

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CONSULTANT for Mapping of evaluative studies



Independent
Evaluation
Arrangement

Background

In CGIAR, agricultural research for development (AR4D) is implemented by 15 research Centers and their partners through CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs). A new 2016-2030 CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) was approved in April 2015. The SRF identifies three strategic goals of system level outcomes to guide the work of the CGIAR through the CRPs: i) reduced rural poverty; ii) improved food and nutrition security for health; and iii) improved natural resources systems and ecosystems services. Underneath these high level goals, a set of 10 Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDOs) set out the operational results framework for the CRPs.

The Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) of the CGIAR is responsible for external evaluations that aim to provide accountability, support to decision making, and lessons for improving quality and effectiveness of agricultural research for development outcomes. The main mandate of the IEA, as defined in the CGIAR Policy for Independent External Evaluations (CGIAR Evaluation Policy), is to conduct strategic evaluations of the CGIAR CRPs and cross cutting- thematic issues, as well as institutional elements of the CGIAR. The CGIAR Evaluation Policy further outlines that CRP evaluations should be based, to the extent possible, on a meta-analysis of “independently verified” evaluative evidence from the CRPs. It therefore proposes a pyramid system where evaluative evidence is generated at the CRP level as “building blocks” for IEA commissioned evaluations.

For the CRP evaluations conducted by IEA between 2013 and 2015, only a few evaluations were able to use CRP commissioned evaluations or evaluative evidence as substantial inputs (CCAFS, L&F evaluation). This was partly due to the fact that CRPs, being newly formulated, had focused on setting monitoring systems.

As an initial exercise, IEA collected evaluative studies and evaluation from across CRPs/Centers and developed a simple database identifying source, type of study/evaluation, and focus. The database includes information received from the following sources:

- initial request for evaluations/reviews/studies to Centers in 2013/2014
- request to donors for evaluative studies in 2014
- studies which have been collected in the framework of the CRP evaluations

In preparation for the upcoming System-wide evaluation of CGIAR, scheduled for 2018, IEA will need to update and further develop the database to include all evaluative studies, governance and management reports, impact assessments, adoption studies. Preliminary mapping analysis will need to be conducted on the data collected to identify gaps and potential areas for background papers or studies to be conducted prior to the full evaluation.

Purpose and scope

The mapping exercise is taking place at a time when the first round of CRP evaluations are coming to an end and the IEA is planning for the next cycle of evaluations, including System-wide evaluation of CGIAR scheduled for 2018.

The mapping has two objectives:

1. Preparation of System-Wide Evaluation (in 2018):

- provide an independent assessment of the quality of the evaluation studies and reviews (assessment of quality of outcomes and impact studies will be conducted separately),
- provide a better understanding of the coverage of evaluative studies and impact assessments in CGIAR (from CRPs and Centers)
- identify evaluative gaps which should be addressed in the System-wide Evaluation (SWE) of CGIAR in 2018
- identify, where possible, topics for meta-synthesis in preparation of the System-wide evaluation;

2. Developing an evaluation database for accountability, communication, and to support coordination of evaluation plans

- provide an input for a system-wide database of evaluative studies in the CGIAR r to support coordinated planning in the future;
- provide an overview for donors, CGIAR governance and management on current coverage, and prioritizing evaluation needs for the future

The mapping should result in a clearer idea about the extent to which the major CGIAR research areas and entities (centers, CRPs) are covered by evaluations and impact assessments, and the extent to which evidence is available.

The mapping exercise will have two different parts:

1. **evaluative studies and reviews** (in the broader sense) which have been undertaken by CRPs and centers, CGIAR system level entities (ISPC, IEA, and Consortium Office) and donors between 2010 (when the first CRPs started operations) and now.
2. **assessments of outcomes and impact**, which are mostly conducted by centers and include:
 - Socio economic research (Intermediate assessments of research products, as part of development)
 - Outcome assessments (adoption and use of research products, as well as studies on the constraints to adoption and use)
 - Ex-post impact assessment (assessments of impact at scale)
 - Ex-ante impact assessment

This CEI covers a quality assessment of evaluative studies and reviews only. Quality assessment of the other component (assessments of outcomes and impact) will be carried out by different consultant.

Process and expected outputs

The mapping exercise is scheduled to take place between April and June 2017 and will include the following phases:

Activity	Responsibility	Time
UPDATE DATABASE		
Request additional donor evaluations and reviews	IEA	Mar 2017
Further populate the database with the help of other CGIAR entities	IEA	Mar 2017
DEVELOP FRAMEWORK FOR MAPPING		
Review existing evaluative evidence available		Apr 2017
Framework for evaluative studies, looking at various aspects, like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGIAR research areas (in line with the priority research areas identified in the new SRF) • CGIAR evaluation criteria (relevance, quality of science, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, impact,) • CGIAR evaluation cross cutting issues (gender, capacity development, partnerships, governance and management) 	Consultant + IEA	Apr 2017
MAPPING		
Mapping of evidence available according to framework agreed	Consultant	May/June 2017

CEI – Consultant – Mapping of evaluative evidence

Identification of topics/areas for Synthesis and reviews as inputs to SWE	Consultant	May/June 2017
Identification of evidence gaps and proposal on how they should be addressed for the SWE	Consultant	May/June 2017
REVIEW OF QUALITY		
Development of framework for qualitative review of evaluative studies	Consultant + IEA	June 2017
Look at reviews and evaluations and do quality check/assessment of evaluative rigor	Consultant	June 2017

Consultant profile

IEA is looking for a **Consultant** who will work closely with the Head of IEA and the IEA Evaluation Analyst.

His/her tasks will include:

- Review of existing database
- Suggestion of a framework for mapping evaluative evidence
- Mapping of evidence and identification of areas for potential synthesis and evaluative gaps
- Qualitative review of evaluative studies

The assignment of the Consultant will require **40 working days** spread over a period of approximately 3 months from the preparatory phase of the evaluation.

Qualifications

- Extensive knowledge of agricultural research for development
- Extensive experience in evaluation, preferably in the area of agricultural research
- Experience in conducting quality control/review of evaluations
- Prior knowledge and experience of CGIAR would be preferred, but is not essential for this work
- Excellent writing skills in English

Desirable Qualifications

- Experience in establishing evaluation or other knowledge sharing platforms
- Experience in conducting synthesis and meta-evaluations

Application

Interested persons should send their CV and a short cover e-mail outlining their most relevant experience for this assignment by **15 March 2017** to Sophie Zimm, Evaluation Analyst at the IEA: sophie.zimm@fao.org