

Supporting decision-making for prioritizing resource allocation to achieve a dynamic and effective CGIAR research portfolio

Workshop organized by the CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council

May 9, 2017 14:00-17:00 - Mauritszaal, KIT Amsterdam

Background and objective of the workshop: At the November 2016 CGIAR System Council meeting, the Council adopted Decision SC/M2/DP3 approving, upon the recommendation of the System Management Board, the CGIAR research proposals and platforms as part of the 2017-2022 CGIAR Portfolio. The SC decision also emphasized the need for a methodology for recommending funding allocations, as well as the importance of building the capacity for a dynamic portfolio which could potentially involve adding or dropping activities.

Allocating resources, and particularly W1 funding, across the CRPs requires a transparent process to align the proposed outputs and outcomes with the priorities of the investors. The decision-making process required can be divided into three main categories – each of which requires a specific approach:

- a) Prioritization over the long term: (e.g. updating of the SRF to give clear direction on which areas of research - different commodities, different policies and upstream versus downstream).
- b) Allocation of resources over the medium term, i.e. to the proposals which have been approved as 'fundable' by the SC.
- c) Within year reallocations in response to funding shortfalls or additional funding

Thus there is a need to identify options for allocating resources to CGIAR research activities in the short, medium and long term in order to maintain a dynamic and effective research portfolio. In this workshop we will focus on (b) and (c), e.g. the short and medium term resource allocation issues and explore feasible decision-making approaches therein. The workshop will facilitate discussion of the ramifications of various allocation options for the science quality and effectiveness of CGIAR research as well as the capacity and information needed to implement them. The objective is to build consensus on the way forward for resource allocation to support a dynamic and effective CGIAR research portfolio.

DRAFT AGENDA

I. OPENING: Maggie Gill (14:00-14:15)

A brief history of the development of the current CGIAR research portfolio and resource allocation principles – and implications for maintaining quality and effectiveness of CGIAR research.

II. RESOURCE ALLOCATION ISSUES IN THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM (14:15-15:45)

In the longer term, there is scope to make more informed decisions, based on information about past performance as well as analysis of future opportunities. In this session the focus will be on the kind of information and capacities we need to have in place to collect and use the information needed for effective decision-making on resource allocation in the medium and long term.

Panel discussion: How does the shift towards multidimensional development goals affect the criteria we should use for research funding allocations?

Panelists talk about how funding portfolios have changed in response to the shift to assessing research performance based on development outcomes and what the implications are for the kind of information required in medium and long-term to make informed decisions on R&D activities that actually deliver this.

Panelists: Tim Wheeler, Patrick Webb (tbc), EC representative (tbc)

Presentation: What criteria would inform stop-go and reallocation decisions?

- Where are we now? Presentation by SMO on current annual performance monitoring system for current CRP portfolio
- What could ISPC add?
 - Elements could include quality of research, Impact pathways/ToC, implications from horizon scanning for emergent opportunities and longer term strategic foresight/priority setting work of ISPC

Facilitated discussion or working groups

15:45- 16:00 Coffee break

III. ADDRESSING THE SHORT TERM RESOURCE ALLOCATION ISSUE (16:00-16:45)

Presentation: Overview of funding trends and expectations for 2018 (Elwyn Grainger-Jones, SMO) (15 minutes)

Facilitated Discussion: implications of different options for research quality and effectiveness (20 minutes)

IV. SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS (16:45-17:00)

Summary by ISPC on what the process would look like and what capacities would be required to implement it.