

## Independent Evaluation Arrangement of CGIAR: Evaluation of CRP on Water, Land and Ecosystems



The Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) Office is responsible for System-level Independent External Evaluations through strategic evaluations of CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) and institutional elements of the CGIAR.

The evaluation of the CRP on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) is one of the several CRP evaluations which IEA is currently conducting. Led by a fully independent evaluation team with quality assurance and management by IEA, the purpose of the forward-

looking evaluation is to inform decision-making by WLE management, funders and partners. It aims to enhance WLE's performance and likelihood of achieving its program objectives of intensifying farming activities, expanding agricultural areas and restoring degraded lands, while using natural resources wisely and minimizing harmful impacts on supporting ecosystems.

The evaluation will cover all WLE research activities, including projects supported by bilateral and unrestricted funding (W1/2). This includes both past transferred research (pre-CRP) that has continued relevance to the outcomes of the program as well as new "CRP driven" research.

The two main focus areas of the evaluation are:

- Research/programmatic performance, including the program design and results
- Organizational performance covering efficiency and effectiveness related to CRP governance and management structures.

The evaluation is scheduled to take place between October 2014 and early 2016 and will encompass document review, interviews, field visits and surveys. The inception report, scheduled to be completed in February 2015, will present a "road map" for the evaluation and outlines the evaluation approach and methods to be used. It will also present a plan for engaging stakeholders and communicating findings and evaluation results.

An Evaluation Reference Group will be set up to engage key stakeholders and to act as a "sounding board" to provide views and inputs at important stages, including the inception report, preliminary findings, and draft report. The Reference Group will represent WLE management and government representatives as well as external partners.

The independent evaluation team will be led by David Todd, an expert evaluation specialist with extensive experience in evaluating international development programs. He will be supported by a team of subject matter experts who will cover the different WLE research themes.

For further information on this evaluation, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Fisher-Post at ([matthew.fisherpost@fao.org](mailto:matthew.fisherpost@fao.org)). More information, to include TORs and inception reports when finalized, is available on the IEA website: <http://iea.cgiar.org/ongoing-evaluations#WLE>