

# ISPC: Program Evaluation

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- **ISPC Commentary on Proposal CRP 4:  
Agriculture for Improved Nutrition & Health**

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# ISPC: Commentary on CRP 4

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1. This CRP is built on recognition that food supply and access to food are not enough to achieve favorable nutritional and health outcomes; “human health and nutrition” is new CGIAR--SLO
2. Four main research themes:
  - ❑ Value chains for enhanced nutrition
  - ❑ Biofortification
  - ❑ Prevention and control of Agriculture-Associated Diseases (AAD)
  - ❑ Integrated Agriculture, Health and Nutrition (AHN)
3. Raising CGIAR capability to work at the nexus of AHN issues is a large part of the intent.
4. Three year budget total is USD191 million with requests to the Fund rising to USD 44 million in 2013.

# ISPC: Commentary on CRP 4

## (Strategic coherence, clarity of objectives)

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Articulation of the program is very uneven:

- ❑ Biofortification area is a mature element that stands alone and commands 50% of total CRP4 funding
- ❑ Gender issues are given the appropriate attention, but proposed research issues need better problem definition
- ❑ An overall conceptual framework to provide a cohesive articulation of the Program is missing
- ❑ Which parts of the human health spectrum are best tackled through investments in agricultural research should be a research question itself.
- ❑ Critical need for better definition of research targets and metrics for evaluation and monitoring of impact on health and alleviating malnutrition

# ISPC Commentary on CRP4

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- This CRP is something of a new endeavor for the CGIAR, and would bring together and crystallize a set of unrelated activities previously carried out under the CGIAR Agriculture and Health Research Platform
- The ISPC notes that the funding levels proposed are equivalent to starting a new Center
- It is appropriate to demand at the outset a careful review of CGIAR capacity and goals in this area vis-a-vis the other key players in these fields

# ISPC: Recommendation for CRP 4

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**Because the current proposal is not sufficiently developed, the ISPC recommends that the CRP 4 approach be approved to allow the program's proponents to engage with partners so as to develop a revised proposal and work plan with greater specificity. While current work, including the experimental validation of biofortification, should continue as planned, the ISPC further recommends that approval of the remaining content and substance of the program be withheld until a more detailed proposal is submitted. That proposal should take into account the general and more detailed advice contained in this Commentary:**

# ISPC recommendations on the revision of CRP 4

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- ❑ The articulation of the strategy in the revised proposal should give evidence that the problems identified are “ground truthed” in countries with major under-nutrition problems
- ❑ A clearer specification of objectives related to target groups affected by agricultural intensification should be provided
- ❑ In some parts (components 1 and 3 in particular) the proposed work is aspirational rather than realistic; more rigorous prioritization during the process of strategy development and more focused objectives are needed
- ❑ Many of the research activities are described at a high/generic level and some are already underway or have been completed by partners. The revised proposal should define research activities with time-bound milestones and partner roles
- ❑

## ISPC recommendations on the revision of CRP 4 (cont.)

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- ❑ On the basis of more detailed activities and specified outputs, the revised proposal should include a strategy for how these will be utilized to maximize the IPG benefits and impacts on the specific targeted communities
- ❑ Further detail on linkages to other CRPs should be described, in particular making clear which work will be funded from which CRP.
- ❑ The ISPC encourages a strategic approach to program evolution and the avoidance of opportunistic inclusion of some activities simply because they may draw initial funding.