

Positioning the CGIAR for the Next 40 Years

- CGIAR accomplishments, challenges and accountabilities -

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What CGIAR accomplishments are you most proud of?

- Genetic crop improvement (e.g. New Rice for Africa: NERICA)
- Contributions to Green Revolution (IRRI cultivars)
- High share of CGIAR derived cultivars grown world-wide
- Integrated crop management (e.g. rice yields Office du Niger from 2 to 6 t ha⁻¹ in 20 years, Senegal River Valley from 4 to 6 t ha⁻¹ in 10 years)
- World-wide increase in food production keeping pace with consumption
- General high returns from investments
- Capacity building (e.g. virtually all rice researchers in Africa trained by WARDA / AfricaRice)

How well is the CGIAR responding to current external and internal challenges?

Challenges

Internal

- Limited funds, huge responsibilities
- Tendency to (donor/scientist) supply-driven vs (farmer) demand-driven R&D
- Inter-center competition vs synergy

External

- Slow yield increases, fast population growth
- Land and water scarcity
- Climate change
- Technology adoption constraints
- Political instability and suboptimal governance

Response

- CGIAR reform to multi-center thematic Research Programs (e.g. GRiSP, CCAFS)
- Advanced technologies e.g. “climate ready” or biofortified crops
- Integrated approaches (e.g. value chains)
- Communication tools (e.g. video, mobile phone) to reach more people faster and in an equitable manner
- Response to political challenges less visible

What outcomes and impacts should the CGIAR be held accountable for in the next 40 years?

- Capacity building -> future generation of R&D professionals
- Gender equality in participation and benefits
- Sustainable and diverse agricultural systems operating with greater efficiency (land, water, labor) while maintaining ecosystem services
- Lifting productivity and reducing poverty
- Reducing hunger and improving nutrition
- African continent is able to feed itself (Agriculture = engine of economic growth in Africa)