



June 15, 2016

Summary of consultation among eligible developing countries in the West Asia and North Africa region

Introduction

1. As part of the new governance structure of the CGIAR System, a System Council is to be established with voting membership representing funders and developing countries. The agreed distribution of voting member seats on the Council is as follows:

- a) eligible funders will identify members for up to 15 seats;
- b) eligible developing countries will identify members for 5 additional seats.

2. Council members, alternates and the formation of constituencies are to be agreed upon by members of the two groups mentioned above based on consultations to be organized prior to the first Council meeting (to be held on July 12, 2016).

3. For developing country seats, it is agreed that balance among the following regions should be taken into account in allocating the seats: East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and West Asia and North Africa.

4. Consultations are being organized, on a regional basis, to provide an opportunity for developing countries to discuss and agree on the five developing country seats.

Eligibility for a developing country seat on the Council

5. In its decision on the establishment of a new governance structure, the Fund Council¹ agreed that developing countries would be eligible for a seat on the Council if the country is: (a) a funder to the CGIAR Fund, (b) a host country of a CGIAR research center, or (c) a country with a significant national agricultural system, recognizing the critical contributions of such countries to agricultural research and investment for development.

¹ The Fund Council agreed to move to a new governance structure for the CGIAR System at its thirteenth meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, in April 2015. See *Decision on the CGIAR System Organization*, adopted by the Fund Council, on April 29, 2015.

6. The criterion that is being used to identify “developing countries with significant national agricultural systems” is countries with annual agricultural research spending of USD 100 million or above, according to IFPRI’s Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) or other relevant information provided by countries.

7. Applying the agreed criteria, eligible developing countries listed on a regional basis are:

- a) East Asia and Pacific: China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand
- b) Latin America and Caribbean: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru
- c) South Asia: Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka
- d) Sub-Saharan Africa: Benin, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda
- e) West Asia and North Africa: Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Turkey

Consultation among eligible developing countries in the West Asia and North Africa region

8. On June 15, 2016, a virtual consultation was held with representatives from Iran and Turkey, the two eligible countries that had confirmed their interest in participating on the CGIAR System Council. A list of those joining the consultation is attached as Annex B.

9. The purpose of the consultation was to provide an opportunity for the countries to discuss and agree upon the member and alternate who will be responsible for representing the West Asia and North Africa region on the CGIAR System Council and to reach common understanding for the how the constituency could operate.

Agreement on Member and Alternate for the West Asia and North Africa regional constituency

10. It was agreed that Turkey will hold the member seat on the CGIAR System Council for two years, from July 2016 to June 2018, and that Iran will serve as the alternate during that period. It was further agreed that the two countries would rotate being the member or alternate every two years.

11. The representatives stressed the importance of strong collaboration between them and with other countries in the region. It was agreed that they should collaborate both before and during the meeting and that the System Council should be requested to provide financing for the cost of attendance at the System Council meetings of both the member and the alternate, thereby strengthening developing country and regional representation. It was further agreed that it would be important for the rules of procedure for the System Council not to restrict the ability of the alternate to speak on behalf of the constituency, instead of the Member, on particular agenda items when the alternate may have particular technical input or experience to share with the System Council.

12. Both countries recognized the importance of strong representation of the West Asia and North Africa region at CGIAR System Council meeting.

ANNEX B

Participants in the virtual consultation with eligible and interested countries in West Asia and North Africa on June 15, 2016

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