CGIAR

CGIAR SYSTEM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018

Executive Summary

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In 2018 the CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) and Platforms, which deliver the shared work of the CGIAR System, continued their efforts to advance agricultural science and innovation to reduce rural poverty, increase food security, improve human health and nutrition, and ensure more sustainable management of natural resources in the face of climate change and other challenges.

Progress towards Strategy and Results Framework Outcomes: Evidence from 2018

The CRPs and Platforms presented rigorous evidence on the long-term, at-scale impact of CGIAR innovations against the 10 aspirational System Level Outcome Targets of CGIAR in 2018. Examples include:

- The impact of drought tolerant maize varieties (DTMA) in **Nigeria** showed a **6% reduction in the incidence of poverty** in the communities studied (MAIZE, 2019).
- **4.5 million farming households** were reached with biofortified planting material in 2018, bringing the total number of farming households growing and consuming biofortified crops globally to 7.6 million (A4NH, 2019).
- **23,000 new households** benefited from access to aquaculture improvements across five countries: **Egypt, India** (with women on carp-based polyculture improvements), **Myanmar, Sierra Leone** and **Timor Leste**. In addition, **12,300 households** are benefiting from improvements in management of fish refuges in **Cambodia** (FISH, 2019).
- Commercialization of four varieties of the perennial pasture grass Urochloa with a private sector partner, Papalotla, increased the area under improved pasture by **130,000 hectares** in 2018, bringing the global total to over **950,000 hectares** in >30 countries (LIVESTOCK, 2019).

The report also presents data and evidence on CRP and Platform progress towards research outputs and outcomes, using Common Results Reporting Indicators (CRRIs) introduced in 2017. A numerical summary of the CRRIs for 2018 includes:

- **938 innovations**, 407 of which were available for uptake and 91 of which had been taken up by next users.
- **1,888 peer reviewed publications**, with 59% open access and 82% internationally scientifically indexed (ISI).
- **105 policies, legal instruments and investments** modified in their design or implementation, informed by CGIAR research.
- **1,015,495 people trained by CGIAR,** with 3,271 (37% women) in long-term courses including **546 PhD students** and 1,012,224 (44% women) in short-term courses.
- **1,003 partnerships,** 368 (37%) of which were related to research.

Of note is the remarkable number of genetic innovations, including 417 improved varieties that were made available for use with a 10% uptake by next users in 2018. MAIZE reported the release of 81 elite maize varieties; RICE reported 108 Green Super Rice varieties; RTB claimed 90 improved advanced clones of potato; WHEAT reported 58 improved bread wheat and durum wheat varieties; GLDC claimed 58 innovative varieties, including groundnut (28), sorghum (8) and pearl millet (10); and A4NH reported 22 bio-fortified varieties of bean, pearl millet, wheat and maize (MAIZE, 2019; RICE, 2019; RTB, 2019; WHEAT, 2019; A4NH, 2019).

The CGIAR Platforms also reported significant results in 2018.

By the end of 2018, CGIAR's 11 genebanks were managing 773,112 accessions, including 25,576 in vitro accessions and 32,212 accessions held as plants or trees in screenhouses or fields. Approximately 80% of total accessions are available immediately for international distribution.

In 2018, a total of 96,566 germplasm samples (66,930 accessions) were distributed by CGIAR genebanks to users. Of these, 56,393 (58%) were distributed to recipients outside CGIAR in 87 countries and 40,173 samples (42%) were provided to CRPs and Centers. For the second year in a row, germplasm distribution outside CGIAR exceeded that inside CGIAR.

In 2018, BIG DATA launched the Global Agricultural Data Innovation and Acceleration Network, GARDIAN, which has made datasets, publications, and crop varieties across all CGIAR Centers and genebanks organized, easily accessible and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) for the first time.

A key contribution of EiB in 2018 was the Platform's co-development and positioning to support the Crops to End Hunger initiative (CtEH).

Integrating Gender and Equity into CGIAR Research for Development

Gender equality was more strongly integrated into the research agendas of the CRPs during 2018. Some highlights included:

- The publication of the Reach Benefit Empower (RBE) framework by A4NH's Gender Equity and Empowerment (GEE) unit and the launch of the pilot version of the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI).
- A second set of collaborative studies on the feminization of agriculture by the collaborative platform on gender research that forms part of PIM
- The establishment of a new Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index (WELI) to assess the empowerment of women in production systems in which livestock are important.
- The release of a special issue in the *Journal for Agriculture, Gender and Food Security* on the interlinkages between gender norms, agency and local innovation processes in agriculture and natural resource management, and the publication of 17 tools or guidance notes as part of the GENNOVATE program.

Youth also moved up the agenda of CRPs during 2018. In 2018 the first MAIZE-Asia Youth Innovators Awards, a MAIZE initiative in collaboration with the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) Asia, was held, which aimed to promote youth participation in maize-based agri-food systems. BIG DATA created a Youth in Data initiative, and engaged a group of young digital innovators from Africa and provided them with training on social media and journalistic data reporting.

PIM research oon social protection for agriculture and resilience included studies on the impact of social protection programs in ten countries (Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Mali, Pakistan, Peru, Uganda and Yemen) on a variety of gender and age differentiated outcomes, including income, empowerment, labor and nutrition and has contributed to programs designed specifically to enhance equity.

Also in 2018, IWMI focused on assessing youth in fish agri-food systems in eight FISH focal countries: Egypt, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and the Solomon Islands.

Working Together to Improve Performance

2018 saw the first reporting from CRPs and Platforms under the CGIAR results framework introduced in late 2017. In 2019 there is expected to be the first demonstration of a new results dashboard with quality assessed 2018 results. The management information systems (MISs), the Managing Agricultural Research for Learning and Outcomes (MARLO) program and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) platform were officially adopted by all CRPs and Platforms in 2018, and 2018 was the first year that these two systems were integrated via CLARISA (CGIAR Level Agricultural Research Interoperability System Architecture) to feed the online results dashboard to be launched in late 2019.

Also in 2018, new Program Management Performance Standards for CGIAR were introduced and assessment criteria were approved in December 2018. These standards will be piloted in 2019, and assessed in 2020.

This report also presents the use of pooled funding (CGIAR Trust Fund Window 1 and 2) for 2018 and presents a list of activities funded.

A number of new partnerships were initiated in 2018, paving the way for greater collaboration in the future, with the all Platforms proving to be valuable partners for

the CRPs. A total of 240 specific instances of collaboration between CRPs and Platforms were reported for 2018.

This report also summarizes reported activities on monitoring, evaluation, adoption and impact assessment carried out across CGIAR.

Oversight and Advice from the System Advisory Functions

The System Management Board (SMB) oversaw the design of a new business planning cycle, culminating in the approval of a 2019-2021 three-year business plan to the System Council in November 2018.

The business plan sets out 10 action points. These include successful implementation of CGIAR's research portfolio, greater cooperation between Centers, a step change on gender both in the workforce and in research programs, stabilized funding and development of a 2030 Plan that will outline new governance, funding, programming and impact delivery arrangements for 2022-2030.

In 2018 multiple publications by the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) and the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) focused on ex-post impact assessment of CGIAR research and produced five major synthesis studies during 2018. The Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) completed a compilation and review of all evaluative studies in CGIAR over the past 10 years, and conducted a study of over 200 impact assessment studies completed in the past 10 years.

On the management of intellectual assets, the System Council Intellectual Property Group (SC IP Group) found that, in 2018, the Centers have overall, complied with the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets (IA Principles) and that the justifications provided in the Centers' reports were adequate. In 2018, the Centers reported one provisional patent application, five plant variety protection applications, five Restricted Use Agreements, and 73 Limited Exclusivity Agreements.

In 2018, in its first year of operation, the CGIAR System Internal Audit Function provided support to the SMB, Centers and the System Council, to further collective efforts to oversee and manage risks and opportunities in the subject areas of procurement, anti-harassment and whistle-blowing polices; shared ICT Systems; and opportunities to assure external auditor objectivity, thereby providing valuable information upon which to make improvements across CGIAR.

System-wide Reporting Approach

This is the second CGIAR Annual Performance Report to use System-wide results reporting systems.

These reporting systems involve the CRPs and Platforms submitting annual reports using a common template that comprises sections related to evidence on progress towards CGIAR's System Level Outcomes (SLOs) and 10 aspirational System Level Outcome Targets that feed into the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), evidence of progress towards research outcomes, and how they have integrated gender and equity into their research agendas.

The report's primary focus is on results and impact, and as part of the reporting process, a thorough quality assurance procedure was implemented this year to assess the claims made by the CRPs and Platforms. Data are summarized and presented throughout the report, and a list of annexes provide comprehensive sets of data on this year's reporting.

Performance at the CRP and Platform level, as well as the CGIAR System level, is also reported, however this is framed as a way in which to support the achievement of results and impact, rather than a goal in itself. The report also discusses how CGIAR worked to improve its performance in 2018 and funding and finance for CGIAR in 2018.

CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future. CGIAR science is dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services. Its research is carried out by 15 CGIAR Research Centers in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector.

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