



Elevating gender research to a new CGIAR Research Platform: Response from the System Management Board to SC6 Action

Business Plan Action: 1.2 - Elevate gender equality to a new CGIAR Research Platform

Purpose: This document sets out a response from the System Management Board to the agreed position and related action of the System Council from its 6th meeting with respect to elevating the gender in research to a 'CGIAR Research Platform' (as for Big Data, Genebanks and Excellence in Breeding)

Action Requested: The System Council is requested to provide strategic input and guidance on the proposed mechanism for establishing a new gender equality research in food systems Platform, to inform the further development of an articulated plan for approval by the System Management Board at its 12th meeting (December 2018).

Prepared by: System Management Office

Document category: Working document of the System Council: There is no restriction on the circulation of this document.

1. Historical background

1991 - CGIAR Gender Program initiated (backing of 8 key funders)

1999 - 2012:

- Gender and Diversity Systemwide Program (gender in the workplace)
- Participatory Research and Gender Analysis Programme (PRGA) for gender analysis (research component)

2011: ‘Gender Strategy’ approved by Consortium Board, 2011

2011-2016: CGIAR Senior Consultant on Gender (2011-2016) – facilitated the Gender and Agricultural Research Network (research and workplace)

2015: Diversity and Inclusion Strategy approved by Consortium Board**

2017-2022: “Collaborative Platform” on gender established within the CGIAR Research Program Policies, Institutions and Markets”

April 2016: IEA commissioned evaluation at request of System - 2 parts:

- I. Gender in CGIAR Research
- II. Gender in the Workplace

April 2017 - Recommendations to Centers, System Management Board and System Council (refer meeting doc SC7-05)

2A. Current context: Agreed position and related action from SC6

1. Agreed position:

The System Council **endorsed** the concept of the currently named ‘CGIAR Collaborative platform for gender research’- housed in the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) - becoming a fully-fledged **CGIAR Platform**, thus the equivalent status of the Excellence in Breeding, Big Data and Genebanks Platforms, to deliver:

- Global leadership on gender equality and agriculture research that has transformative impacts
- Greater visibility for innovative work on gender equality research conducted across CGIAR
- Stronger convening power of the Platform
- Full embedding of gender equality in the fabric of CGIAR
- Greater ability to absorb and deploy finance to leverage gender equality integration across CGIAR
- Facilitating more extensive engagement of CRP directors and other program elements
- Access to a wider set of funding pathways
- More prominence in System reporting

2. Related Action from SC6

By not later than the System Council’s 7th meeting (15-16 November 2018) **the System Management Board (‘SMB’) will advise the System Council on the outcome of SMB discussions/decision-making** on the following themes for a **Gender Equality Research Platform**, with the same status as the three other CGIAR Platforms:

- Arrangements: hosting, leadership and partnerships and timing
- Funding modalities
- Scale and scope of activities

2B. Current context: Strengthening gender equality in CGIAR workplan

Since SC6, a workplan focused on strengthening gender equality in CGIAR's research and workplaces has been undertaken with the support, including financial resources, of several Funders (including ACIAR, BMGF and IDRC) which has facilitated:

1. A stock-take on gender-related activities and testing of various future scenarios with stakeholders across the System
2. Distinct workstreams for gender in research and gender in the workplace, recognizing the importance and possible synergies between the two, but that the development of each should take place separately.
3. The identification of key elements for a framework for CGIAR's gender in research to make a business case.
4. A series of options for achieving an elevated CGIAR Platform on Gender Equality in Research for consideration and adoption by the SMB (in October 2018)
5. The integration of gender equality, diversity and inclusion principles more prominently in the inaugural 2019-2021 CGIAR System 3-year Plan than seen at SC6

An important part of the process has been a **Gender Equality and Diversity Reference Group** which has provided a forum for representatives of key stakeholder groups across the System to bring together information, perspectives and ideas to shape a 'home-grown' solution.

The Gender Reference Group has included representatives of the following:

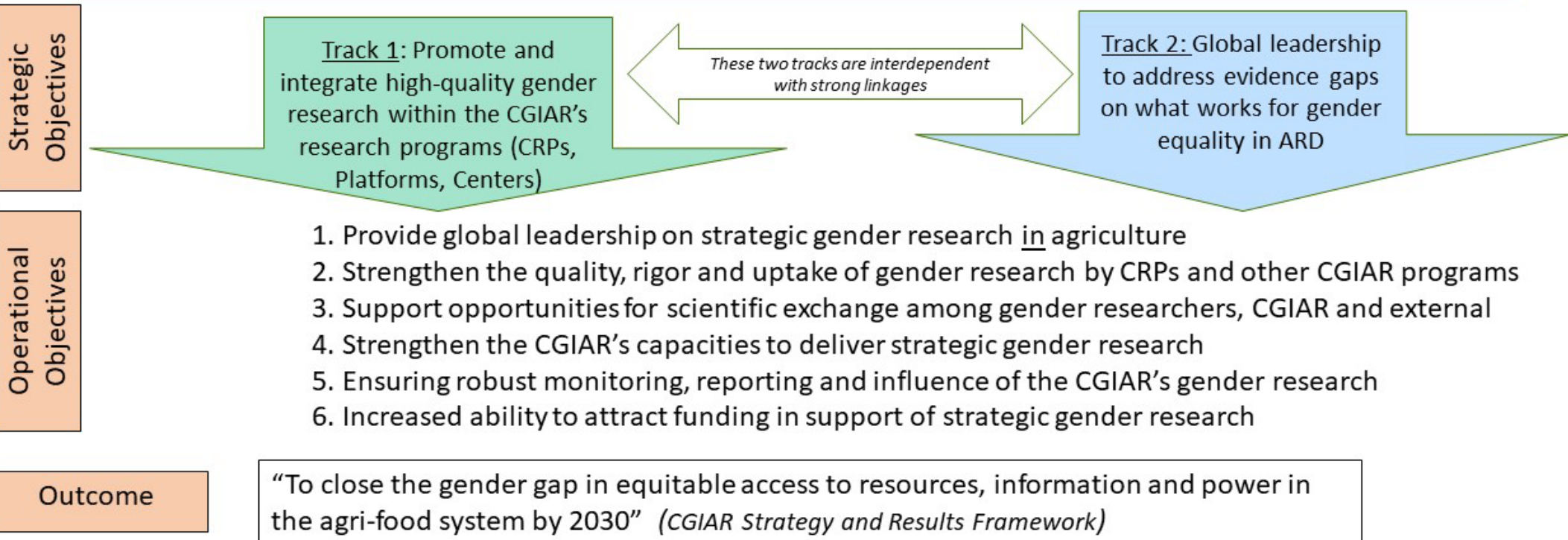
- Funders
- System Management Board (2 Gender Champions)
- Center leadership - through Board Chair, Director General, DDG
- CGIAR research - through DDG-R, CRP leader, gender researcher
- CGIAR workplaces - through Human Resources Community of Practice
- Current gender collaborative platform
- System Organization management and other staff

3. The business case for an elevated ‘Gender Equality in Food Systems Research Platform’



The vision: CGIAR will provide global leadership on strategic gender and inclusion research in agriculture

Goal: ARD innovations and impacts are amplified by the CGIAR’s engagement of world-class gender expertise and global stewardship of cutting-edge gender research



4A. Outcome – SMB 11 (Extraordinary meeting, 25 Oct 2018) Gender Equality in Food Systems Research Platform



The System Management Board adopted the recommendation that for SMB12 (13 December 2018), the Board be presented with a more articulated plan for issuing a call for proposals for a new Platform that would respond to the following agreed set of principles and requirements:

- Overall the Platform should demonstrate **CGIAR as a clear steward** of its gender research work
- The Platform should **address the strategic and operational objectives** outlined in the business case.
- Proposals should be submitted by a **CGIAR Center as Lead Center**, which would carry overall fiduciary and programmatic responsibility for the Platform vis-a-vis the System Organization, and which would preferably work in **partnership with one or more CGIAR Centers as significant implementing partners**
- **Platform Director** with senior-level gender expertise
- Platform should be **hosted by a CGIAR Center, preferably in a multi-Center location (not necessarily in Lead Center HQ)**
- **Arrangements for Platform activities** should be clearly articulated in the proposal, and should maximize involvement of other CGIAR entities
- Additional governance through **advisory body** with a balance of perspectives from within CGIAR and from outside.
- **Adequate funding** to be provided via the FinPlan with a resource mobilization strategy to outline additional fundraising by the Platform, plus a strategy for using funding to support wider gender research
- **Platform should have specific mechanisms for engaging gender researchers** including building on positive activities undertaken currently by the Gender collaborative platform and ensure robust mechanisms for monitoring and reporting at System-level.
- A clear plan to outline necessary transition between current and future structures

4B. SMB recommended timeline and its advantages for creating a Gender Equality in Food Systems Research Platform



SMB Recommended timeline

- SC7 (15-16 November 2018) – strategic inputs from SC on overall scale, scope of activities and funding modalities
- SMB12 (13 December 2018) – detailed plan presented for SMB approval
- Feb-March 2019 – Preparing call for proposals taking into account ISDC inputs on assessment criteria
- SMB13 (2-4 April 2019) – Approve and issue call for proposals (12-week development timeframe)
- 1 July 2019 – Proposal submission deadline
- During July – Proposal assessment process
- During August – Possible proposal re-submission period (if required)
- SMB Sept 2019 - for endorsement of selection
- SC9 November 2019 – approval of proposal and funding for 2020-2021 period (within business plan period)

Suggested timeline will ensure :

- Time for the call and review criteria are adequately framed and notice given.
- Minimum disruption to the activities of the current Gender in Research Network (which will continue unchanged under PIM in 2019)
- Time for potential proponents to organize and design a collaborative bi- or multi-Center proposal in response to the call and consider high-level recruitment.
- Adequate funding development for the new Platform in 2020 on the basis of a costed proposal – assuming that in its incorporation in the FinPlan it will be treated as a new Platform and receive a mix of strategic W1-W2 and additional W3-bilateral funding at its inception.
- Exploration of an enhanced Advisory Body and detailed review and revision of the proposed new strategies and activities.
- Orderly planning and transition to the new Platform structure (and Governance arrangements) so that the Platform can engage in the broader set of activities without subsequent delay.