

## Agenda Item 4: Leveraging independent advice



4b: Presentation by the ISDC Chair

For strategic  
guidance

# Leveraging Independent Advice: ISDC and Evaluation Function

SC10 June 2020

Holger Meinke, Chair

Independent Science for Development Council



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### Presentation Contents

- ISDC & Support to One CGIAR – Foresight and Tradeoffs
- Independent Evaluation Function – CRP 2020 Reviews w/ emerging findings
- + SPIA input available through <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTms9C-rdwg>





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# Highlights of ISDC's Current Work

## Independent Advice

- Supports the One CGIAR reform
- Engages with and challenges key CGIAR entities
- Advises on strategies and approaches for the forthcoming program portfolio

## Representation in Transition Advisory Groups (TAGs)

1. Cross-cutting: Lesley Torrance
2. Research: Holger Meinke
5. Country and Regional Engagement: Mandefro Nigussie
6. Finance: Andrew Ash
7. Resource mobilization: Nighisty Ghezae

## ISDC Deliverables Q1&2 2020

- Published updated QoR4D
- Foresight & trade-off research and recommendations



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### A Critical Time for Global Food Security

- Hunger Could be More Deadly than Coronavirus in Poorer Countries, *Washington Post*, 14-5-20
- How Coronavirus Is Exposing the World's Fragile Food Supply Chain – and Could Leave Millions Hungry, *TIME*, 8-5-20
- 'Millions Hang by a Thread': Extreme Global Hunger Compounded by Covid-19, *The Guardian*, 21-4-20



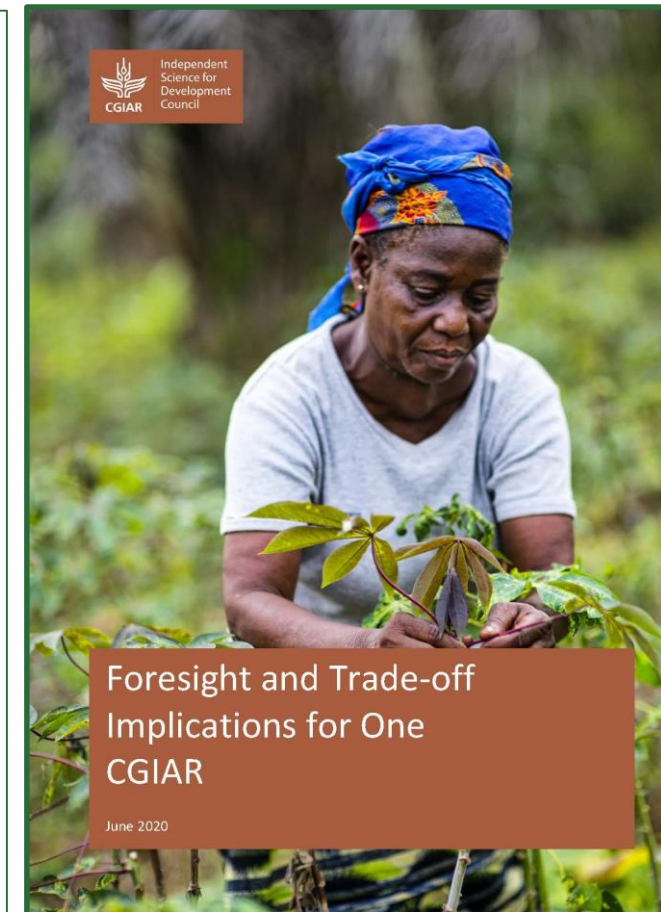


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### The Process

- Semi-annual ISDC meeting with consensus building resulting in foresight reflections
- Foresight reviews focusing on the 5 impact areas
- Trade-off analysis report
- Technical Note published that includes foresight synthesis, ISDC reflections, and trade-off questions and implications





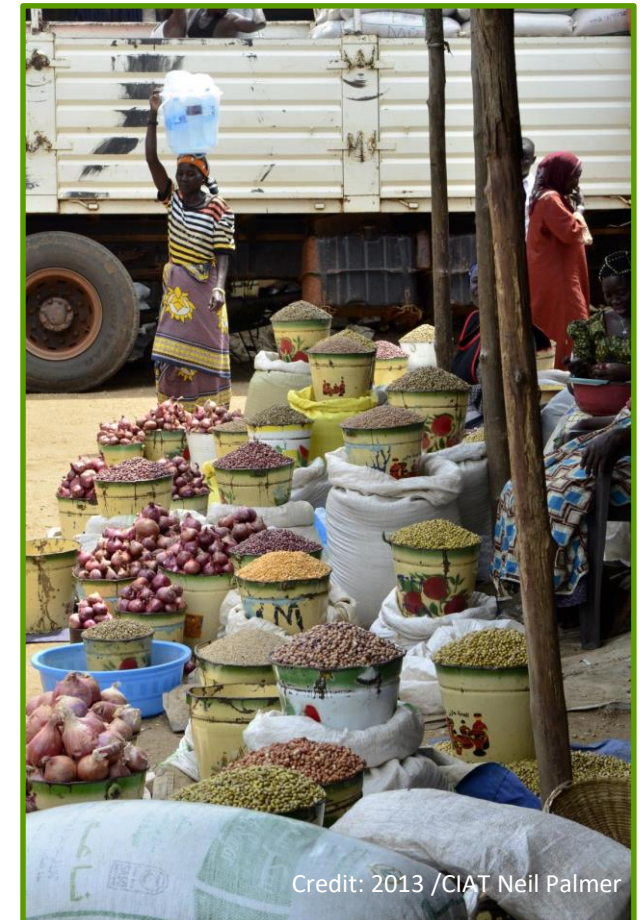


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### Foresight Review Research Gaps

- **Future long-term impacts among nutrition & food security; poverty reduction, livelihoods, & jobs; & gender dimensions, youth, & social inclusion**
  - Fish stocks & more sustainable forms of aquaculture & mariculture
  - Effective management of trees for co-production of food and ecosystem services
  - Adoption and adaptation pathways of technology and institutional innovations
- **Governance & policy barriers not sufficiently considered**
  - Migration gender dynamics
  - Specific challenges within sub-Saharan Africa
  - Linkages between access to water, sanitation, & water infrastructure & gender, poverty, & nutrition
  - Biotic pressures on the AFS resulting from climate change
- **Megatrend analyses that include shocks**
  - Effects of food prices across impact areas



Credit: 2013 /CIAT Neil Palmer

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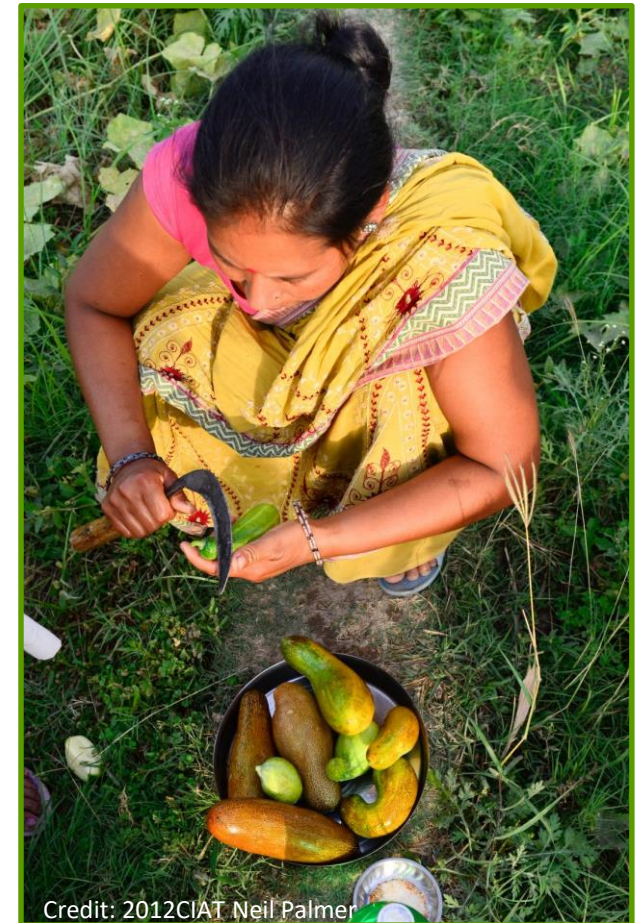


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### Foresight Reflections Highlights

- Success will depend on integrating foresight and trade-off analyses into ongoing decision-making processes
- Foresight and trade-off analyses should prioritize attention to key barriers to adoption, adaptation, and diffusion of innovations for impact
- Expanded attention to—and investment in—research concerning fruits, legumes (including pulses), nuts, and vegetables to broaden the System’s commodity composition
- Research needs to align and influence emerging trends in AFS
- Sustainable intensification and stronger agroecological systems approaches are synergistic pathways for CGIAR





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### Trade-off Questions & Implications Highlights

- What are CGIAR's mechanisms and capacities to identify and engage key partners in weighing trade-offs?
- What opportunities exist in emerging research modalities and tools to streamline ongoing trade-off discussions?
- How will the trade-off analysis systems of CGIAR continually assess and weight the inevitable unintended consequences that new technologies spur?
- Studying and projecting the possible impacts of shocks will be critical in aligning and influencing emerging AFS trends.



Credit: C. Schubert CCAFS





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### Independent Evaluation in CGIAR: CRP 2020 Reviews

- CAS Evaluation Function and external evaluation specialists are undertaking CRP Reviews
- Lean, evaluative reviews of 12 current CRPs: 2017-2019 period
- Evaluation criteria are
  1. Quality of Science (through the QoR4D lens)
  2. Effectiveness (progressing outputs to outcomes)
- Each review takes <12 weeks, not including data pre-analysis
- The first 3 reviews—GLDC, WHEAT and A4NH—@ mid-point
- More information <https://cas.cgiar.org/evaluation/crp-2020-review>





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### **What are we learning so far from preliminary CRP 2020 Review findings?**

- IPG content has been generated through publications and other outputs; general good quality of scientific publications.
- The stabilizing function of consistent pooled funding to foster QOS and effectiveness (and the inverse) is an emerging finding.
- Management structures that engage partner institutions and ARIs in leadership may enhance the quality of science and partnership reach, including to private sector. Partnership seen as fundamental to competitive advantage.
- By and large, fidelity to plan at Flagship level is evident. However, COVID-19 may affect final 18 months of work (after these reviews).

**\*\* THESE ARE NOT FINAL FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS \*\***

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### What are we learning so far from preliminary findings?

- The interpretation of what makes a good quality Theory of Change (TOC) and how best to use a TOC vary. TOCs are not used systematically for monitoring, reporting and learning.
- Investing in gender-specialized staff and embedding these researchers is a success factor for gender-responsive research. Youth as a cross-cutting theme may have received comparatively less attention – **TBC/still under exploration.**
- For Capacity Development, the importance of mentoring and engagement of junior scientists is emerging in findings. More formal structures and mechanisms of CapDev still under examination.

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