



**CGIAR**

*Science for a food-secure future*

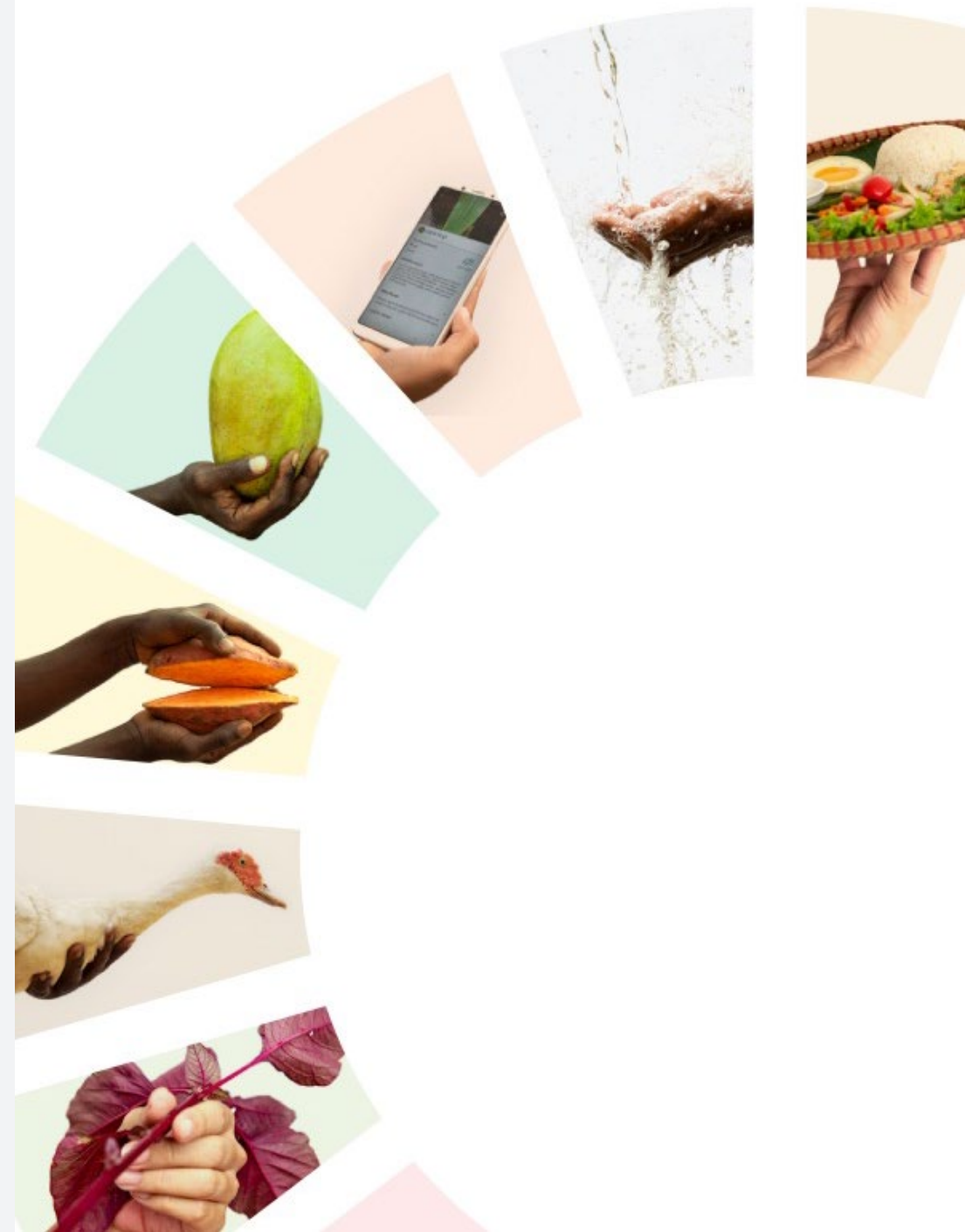
# Reflections from CGIAR Executive Managing Director

---

Purpose: For information

Prepared by: EMD, CGIAR

Agenda Item  
**Document SC21-03**  
**For information**  
Issued: Dec 11, 2024



## 50 years of partnership with Germany



- ~\$1bn since 1974.
- **Strategic engagement** through System Council and previous governing bodies.
- **60+ German scientists** serving on several Centers Boards and employed senior positions.
- **Research partnerships** with German institutions: Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Max Planck Institute, University of Bonn (ZEF), University of Hohenheim, Potsdam-Climate Institute, PIK, Welthungerhilfe and German NGOs.

**DANKE SCHÖN!**



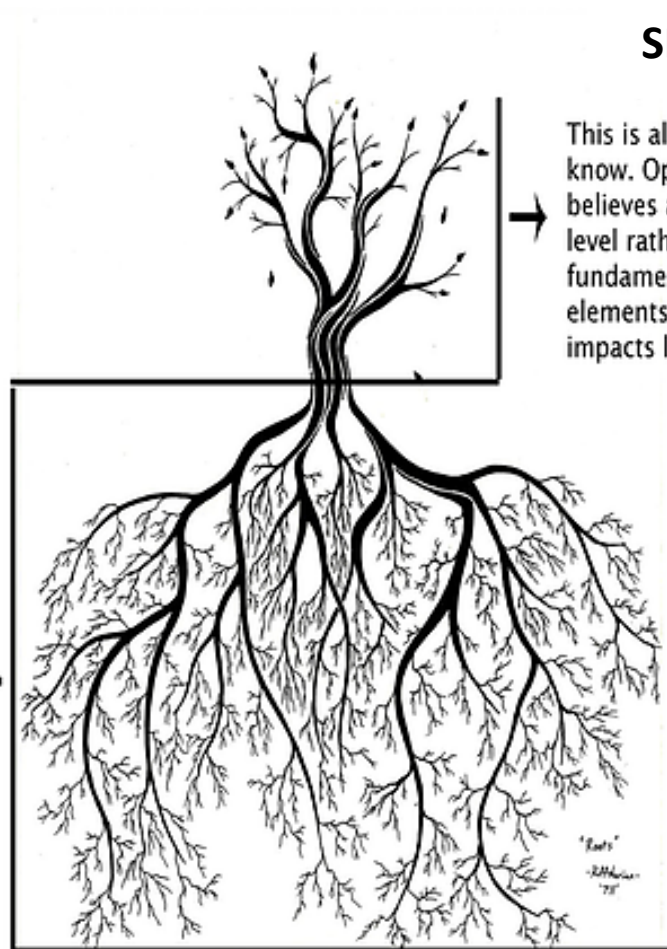
# My reflections

## SIMPLICITY

This is all you get to see and know. Opinions, perceptions and beliefs are constructed at this level rather than the fundamentals and foundational elements. Therefore this impacts level of cognition.

## DEPTH

This is what is hidden and forced to be ignored but needs to be comprehended. It consists of fundamentals and foundational elements. Understanding of this guarantees high level cognition abilities. Knowing this also means you know the outcome represented by simplicity above.



TREE WITH DEEP ROOTS: USED AS AN ILLUSTRATION TO CRITIC THE ROLE OF SIMPLICITY AND ITS IMPACT



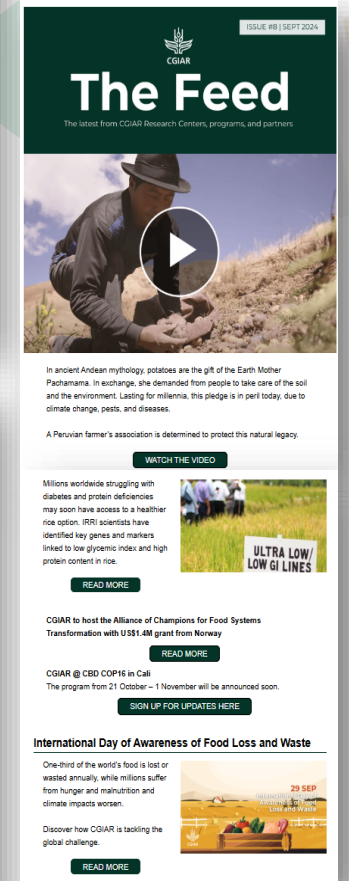
# Increased visibility for our work and impact

In 2024:

- **42% increase** in social media engagement
- **320,000+** additional followers on social media
- **220% increase** subscribers for newsletters
- **30,000+** media mentions
- **408 tracked events** across the system
- **123 with leadership on global stage**

**With  
science  
we can**

CGIAR Science Week  
rescheduled for 7-12 April 2025  
UN Campus in Nairobi  
[www.cgiar.org/science-week](http://www.cgiar.org/science-week)  
More Information coming soon



# Growing relevance of our work addressing global challenges



**We mobilized to engage** in negotiations of the **3 Rio Conventions** (Climate, Biodiversity and Desertification), showcasing science to inform decisions and building partnerships.



- **150+ scientists**
- **36 Pavilion events ; 200+ partner sessions**
- **Contributed to 3 negotiations outcomes**
- **High visibility** for our campus, hosting a **Heads of Delegation dinner** and a **Financial Times** event



- **80+ scientists**
- **44 Pavilion events ; 60+ partner sessions**
- **7 negotiations tracks** followed and **contributed to 4 outcomes**
- **High visibility** through the **Presidency Food Initiative** and engagement with the **UN Secretary General**



**100+ scientists ; 39 Pavilion events ; 40+ partner sessions.**  
Outcomes TBC (*event still ongoing*).



## Increased recognition on global platforms



Participation in the **G20 (Ag track)** and **G7 (Ag and Dev tracks)** successfully led to our priorities included in ministerial communiqués.

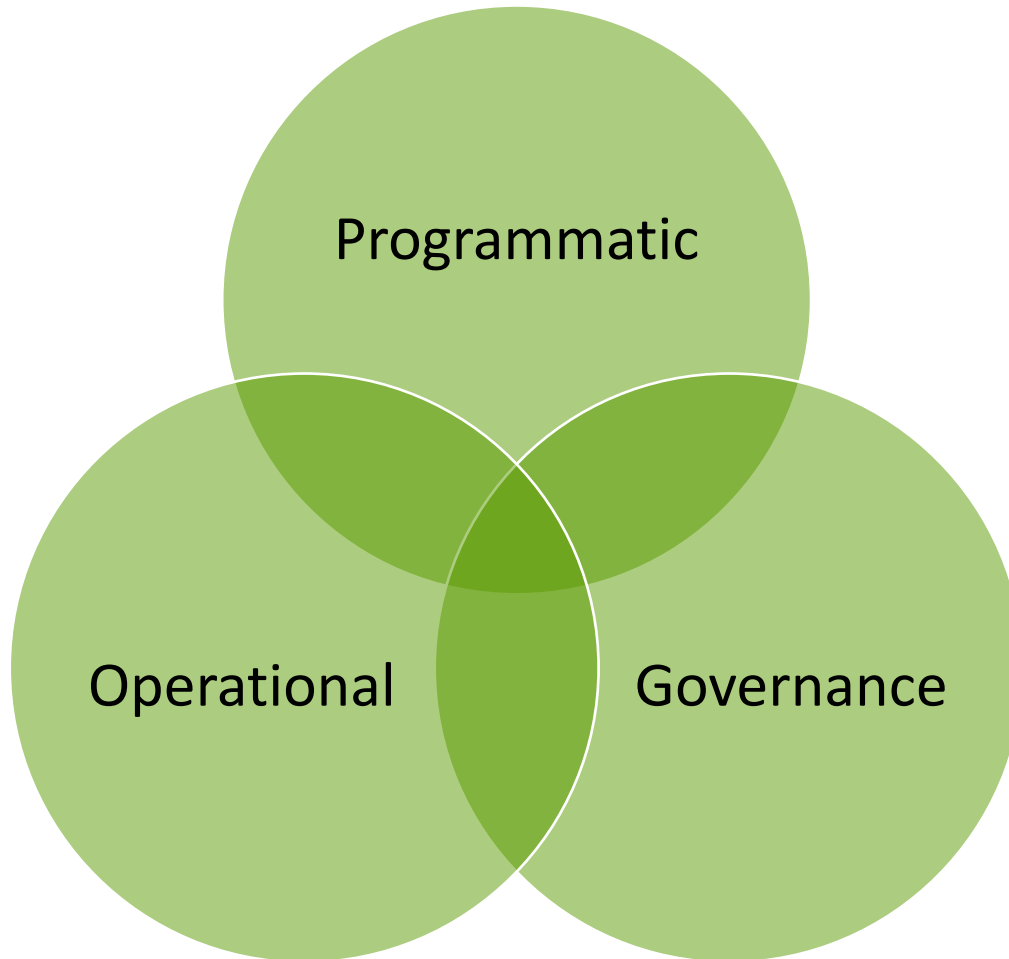


**1<sup>st</sup> major UNGA engagement**, contributing to thought-leadership on Digital and AI of the **Summit of the Future** at **36 events** and **15 bilateral meetings**.



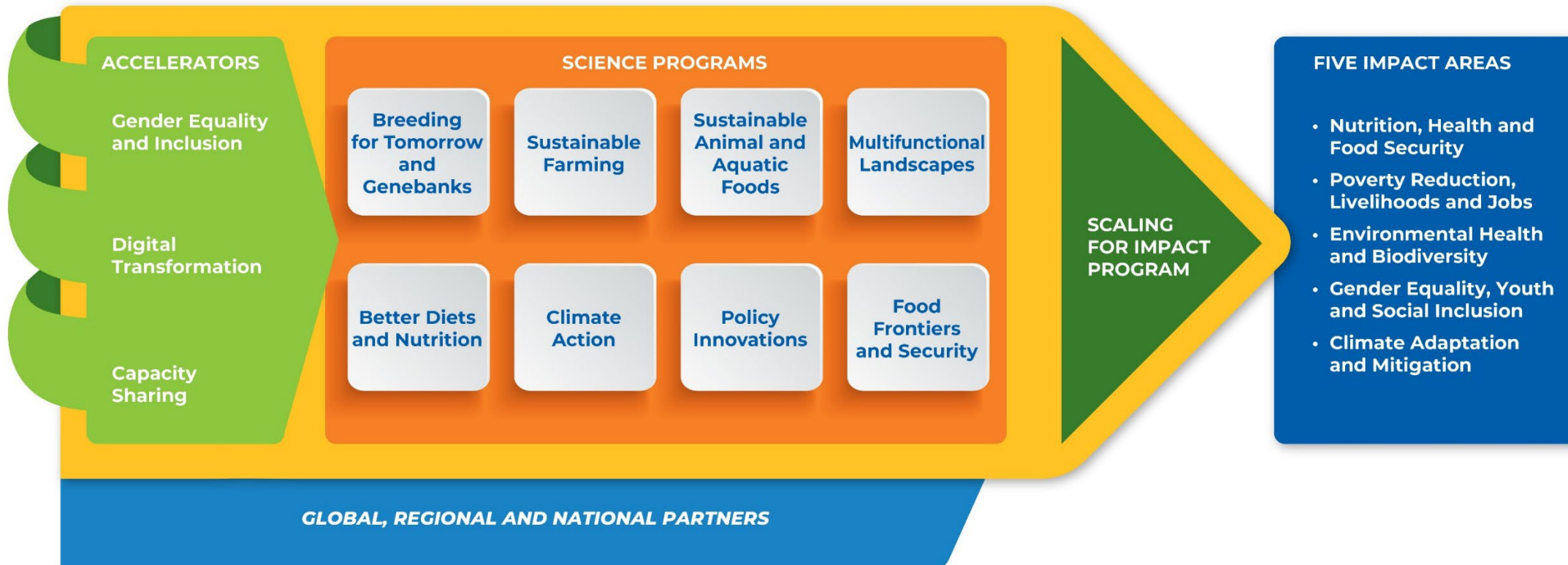
# Integration

---



# Programmatic Integration

A coherent, consolidated portfolio for the whole CGIAR system with 8 Science Programs, 1 Scaling Program, 3 Accelerators



# Operational Integration



## Global Leadership Team

Aligned leadership and decision-making. Shape the collective vision and strategy. Speak with one voice.

EMD

Chief  
Scientist

DEMD

Directors-General of Centers

### System Organization

- Reformed and streamlined
- Enable CGIAR-wide functions
- Budget within CSP

### Global Science Team

- Convened by Chief Scientist
- Made up of all Centers science leadership and CGIAR science program directors
- Overseeing Portfolio

### ICI Forum

- GLT standing committee
- Systematise integration and coordination efforts
- Consensus driven

## Governance Integration

---

Implementation progress 1 year after the Unified Governance Review:

- New IPB and AFRC onboarded;
- Redrafting and adoption of the Charter and Framework;
- Risk and oversight plan;
- Adoption of the FMRG recommendations;
- Revised 2024 budgets (in March) then 2025 (currently submitted).

**For 2025, more effort is needed to rebuild the trust between our governing bodies.**

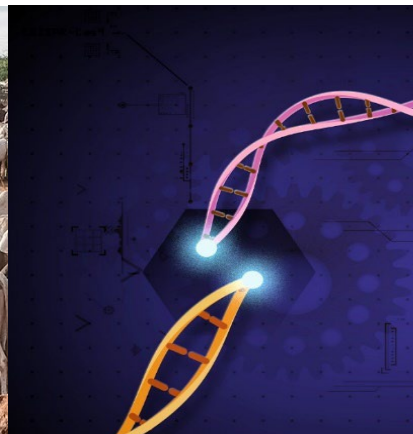


# Institutional Strategy

---



We need to start building a CGIAR institutional strategy to make sure the organization is fit for purpose for the next 20-30 years.



## New and strengthened partnerships

### Advanced Research



*Embrapa*



The Netherlands (NL) - CGIAR research programme



### Scaling



### Funding



Google.org



BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation

### Upcoming Challenges:

- 12% drop in ODA in 2024 – our main funding source.
- Gap between our 2025 baseline vs surge budgets.
- Funding needs diversification.



**CGIAR**

*Science for a food-secure future*

**Thank You!**

---

