

A photograph of a smiling woman, likely of African descent, wearing a headwrap and a patterned top. She is holding a large, green ear of corn. Behind her is a large, colorful umbrella with blue, yellow, and red segments. The background shows an outdoor setting with other people and structures.

# Deep-dive on Independent Advice and Evidence

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*CGIAR SC15 Side Event, 9 March 2022*

- Guidance on evidence-based comparative advantage
- Lessons from Initiative proposal review
- Advice for a One CGIAR innovation culture
- Development of Science Forum(s)



*Photo from ISDC retreat in March 2022, which focused on the workplan*



# Guidance on Evidence-based Comparative Advantage

## Overarching Goals:

- To support CGIAR to reach a common understanding and agreed purpose of comparative advantage
- To use the concept to aid research portfolio management
- It is not about ISDC assessing current or prospective CGIAR comparative advantage. It is to develop guidelines and methods

## Objectives:

- Outline key topics for understanding, defining, and communicating comparative advantage in an R4D context
- Develop tools so CGIAR can systematically determine comparative advantage—at multiple scales, from systemwide to single project—supported by evidence and communicate appropriately
- Outline how to “build comparative advantage” and highlight inevitable trade-offs



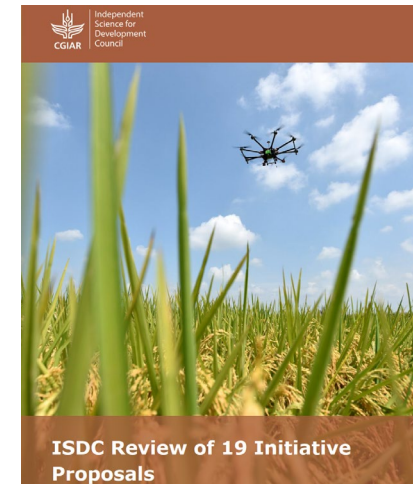
# Lessons from Initiative Proposal Reviews

## Overarching Goal:

- Learn from the 31 Initiative review process to improve future ISDC reviews or assist others who will use QoR4D framework for external proposal assessments

## Objectives:

- Outline what worked well and what needs improvement
- Gain perceptions of review process from various entities within and outside of CGIAR (e.g., EMT, GSDs, SC, CGIAR researchers, and external reviewers)
- Develop a public Brief to share lessons learned for CGIAR community and possible solutions



## Overarching Goal:

- Support a behavioral change in CGIAR—as well as sustain engagement of SC—on innovation, underscoring the main topics of inclusion (e.g., capacity building & partnerships), trade-offs and risks, culture and co-creation of concepts



## Objectives:

- Widen engagement and audience beyond CGIAR to ensure greater credibility and uptake of ISDC analysis and suggestions
- Assist CGIAR in its period of transition toward a cultural and paradigmatic shift, to help CGIAR research culture towards an agile, outcome-driven and contemporary approach
- Support clarity on concept of what is institutional innovation, across the full range of CGIAR operational structures



# Development of Science Forum

## Overarching Goal:

- Design a three-year annual Science Forum for internal and external agrifood stakeholders that focuses on inclusivity, capacity building, and policy

## Objectives for 2022 Forum Under Discussion:

- Engage CGIAR on the topic of inclusivity
- Provide opportunity for an internally focused Forum targeting CGIAR community (e.g., attendees to include SC, SB, science leaders)
- Discuss conflicting scientific and ideologic approaches to same goals while placing value on research
- Contribute to One CGIAR cultural shift to be more inclusive in all realms



## Topics



### **Diversity Among Funders**

How can ISDC better serve the diversity of SC?  
Diversity includes characteristics such as the size, expectations, and relevance.

### **Political Imperatives**

How best can ISDC respond to divergent imperatives among funders?

### **Usefulness of ISDC Proactiveness**

ISDC has a set of clear responsibilities defined by the ISDC's ToR. As an independent advisory body, how can ISDC become more proactive in supporting funders and the organization as a whole?