Mexico, El Batan, April 1, 2016

Dear Members of the CGIAR Consortium Office, the ISPC, Consortium Board and the FUND Council:

On behalf of the lead Center CIMMYT, ICARDA, and the partners of the CGIAR Research Program WHEAT, we are pleased to submit the WHEAT Agri-Food Systems Proposal for 2017-2022. Building on a strong base of impactful technologies/knowledge generated over the last five years, WHEAT in Phase-II will play a key role in contributing to the CGIAR Strategic Results Framework and System Level Outcomes. Through its on farm livelihood-focused technologies and approaches, partnerships that encompass more than 250 research and development partners worldwide and further incorporating part of the Dryland Cereal Legume CRP, WHEAT will leverage and synergize with an array of CRPs and Platforms.

We deeply appreciate the constructive comments/inputs from the CGIAR Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) team’s report. The CGIAR IEA team brief report on WHEAT noted: “CRP WHEAT was found to exploit its comparative advantage, which is unique in terms of access to and knowledge of wheat germplasm, experienced researchers, focus on a crop that is not attractive to the private sector, particularly for addressing developing country needs, and long standing relationships with the relevant and highly committed NARS and ARIs. CRP WHEAT quality of science was assessed to be on par with ARIs, particularly considering that WHEAT produces both scientific outputs and enhanced germplasm”

We are grateful to the ISPC for its suggestions on the WHEAT Pre-proposal. The constructive inputs / comments from the IEA team, the ISPC, and the feedback from the key partners of WHEAT on the draft full proposal in 2016 have immensely contributed to the formulation of the present version of the WHEAT AFS Proposal (2017-2022).

The attached WHEAT AFS Proposal (2017-2022) document has been prepared in accordance with the Guidance document for CRP Full Proposals, and the time-to-time inputs received from the Consortium. The compulsory overview and the Flagship Project (FP) sections are complemented by Annexes; these annexes provide detailed additional information on various sub-sections in the overview (Section 1) and Flagship projects (Section 2).

Thank you for considering the WHEAT AFS Full Proposal.

With best regards,

Martin J. Kropff
Director General, CIMMYT

Hans.-J. Braun
WHEAT CRP Director