

## Consortium Management Response to Wheat external review

WHEAT is led by CIMMYT. It brings together the previously separate mandates of CIMMYT and ICARDA building on their long-term wheat research, and as a CRP was designed for at least ten years duration. It encompasses wheat related breeding, resource management and social science research at CIMMYT, and ICARDA's wheat breeding. WHEAT was formally launched in the beginning of 2012. It is currently in its fourth year of implementation, having had its 2015-2016 extension proposal approved by the CGIAR Fund Council in November 2014

### IEA Recommendations

The review panel makes 11 recommendations, of which 10 are fully accepted and one partially accepted by the wheat CRP management.

The partially accepted recommendation refers to the strategies, alignment and management of projects to reflect Theories of Change with appropriate and validated critical assumptions. This is considered to be of particular importance by the Consortium given the enhanced need to demonstrate value for money and effective. Thus, the Consortium accepts and supports all recommendations of the evaluation team and agrees that they should be taken into account in the next generation of CRP proposals.

Overall, the evaluation concludes that WHEAT is *"contributing sufficient value from CGIAR's research investments to generate results to warrant continuation during the extension-phase (2015-16) and beyond"*.

Over the past year the management and Boards of Trustees of CIMMYT and ICARDA have made great progress and committed to greater cooperation in program oversight and improved WHEAT management, which includes updating the roles of WHEAT's Management Committee and Independent Stakeholder Committee and its advisory functions together with the appointment of a WHEAT CRP Director.

The following points are of particular relevance to the future development of the Wheat Agri-Food System CRP:

- Particular attention should be paid to the plausibility of the Theory of Change and alignment with the SRF sub-IDOs and IDOs in the pre-proposals and full proposals.
- In addition the specific use of W1/W2 funds need to be fully clarified so that the strategic integration of bi-lateral support can be fully understood and the added-value demonstrated.

- The area of Sustainable Intensification provides a focal point for integration of genetics, agronomy and social sciences and is an important component of a future WHEAT program. More systematic/ meta analyses needs to be undertaken to underpin this work.
- To accelerate genetic gain modern breeding approaches need to be rapidly incorporated in the WHEAT program.
- Attention to the development of a more refined identification and characterization of end-users of wheat technologies so that outputs effectively meet the needs of farmers on whose decisions to adopt WHEAT's impact depends. Included here, is the importance of Recommendation 10 advising more energetic attention to gender in impact pathways and project implementation towards gender-equitable outcomes.

In the view of the Consortium, CIMMYT should ensure that all recommendations of the WHEAT evaluation are taken into account when developing the proposal for the Wheat Agri-Food System CRPs.