



## CGIAR's 2025—30 science and innovation Portfolio

### Purpose

The following materials are provided in support of the System Council's decision-making on CGIAR's 2025—30 science and innovation Portfolio:

- SC21-05a - **2025 - 2030 Portfolio Narrative** (November 2024 version)
- SC21-05b - **Proposal documents for CGIAR's 2025 - 30 Science Programs (8), Scaling for Impact Program, and Accelerators (3)**
- SC21-05c - **Breeding for Tomorrow and Genebanks Science Program: intended governance and management arrangements** (for information, intended as a companion document to the two separate proposals on "Breeding for Tomorrow" and "Genebanks")
- SC21-05d - **ISDC Review of 2025-2030 Research & Innovation Portfolio Proposals**
- SC21-05e - **ISDC Feedback on CGIAR Portfolio Narrative 2025-2030**
- SC21-05f - **Preliminary management action plan in response to ISDC's reviews of the Program and Accelerator Proposals and 2025—30 Portfolio Narrative**

### Background

CGIAR's 2022—24 Portfolio of Research Initiatives and Impact Area Platforms will be closed on 31 December 2024. The process to develop a new 2025—30 Portfolio; made up of eight Science Programs, a Scaling for Impact Program, and three Accelerators; was launched in January 2024, building on inputs prepared and guidance received in 2023.

The CGIAR System Council, at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2024, endorsed the CGIAR 2025-30 Portfolio Narrative as the set of strategic priorities for CGIAR Research and Innovation, pursuant to Article 6.1 a) iii. of the CGIAR System Framework.

Consistent with that Narrative, and the recommendations and guidance provided by the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC), the CGIAR System Board, and the System Council; complete proposal documents for the new 2025—30 Programs were submitted to the ISDC for its moderated, external, and independent review on 27 September 2024, and made available to members of the Board and the System Council in early October. In addition, an updated Portfolio Narrative was developed and submitted to the ISDC on 1 November 2024. ISDC shared its reviews of the above on 15 November 2024.

Pursuant to Article 8.2t of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization, the CGIAR Integrated Partnership Board (IPB), at its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 25 November 2024, concurred with the 2025—30 Program and Accelerator proposals and agreed with their submission to the System Council for review and, if deemed appropriate, approval. A brief summary of the Board’s deliberations and guidance is provided in Annex I of this document.

In support of this requested approval, this submission also includes the updated, November 2024 version of the Portfolio Narrative; a brief cover note describing the intended management arrangements for a combined “Breeding for Tomorrow and Genebanks Science Program”; ISDC’s reviews of the Program and Accelerator proposals and Portfolio Narrative; and a preliminary management action plan in response to ISDC’s reviews.

### Action Requested

Following concurrence of the Integrated Partnership Board, and pursuant to Article 6.2 p) and s) of the CGIAR System Framework, the System Council is requested to approve the Program and Accelerator proposals that make up CGIAR’s 2025—30 science and innovation Portfolio.

<p><b>Document category:</b> Working document of the System Council. There is no restriction on the circulation of this document</p>
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## Annex I: Summary of the Integrated Partnership Board’s deliberations and guidance on CGIAR’s 2025—30 science and innovation Portfolio

The Integrated Partnership Board welcomed the proposed, 2025—30 science and innovation Portfolio and recognized CGIAR management’s efforts to set out a clear, ambitious, all-of-CGIAR offer.

The Board also noted with appreciation the Independent Science for Development Council’s (ISDC) reviews of the 2025—30 Portfolio Narrative as well as the individual Program and Accelerator proposals.

With a view to further strengthening the relevance and impact potential of the Portfolio, Board members identified several areas of focus for the Portfolio Inception Phase and subsequent implementation. These included, but were not limited to:

- **On CGIAR’s projected impact ambitions to 2030 and – more generally – on plans for monitoring, evaluation, learning, and impact assessment;** Board members welcomed the preliminary, high-level, projected impact ambitions provided in the Portfolio Narrative but noted that further work was required to clarify CGIAR’s contributions to those impact ambitions at the Portfolio level as well as through the individual Programs and Accelerators. Members also called for efforts to strengthen the set of Impact Area indicators used (e.g. to incorporate broader dimensions of nutrition) as a basis for enhanced accountability, performance management, and to inform investment priorities.
- **Board members echoed ISDC’s call to prioritize co-design during the Portfolio Inception Phase,** guided by a clear partnership dimension of CGIAR’s science and innovation Strategy. In addition, members encouraged a clearer articulation of CGIAR’s approach to demand-side analysis as well as more forward-looking reflection on CGIAR’s current and potential future areas of comparative advantage in relation to existing and potential partners and competitors.
- **Board members noted that the Portfolio management arrangements provided a sound starting point** for fostering coherence and synergies across the Programs and Accelerators, Centers, partners, as well as different sources and types of funding; but encouraged continuous improvement with a view to identifying and leveraging incentives for alignment between ‘pooled’ (CGIAR Trust Fund Windows 1 and 2) and ‘bilateral’ funding; enhancing clarity on accountability; unlocking operational efficiencies; and balancing collaboration and competition.
- **Board members underscored the importance of robust risk analysis and management at the Portfolio and Program/ Accelerator levels.** Members noted that CGIAR and the end-users of its science and innovations face an increasingly volatile operating environment, which calls for intentional, strategic, and proactive risk management; as well as frequent risk reviews in a continuously evolving risk landscape.

- **Building on ISDC’s reviews, Board members emphasized several thematic areas for greater attention going forward**, including, but not limited to, opportunity crops, water systems, data and information as assets, artificial intelligence, and food safety.

Looking forward, in view of the significant demands on the Portfolio Inception Phase, the Board will work with management to put in place fit-for-purpose mechanisms to ensure robust engagement and oversight during that critical period.