

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CONSULTANT for Mapping of evaluative studies



Independent
Evaluation
Arrangement

Background

CGIAR is a global agricultural research partnership which implements research through a network of 15 research centers and their partners.

The 2016-2030 CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) guides the work of the CGIAR through the CGIAR Research Programs (CRP). The SRF identifies three strategic goals of system level outcomes (SLOs): i) reduced rural poverty; ii) improved food and nutrition security for health; and iii) improved natural resources systems and ecosystems services.

The Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) is responsible for system-level external evaluations of the CGIAR encompassing CGIAR institutions, system, CGIAR research programs (CRPs), as well as cross-cutting themes and issues. Between 2013 and 2016 IEA conducted evaluations of all CRPs as well as other strategic and thematic evaluations.

IEA's evaluation of the CGIAR research portfolio, through CRP evaluations, relies among other things on evaluative information about CGIAR Centers, programs and their results and impacts. CRP evaluations have relied on secondary sources of data, in order to assess the extent of impact from past programs.

The first initiative to collect "evaluative and impact studies" of CGIAR activities started at the end of 2012, with continued efforts to ensure the repository/database of evaluation studies is updated and current. It has most recently been updated in May 2017 when latest studies were received from 14 CGIAR centers.

Purpose and scope

The mapping exercise is taking place at a time when the first round of CRP evaluations have been completed and the IEA is planning for the next cycle of CRP evaluations. In addition, CGIAR's Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) recently completed a program on Strengthening Impact Assessment in CGIAR (SIAC) and is planning for a second phase.

By providing a better understanding of the nature and the coverage of evaluations and impact studies in CGIAR, this mapping can inform both of these efforts.

Information and resources available for the mapping exercise includes:

1. **Evaluative studies and reviews** (in the broader sense) from 2010 -2017 which have been undertaken by CRPs and centers, CGIAR system level entities (ISPC, IEA, and Consortium Office) and donors.
2. **Assessments of outcomes and impact ("impact studies")**, which are mostly conducted by centers and external researchers and include the following categories:

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- 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 evaluations/assessments

This CEI covers only the outcomes and impact studies of the database. Other components (evaluative studies and reviews) will be carried out separately.

Status of database

After an initial assessment of the more than 600 studies received from Centers and CRPs, approximately 200 studies were found to qualify for inclusion in the impact study database. These are currently are currently classified according to the following:

- CGIAR center which carried out the study
- CRP to which study is mapped by center
- Year when study was published
- Category of study (please see description of impact studies above)
- Method used (econometrics, experimental, etc.)
- Intervention/ technology (improved variety, improved technology, etc.)
- Crop (rice, maize, etc.)
- Outcome measures in study (varietal adoption, income, etc.)

Process and expected outputs

The mapping of impact studies exercise is scheduled to take place between January and March 2018. IEA foresees the need for consultant or consultant teams (with potential support from junior consultant/s) to undertake this task. .

The main outputs of the work are:

- 1. Database of impact studies completed with the mapping and quality review information (excel)**
- 2. A summary report (around 30 pages) to include (but is not limited to):**
 - Findings and results of the mapping exercise
 - Findings and results of qualitative assessment of impact studies
 - Information on evidence gaps from and in the CGIAR system
 - Suggested areas for synthesis and further reviews
 - Methodological limitations

The table below outlines the various steps:

PROCESS	Time
DESIGN	
Define process for mapping (based on the Strategy and Results Framework) so that studies can be mapped against major areas of CGIAR research investment and SRF outcomes (sub-Intermediate Development Outcomes, IDOs, SLOs)	Jan 2018
Design framework for quality assessment of impact studies (considering the various categories of studies)	Jan 2018
PILOTING	
Apply frameworks to a set of 15 studies to test	Early Feb 2018
Review and revise framework if necessary	Early Feb 2018
MAPPING AND REVIEW OF QUALITY	
Mapping of impact studies according to framework agreed	Feb/Mar 2018
Review quality of impact studies according to framework agreed	Feb/Mar 2018
Conduct quality control and review a sample of studies	Feb/Mar 2018
Identification of topics/areas for Synthesis and reviews	Feb/Mar 2018
Identification of evidence gaps	Feb/Mar 2018
REPORTING	
Draft Report that summarizes findings of mapping and quality review	Mar 2018
Incorporate feedback received from IEA	Mar 2018

Consultant profile

IEA is looking for **Consultant or consultant team (senior and support consultants)** to complete this work. The Senior Consultant can propose a junior or support team to work under their supervision to implement the mapping framework designed by the Senior Consultant, in consultation with SPIA and approved by IEA. A proposed division of tasks is outlined below:

SENIOR CONSULTANT

The Senior Consultant will work closely with the Head of IEA and the IEA Evaluation Analyst.

The assignment of the Senior Consultant will require a maximum of 15 working days spread over a period of approximately 3 months.

The tasks of the **Senior Consultant** will include:

- Design framework for mapping and quality control to be operationalized by Junior Consultants
- Supervise the work of the consultant/s
- Conduct quality control of outputs of consultant/s
- Draft summary report

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Qualifications

- Extensive experience in impact assessment, preferably in the area of agricultural research
- Extensive experience in conducting quality control/review of impact studies
- Extensive experience in evidence mapping and analysis
- Knowledge of CGIAR and agricultural research for development
- Excellent writing skills in English and good verbal communication skills.

SUPPORT CONSULTANT(s):

The Junior Consultant(s) will work under the supervision of the Senior Consultant.

The assignment will require a maximum of 60 working days spread over a period of maximum 3 months.

The tasks of the **support consultant/s** will include:

- Conduct mapping of impact studies
- Conduct quality review of impact studies

Qualifications

- Experience in impact assessment, preferably in the area of agricultural research
- Experience in conducting quality control/review of impact studies

Application

Interested persons should send their CV and a short cover e-mail outlining their most relevant experience for this assignment to Jenin Assaf (jenin.assaf@fao.org) by **20 January 2018** or until consultancy is filled satisfactorily.