



Report from the Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC)

Purpose

As a standing committee of the System Council, this document sets out a summary of the Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee's activities and recommendations during June-November 2024.

Action Requested

The System Council is requested to review the material and provide feedback on SIMEC's activities and recommendations.

<p>Document category: Working document of the System Council. There is no restriction on the circulation of this document</p>
--

Prepared by: Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC)

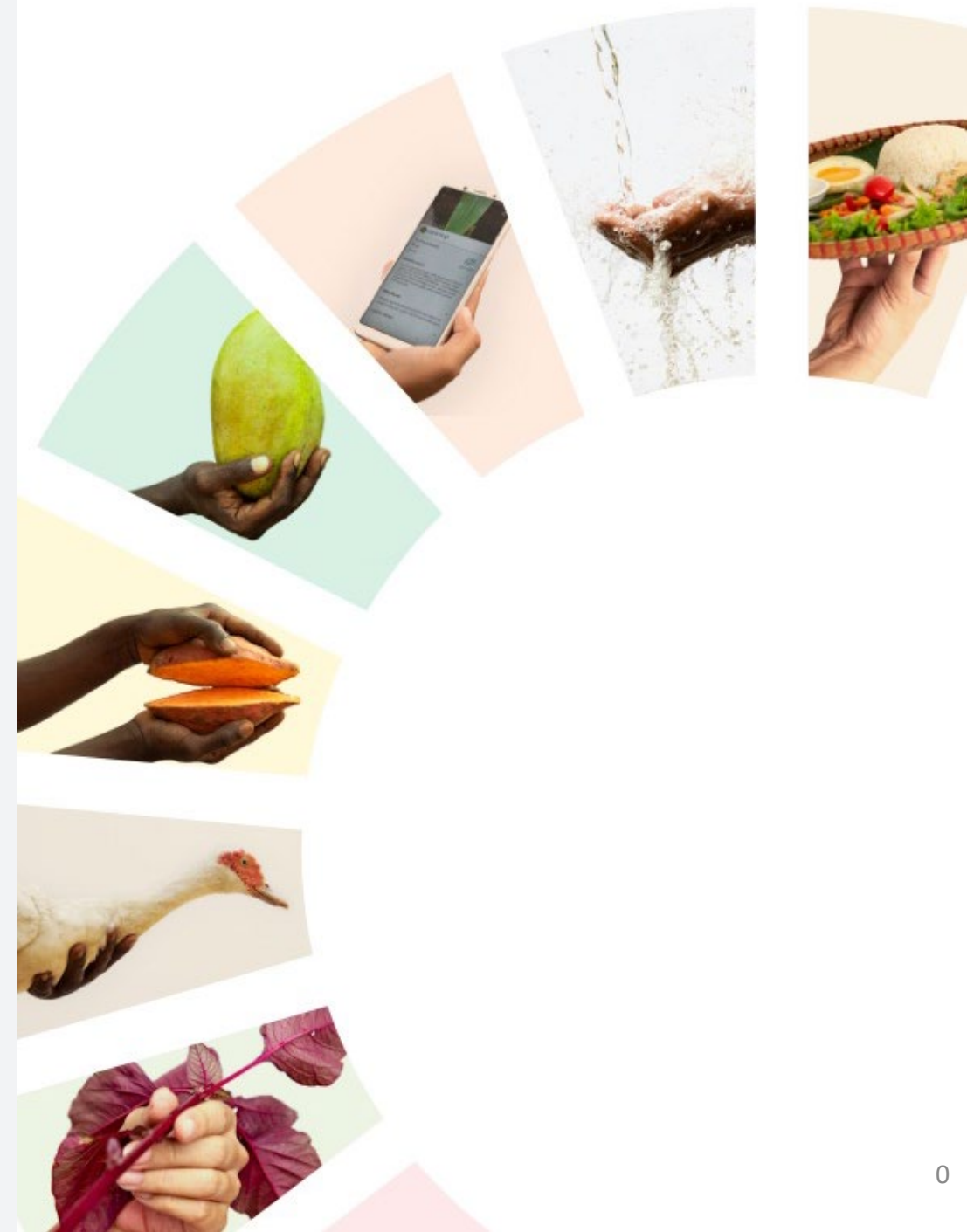


Agenda Item 10
Document: SC21-10
For information
Issued: 27 November 2024

Report from the Strategic Impact, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee (SIMEC)

Purpose: This document sets out an overview of SIMEC's activities and areas of focus during June – November 2024.

During this period, SIMEC met once for a committee meeting and once in a joint meeting with AOC (both virtual). SIMEC also gave feedback and made decisions electronically and members participated in ad hoc committees and advisory groups.



Advisory Bodies Evaluation



SIMEC role from its TOR

(Para 1a) Advise and guide the SC on any gaps, challenges, and synergies related to the Advisory Bodies.

(Para 2c) Evaluate Advisory Bodies' effectiveness in fulfilling their functions

- SIMEC provided feedback on and endorsed the three Science Group evaluations
- Key points of SIMEC's position shared with management and IAES:
 - Many of the management responses for the Science Group evaluations have been deferred to when the Chief Scientist is in position. SIMEC will request an update on these during its 2025 in-person meeting
 - For evaluations to contribute to the objectives of CGIAR they should:
 - Meet a clearly defined need for evidence expressed by CGIAR management or governance bodies.
 - Should draw on programs or functions that have generated sufficient evidence so that an evaluation can provide clear guidance to CGIAR.

Advisory Bodies (cont.)

Budgets



SIMEC role from its TOR

(Para 2b) Review and endorsement of the Advisory Bodies annual work programs and budgets

- SIMEC provided feedback on the IAES consolidated 2025-2027 workplan and budget. IAES made significant constructive changes in response to these comments, particularly around the prioritization of activities.
- SIMEC and AOC met in October to discuss the workplans and budget. They concluded that the three budget scenarios should be presented to the System Council, with the base budget used as a starting point to reflect the system-wide fiscal restraints.

Communications and building cohesive relationships

SIMEC role from its TOR

(Para 4) Provide advice to, and act as liaison between, the Advisory Bodies and the System Organization to ensure and initiate improved communication, transparency of discussions and recommendations, and to provide advice across the Advisory Bodies to ensure a CGIAR wide cohesive, effective and efficient approach.

There is a concerted effort to strengthen MELIA across CGIAR but an ongoing challenge to understand how the various MELIA elements - IAES evaluation, Center-based MELIA, SPIA, PPU/PCU etc. fit together. As CGIAR becomes an integrated partnership, now is the right time to look at MELIA across CGIAR.

- SPIA-PPU coordination is now included as a standing item in SIMEC in-person meetings.
- GF is providing a grant to incentivize the development of a MELIA framework
- SIMEC plan to address the issue of connecting CGIAR's MELIA elements in 2025 (including during the in-person meeting)
- SIMEC members have been providing guidance on the development of the new Technical Reporting Arrangement.

Appointments, Nominations, and Succession Planning

SIMEC role from its TOR

(Para 3) SIMEC shall provide advice or recommendations to the SC in relation to the selection of ISDC Chair and members

ISDC Membership

- Two SIMEC members are serving on the ISDC Nominations Panel.
- Seeking one ISDC member to start as soon as possible, and another two in 2025.
- ~130 applications were received, including many high-quality ones. Candidates are currently being interviewed.

Evolution of SIMEC

Current Membership



SIMEC is currently comprised of eight members, for a maximum of nine seats.

Current members are appointed until 30 June 2026, unless earlier determined by the System Council.

No	System Council voting constituency	Nominated member
1	African Development Bank	Dougou Keita
2	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Ruben Echeverria
3	Canada	Nikita Eriksen-Hamel
4	Germany	Thomas Miethbauer
5	South Asia	Ravi Khetarpal
6	United Kingdom	Alan Tollervey (Interim Chair)
7	United States	Gary Jahn
8	West Asia & North Africa	Didem Kökden

Evolution of SIMEC

Seeking new member



SIMEC is undertaking important, interesting work and needs to be at full capacity. Nominations are therefore being sought for the ninth SIMEC member.

SIMEC members do not have to be System Council Members or Alternates, but they should be well linked to System Council discussions and should have:

- Knowledge of CGIAR, its vision, mission, goals, objectives, and processes;
- **Experience in evidence-based strategic planning in research and development organizations; and**
- **Familiarity with results frameworks, impact assessment, programmatic evaluation, and programmatic reporting.**

Please send nominations to the SIMEC Interim Chair (Alan Tollervey) with copy to SystemCouncil@cgiar.org