

Dear Patricia:

Thanks for giving us an opportunity to provide our inputs on the preliminary consultation draft.

Based on the five options provided, IFPRI supports Option #3: Modifications of the existing system structure and decision-making processes and accountabilities with strengthened Fund Office and a Consortium of the centers.

We support this option as we feel it begins to get at the reforms identified in the MTR while keeping much needed stability in the system. As the system is deeply emerged in critical issues – finalization of the SRF and development of 2nd Phase of CRPs, we believe that the system cannot weather another complete governance change and continue to produce the good research needed for CRPs and the Centers. However, we strongly urge that the Options Group develop a way for the reformed CB to be able to deal effectively with conflicts of interest, to be able to make hard decisions, and to do so in a more-transparent way.

However, over the medium- to long-term (after 3 years), IFPRI see strong value in moving toward Option 5 - One governing body with one administrative/management office in one location. This is the position the Centers agreed to several months ago. We continue to believe one strong board would be the most efficient and effective way for the Consortium to operate over time. To make it work, this super board should also have a strong leadership, clear mechanism to make hard decisions and be well represented by different stakeholders.

Best Regards,

Shenggen