

Terms of Reference

Senior Consultant

Synthesis of CRP Evaluations

JULY 2015



Independent
Evaluation
Arrangement

Background

In the CGIAR agricultural research for development is implemented by 15 research Centers and their partners through CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs). Ultimately, the CRPs are aimed to contribute to the system level objectives of CGIAR: less rural poverty, better food security, better nutrition and health and sustainably managed resources.

The Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) of the CGIAR is responsible for external evaluations of the CRPs and for developing a coordinated and harmonized evaluation regime within the CGIAR.

Synthesis of CGIAR Research Program Evaluations

IEA seeks to commission a synthesis study of the first five completed evaluations (listed below) focusing on findings and conclusions to draw lessons learned and highlight patterns across the evaluations. The synthesis study will focus on CRP implementation, system processes and results, funding issues, progress towards outputs as well as performance in the areas of gender, partnership, capacity building and quality of science. The synthesis report will be the first consolidated input to the upcoming system-wide evaluation scheduled of the CGIAR, and will also provide recommendations for the synthesis of the full set of 15 CRP evaluations which to take place in 2016.

The purpose of the Synthesis study is to:

- Provide a synthesis of the patterns related to the results of the 5 evaluations, including on topics such as: program implementation, funding issues, progress towards outputs as well as performance in the areas of gender, partnership, capacity building and quality of science, taking into account the comparability of results and robustness of evidence
- Draw lessons that can be useful at this junction for the system as a whole and for the preparation and consideration of the CRP II proposals

The process, to be established by the Consultant in collaboration with IEA, is expected to include:

- Detailed review of the Terms of Reference, Inception Reports, Final reports and Management responses of the 5 evaluations
- Design of framework which will be used to extract findings from the evaluation reports and agree on outline for the report
- Agree on synthesis inputs which are going to be provided by the IEA Evaluation Analyst
- Drafting of synthesis of the main findings of the 5 evaluations, which includes lessons learned with wider applicability

Synthesis of CRP Evaluations

CRP	Lead-Center	Key CRP characteristics and focus	Evaluation information
Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA)	CIFOR	An integrated global research initiative that aims to enhance the management and use of forests, agroforestry and tree genetic resources in the developing world as a way to improve livelihoods and sustain environmental values. CRP spans across a wide range of topics, from small-scale production technologies through to international trade and global conventions, with multiple partnerships, and with a diverse set of strategies to achieve impact.	http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-forests-trees-and-agroforestry-fta
MAIZE	CIMMYT	Aims at significantly improving the productivity, resilience and sustainability of maize-based farming systems thus contributing to farmer incomes and livelihood opportunities, without using more land, and as climates change and fertilizer, water and labor costs rise. The strategy is three-fold: sustainable intensification and income opportunities for the poor; new maize varieties for the poor; and integrated post-harvest management.	http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-maize
WHEAT	CIMMYT	Aims at building on the input, strength, and collaboration of public and private sector partners to catalyze and head an emergent, highly-distributed, virtual global wheat innovation network to improve productivity of wheat farming systems, address the global threat of stem rust disease, and help wheat farmers in developing countries grow their crops in hotter conditions with less water and less fertilizer.	http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-wheat
Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM)	IFPRI	Aims at overcoming challenges and failures that prevent effective functioning of policies, institutions and markets needed to improve the supply of key public goods and services, direct incentives towards agriculture, help stabilizing food prices, and strengthen relationships that create wealth. Also addresses macroeconomic dimensions, environmental inputs and outcomes, and important enabling conditions and aims at improving quality of the policy environment through improved observation and metrics.	http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-policies-institutes-and-markets-pim
Aquatic Agriculture Systems (AAS)	WorldFish	Aims at fostering innovation and innovation capacity of the poor and vulnerable that depend upon aquatic agricultural systems to to improve their own well-being in the face of opportunities and challenges. The CRP represents largely a new research agenda in the CGIAR that uses a demand-driven gender approach and operates through participatory action research. Also aims at establishing effective learning and partnership arrangements that can lead to impact at multiple scales.	http://iea.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-evaluation-aquatic-agricultural-systems-aas *Final evaluation report not available online, awaiting CRP Management Response

Synthesis of CRP Evaluations

The Senior Consultant will be responsible for the development of the methodology underpinning the synthesis review. The Senior Consultant will work under the supervision of, and in close collaboration with, the Head of the IEA and the IEA Evaluation Analyst concerned.

Qualifications: Consultant is expected to have senior evaluation experience, with a broad knowledge of CGIAR as well as agricultural research for development.

Duration of Assignment: The synthesis report is expected mainly as a desk study, with potential engagement and communications with IEA, IEA peer reviewers, evaluation team leaders and CRP representatives. Estimate of up to 20 working days.

Tentative Dates: To initiate as soon as possible, with draft report due in early October 2015, and final synthesis report due by end of October 2015.

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