

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Senior consultant(s)

Synthesis of CRP Evaluations

DEC 2015



Independent
Evaluation
Arrangement

Background to the Synthesis

CGIAR is a global partnership that unites 15 research organizations engaged in scientific agricultural research for a food secure future. The research is carried out through CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) led by the Centers and in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector. The latest CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF), approved in April 2015, identifies three strategic goals of system level outcomes to guide the work of the CGIAR:

i) reduced rural poverty; ii) improved food and nutrition security for health; and iii) improved natural resources systems and ecosystems services.

The Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA), based in Rome, is responsible for system-level external evaluations of the CGIAR encompassing CGIAR institutions, system, CRPs, as well as pertinent themes and issues. Between 2013 and 2015, IEA commissioned and carried out 10 CRP evaluations as well as supported the evaluations of the five remaining CRP evaluations commissioned by the programmes themselves.

The 15 CRPs differ in terms of their nature, scope (geographical and thematic), approach and size (budget and number of participating CGIAR centers) as well as their implementation span (initiating between 2010 and 2012). The CRP on Climate Change, Food Security and Agriculture (CCAFS), for example, has annual budgets between 60-70 million and includes all 15 CGIAR centers. Other CRPs, such as Dryland Cereals, has two CGIAR participating centers and annual budgets of around a third of CCAFS. The scope of the CRPs also varies significantly, with CCAFS dealing with cross-cutting issues such as climate change whereas Dryland Cereals focuses on productivity of selected crops.

Another varying factor is the relative amount of core funding (funding which allocated through the CGIAR Fund Council referred to as Window1 and Window2). Some CRPs are more dependent on CGIAR funding (e.g. CCAFS, AAS, Livestock and Fish) while others receive most of their funds through bilateral donors (e.g. MAIZE, WHEAT). The diversity of CRPs mentioned above already indicates that, while IEA aims to use consistent approaches and methods, the evaluations have adapted their methodology depending on the CRP.

With the completion of the 15 CRP evaluations in 2016, IEA is planning to conduct a Synthesis to build on the evaluative evidence from the evaluations.

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The complete list of CRPs including links to the completed evaluations (where already available) are provided below:

| CRP | Lead center | Commissioned by | Status | Evaluation information |
|---|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Aquatic Agriculture Systems (AAS) | WorldFish | IEA | Completed 2015 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-aquatic-agricultural-systems-aas |
| Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) | IFPRI | CRP | Completed 2015 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-commissioned-external-evaluation-ccee-agriculture-nutrition-and-health-a4nh |
| Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) | CIAT | IEA | To be completed Jan 2017 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-climate-change-agriculture-and-food-security-ccafs |
| Dryland Cereals | ICRISAT | CRP | Draft report | n/a |
| Dryland Systems | ICARDA | CRP | Completed 2015 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-commissioned-external-evaluation-ccee-dryland-systems |
| Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) | CIFOR | IEA | Completed 2014 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-forests-trees-and-agroforestry-fta |
| Global Rice Science Partnership (GRISP) | IRRI | IEA | To be completed Jan 2017 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-global-rice-science-partnership-grisp |
| Grain Legumes | ICRISAT | CRP | Draft report | n/a |
| Humidtropics | IITA | CRP | Draft report | n/a |
| Livestock and Fish (L&F) | ILRI | IEA | To be completed Jan 2017 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-livestock-and-fish-lf |
| MAIZE | CIMMYT | IEA | Completed 2015 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-maize |
| Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM) | IFPRI | IEA | Completed 2015 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-policies-institutes-and-markets-pim |
| Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB) | CIP | IEA | To be completed Jan 2017 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-roots-tubers-and-bananas-rtb |
| Water, Land and Ecosystems | IWMI | IEA | To be completed Jan 2017 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-water-land-and-ecosystems-wle |
| WHEAT | CIMMYT | IEA | Completed 2015 | http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-wheat |

Synthesis purpose and scope

At a time when the first phase of CRPs is ending and CRPs are drafting proposals for the second phase of activities (starting 2017) in response to a new CRP portfolio, the Synthesis aims to draw lessons and highlight patterns across the completed evaluations. The Synthesis will also be a consolidated input for the upcoming system-wide evaluation, scheduled for 2018.

The evaluative evidence covered will be primarily the CRP evaluations (IEA and CRP commissioned), but also include System wide strategic studies like the IEA Review on Governance and Management (2014), the ISPC commentaries on Extension Proposals (2015-2016) or the Consortium-commissioned Elsevier Study on research performance.

The main purpose of the Synthesis will be to:

- provide a summary assessment on the overall performance of the CRPs
- identify patterns relating to the evaluation findings, such as CRP design and relevance, implementation and management, progress towards outputs, performance (achievement of objectives), likelihood of impact
- draw lessons that can be useful for the second phase of CRPs (what worked and what did not work and why)
- identify key evaluation gaps, which could be filled before the System-wide evaluation planned in 2018

The Synthesis will cover the timeframe of the first phase of CRPs (2010 to 2016). The main focus will be on CRPs and their research and organizational performance. It will also identify System level issues that go beyond the individual CRPs and have been identified in the evaluations and draw lessons for the future of CRPs and the CGIAR.

Synthesis approach

The Synthesis will have summative and formative aspects, with an emphasis on taking a forward-looking perspective. The main method will be the systematic review of completed evaluations and studies. It may also involve going back to some of the primary data (like survey results) collected and doing further analysis. Furthermore, interviews with CRP/Center management and governance, evaluation team leaders and other key informants may be conducted.

Synthesis process

One or two senior consultants will carry out this Synthesis. It is scheduled to take place between January and May 2016 and will include the following phases:

| Phase | Period | Main outputs | Responsibility |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Preparatory Phase | Dec 2015 -Jan 2016 | Final ToRs Senior Consultant(s) recruited | IEA |
| Review and Synthesis Phase | Early Feb 2016 | Analysis framework | Senior consultant(s) and IEA |
| | Feb – Mar 2016 | Expanded outline Identification of preliminary findings | Senior consultant(s) |
| Reporting phase | | | |

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|----------------------------|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| Drafting of Report | Mid Apr 2016 | Draft Synthesis Report | Senior consultant(s) |
| Final Synthesis Report | Final Apr 2016 | Final Synthesis Report | Senior consultant(s) and IEA |
| Dissemination phase | May 2016 | Presentation at Fund Council meeting, Consortium Office and other platforms | Senior consultant(s) and IEA |

Senior consultant(s) profile

IEA is looking for one or possibly two Senior Consultants who will work closely with the Head of IEA, who will manage the Synthesis and IEA Evaluation Analyst who will provide support and analysis.

The Senior Consultant(s) will:

- review the evaluation reports and relevant studies
- design an analysis framework together with the IEA
- identify additional analysis needs which can be conducted based on existing data
- carry out interviews where considered necessary
- prepare the report outline in consultation with IEA
- prepare the draft and final synthesis report in consultation with IEA
- prepare other communications and dissemination products together with IEA
- present synthesis findings to key stakeholders

The assignment of the Senior Consultant(s) will require **approximately a total of 100 working days**, with travel for dissemination events after the reporting phase.

Qualifications of Senior Consultant(s)

- Strong academic background and experience in an area relevant to CGIAR
- Detailed knowledge of the issues relating to agricultural research for development and the CGIAR system
- Experience in conducting systematic reviews and synthesis work
- Good knowledge of the main international institutions and mechanisms involved in the areas of agriculture research and development
- Excellent writing skills in English and good verbal communication skills.

Desirable Qualifications

- Experience working in agricultural research for development
- Experience in working within the CGIAR system
- Experience in developing countries
- Experience in evaluating complex programmes

Application

Interested candidates should send their CV and a short cover outlining their most relevant experience for this position by **5 January 2016** to Sophie Zimm, Evaluation Analyst at the IEA: sophie.zimm@fao.org