



ISDC Progress Update

Purpose

This document provides a mid-year progress update on the 2022 Independent Science for Development Council workplan (part of the ISDC's 2022-2024 workplan and budget approved as part of the integrated [CGIAR Advisory Services 2022-2024 workplan and budget](#) by the System Council during its 14th meeting in December 2021).

Action Requested

No action is requested at this time. This material is provided as a background resource for the 16th meeting of the System Council for information purposes.

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ISDC 2022 Progress Update

This Progress Update documents key outputs and achievements of the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) from January through June 2022.

External Review of Research Initiative Proposals

For the fifteenth meeting of the System Council (SC15) held in March 2022, ISDC presented the outcomes of the 12 proposal reviews. Accelerating Crop Improvement through Genome Editing will be reviewed in May and is included in as an additional resource for SC16. The Advisory Services Shared Secretariat (CAS) developed a [webpage](#) that includes all advice ISDC provided throughout the One CGIAR reform including the external review reports and aggregate demographics of the subject matter experts (SMEs). A total of 65 reviewers assessed the proposals, representing 22 countries with 43 percent female and 57 percent male. ISDC will review the Migration, Conflict, and Fragility proposal for SC17 in November 2022.

Four Workstreams of ISDC Workplan 2022

ISDC has four workstreams in its 2022 workplan, consisting of (a) Incubating Innovation, (b) Science Forum, (c) Comparative Advantage, and (d) Quality of Research for Development (QoR4D). Each workstream is at a different stage of completion and some will carry forward into 2023.

Changes to the ISDC workplan since its approval consist of a smaller scale Science Forum described in detail below. This will decrease the budget for ISDC in 2022. Further, the focus of the “Incubating Innovation” workstream was narrowed based on stakeholder feedback and now addresses specifically the issue of inclusive innovation. Additional changes may be the external review of an Initiative proposal, Fragility, Conflict, and Mobility presently scheduled for September 2022 .

Incubating Innovation

ISDC developed a [Brief](#) in 2021 entitled Incubating Innovation: A One CGIAR Culture and Mindset. Building on the Brief, the workstream is commissioning a grey literature review on inclusive innovation that will serve as a background paper for the ISDC Forum (described next). The review will include the conceptual framing, definition, and ISDC commentary of inclusive innovation. In addition, the review will also look outside and inside CGIAR, allowing it to be attuned to and reference work underway within CGIAR on fostering innovation, and support the provision of timely and relevant ISDC advice.

ISDC Forums during November 2022 System Council Meeting

The November SC meeting in Brisbane, Australia, dovetails with the TropAg conference, including a range of side events. A full-blown Science Forum, as was held in the past, would therefore compete and distract from the agenda already in place. Hence, ISDC decided to develop a smaller scale public engagement in the same spirit of its traditional Science Forum but fully integrated into the major

events taking place. On Tuesday, Nov 1, ISDC will sponsor a 2-hour symposium at TropAg entitled “Building Inclusive Innovation in International Development” (see agenda below). The symposium will be recorded and developed into videos to serve as engaging materials that will go beyond the conference. The CAS website will house enduring materials of the symposium. The event is designed as a building block towards a full Science Forum to be held at a location in conjunction with the approximate November 2023 System Council meeting.

TropAg ISDC Symposium Agenda: Building Inclusive Innovation in International Development	
Presentation	Speaker
Session Introduction	Holger Meinke, ISDC Chair and Adjunct Research Professor for Global Food Sustainability, University of Tasmania
Keynote: Building Inclusivity in International Development Innovation	Segenet Kelemu, Director General & CEO of Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Member ACIAR Policy Advisory Counsel
View from the Field: Co-innovation with Small-scale Farmers	Bruno Condori Ali, Visiting Research Scientist US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
Cocreating Sustainability: Innovation in Sustainable Agrifood Systems	Alyssa Jade McDonald-Baertl, CGIAR Board Member
Inclusive Partnerships for One CGIAR	Nompumelelo Obokoh, ISDC Member and Chairperson, Board of the National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa
Panel Discussion	Moderated by Session Chair Holger Meinke

In addition to TropAg, ISDC is exploring a possible SC17 side event on the same topic but with an internal focus. The goal of the two engagements is to engage internal and external CGIAR stakeholders on the topic of inclusive innovation to foster innovation thinking throughout CGIAR.

Comparative Advantage

ISDC observed the misuse of the term comparative advantage and proposed to SIMEC and SC a project for 2022 that would (1) create a common understanding across CGIAR about the meaning and use of comparative advantage, and (2) provide a framework to enable CGIAR research managers and scientists to assess if and where comparative advantage exists as well as where it might be desirable to invest in establishing comparative advantage where it does not exist. The concept note for this project is a pre-read for SC16.

Quality of Research for Development (QoR4D) and Proposal Review Lessons

To learn from the external review of Initiatives, ISDC is assessing the review process and the QoR4D criteria through several methods. Qualitative and quantitative data collection included a subject matter expert survey (response rate 65% of external Initiative reviewers) and consultations with the CGIAR former Director of Programs, current Global Science Directors, and the Managing Director, Research Delivery and Impact of the CGIAR System Organization, a sample of Initiative Design Team members, and System Council members. The outcome of this work will result in a report examining lessons learned to implement in future ISDC external reviews.

Meetings and Communication

ISDC held its first in-person meeting since 2019 before SC15 in Montpellier France. The meeting was closed-door, hybrid internal planning session from 4-6 March. The outcomes of the meeting included (1) development of roadmaps for the 2022 workstreams and (2) review and discuss lessons learned from the Initiative proposal reviews.

On April 11, ISDC Chair Holger Meinke gave an invited presentation for a GFAR and the Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries of the Swiss Academy of Sciences' webinar entitled "Initiative for Developing and Applying Partnership Principles to Research and Innovation Projects." Part of the presentation focused on the ISDC recommendations on partnerships developed during the 31 external Initiative reviews.

During the last week of April, CAS hosted ISDC's Chair Holger Meinke in Rome at the The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT. Prof Meinke met with the Executive Management Team, Global Director of People and Culture, Global Director of Partnerships and Advocacy, CAS staff, and many CGIAR researchers based in Rome. In addition, he and the CAS Director also met with the FAO Chief Scientist, GFAR Secretariat, and FAO AGDR Head.