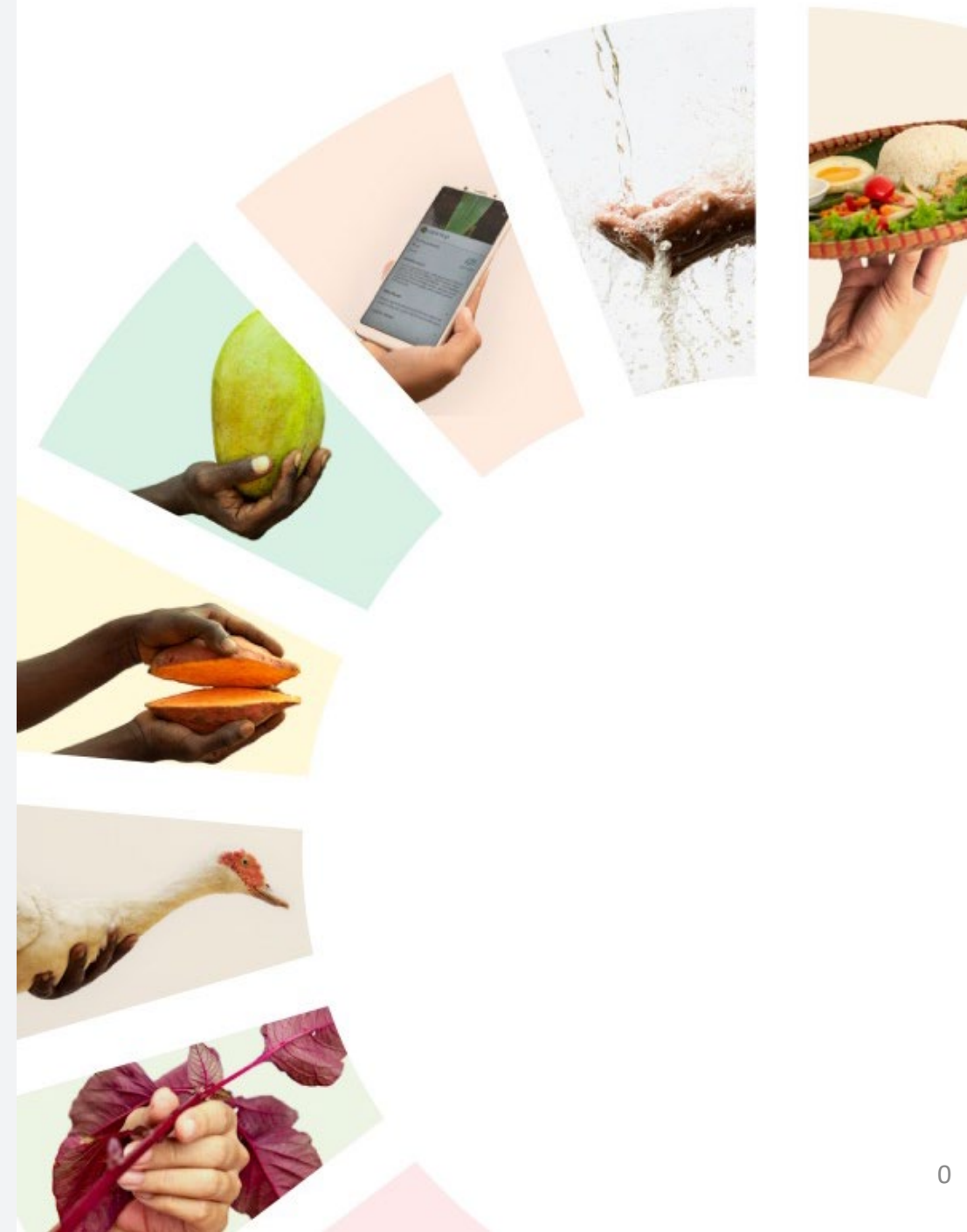




Agenda Item 4
Background Resource
SC14-04c
Issued: 1 December 2021

Report from the Strategic Impact, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee (SIMEC)

Purpose: For information: This document sets out an overview of SIMEC's activities and areas of focus on its under its mandate since the System Council's last meeting in June 2021.



Supporting System Council's consideration of the 2022-2024 Investment Prospectus



- During the System Council's 13th meeting ('SC13') the ISDC was asked to provide **advice to the System Council on the coherence of the 2022-2024 Investment Prospectus.**
- SIMEC held two ad hoc calls (5 August and 30 August 2021), during which it considered **what is meant by coherence** – and how this ask should be **translated into a Terms of Reference for ISDC's review.**
- Based on these inputs, a TOR was prepared under the guidance of the SIMEC Chair, in consultation with the EMT, SIMEC Secretary and Director, CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat – and endorsed by SIMEC before being shared with the ISDC and System Council on 21 September 2021.

SIMEC role from its TOR

Para 2: Advise and make recommendations to the System Council related to the System Council's:

- a. [...] approving System-level strategic priorities.

CGIAR Performance and Results Management Framework ('PRMF')



- **Discussion on PRMF at two SIMEC meetings:**
 - SIMEC22 (20 September 2021) – Update on implementation – including support provided to Initiative Design Teams on theory of change, innovation packages and scaling readiness, projected benefits and impact assessment.
 - SIMEC23 (24 November 2021) - Discussion on CGIAR Results Framework & Reporting Arrangement including planned timeline for delivery over 2022
- **Guidance from SIMEC** included emphasis on the value of opportunities to explore how the PRMF interacts with CGIAR's Advisory Services and thus supports the overall performance of CGIAR's portfolio

SIMEC role from its TOR

Para 5: Advise and make recommendations to the System Council related to the System Council's:

- a. Oversight of CGIAR's performance indicators - methodology and targets; [...]
- c. Review and approval of an integrated framework for a performance management system for CGIAR Research

CGIAR Advisory Services Multi-Year Workplans and Budgets



- **Guidance from SIMEC** provided in SIMEC22 meeting on:
 - Evaluation priorities for the 2022-2024 cycle and guidance on approach to evaluations
 - Priorities for impact assessment in the second phase of a '3+3' workplan – including ensuring continuity for activities delayed by Covid-19 and continuing reflection on how SPIA's work should complement and align with the PRMF
 - ISDC's proposed workplan priorities including comparative advantage and innovation, and support for a review of ISDC's ToR to ensure it aligns with the One CGIAR operating reality
- **Further inputs provided electronically on draft workplans and budgets**, noting that oversight of entity budgets is undertaken by the System Council's Assurance Oversight Committee ('AOC') as well as in the CGIAR Audit, Finance and Risk Committee's review of the overall 2022-2024 FINPLAN

SIMEC role from its TOR

Para 5: Advise and make recommendations to the System Council related to the System Council's:

d. Review and approval of relevant System entities' work programs and budgets

Recommendation to the System Council: SIMEC **endorses** the CGIAR Advisory Services 2022-2024 Workplans and Budgets

Evaluations and Impact Assessment



Evaluation

- During SIMEC23 - Strong support for Evaluation Report on Big Data Platform
- Request made that the System Council consider this and a management response (to be developed) at its next meeting
- Evaluation of the Excellence in Breeding (EiB) Platform in progress – TOR shared for SIMEC review/input in August 2021

Embedding Impact Assessment

- SIMEC ad hoc call on 30 August 2021 – Discussion with SPIA Chair
- On importance of ensuring that robust impact assessment plans are built into Initiative research design
- Outcome – guidance given to EMT and IDTs as Initiative proposals being developed and finalized

SIMEC role from its TOR

Para 6: Advise and make recommendations to the System Council related to the System Council's:

- a. Approval of a cost-effective multi-year evaluation plan [...]
- b. Review and endorsement of [...] evaluations of the CGIAR Portfolio

CGIAR Evaluation Policy and Framework



- In May/June 2021 – approach to revision of [CGIAR Policy for Independent External Evaluation](#) (2012) shared during ‘deep-dive’ session ahead of SC13 meeting
- At SIMEC23 (24 November 2021) - SIMEC reviewed and provided guidance on a draft CGIAR Evaluation Policy and Framework
- Support for the developing Policy and Framework and consultation undertaken, with the ask that its finalization be undertaken as a ‘co-design/co-presentation’ with the EMT
- Request that final version be presented for System Council approval at March 2022 meeting

SIMEC role from its TOR

Para 4: Advise and make recommendations to the System Council related to the System Council’s approval of CGIAR Policies related to strategic impact, monitoring and/or evaluation that are critical to maintaining the reputation of the CGIAR System.

Looking ahead to 2022

Role of SIMEC

- SIMEC TOR was approved in May 2017 – there have been a number of changes in the context since that time
- Planned review of SIMEC's role and composition in context of System Council oversight needs
 - In coordination with the AOC
 - Considering programmatic and assurance oversight arrangements being considered by the System Board

Workplan focus areas

- Continued focus on delivery and implementation of CGIAR Results Framework – and its complementarity with roles of Advisory Services
- Final CGIAR Evaluation Policy and Framework
- Planned assessments of CGIAR's advisory services as required by their respective TORs

Annex – SIMEC Membership

Since May 2021, Alan Tollervey has served as Interim Chair of SIMEC

No	System Council voting constituency	Nominated member
1	African Development Bank	Dougou Keita
2	Australia	Bethany Davies
3	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Michelle Quibell
4	Germany and Belgium	Raphael Nawrotzki
5	South Asia	<i>Vacant (Raj Paroda served until October 2021)</i>
6	Sweden	Philip Chiverton
7	United Kingdom	Alan Tollervey (Interim Chair)
8	United States	<i>Vacant (Eric Witte served until 23 November 2021)</i>