Deep-dive on Independent Advice and Evidence

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CGIAR SC15 Side Event, 9 March 2022
ISDC Workplan 2022 into 2023

- 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
Advice for a One CGIAR Innovation Culture

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
Discussion: SC Needs of ISDC

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

**Topics**

**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?