



## **Consortium of the CGIAR Centers**

---

**Subject: Consortium Board approval letter on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security for submission to the Fund Council**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010

---

Dear Inger,

The Consortium Board (CB) of the CGIAR has the pleasure to submit to the Fund Council (FC), for its consideration and approval, the second fast-tracked CGIAR Research Programme (CRP), entitled "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security".

This CRP generates an extraordinary opportunity for the development of new research in the CGIAR that will integrate and apply the best approaches and technologies for growing more food to satisfy future demand, without exacerbating environmental problems; and simultaneously adapting land use and agricultural practices to predicted scenarios of climate change.

The proposal in this thematic area has a different genesis than the other CRPs, in the sense of bringing together organizations from two different cultures: CGIAR System and environmental organizations represented by the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP). The proposal builds on a 10-year research initiative between both organizations that led to the establishment of the Challenge Program on Climate Change in 2008, and which is now been developed into a full CRP.

The first proposal submitted on 10 May 2010 was the subject of three external reviews (including one on Gender), as well as a thorough examination by the CB, which resulted in a number of comments and recommendations for its improvement in accordance to the common agreed criteria established by the CB and the ISPC for approval of CRPs. A second revision was submitted by the proponents on 29 June, where again the CB made a number of comments and suggested guidelines for its improvement. Among them, there were crucial recommendations regarding a clearer definition of interactions between this CRP7 and the other CRPs. From the point of view of the CB, this CRP ought to become a hub that facilitates collective and complementary actions across multiple CRPs, avoiding overlaps and duplication of activities. The second recommendation provided by the CB was the criteria to be used for the selection of the lead centre of this CRP, in order to facilitate to the proponents the process of designation.

These two important issues were properly addressed in the second revised version submitted on 23 August by the proponents, including the selection of CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture) as the lead Centre of this CRP. Originally, five CGIAR Centers had expressed interest in leading this programme. A transparent and consultative selection process was developed by the Steering Committee of the CGIAR Challenge Programme on Climate Change and Food Security (CCAFS) that led to this agreement among centers.

The CB would like to highlight that the proposal was prepared by the team leader of the CCAFS in close consultation with all 15 CGIAR Centers and numerous research and development partners. It is also pointed out that CCAFS activities have been completely integrated into this CRP as requested by the CB, and with the initiation of this CRP, the entire research for development initiative will be managed as an integrated whole.

The strategic goals of this CRP are appropriate and the outcomes, associated with each research activity of the four global themes ("Adaptation to Progressive Climate Change", "Adaptation through



## Consortium of the CGIAR Centers

---

Managing Climate Risk”, “Pro-poor Climate Change Mitigation”, and “Integration for Decision Making”), are adequately described in terms of scientific results and generated changes. Moreover, there is a clear link between the research activities and the CGIAR vision of reducing poverty and hunger, improving food security, and environmental sustainability as well as to the results of the Strategy and Results Framework of the CGIAR.

The proposal also defines specific regions including at least 20 countries, where technical and policy support for agricultural management strategy to adapt and mitigate Climate Change will be provided. The priority setting processes are also clearly stated.

The proposal contains a generic impact pathway where outputs, outcomes and impacts have been simplified, and five local (national and regional) impact pathways by each theme plus one more for the theme 4 (“Integration for Decision making”), indicating the development and expected outcomes towards impact on food security, poverty reduction and sustainable environment that the key outputs (research) can influence. These five impact pathways were developed as a result of an open stakeholder consultation that allowed the identification of partners and critical actors as well as the way or methods to achieve these outcomes.

The science approach of the proposal is based on the state-of-the art knowledge in the domain and can lead to filling important knowledge gaps on the challenge for climate change modelling and its interaction with agricultural systems. It also illustrates how alternative policy and programme options impact agriculture and food security under climate change.

One of the main objectives of the CGIAR reform process is to enhance collective actions and to build complementarities and synergies among CRPs and in consequence among CGIAR Centres. In this regard, the key partners for this CRP are the Centers of the other CRPs whose activities are related to Climate Change. The proposal provides two major models of interaction with other CRPs: (i) collaboration, in which this CRP interacts with other CRPs on specific topics such as research on institutional and technical options, capacity building and communication or outreach activities; (ii) co-financing, where this CRP finances activities of other CRPs. This mechanism will be used for those cases of technology testing (in the field and, through modelling and simulation).

The commitment to generate synergies with these key partners among CRPs is also reflected in the budget. An important amount for co-financing has been allocated to CRPs of the thematic area 1 (“Integrated agricultural systems for the poor and vulnerable”), to CRPs of the thematic area 3 (“Sustainable production systems for ensuring food security”), CRP 5 (“Durable solutions to water scarcity and land, and ecosystem degradation”), CRP 6 (“Forests and Trees”) and to the Genomics and Integrated Breeding (GIB) Service. Furthermore, smaller co-financed activities are envisaged with other CRPs, consisting of joint workshops and scoping studies. Thirty-five percent of CRP 7 2011-2013 budget is allocated to partnerships and collaborators.

The proposals for work at the regional level has also a well developed partnership strategy, which clearly defines the roles of the different partners and has an appropriate balance of different types of partners to achieve results on the ground. The CB acknowledges the development of CRPs is a learning process. The implementation of this programme will provide valuable lessons for the development of future CRPs in terms of partnerships. In view of its characteristics and specificities, this CRP will be very important in the definition of boundaries among the whole CRP portfolio.

Gender must be an essential ingredient embedded in the portfolio of CRPs. A number of relevant and useful suggestions have been put forward on gender by the proponents of this CRP. Each of the four research themes has identified key gender related research questions and outcomes, and gender disaggregated strategies for achieving outcomes with partners. The CB has commissioned a



## **Consortium of the CGIAR Centers**

---

gender scoping study to analyze the options and strategies for integrating and mainstreaming gender research in the entire CRP portfolio. This work is in progress and should be finalized by November. The CB has advised the proponents of Climate Change to wait for the results and recommendations that the scoping study will provide to the Consortium before finalizing the definition specific gender inputs into this programme.

Similarly, the proposal contains an interesting capacity building strategy with a comprehensive scope that will follow 3 principles: (i) add value, (ii) take a systems approach, and (iii) promote integration. Each of the four research themes includes activities of capacity building with specific outcomes achieved by working closely with partners. In this area, the partnership with ESSP will be very important since the CRP will receive the support of the global change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START), a non-governmental research organization within the ESSP that has a strong track-record in assisting developing countries, to build the expertise needed to understand and respond to global and regional environmental changes.

The proposed management mechanism is clear and well structured considering the genesis of this CRP, and the level of participation that all CGIAR Centres will have. The management model is open and efficient regarding decision making, delivery of results and communications, as well as the management arrangement that enables strong programme leadership. The linkages to the lead centre, core partner organizations, platforms, CGIAR Challenge Programmes components are well detailed. The process for fund allocation is transparent, and the planned allocation among the four thematic areas and the other CRPs is specific.

Proponents of this CRP appropriately define the methodology, principles and timeline to be used in monitoring, evaluating and reporting which will be centrally coordinated across all CRPs. The proposal makes the effort to provide information on how data will be collected and which indicators will be selected. Also, an indication of basis for future ex-post impact assessment is envisaged.

The CB highlights the importance and relevance of this CRP in the current CGIAR reform process, and considers that Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security is a well conceived CRP which has adequately responded to the comments and suggestions from the CB as well as from external reviewers. It fulfills the common criteria developed by the CB and the ISPC, and as such, is a comprehensive and strategic work programme to address the increasing challenge of global warming and food security on agricultural practices and, policies. The CB therefore, considers that this CRP is ready for submission to the Fund Council for approval.

The sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP) and the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) will be held in Cancun from 29 November to 10 December 2010. The CB considers this conference provides a great opportunity to launch formally this CRP taking advantage of the presence of delegates of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, observers, international officials, media representatives and participants from organized civil society as well as all the stakeholders and partners contemplated in this proposal.

With my best regards on behalf of the CGIAR Consortium Board,

Carlos Pérez del Castillo