

CGIAR System Board
 19th meeting, Virtual
 28-29 January 2021

System Board and Committee 2021 Planning

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Agenda Item	7: System Board 2021 Planning
Document Number	SB19-07
Purpose:	This document sets out considerations on System Board planning, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aspiration for a more aligned model as unified governance beds in • A proposed approach to 2021 Center/Alliance Board meetings • Committee operations over 2021
Requested action:	The System Board is requested to review the proposed approach and provide input and/or its agreement to the Secretariat team to inform development of the schedule for 2021.
Draft decision point (if relevant):	N/A
CGIAR Risk Management Framework linkages:	<u>Risk Family 5</u> : Poor execution undermines capability <u>Critical Success Factor</u> : CGIAR System adds significant value to outweigh related costs and constraints
Issue date:	25 January 2021
Author(s):	CGIAR System Organization
Presenter(s):	Secretary to the CGIAR System Board



Agenda Item 7

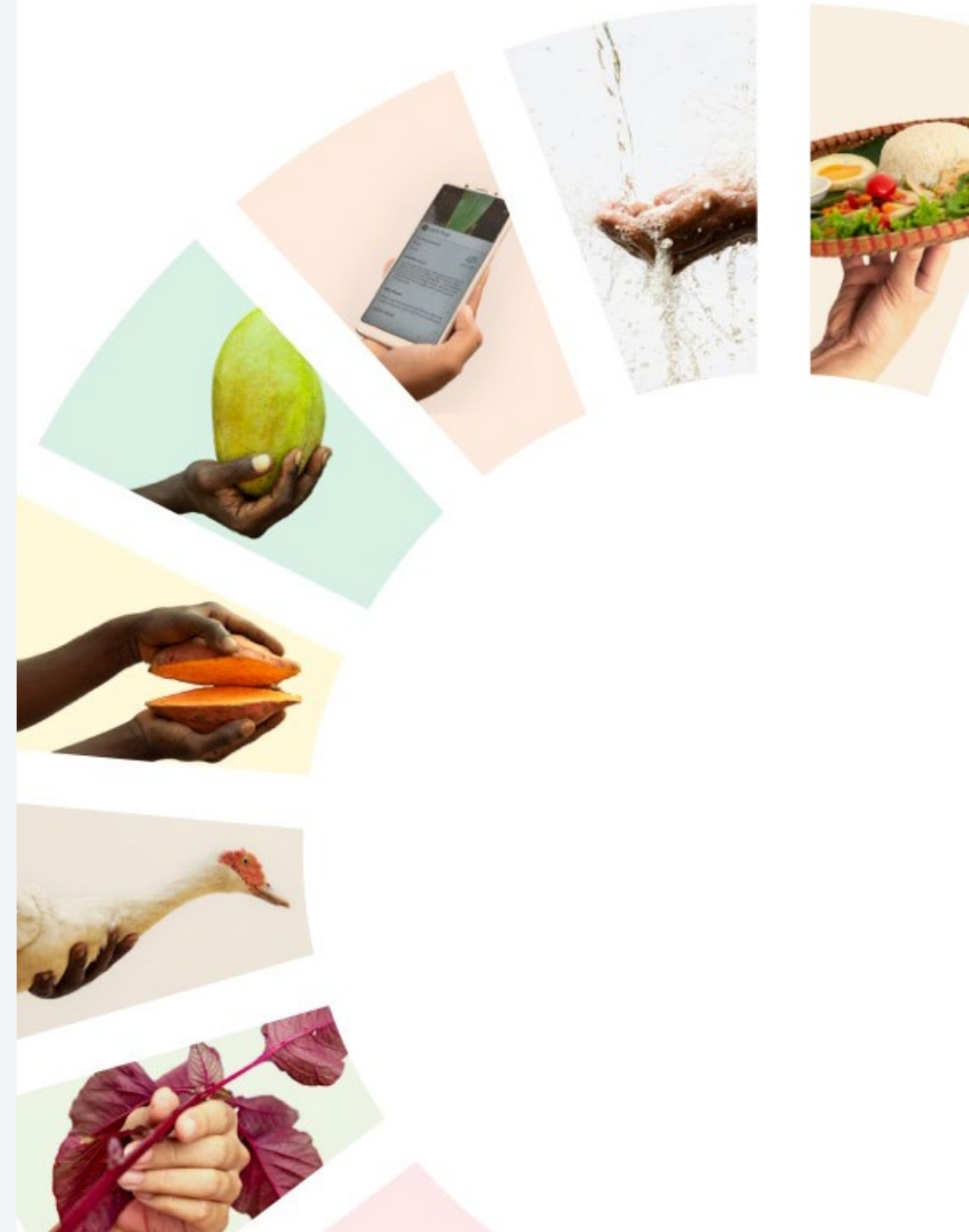
SB19-07

For agreement of approach

Issued: 25 January 2021

System Board and Committee 2021 Planning

Purpose: This document sets out considerations on System Board planning, including a proposed approach to 2021 Center/Alliance Board meetings, aligned to key One CGIAR deliverables.



1. CGIAR Board Planning – The aspiration

- **5 Board meetings per year** with all One CGIAR Boards participating as appropriate
- **Each meeting focused on thematic areas**, including, for example:
 - February - past year performance and EMT and DG assessments
 - May - financial and investment reviews and approving audited financials
 - July - funding portfolio and meeting with funders
 - September - planning for the next year
 - November - approve budgets and plans for the next year
- **A common committee structure for science and assurance oversight**

2. A pragmatic approach as we start 2021

Center/Alliance Boards and System Board meetings

Recognizing that key workstreams to enable this (such as work on common committees) are continuing and that we are still building momentum and ‘good will’ among Center/Alliance Board membership that would allow a more significant shift in how Boards operate. The proposed approach aims to keep the next round of meetings as streamlined as possible.

	<u>Center/Alliance Boards</u>	<u>System Board</u>	<u>System Council</u>	<u>Q3/4 anticipated dates</u>
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-week window (weeks of 26 April, 3 May, 10 May) • One Center Board meeting each day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday • To ensure quorum – 6 of 8 voting members required to be in attendance at each session 	<p><u>20th meeting</u> Possible dates: 18-19 May 2021</p>	<p><u>13th meeting</u> Confirmed dates: 9-10 June 2021 <i>(For info – Board participation not required)</i></p>	<p><u>System Board:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early-October • December <p><u>System Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November
Key Topics	2020 Audited Financial Statements Investment & Reserve Performance CGIAR Compliance Statements	Decision on choice of CGIAR Initiatives	Review prospectus of Investment Plan concepts	

2. A pragmatic approach as we start 2021

Committees and Committee meetings



- **Program Committees**
 - Continue for 2021 current Center level Program Committee/Advisory structures (to continue oversight of current Research Portfolio to end-2021)
 - As Investment Plan is developed, appropriate streamlined oversight mechanisms to be developed on a collaborative basis, to commence from 2022
- **Audit and Risk Committees**
 - Audit Committee Chairs group to meet in coming weeks to agree approach/timeline for work towards a common Audit & Risk Committee (continuing the early work of TAG-3)
 - Pending those discussions, existing Center Audit Committee structure will likely continue through the Q2 Center Board meetings and would be responsible for review and recommendation of the 2020 audited financial statements before the Center meeting window dates as proposed above
 - Noting that there is now considerably more common membership among CGIAR'S audit committees, planning will be coordinated, aligned to the Board meeting dates

3. Out of session matters and other Board engagement

Coordinated out of session decision-making

For 2021 we will strive for coordinated communication, particularly on like matters, strategically using Diligent Boards. An example of this is the expected decision request on Center 2021 Programs of Work and Budget in January.

Other Board engagement

- **Induction of a new System Board member**

The System Board voting member vacancy is anticipated to be filled in Q1 2021. The Common Secretariat will put in place an induction program, which is anticipated to involve some informal engagement among the System Board members

- **‘Champion’ and representation roles**

System Board members also play highly-valued roles in support of key CGIAR priorities, including but not limited to the Gender Champions and the Resource Mobilization, Communications and Advocacy action area champions