

**4th CGIAR Integrated Partnership Board (IPB) Meeting
11-12 April 2025, Nairobi, Kenya / Hybrid**

Agenda Item 03	● CGIAR Science Week Reflections Portfolio Update, and Science Committee Report
Distribution notice:	Restricted to Members and Active Observers until deliberations are concluded
Issue date:	4 April 2025 (Cover note updated; pre-read materials expected by 8 April 2025)
Purpose:	For reflection, information, and decision
Requested action:	Approval
Background summary:	This item provides the IPB with a chance to reflect on Science Week and receive an update on the Inception Phase for the 2025–2030 science and innovation Portfolio. The update will include input from the IPB Science, Innovation, Impact and Partnership Committee (Science Committee). The Committee held its first meeting on 14 March 2025 to consider its role and initial priorities. At the meeting, management presented an overview of progress and outlined key milestones associated with the Portfolio Inception Phase and technical reporting on CGIAR’s 2022-24 Research Initiatives and Impact Area Platforms. At its second meeting on 31 March 2025, the Committee finalized its proposed revised Terms of Reference, identified its priorities, and prepared its report to the Board. The final report is currently under Committee review and will be shared with the IPB shortly. The IPB will be invited to review and, if deemed appropriate, approve the revised Terms of Reference. Broader reflections from the Committee will help inform the Board’s discussion.
Draft decision point:	Pursuant to article 9.14 of the CGIAR Charter of the System Organization, the Integrated Partnership Board approves the revised Terms of Reference of the IPB Science, Innovation, Impact and Partnership Committee as presented.
Supporting documents:	<i>(pre-read materials expected by 8 April 2025)</i> • Report from the Science Committee • Revised Terms of Reference – IPB Science, Innovation, Impact and Partnership Committee
Submitted by:	Science Committee Secretary

Report of the CGIAR Integrated Partnership Board's Science, Innovation, Impact, and Partnership Committee: April 2025

This document sets out a report of the CGIAR Integrated Partnership Board's Science, Innovation, Impact, and Partnership Committee ('Science Committee') to the Board at of its 4th meeting on 11—12 April 2025.

Introduction

1. The CGIAR Integrated Partnership Board's Science, Innovation, Impact, and Partnership Committee ('Science Committee') was established at the Board's 3rd meeting in Montpellier, France on 6—8 February 2025.
2. The Committee was created to support the Board in its delivery of the following functions set out in the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization ('Charter'):
 - a. strategic direction and the science Portfolio (Articles 8.2 a, b, d, t);
 - b. partnership strategy and engagement (Articles 8.2 m, n, o, p, q); and
 - c. monitoring and evaluation (Articles 8.2 y, z, aa).
3. This document sets the Committee's report to the Board at its 4th meeting on 11—12 April 2025.

Terms of reference of the Committee

4. The Committee has reviewed its terms of reference (ToR) as approved by the Board on 6 February. In the interest of further clarifying its role vis-à-vis the Board and management, the Committee recommends amendments to its responsibilities as set out in Document [IPB 004-03b] for consideration and, if deemed appropriate, approval by the Board.

Priorities and key deliverables

5. Reflecting on its ToR and management's priorities for 2025, the Committee has identified the following priorities for advice and recommendations to the Board:
 - a. **partnership strategy** in the context of CGIAR's Research and Innovation Strategy, upcoming Institutional Strategy, and the implementation of CGIAR's Partner Engagement Framework;

- b. **CGIAR's value proposition**, taking into account feedback provided by the Board and the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) on the 2025—30 Portfolio Narrative;
 - c. **frontier research and innovations**, supported by longer-term foresight and planning;
 - d. **science and partnership advisory structures** at Center, Integrated Partnership, and System Council levels;
 - e. **mapping of institutional capabilities and mandates** across CGIAR, in relation to new cross-cutting challenges and opportunities; and
 - f. **the impacts of CGIAR's changing funding landscape** on its science, innovations, impact, and partnerships.
6. In addition, the Committee will engage on the **science and innovation -related opportunities and risks of artificial intelligence** as part of the Board's broader efforts in this area.
7. Consistent with its ToR, the Committee will advise and provide recommendations to the Board in the context of key deliverables and decision moments related to the Inception Phase for CGIAR's 2025—30 science and innovation Portfolio and associated independent evaluative work. These include but are not necessarily limited to:
- a. management's Portfolio Inception Update to the CGIAR System Council at its 22nd meeting on 4—5 June 2025;
 - b. management's Action Plan in response to the Independent Science for Development Council's (ISDC) review of Program and Accelerator Inception Reports and relevant supporting materials, expected to be tabled for Board approval in August 2025;
 - c. management's proposed, CGIAR Trust Fund Windows 1 and 2 (W1/2) financial plan from 2026 as it relates to science, innovations, impact, and partnerships, expected in Q4 of 2025;
 - d. technical reporting on CGIAR's 2022—24 Portfolio of Research Initiatives and Impact Area Platforms, particularly the overall 2024 Portfolio Narrative and the 'Type 2' report on progress towards impact, both to be tabled for Board approval in June 2025; and

- e. independent evaluations and associated management responses, namely the review of CGIAR's Management Response System to Independent Evaluations (Committee's inputs delivered in March 2025) and the Evaluability Assessments of CGIAR's Programs and Accelerators, expected in Q4 of 2025.

April 2025 progress update on CGIAR science, innovations, impact, and partnership

8. Building on management's presentation to the Board at its 3rd meeting on 6—8 February 2025 and its update to a broader audience of CGIAR's governing and independent bodies on 4 March 2025, below is a brief summary of progress across the work streams under the IPB Science Committee's mandate: (i) CGIAR's science and innovation Strategy and Portfolio; (ii) partnership strategy and engagement; and (iii) monitoring and evaluation.

Topic	Update as of 7 April 2025
CGIAR's science and innovation Strategy and Portfolio	<u>Portfolio Inception planning and delivery:</u> - Portfolio Inception Plan defined and presented to the IPB as well as members of the System Council, ISDC, and senior leadership (March 2025) - Program/ Accelerator Inception Report template and relevant guidance completed, building on ISDC feedback (March 2025) - Detailed guidance on Program/ Accelerator prioritization, comparative advantage analysis, theories of change, MELIA plans, and risk management completed and shared with Program/ Accelerator teams (March 2025) - Guiding principles and core elements of an approach for Portfolio-level prioritization for impact developed by the CGIAR Global Science Team at its first in-person meeting (April 2025) - Preliminary Program/ Accelerator work plans and budgets for 2025 completed, initial 2025 Decision Letters issued to Centers setting out their preliminary allocations of W1/2 funds per Program/ Accelerator (March 2025) <u>Operationalizing Portfolio and Program/ Accelerator management and leadership arrangements:</u> - CGIAR Global Science Team (GST) (December 2024), interim Program/ Accelerator Directors and Deputy Directors (October 2024), Area of Work Transition Leads and Co-Leads (January 2025), and transitional Program Management Units (February

	2025) in place and operational, driving coherent Portfolio, Program, and Accelerator leadership and management across all Centers and key partners • Longer-term Program/ Accelerator Director/ Leader positions advertised internally (February) and externally where required (March 2025), with first interviews expected in April 2025 <u>Stakeholder engagement:</u> • The first in a series of CGIAR governing and independent advisory bodies touch points on the Portfolio Inception Phase held on 4 March 2025 • CGIAR’s 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy, 2025—30 science and innovation Portfolio, and associated management arrangements presented to new CGIAR governing body members as part of a CGIAR-wide induction program (March 2025) • W1/2 Funder outreach to confirm/ update intended W1/2 contributions and associated W2 earmarks to be reflected in an updated set of 2025 funding scenarios for each Program and Accelerator, reflecting CGIAR’s rapidly changing funding landscape (underway, to be completed in April 2025) • Continuous close engagement with science leadership across all Programs/ Accelerators and Centers through the GST as well as regular, expanded touch points with ~200 members of CGIAR’s broader Program/ Accelerator- and Area of Work-level leadership (ongoing) • All Programs and Accelerators and associated key partnerships featured at CGIAR Science Week (ongoing)
Partnership strategy and engagement	• Guidance on co-design and partner engagement provided to Program/ Accelerator teams as part of the Inception Report template, designed to address Board, ISDC, and System Council feedback and guidance (March) • Working draft Partnership Strategy developed in 2024, made available to Program/ Accelerator teams to pilot during the Portfolio Inception Phase (2024) • CGIAR Science Week on 7—12 April 2025 marks a major partner engagement and outreach moment for CGIAR science and innovations

Monitoring and evaluation	• CGIAR Results Dashboard updated with 2024 results and progress of the Research Initiatives and Impact Area Platforms (March 2025) • ‘Type 1’ technical reports of Initiatives’ and Platforms’ 2024 progress and results and ‘Type 3’ report on internal practice change on track for publication in May 2025 • ‘Type 2’ report on progress towards impact on track for completion and submission for Board approval in June 2025 • Management Response to the Independent Review CGIAR’s Management Response System to Independent Evaluations completed and submitted to the Board (March) • Management and Board engaging with the evaluation function on 2025 Program and Accelerator Evaluability Assessments (from February)
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