



System Board recommendation on
CGIAR's 6th Genetic Innovation Initiative
within the 2022-2024 Prospectus

Purpose

The document sets out the System Board's recommendation to the System Council on the remaining Genetic Innovation initiative included in the 2022-2024 [Investment Prospectus](#) to contribute to realizing the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy.

The System Board's recommendation is made pursuant to its to Article 8.1aa of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization, in consideration of the external independent review of the proposal as moderated by CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council ('ISDC').

Action Requested

The System Council is invited to review the materials provided for this agenda item, and if thought appropriate, approve the decision set out below:

Decision: Pursuant to Article 6.1 q) of the [CGIAR System Framework](#), and taking into consideration the external independent review moderated by CGIAR's Independent Science for Development Council, the System Council approves the proposal for the CGIAR Initiative titled "Accelerating Crop Improvement Through Genome Editing" with effect from 21 July 2022 taking note that the indicative funding for the Initiative is set out in the 2022-2024 CGIAR Revised Portfolio and Designated Financing Plan, as approved by the System Council on an electronic basis on 13 June 2022¹.

<p>Document category: Working document of the System Council There is no restriction on the circulation of this document</p>

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¹ Available at https://storage.googleapis.com/cgiarorg/2022/06/CGIAR-R1_FINPLAN-2022-24-Approved.pdf

Background

1. The proposal for a CGIAR Initiative on Accelerating Crop Improvement Through Genome Editing ('Initiative proposal') was submitted on 16 May 2022, via the CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat, for external review moderated by the ISDC. That review was supported by the [ISDC's earlier review of a Companion Document on the 2022-2024 Investment Prospectus](#).
2. In its consideration of the Initiative proposal, the System Board benefitted from an early view of the ISDC's report on the outcomes of the ISDC moderated external review. The System Board was appreciative of the thoughtful and robust review, which provided overall comfort around the strength of the Initiative proposal, and constructive feedback on how the Initiative could continue to be strengthened as it is taken forward.
3. Where opportunities to refine the Initiative were identified in the review, the System Board has confidence in management's planned approaches to take these forward areas during the 'inception phase'.

Recommendation of the System Board

4. Thus, at the conclusion of its deliberations, the Board **approved** the proposal for the CGIAR Initiative "Accelerating Crop Improvement Through Genome Editing" **and recommended the proposal to the CGIAR System Council** pursuant to Article 8.1 aa) of the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization.
5. At the time of its decision, the Board took note of the decision taken by the System Council during SC15² whereby it was requested that revised 'Initiative Briefs' (to replace Initiative proposal documents) be prepared following the 6-month 'inception phase' of all CGIAR Initiatives, that build on strengthening undertaken in response to the advice of the Independent Science for Development Council.

² Extracted from Decision Reference SC/M15/DP3, available in full in the [SC15 Chair's Summary](#).