Focusing Agricultural and Rural Development Research and Investment on Achieving SDGs 1 and 2 (Ag4SDGs)

A joint initiative of FAO, IFAD, CGIAR and the World Bank in partnership with EC
Agricultural investments and research are increasingly diversified: include nutrition, climate change, value chains etc.
Why the joint initiative?

Coordinated action along the research to development path in agriculture is essential to achieving desired (and programmed) development outcomes

- Evidence needed to better guide effective investments to reduce poverty & hunger
- Public sector agricultural research needs to be more effective in attaining development impacts
- More, and better targeted investments are needed to support improved livelihoods
Vision for Ag4SDGs

**Purpose:** coordinate research and investments in agricultural and rural development in order to achieve SDGs 1 and 2.

**Aims:**
1) promote linkages between evidence provided by research, investment and policies at country level and
2) implement concrete activities to build more systematic research-based evidence on the nexus between agricultural investments and the eradication of extreme poverty and food insecurity
Activities: January 2017: Expert consultation at FAO (60 experts, 2 days of discussion)

Related Findings:
- Complexity of rural transformation requires coordinated action
- Lots of impact assessment work on agricultural interventions (SPIA, IFAD, WB) but little coordination.
- Research to policy linkages weak particularly at country level

Recommendations:
- Prioritize a few concrete actions to work on together
- Use the data and knowledge we already have better
- Foster partnerships at national, international levels for coordination
- Identify one or two countries that are interested in piloting coordination action for achieving SDGs 1 and 2
Planned Activities

Pilot country coordination of research, investment and development activities in agriculture to support reaching SDGs1 and 2. Links to CGIAR country coordination work. Currently consultation with countries to determine interest. Idea is to build links between agricultural research agenda/outputs to support investment planning by IFAD and WB, as well as FAO policy and technical work.


Annual expert consultation (December 2017) to build a community of practice amongst researchers and development practitioners - also to facilitate dialogue with policy-makers in pilot countries.

Establishment of a Joint research facility/fund to support priority Agricultural Research aimed at supporting SDGs 1 and 2.
What does it mean for prioritization / role of the CGIAR?

• Strategic partnering is an essential element for effective delivery of development outcomes in budget scarce and multi-objective environments,

• The quality (e.g. strategic nature) of the partnership affects the effectiveness of the research program

• Strategic partnering activities could leverage alternative funding sources which can enhance flexibility in the portfolio
ISPC ROLE: provide advice and guidance to ensure CGIAR research contributes to development outcomes

- Provides a framework for exploring and strengthening partnership practice
- Engaging with systemic change means engaging in new partnership architectures
- The CGIAR needs to play different roles at different levels in MSPs
- Establish the scientific basis to link MSP practice with development impact

Mode 1: Agricultural Research Partnerships

Agricultural research organizations collaborate to develop new knowledge on discreet technical dimensions of prioritized problems and opportunities.

Mode 2: Agricultural innovation delivery partnerships

Agricultural research organizations collaborate in agricultural production and agribusiness innovation that delivers new products and services that create value for farmers and companies.

Mode 3: National Agri-food systems innovation partnerships

Agricultural research organizations participate in the efforts of public policy and private sector to catalyse innovation in agri-food systems that creates social, economic, and environmental value in line with national development plans.

Mode 4: Global development innovation partnerships

Agricultural research organizations participate in efforts of national and global public and private sector stakeholders to catalyse innovation in economic and social systems to achieve social, economic, and environmental development targets set by the SDGs.