donors is to contribute to finding sustainable solutions to the challenges facing the agriculture, nutrition and livelihood sector. In order to answer national priorities as well as our own, reduce poverty and feed the hungry, the CGIAR partnership has contributed a lot to some of the successes

we have globally in agriculture and food systems. They remain an important part of this puzzle, generating new innovations in agricultural and social science delivery systems using cutting edge research equipment, techniques and diffusion methods with our support as stakeholders.

We hope that the principles and mechanisms that guide the development of the CGIAR site integration process, the plan outlining collaboration; selection of sites and collaboration with implementing partners will be effectively addressed in this stakeholder consultation and beyond.

The importance of your joint collaboration efforts in areas such as monitoring, learning and evaluation, communication, advocacy and policy, coordination, impact assessment and evaluation and support for governance structures that deliver effective and efficient agriculture and food systems will be an expected outcome for this integration process.

We are aware that you have the capacity to effectively build on the wealth of evidence you continue to generate. We look forward to supporting these efforts through our continued support to Phase 2 of the CGIAR research programs and individual centers.

On behalf of USAID, thank you.