

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Team Leader

Evaluation of Genebank CRP

November 2015



Independent
Evaluation
Arrangement

Background to the evaluation

In the CGIAR, agricultural research for development (AR4D) is implemented by 15 research centers and their partners through CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs). The 2016-2030 CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) was approved in April 2015. The SRF sets three goals for the CGIAR research in the CRPs, termed System-Level Outcomes: reduced rural poverty, improved food and nutrition security for health, and improved natural resources systems and ecosystems services. It also defines the CGIAR's comparative advantage in the context of international agricultural research.

The Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) of the CGIAR is responsible for external evaluations which aim to provide accountability, support to decision making, and lessons for improving quality and effectiveness of agricultural research for development outcomes.

The IEA's first three-year Rolling Evaluation Work Plan 2014-16, approved in November 2013 by the Fund Council, foresees the evaluation of the CRP for Managing and Sustaining Crop Collections (the Genebank CRP) in 2016. This is a comprehensive 5-year research support program led by the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Trust) for the management and funding of the plant genetic resources collections held by 11 CGIAR centers in trust for the benefit of the international community.

The Genebank CRP

The Genebank CRP concerns the work of the 11 genebanks that safeguard the crop genetic resources. The objective of this research support program is to conserve the diversity of plant genetic resources in CGIAR-held collections and to make this diversity available to breeders and researchers in a manner that meets high international scientific standards, is cost efficient, secure, reliable and sustainable over the long-term and is supportive of and consistent with the

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International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), adopted in 2001. The Global Crop Diversity Trust coordinates this CRP as per an agreement between the CGIAR Consortium and the Trust. Through the Genebank CRP the Trust has oversight and financial responsibility for the CGIAR genebanks.

The CRP managed funding complements the long-term grants already provided by the Trust to most of these genebanks, but the CRP expands on the Trust's role by aiming at having built, by the end of the CRP's 5-year plan in 2016, an endowment sufficient to fund 100% of the operating costs of the CGIAR genebanks.

The work undertaken through this program underpins and is essential to the activities, outputs and outcomes of a major portion of the research on genetic resources and germplasm enhancement undertaken in the CGIAR and by other agricultural research and development organizations. Therefore the objectives of this research support program are linked to the objectives of those programs, including other CRPs.

Evaluation purpose and scope

The primary purpose of this evaluation is to provide essential evaluative information for decision-making by the CGIAR Fund Council and Consortium, CGIAR Centers, Genebank CRP Management and the Trust.

The evaluation will cover all activities of the Genebank CRP related to CGIAR genebank operations and processes related to their implementation. The summative component of the evaluation will address both the efficiency and effectiveness of Genebank CRP's service functions and the extent to which the genebank operations have improved as a result of the CRP. These include meeting standards, fulfilling obligation under the ITPGRFA and achieving harmonization in management and cost-efficiency. Furthermore, the CRP performance will be assessed against the objectives of improving long-term sustainability of the crop collections and enhancing knowledge management through information services (Genesys), communication and collaboration. Progress will be assessed using previous forms of management as a baseline where possible. The formative aspects of the evaluation will address likely effectiveness as influenced by issues such as financial sustainability and integration across CRPs, the Consortium and external partners. The evaluation will cover the appropriateness of the governance (role of the Trust that has its own, broader mandate) and management mechanisms (structure and leadership), and the representation of and interaction with individual genebanks. The evaluation will also address boundary issues, such as representation of CGIAR genebanks externally, and research aspects that are essential for the achievement of the overall objectives such as accession health and genetic resources policy where the Genebank CRP currently does not have a role.

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The evaluation will build on annual reviews carried out by the Trust which looked at specific processes/tools (such as the performance target process) of the Genebank CRP and the audit carried out by the Internal Audit Unit of the Consortium in 2015.

The evaluation will be primarily desk-based. The methodology will include review of documents, interviews and visit to the Trust in Bonn. It may include other travel, for example for attending events by the Genebank CRP and the Trust and for engaging with CGIAR genebanks and centers.

The evaluation will be carried out by a team of three members that covers expertise in evaluation relevant to the subject of the evaluation, genetic resources and technical conservation issues; management and governance, communication and partnerships.

Evaluation timing

The evaluation is scheduled to take place between January and December 2016. A preparatory phase will commence with the appointment of a team leader. The evaluation will consist of inception phase (February-March 2016), inquiry phase (April-June) and report writing phase (July-October).

Phase	Period	Main outputs	Responsibility
Preparatory Phase	Dec 2015 – Jan 2016	Final ToR Evaluation team recruited	IEA
Inception Phase	Feb-March 2016	Inception Report	Evaluation team
Inquiry phase	April– June 2016	Analysis products as defined in inception report	Evaluation team
Presentation of preliminary findings	July 2016	Presentation of preliminary findings Feedback from main stakeholders	Evaluation team IEA
Reporting phase			
Drafting of Report	July – Oct 2016	Draft Evaluation Report	Evaluation team
Final Evaluation Report	Nov 2016	Final Evaluation Report	Evaluation team

Full terms of reference for the evaluation are being developed by the IEA in consultation with stakeholders.

Team Leader profile

The IEA Office is looking for a **Team Leader** who will be responsible for leading the evaluation and a team of 2-3 experts. The Team Leader will work closely with the IEA throughout the evaluation.

The Team Leader's tasks will include:

- participation in the selection of the evaluation team members;
- preparation of a short inception report building on the ToRs;
- guidance and coordination of the team's analysis and work;
- participation in the inquiry, including interviews with key stakeholders;
- substantive technical lead to the overall analysis, findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation for providing an assessment on the basis of evidence, in accordance with the ToRs and the inception report.
- preparation of the report outline, coordination of the inputs provided by the team members, preparation of the draft and final evaluation report;
- communication of the evaluation findings to key stakeholders.

The assignment of the Team Leader will be for **approximately 80 working days**, including travel and work at home-station, spread over a period of approx. 11 months from the preparatory phase of the evaluation.

The tentative stages for the evaluation with estimated time requirement are as follows:

- An inception phase (20 days) with the objective of refining the ToRs, clarifying the analytical frameworks, developing the methodological tools; preparation of an inception report;
- Collection and analysis of information (35 days) including center visits and field travel;
- Report drafting and final consultation with stakeholders (25 days).

Qualifications of the Team Leader

- Expertise in genetic resources and technical conservation issues
- Experience of evaluating complex programmes, involving research at international level
- Knowledge of international agricultural research and partnerships
- Extensive and proven experience as a team leader
- Excellent writing skills in English and verbal communication skills.

Application

Interested persons should send their CV and a short cover letter outlining their most relevant experience for this position by **11 December 2015** to Manuela Bucciarelli, Evaluation Analyst at the IEA: manuela.bucciarelli@fao.org.