

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

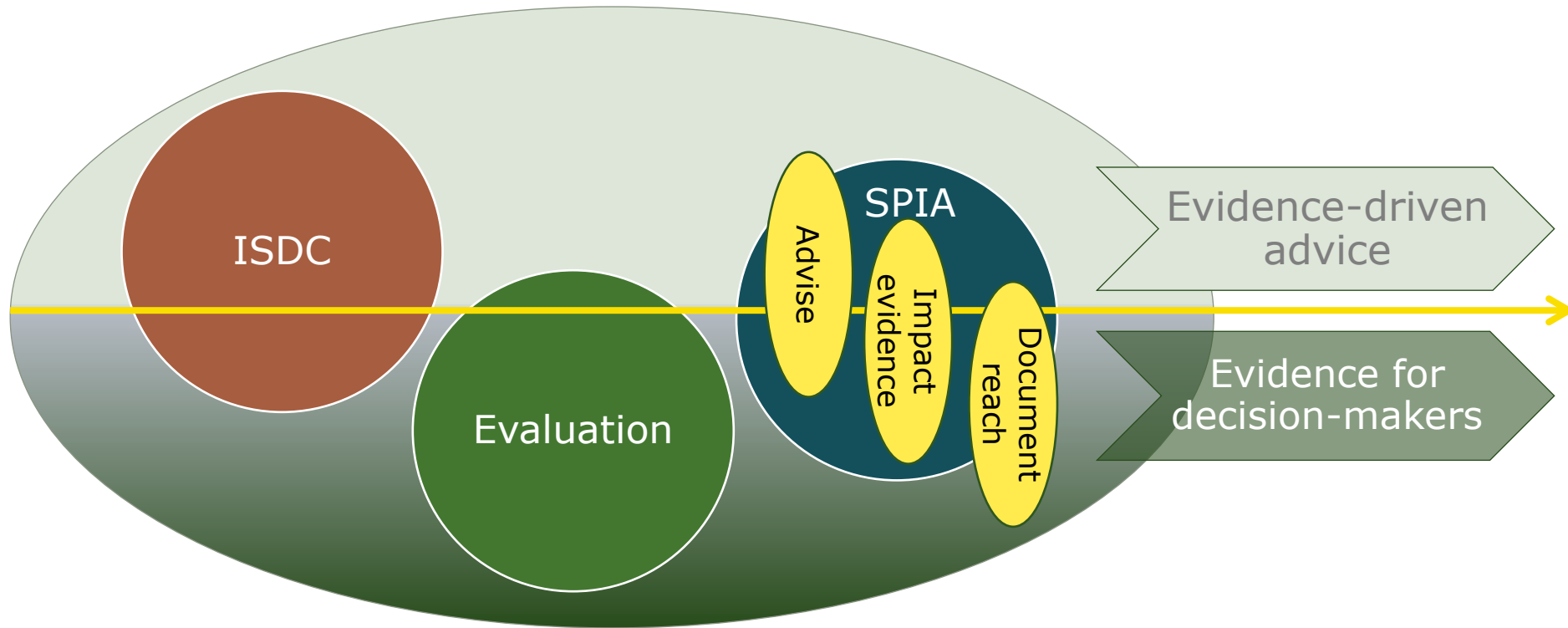
The System Council is invited to

- ✓ **review**, and if thought appropriate,
- ✓ **approve** the CGIAR Advisory Services 2022-2024 Workplan & Budget.

 Pre-read: SC14-04a

Decision Item: 2022-2024 Workplan and Budget

Visualizing CGIAR's Advisory Services



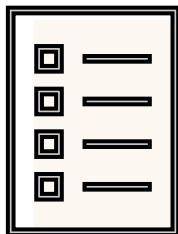
High-level View of ISDC 2022-2024



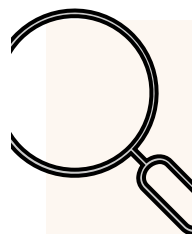
Independent
Science for
Development
Council



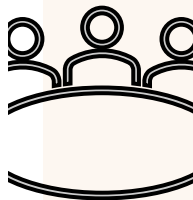
Advisory
Services



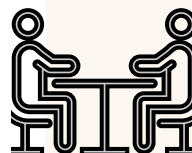
Initiative Development & Execution – System Council-requested input or reviews of One CGIAR Initiatives



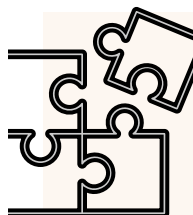
Commissioned Studies – design and deliver end-user focused studies to meet One CGIAR advisory needs



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



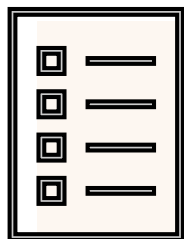
Semiannual ISDC Meetings – with agendas geared towards developing advice pertinent to One CGIAR



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



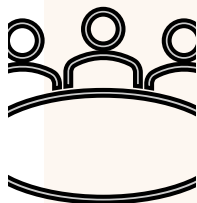
2022 Initiative Reviews –

13 ISDC-moderated Initiative Proposal reviews & associated System Council requests



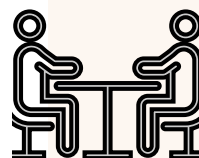
Commissioned Studies –

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



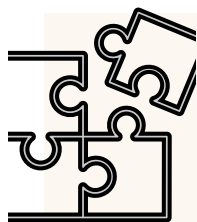
Innovation Forum Series –

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



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

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



Standing
Panel on
Impact
Assessment



Advisory
Services

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

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

	2022	2023	2024	3-Y
ISDC	1,017	905	1,189	3,111
SPIA	3,898	2,892	1,678	8,468
EVALUATION	840	1,483	2,182	4,505
SECRETARIAT	1,906	2,168	2,233	6,306
TOTAL	7,661	7,448	7,282	22,390

'000 USD

Action Requested

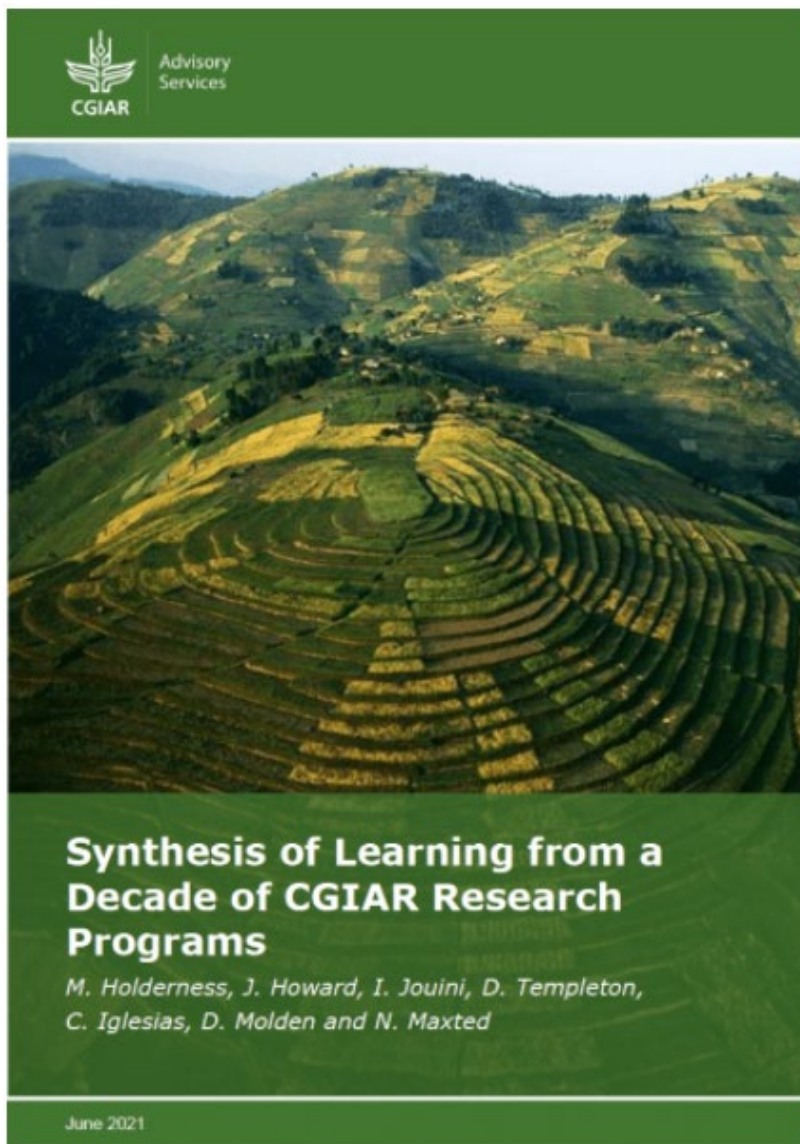
The System Council is invited to

- ✓ **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

Evaluations delivered in 2021





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



Partnership practice --
> **engagement strategy**



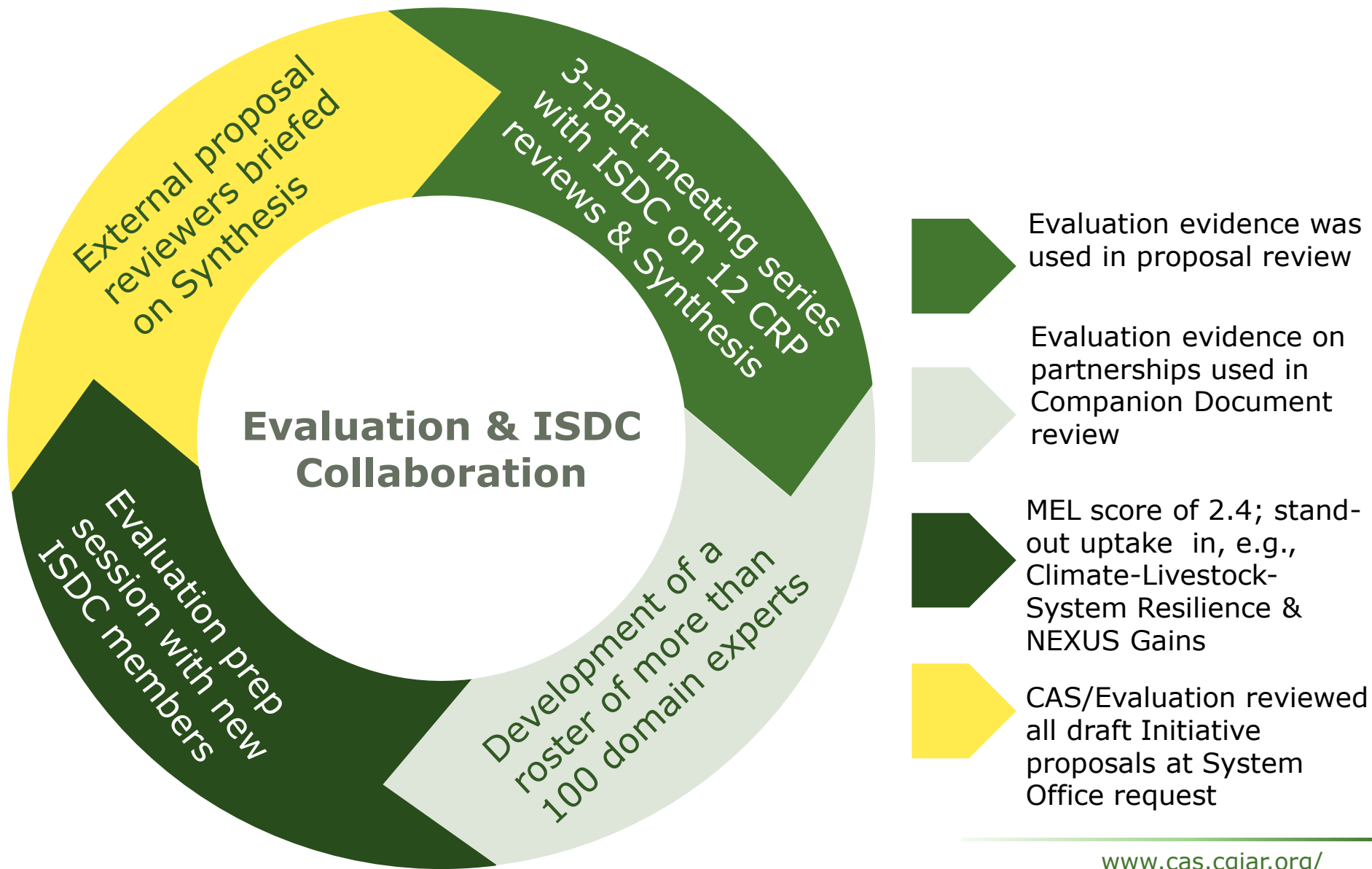
Strengthen **country & regional** coordination structures of CGIAR



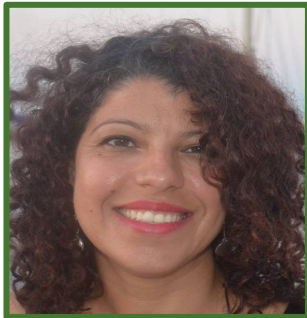
Define CGIAR's **comparative advantage**: capitalize on strengths, identify gaps and leverage partnerships



Uptake of Evaluative Evidence – Initiatives



Big Data in Agriculture Platform: External Evaluation Team



Ibtissem Jouini
Team Leader
Senior Evaluator,
EvalChange Network



Stefania Sellitti
MEL Consultant
Development
economist



Didier G. Leibovici
SME
Consultant in data
science and geo-spatial-
temporal data



Erik Bongcam-Rudloff
SME
Professor in
bioinformatics



Mathew Kurian
SME
Consortium Lead-
Belmont Forum project
on cyber-enabled
disaster resilience



John Kieti
ICT & Data Mgt. Expert
Consultant in
digitalization and digital
transformation

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 engage-
ment** with
Platform outputs.

Effectiveness

F18: Further work
to advance the
**data interoper-
ability principle**

F19: The Platform's
**MEL activities
did not adeq-
uately 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

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



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.

Mixed-methods



Online survey

110 data users/
partners



Semi-structured interviews

51 interviews &
53 participants



Case studies

Ontologies CoP
Inspire Challenge
Winner



Usage statistical analysis



Document analysis

Limitations:

- Underrepresentation of Women, Youth & Inspire challenge applicants
- Remote consultations with stakeholders
- Stakeholders' availability

Thank You

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