

CRP1.1 – Integrated Agricultural Production Systems for the Poor and Vulnerable in Dry Areas

A. Fund Council Decision: CATEGORY II – Approval with conditions; revised proposal to be submitted to FC

CATEGORY II: Approval with conditions

- ‘Must haves’
- ISPC review of revised CRP proposal with ‘Must haves’ addressed; proponents should take the time needed to do the due diligence
- Virtual ‘no-objection’ approval of the revised proposal by the Fund Council
- If objection, decision taken at a face to face Fund Council Meeting

B. ‘Must haves’

From ISPC¹:

1. Clearly characterize the target dryland systems. The proposal must define dryland areas of the developing world and identify geospatial distribution using a water balance approach that quantifies risk and severity of water shortage as the basis for categorizing regions that fall into the “reduce vulnerability” focus of SRT1, or the “sustainable intensification” focus of SRT2;
2. Establish clear set of hypotheses as an organizing principle to help prioritize the research and results agenda.
3. Provide the criteria for choice of benchmark sites and the development of relevant data to inform research requirements in both the biophysical and social sciences, and their synthesis;
4. Refine site selection and characterization and prioritize activities to be carried out, working from impacts to activities;
5. Provide more detail on the underpinning science and agronomic, genetic, and farming system approaches to be evaluated once the first phase has progressed;
6. Provide a more comprehensive theory of how social change will result from the livelihood, gender and innovations systems approaches espoused in the current proposal;

¹ More detailed commentary is posted on the FC 4 website as:
http://www.cgiarfund.org/cgiarfund/sites/cgiarfund.org/files/Documents/PDF/fc4_ISPC_commentary_CRP1.1.pdf

7. Discuss current research priorities and how they would inform and complement new initiatives

From FC Members:

8. Identify clearly the research interventions proposed as a result of the diagnosis of the problems
9. Describe the framework of selecting external and centers' partners, their respective research activities, how these activities collectively contribute to an integrated agro-ecosystem research agenda
10. Differentiate the roles of the crop/commodity CRPs and this system CRP
11. Integrate available lessons learned from SSA-CP
12. Develop a log frame and articulate impact pathways to explicitly link a cluster of outputs to outcomes, and impacts and to SRF system level outcomes
13. Include a performance management framework
14. Build climate variability resilience and sustainable dry land systems through an integrated program combining indigenous knowledge with improved technologies, information dissemination and engagement with stakeholders
15. Redefine management structure to ensure that the Steering Committee (strategic oversight) and the Research Management Committee (manage research) are not both chaired by the DG for the lead center to avoid potential conflict of interest
16. Broaden the focus of the proposal to include Latin America and South Asia (cereal system)

CRP2 Proposal – Policies, Institutions and Markets to Strengthen Food Security and Incomes for the Rural Poor

A. Fund Council Decision: CATEGORY III - Re-submission of the proposal with substantial revisions

CATEGORY III: Re-submission of the CRP proposal

- Substantial ‘Must haves’
- ISPC review of revised CRP proposal with ‘Must haves’ addressed
- Decision taken at a face to face Fund Council Meeting

B. ‘Must haves’

From ISPC¹:

1. Identify and elaborate key problems and opportunities for research on specific agricultural and rural development policies, investments, institutions and markets that offer greatest scope for measurable progress towards CGIAR goals;
2. Further develop a strategic framework that encompasses, *inter alia*,
 - clearer articulation of priorities and rationale for them,
 - an assessment of alternative research providers and CGIAR comparative advantage, and
 - a clear focus on production of well-defined and high priority International Public Goods;
3. Apply the strategic framework to develop a more focused and coherent research program around major constraints and opportunities that references earlier IFPRI work;
4. Elaborate more specifically the key outcomes and impacts being targeted by sub-themes at different scales (global, regional, national) or activities, and their impact pathway narratives;
5. Elaborate further the specific roles and synergies of IFPRI and other CGIAR and non-CGIAR partners working together, and independence of the Scientific Advisory Panel;

From FC Members:

6. Identify the value added by the proposed work in CRP2;
7. Focus on core competencies and comparative advantage of CRP2;

¹ More detailed commentary is posted on the FC 4 website as:
http://www.cgiarfund.org/cgiarfund/sites/cgiarfund.org/files/Documents/PDF/fc4_ISPC_Commentary_CRP2.pdf

8. Move from generic outputs to measurable ones with indicators that can be linked to specific timeframes;
9. Provide convincing story on how research outputs will be converted into development outcomes;
10. Articulate how the consortium will partner with and complement the social science work in the commodity and resource-based CGIAR centers;
11. Form close and integral partnership with the platforms and networks brought together through GFAR and regional bodies;
12. Clarify boundaries of foresight work relative to the one being undertaken by ISPC
13. CRP2 should identify data gaps and how to increase efficiency in collecting data in different countries;
14. Consider research areas that seek to better understand the urban-rural poor interface.