Independent Advice & Evaluative Evidence for One CGIAR

Allison Grove Smith, Director
CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat

14th Meeting of System Council, 15 December 2021
Action Requested

The System Council is invited to
✓ review, and if thought appropriate,
✓ approve the CGIAR Advisory Services 2022-2024 Workplan & Budget.

Pre-read: SC14-04a
High-level View of ISDC 2022-2024

**Initiative Development & Execution** – System Council-requested input or reviews of One CGIAR Initiatives

**Commissioned Studies** – design and deliver end-user focused studies to meet One CGIAR advisory needs

**Innovation Science for Development Forum Series** – a Science Forum series on innovation

**Semiannual ISDC Meetings** – with agendas geared towards developing advice pertinent to One CGIAR

**One CGIAR Support** – science for development advice provided for arising needs

**ISDC Advisory Products** – making ISDC’s advice more accessible through visualization, video & audio content, interactive formats
ISDC 2022: Outputs

**2022 Initiative Reviews** –
13 ISDC-moderated Initiative Proposal reviews & associated System Council requests

**Commissioned Studies** –
Two studies to support CGIAR work (1) articulating comparative advantage and (2) advancing innovation

**Innovation Forum Series** –
First Forum in series: Culture and Capacity; Trade-off Analysis and Innovation Bundles; Inclusive Innovation

**Semiannual ISDC Meetings** – a (1) kick-off retreat for ISDC to bring together new members & (2) meeting to dovetail with first in Innovation Forum series

**One CGIAR Support** – in keeping with adaptive management and co-design principles, respond to arising One CGIAR needs

**ISDC Advisory Products** –
Reviews, Studies, Forum Outputs
1. External evaluative activities CAS commissions

2. Sensitization and capacity building – aligned to CGIAR Evaluation Framework

3. Engaging across One CGIAR to enhance uptake

4. Knowledge management and ‘translating’ evaluation
CAS/Evaluation: 2022 Outputs

1. Initiative Evaluability - underlying systems reviews
   Accountability & Learning - continuing Platform evaluation cycle

2. Evaluation Policy and Framework (approval stage)
   Guidelines –
   1. QOS*
   2. Management Response
   3. Evaluability Assessment

3. Council receives and decides on Policy Revision & Framework
   Evaluations to Council, Board & Executive Management
   Featuring evaluation + management response

4. Bespoke briefs & products
   Positioning Quality of Science evaluation standards
   National partners – EvalForward Community

*Quality of Science
High-level View of SPIA 2022-2024 (2nd cycle of 6-year workplan)

1. Enhance **impact** assessment capacity in the system
   - Advise One CGIAR initiatives on rigorous IA methods to generate credible evidence of CGIAR impacts
   - Strengthen links with external IA experts to crowd in frontier methods and resources, including for capacity building of early career researchers
   - Engage CGIAR leadership/stakeholders in a broader use of IA results & demand for credible evidence

2. Expand **evidence** of impact of CGIAR research
   - Expand independent evidence of impact of CGIAR research at the system level
   - Deliver independent rigorous evidence of CGIAR impacts from ongoing portfolio of accountability, learning and methods development studies ($5.2 M)
   - Make available a synthesis of rigorous evidence for decision making

3. Improve and **institutionalize** data collection on CGIAR innovations at the national level
   - Provide independent evidence of reach of CGIAR innovations in priority countries
   - Complete dynamic evidence in Ethiopia, and provide new evidence from Uganda, Vietnam, Bangladesh
   - Identify different models to institutionalize data collection at national level on the reach of CGIAR
   - Improve methods and metrics to document reach of CGIAR innovations and policy influences
SPIA 2022: Outputs

1. Enhance impact assessment capacity
   • Tailor advice to initiatives to design rigorous learning studies to test key assumptions of Theory of Change
   • Expand fellowship program for early career IA researchers
   • Publish guidance on rigorous IA methods, including on use of remote sensing, and qualitative research

2. Expand evidence of impact
   • Disseminate IA results of first independent accountability and learning studies completed under current workplan
   • Support ongoing studies towards delivering results by 2024

3. Improve and institutionalize data collection
   • Uganda & Vietnam: national representative data on CGIAR reach and validation of methods and metrics
   • Ethiopia: panel data to analyze dynamics of CGIAR reach
   • Bangladesh: launch scoping phase

+ Develop plan to further address additional asks for SPIA in One CGIAR
## CAS 2022-2024 Estimated Budget

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<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
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<td><strong>ISDC</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EVALUATION</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SECRETARIAT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>7,661</td>
<td>7,448</td>
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'000 USD
Action Requested

The System Council is invited to

✓ **peruse** the Discussion Version of the Big Data in Agriculture evaluation report and to

✓ **provide** any strategic reflections, with the understanding that on December 20th, the Shared Secretariat intends to publish the final evaluation report.

Pre-read: SC14-04b
Revisit: Uptake of Synthesis of Learning

Invest in **taking forward the legacy** of a decade of investment (hand over)

Partnership practice --> **engagement strategy**

Strengthen **country & regional** coordination structures of CGIAR

Define CGIAR’s **comparative advantage**: capitalize on strengths, identify gaps and leverage partnerships

[Video Link](https://youtu.be/_L-b5OuCcxM)
Evaluation & ISDC Collaboration

- External proposal reviewers briefed on Synthesis
- Evaluation evidence was used in proposal review
- Evaluation evidence on partnerships used in Companion Document review
- 3-part meeting series with ISDC on 12 CRP reviews & Synthesis
- MEL score of 2.4; standout uptake in, e.g., Climate-Livestock-System Resilience & NEXUS Gains
- Development of a roster of more than 100 domain experts
- CAS/Evaluation reviewed all draft Initiative proposals at System Office request
Selection of Findings by Evaluation Criterion

**Relevance**
- F1: Relevant outputs aligned with One CGIAR + inadequate leverage of existing Center [Entity] data capabilities
- F6: Resilience—capacity to adapt

**Efficiency**
- F8: insufficient “pull” to foster Center engagement with Platform outputs

**Effectiveness**
- F18: Further work to advance the data interoperability principle
- F19: The Platform's MEL activities did not adequately support programmatic learning and reporting

**Sustainability**
- F20: The Platform was instrumental in the revision of the CGIAR Open Access Open Data policy
### Recommendations: To embed in Initiatives

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Prioritize</th>
<th>Prioritize <strong>specific digital solutions for specific data (domains)</strong> ...to demonstrate the value of the answer that (big) data can provide to support CGIAR’s key priorities.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advance</td>
<td>Prioritize and advance the <strong>interoperability agenda</strong>, building on CGIAR’s datasets.</td>
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<td>Strengthen</td>
<td>Strengthen the <strong>conceptualization (theory of change) of how the impact of agricultural [R4D] can be increased by embracing big data</strong> and ICT approaches.</td>
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<td>Raise</td>
<td>Raise CGIAR Entities’ engagement to ensure <strong>technology solutions uptake</strong>: this can be achieved by an inclusive governance system, leveraging existing tools and incentives.</td>
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<td>Build</td>
<td>Build a new <strong>harmonized and interoperable analytical environment</strong> in CGIAR based on accumulated knowledge from the experience of the Platform’s implementation.</td>
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<td>Improve</td>
<td>Improve <strong>grant scheme management, monitoring, and governance</strong> to foster the Platform’s (or successors’) relevance to contribute to solving agriculture development challenges.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop</td>
<td>Develop a <strong>One CGIAR (research) digital capability model</strong> and ensure the funding for a long-term digital plan with successive phases and a clear mandate...</td>
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Recommendations: One CGIAR-wide

- Lead the way in **hosting open data and providing analytic tools** for CGIAR and its partners as well as increasing data and funding (by showing its value).

- Develop **data synthesis tools** that are amenable for use by decision-makers to support data co-curation.

- Develop a **data curation and transformation dashboard** to enable CGIAR and partners to access tools and technical support to undertake data harvesting, data harmonization, and visualization.
Evaluation Approach & Methods

Mixed-methods

- Online survey
  110 data users/partners

- Case studies
  Ontologies CoP Inspire Challenge Winner

- Semi-structured interviews
  51 interviews & 53 participants

- Usage statistical analysis

Limitations:
- Underrepresentation of Women, Youth & Inspire challenge applicants
- Remote consultations with stakeholders
- Stakeholders’ availability
Thank You

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