



Independent
Advisory and
Evaluation
Service

System Council Advisory Bodies' Triennial Workplan

Presenter: *IAES Director, Allison Grove Smith*

Purpose: To summarize the consolidated triennial workplan and budget for Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC), Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA), Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service (IAES), including its Evaluation Function, referred to collectively in the System Framework as "advisory bodies." The plan covers 2025-2027 proposed activity at a base budget scenario.

Agenda Item: SC21-07
For decision
Date: 12/12/2024

Action requested

The System Council is requested to approve the consolidated 2025–2027 workplan and budget of ISDC, SPIA and IAES, and take note of the associated annex regarding uplift scenarios.

Presentation contents

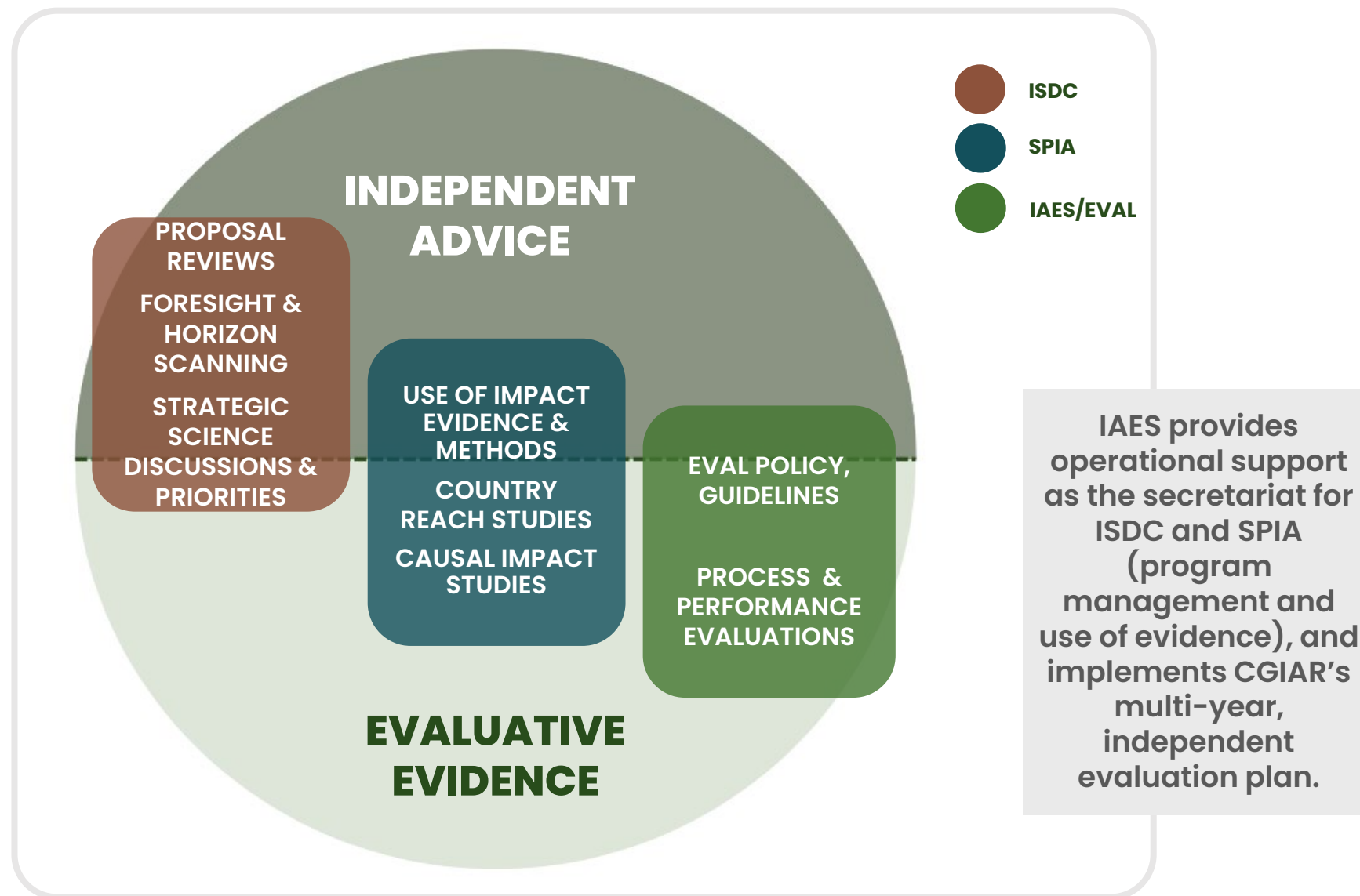
- Quick reminder on Mandates (ISDC, SPIA and IAES Terms of Reference) and fit within CGIAR context
- Overview of accomplishments
- Workplan framing around decision types
- Triennial objectives 3 workstreams
- Three-year budget plan – and uplift scenarios

Mandates:

Independent
Science for
Development
Council

Standing Panel on
Impact
Assessment

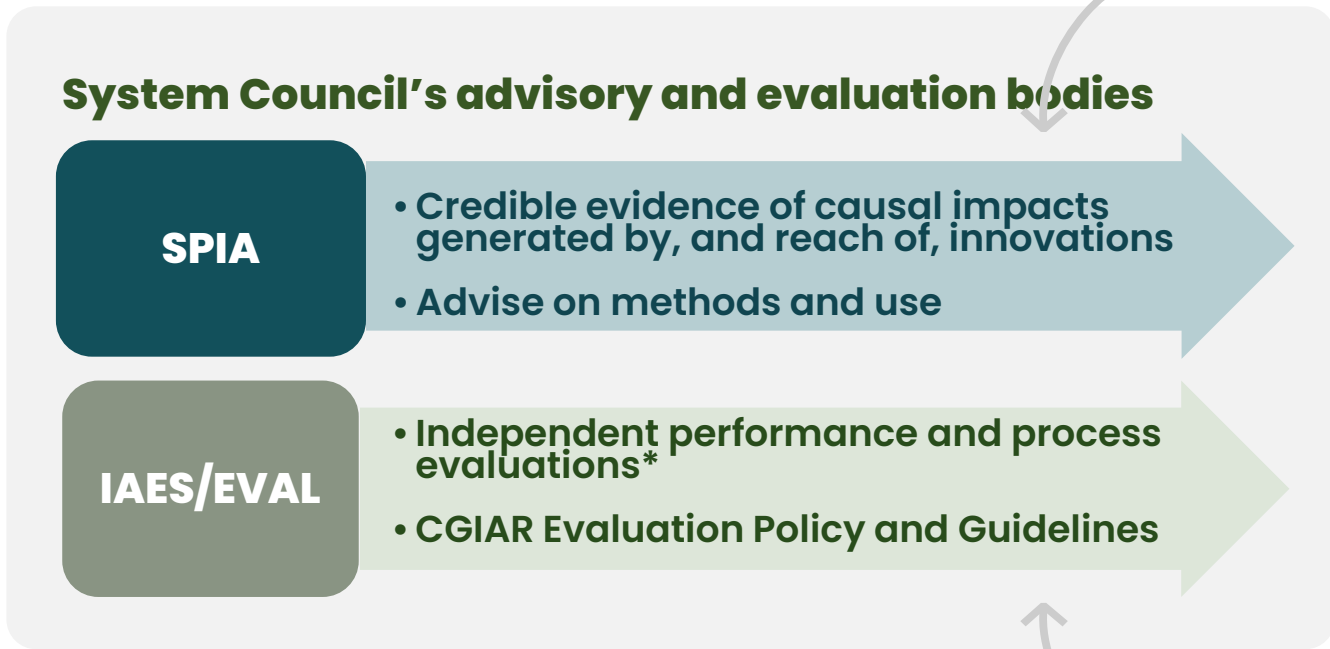
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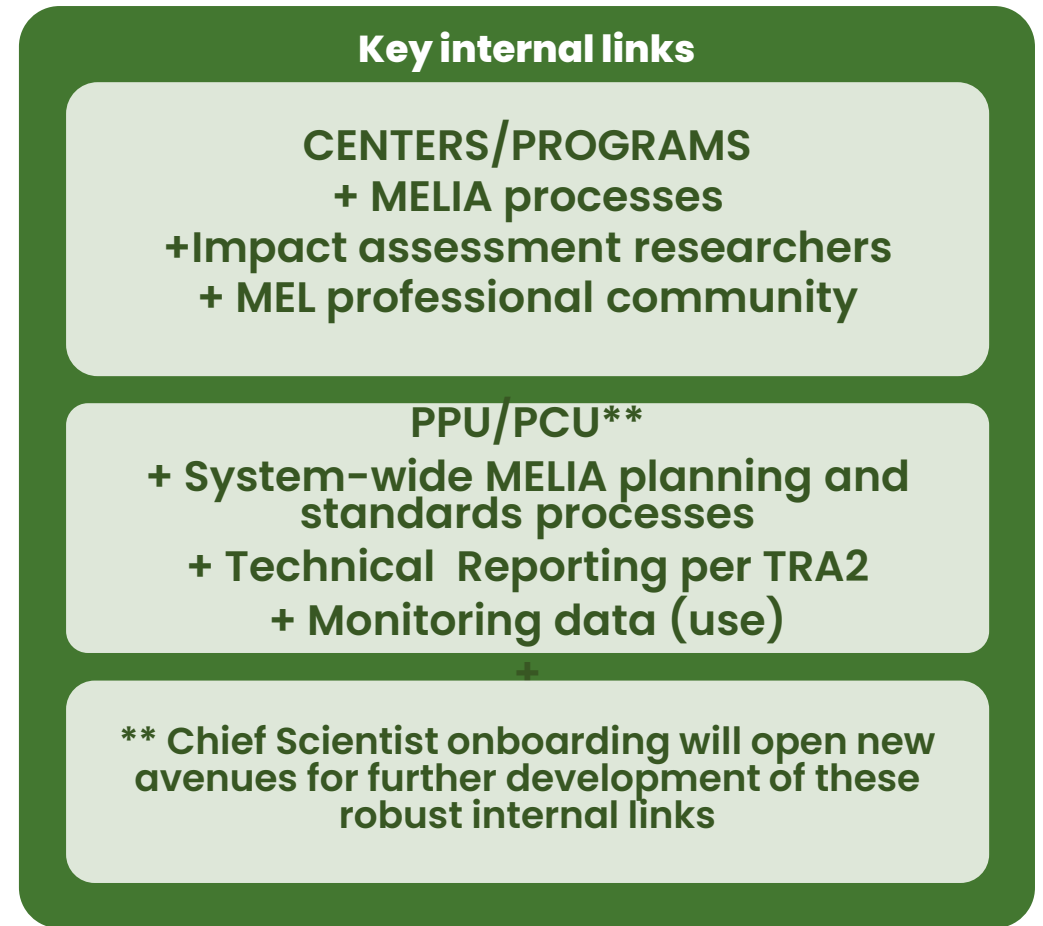


Independent evaluation and SPIA fit with MEL/IA in CGIAR

Impact assessment and process/performance evaluation, with key internal links



*programmatic and thematic evaluations, responsive to OECD-DAC and QR4D criteria



Key accomplishments 2022–2024

ISDC

Portfolio and **proposal reviews**

Megatrends discussion paper

Agricultural Systems Inclusive Innovation issue and materials

Comparative advantage analysis technical note

Science Fora for deliberating science advice

SPIA

Causal impact evidence
Synthesized at **SPIA Fest**

Country reach Ethiopia, Uganda, Vietnam and Bangladesh

SPIA-commissioned accountability and learning evidence

SPIA webinars, guidelines, and matchmaking

Research **consortia contracted for 6** country reach studies, to date

IAES/Evaluation

Platform evaluations (Ex in Breeding, Big Data, Gender, Genebanks)

Evaluability Assessments for Regional Initiatives

Independent **evals of Science Groups**

Further to MOPAN (2019), engagements for **Performance and Results Management**, and **Management Response System** (ongoing)



Photo: Lorem Ipsum

Workplan framing – decision types

Decision type	Guiding question
Investment	Which are the most effective and sustainable investment propositions, and are they soundly designed?
Accountability	Has there been effective and efficient delivery against documented, adaptively managed plans?
Learning	What can CGIAR improve in its R4D portfolio, partnerships, and implementation?
Assurance	Are the evidence and processes used for decisions inclusive and sound?



ISDC	SPIA	IAES EVALUATION FUNCTION
Portfolio reviews: Conducting comprehensive reviews of CGIAR's research portfolio	Institutionalizing and scaling country-level data on CGIAR reach	Implementing external evaluative activities (process and performance evaluations)
Generate advice: Providing pertinent advice on science and research strategy	Expanding and deepening evidence of the causal impacts of CGIAR research	Issuing evaluation guidance to support the implementation of CGIAR's Evaluation Framework and Policy
Forum: Implementing Science for Development forum	Strengthening the use of rigorous impact evidence	Engaging with CGIAR on process and performance evaluations
Consensus building and System Council consultation: To engage and foster consensus		Knowledge management and translation of evaluative knowledge

IAES team provides operational support as the secretariat for the Independent Science for Development Council and the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (program management and use of evidence), and implements CGIAR's multi-year, independent evaluation plan as approved by the System Council.



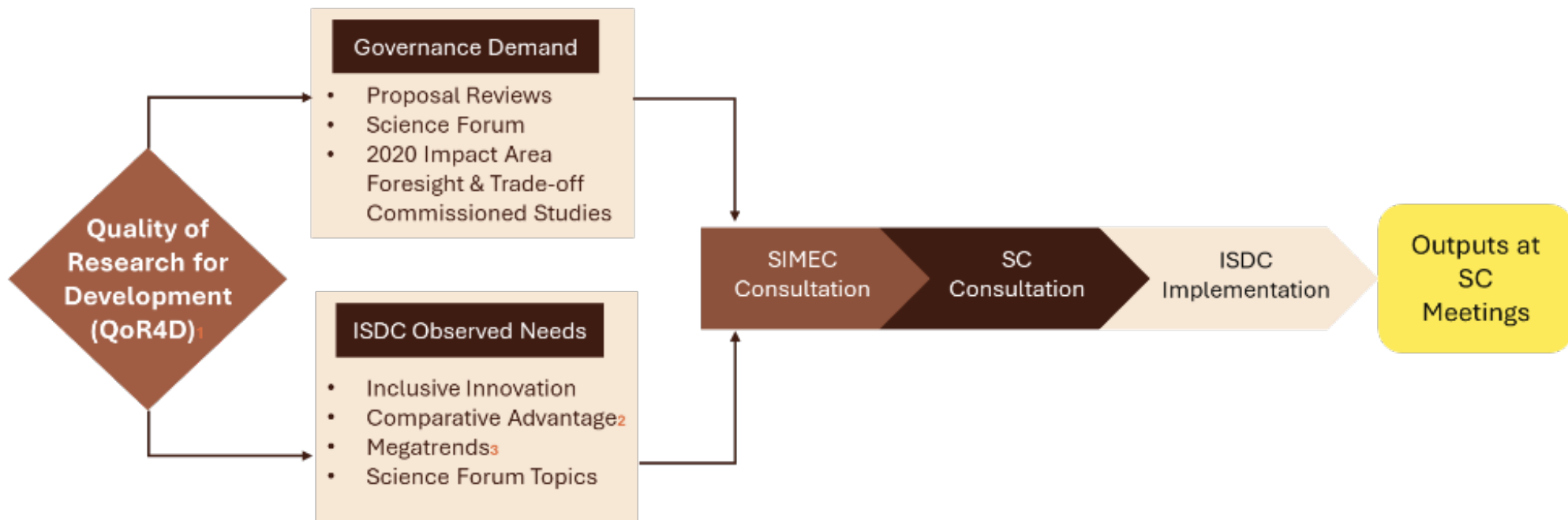
Objectives

Portfolio reviews:
Conducting comprehensive reviews of CGIAR's research portfolio

Generate advice:
Providing pertinent advice on science and research strategy

Forum: Implementing Science for Development forums

Consensus building and System Council consultation: To engage and foster consensus



- 1. QoR4D:** QoR4D is the guiding framework that facilitated CGIAR System-wide agreement on the nature and assessment of the quality of science. It provided the basis for the criteria used to assess research proposals during ISDC's independent review.
- 2. Comparative Advantage:** The Comparative Advantage framework uptake is demonstrated by it being a major component of the 2025-30 research proposal narratives.
- 3. Megatrends:** The Megatrends report served as a basis for prioritizing research questions in the 2025-30 portfolio research questions.



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SPIA



Objectives

Institutionalizing and scaling **country-level** data on CGIAR reach

Expanding and deepening evidence of the **causal impacts** of CGIAR research

Strengthening the **use of rigorous** impact evidence

Phase 1 Phase 2 Phase 3

COUNTRY LEVEL STUDIES BY PHASE





Evaluation



Objectives

Implementing external process and performance evaluations

Issuing evaluation guidance to support the implementation of CGIAR's Evaluation Framework and Policy

Engaging with CGIAR on process and performance evaluations

Knowledge management and translation of evaluative knowledge

	2025	2026	2027
1. Strategy	7 Ways of Working Evidence Summary	Contribution to SDGs Evaluation	Progress to Outcomes 2025-27
2. Science Programs	8 Evaluability Ass't (Inception)		8 Midline Evaluations
3. Scaling Program		1 Evaluation (built on RII assessment)	
4. Accelerators	3 Evaluability Ass't (Inception)		
5. System-wide	GDI Action Plan	Change Management 20-25	Partnership 22-26
6. Geography-specific	1 Evaluability Ass't (Country)	1 Country Evaluation	
7. Center-specific	Contribute to scoping	Roles and quantities TBD	



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Multi-year Evaluation Plan



	2025	2026	2027
1. Strategy	7 Ways of Working Evidence Summary	Contribution to SDGs Evaluation	Summary: Progress to Outcomes 25-27
2. Science Programs	8 Evaluability Ass't (Inception)		8 Midline Evaluations
3. Scaling Program		1 Evaluation (built on RII assessment)	
4. Accelerators	3 Evaluability Ass't (Inception)		
5. System-wide	GDI Action Plan	Change Management 20-25	Partnership 22-26
6. Geography-specific	1 Evaluability Ass't (Country)	1 Country Evaluation	
7. Center-specific	Eval evidence: For scoping	Roles and quantities TBD	

Three-year budget plan and uplift scenarios



Workstream	2024 Approved	2025 Requested	2026 Requested	2027 Requested	Total Requested
ISDC*	1,198	755	721	806	2,282
SPIA	4,391	7,058**	8,598	8,420	24,076
Evaluation*	2,018	1,225	1,162	1,204	3,591
IAES Operations*	2,110	2,117	2,221	2,311	6,649
Total Request	9,717	11,155	12,702	12,741	36,598

**Uplift scenarios in outyears would entail (1) ISDC further science forum convenings and commissioned projects for science advice, greater presence of ISDC members at events like CGIAR Science Week (2) Eval further accelerator midterm evaluations, one additional country evaluation, more disciplinary diversity in external evaluation teams with more partner engagements (3) IAES would hire a junior analyst and full-time communications and knowledge management specialist.*

***SPIA carryforward from 2024 to 2025 for consortium contracts 1.3 M applied in WI budget papers*



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Thank you



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