

24 January 2012

Dr. Carlos Pérez del Castillo  
Chair  
CGIAR CB

Dear Carlos:

**IITA re-submission to the Fund Council and ISPC of the revised  
CRP1.2 proposal: “Humidtropics: Integrated Systems for the Humid Tropics”**

We wish to thank the ISPC, Australia, IDRC, EU and ACIAR for constructive reviews on the Humidtropics proposal and for the specific advice given during its presentation to the FC on November 8, 2011 in Rome. It was approved at category 3 and we agree with many of the points made and suggestions. The FC is supportive of the concept of the program and of the framework.

In reading both the full comments by the ISPC and the must-haves developed by the FC, IITA management in consultation with participating Center DGs, decided that simple changes in the last version responding to the “must have” would not be sufficient to develop a coherent and innovative research plan. A decision was made that a complete restructuring of the document would be necessary, involving rewriting of critical parts of the document. This restructuring and rewriting took place from 12 December 2011 to 3 January 2012, when a first draft was sent to partner Centers for comments and revisions. These were to be received by 10 January and a complete and edited version is hereby submitted. This was a very intensive process given the very restricted time-frame and some of the ideas developed in the document will be further elaborated during the implementation of CRP1.2.

Most of the document has been completely rewritten to accommodate the very in-depth review by the ISPC. The structure of Humidtropics now focuses on two principal, intersecting elements, namely research on alternative pathways for sustainable production system intensification and research on scaling up production and market research to achieve CGIAR system level outcomes. Humidtropics now feels that it has an innovative research program that few others are attempting and none at the scope and scale that is being described by CRP1.2. Most of the responses to the “must have” are addressed through this refocusing and restructuring of the Humidtropics research portfolio. These are addressed briefly in the attached document (response to the must-haves), but are elaborated principally in Sections 3, 4, and 5 in the revised program proposal.

We are convinced that with the modifications made that CRP1.2 will be a major leap forward in the way that the CGIAR and partners tackle Integrated Systems for the Humid Tropics issues related to natural resource management and poverty in the developing world. The very fact that (IITA IWMI, ILRI, ICRAF, CIAT, CIP, Bioversity, icipe, AVRDC, FARA) and partners of the CGIAR are combining efforts and activities is surely evidence of the reform process taking effect.

Given the above points, I am happy to inform you that IITA’s current programs (Agrobiodiversity, Root & Tubers, Tree Crop Systems, Banana & Plantain Systems, Cereal & Legume Systems, Opportunities & Threats, and Agriculture and Health, as well as SP-IPM) are now fully integrated into the CRPs. The main basis for IITA’s

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new research program structure is the CRP. We are decentralizing our Research for Development (R4D) program area along the impact or outcome zones using CRP1.2 Humidtropics as the operating and integrating arm. We are probably the first Center that has changed its organization chart to capture the development and future of the CRPs as unit of implementation as shown in the Figure below.

The new CGIAR gives IITA a critical opportunity to display leadership in promulgating collaborative research among a diverse group of research and development players. There are a few critical topics that cut across CRPs at the level of the CGIAR system, namely Diversity and Gender, Capacity Strengthening, Learning and Knowledge Sharing, Research Methods and Data, Impact Assessment, and Legal and IP Advice and Support which are also integral parts of our proposed strategy. While the thematic research areas (Genetic Resources and Enhancement, Natural Resource Management, Social Sciences and Commercialization, and Plant Production and Health), help to define the collective competencies of IITA. The impact zones or R4D platforms represented by CRP1.2 encourage alignment with the institute's goals and specific targeted outcomes (**Figure 1.**)

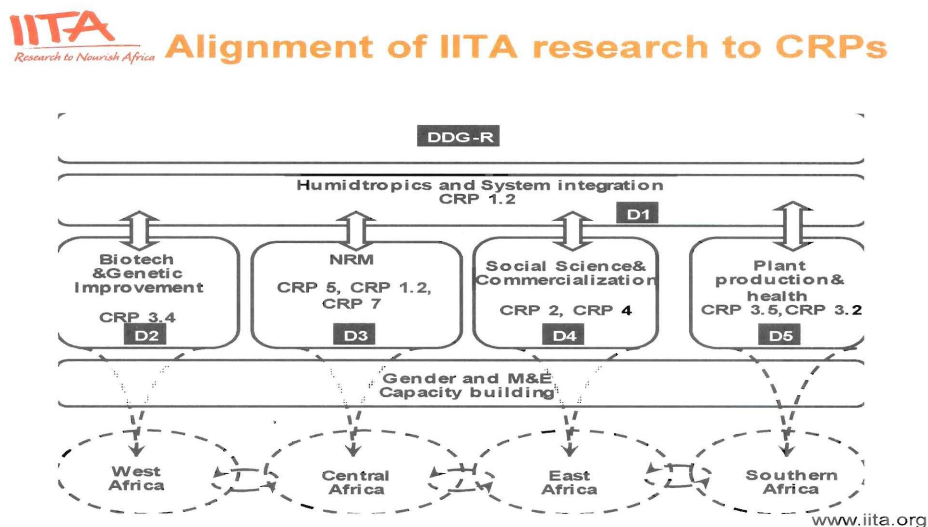



Figure 1: IITA core competencies, proposed administrative hubs and alignment with CRPs

IITA and its partners strongly believe that the three CRPs (1.1, 1.2 and 1.3) focusing on integrated systems are those that best reflect the spirit of the CGIAR reform from a research for development perspective. It trusts that we have successfully addressed the request of the ISPC and FC so that CRP1.2 can be finally approved at the March 2012 Fund Council in Seattle. I am taking this opportunity to showcase IITA as an example of successful transition to the new CGIAR by organizing the next CB meeting here at IITA in Ibadan, Nigeria.

With my best regards,

  
Nteranya Sanginga  
Director General, IITA  
(on behalf of IITA IWMI, ILRI, ICRAF, CIAT, CIP, Bioversity, icipe, AVRDC, FARA)