

A short response to the ISPC and FC “must haves” concerning the re-submitted CRP Humid tropics proposal.

**The ISPC identified six “must haves” that are addressed with regard to the re-submission in order.**

1. *Prioritize research questions with regard to site selection, lessons learned and means to evaluate approaches.* The re-submission now has an explicit global hypothesis (page 12) with nine Specific Hypotheses. These hypotheses are expanded into Research Questions for each of three Strategic Research Themes (SRTs 1, 3 & 3) appearing on pp 31, 36 and 62, respectively. These research questions are identified within specific SRT outcomes on pp 45, 50 and 64. The rationale for the research questions and the forms that the outputs will take are also explained in much greater detail within this submission. All research questions are relevant within all Action Areas, but not necessarily all Action Sites as explained in Section 4.3.6 (p 29). Lessons learned also appear in Research Question rationale and in Boxes 1-12 throughout the document. The M&E activities are described in much greater detail than before (see Section 13, p.108, particularly Figure 3 that illustrates how M&E processes from the Action Sites and Action Areas lead to a Global Synthesis. The roles of other CRPs are highlighted in Section 9 (p 92) and included throughout the methodologies of the SRTs in Section 4 (pp 12-64)
2. *Identify Impact Pathways that map to SLOs.* This was achieved by first identifying longer-term program targets (p 2) directly contributing to all four SLOs, identifying SRT 3 as a research mechanism for scaling impacts (p 13 and 60-65) and specifically identifying Scaling-up assessment within impact pathways (p 73).
3. *Describe elements of gender and link to innovation and research.* Section 7 Gender Research Strategy was rewritten in a manner that highlights both mainstreaming gender (p 86) and conducting gender research (p 88). Three of nine Specific Hypotheses relate to gender categories, one specifically to women’s opportunities. Gender equity features in several research questions (see SRT Research Questions 2.2 and 2.4, pp 36 and 37, and especially SRT 3.5, p 63).
4. *Better address the contribution of tree crops.* Greater distinction is made between perennial crops and annual crops throughout the re-submission including SRT 2 Research Question 3 that specifically addresses tree-crop intensification (p. 36). Tree crops are presented as a stepwise impact pathway (Box 7, p 68) and linked to several ecosystem services in SRT 2.3 Natural Resource Improvement (p 52).
5. *Show time frame for “place-based” research (in relation to the Center’s consolidation around Humidtropics).* The revised program structure is to shape this transition during its first three years as explained in Section 3 Justification, Section 10 Management and Section 11 Timeframe. The process of consolidation is described for different “Tier” categories of Action Areas (p 19), although no hypotheses were formed around this process as suggested).
6. *Governance arrangements around cross-Center program.* The responsibilities of IITA as a Lead Center and the roles of other Centers as equal partners and members of the Advisory Committee are explained in detail in Section 10 Management (p 99). One means toward this end is the level of independence provided to each Action Area and the level of joint planning across program-wide activities (e.g. within the M&E Unit, p 111)

**The FC identified seven “must haves” that are addressed with regard to the re-submission in order.**

1. *Genuine cross-Center collaboration with development as a key objective.* Cross-Center administrative and research relations were described in the ISPCs “must haves” (above). The vision of cross-Center reform is elucidated in the program’s innovation (Section 8 p 89). As for collaborative development efforts, these are reinforced by SRT 3 that addresses development outcomes including all Centers being engaged in Institutional Effectiveness, Gender Opportunities, Scalability Options and the formulation of Supportive Policies and Infrastructure in all Action Areas (see Figure 2 p 13 and related description p 14 and SRT3 description on p 60). In other words, Centers will not merely participate based on their specializations, but also participate in all aspects of stimulating development outcomes)
2. *Make a convincing case for SLO impacts.* The proposal now indicates targets relating to all SLOs (p 2), and demonstrates a better understanding of the conditions within different Action Areas and their need for impacts. Admittedly, the pathway to achieve SLOs over 15 years are not described in detail as much of this three-year proposal describes partner Center reforms. The Humidtropics program structure (p 13) itself indicates the strong collaborative focus on development.
3. *Program deliverables, what needs to be achieved and what will be achieved.* The re-submission now identifies specific outcomes and relates them to explicit Research Questions. The program Vision (Section 2) and Justification (Section 3) It also presents longer-term targets directly related to SLOs (p 2). The detailed description of the Action Areas also documents what needs to be achieved (Section 4.3 starting on p 15).
4. *Justification for dominant focus on humid lowlands.* This focus is now expanded to cover a wider range of agro-ecological zones across the humid and sub-humid tropics as described in Section 4.3 (p 15).
5. *Cross linkage with other CRPs.* This is explained in detail within Section 9 (p 92) including what areas of more specialized CRP collaboration are needed for stronger systems research. Several details are offered for strong relations with CRP 3s, and CRPs 5 through 7 but the more precise interactions wait for the design of systems research in SRT2.
6. *Strengthen basis for engagement.* The basis for engagement of partners is described in terms of project needs throughout Section 6 (p 75) and in step-by-step detail in Section 6.3 (p 81)
7. *Expand the focus of capacity development.* This is now considered in a wider developmental context as part of partnership management (see Section 6.5) . Post harvest and value addition are considered as key to Impact Pathways (see Section 5.5, p 72)