One mission to advance human and planetary health

From spurring the Green Revolution to spearheading food systems science, CGIAR has innovated for global impact. Now, it is transforming to solve today’s — and tomorrow’s — interconnected food, land, water and climate crises.
Biofortified orange-fleshed sweet potato, as developed by CGIAR researchers at the International Potato Center (CIP), tackles vitamin-A deficiency in children and women of reproductive age. As a result of close collaboration with national sweet potato breeding programs, more than 100 pro-vitamin-A varieties have been developed and adapted to local environments in more than 20 countries. Today, more than 6.8 million households in Africa and South Asia are growing and eating vitamin-A-rich, orange-fleshed sweet potato.

Select CGIAR highlights

**OVER 60%** of seeds now regularly used in tropical agriculture stem from research originated or supported by CGIAR.

**IN 2020 75%** of germplasm distributions went outside CGIAR to recipients in 79 countries. Lower middle income countries received the largest proportion (49%) of germplasm shipments.

**ESTIMATED 9.7 million farming households** were growing and consuming 393 biofortified varieties of 12 staple crops across 19 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America by the end of 2020 as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH).

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF 10-to-1**

CGIAR has shown it is among the best investments in a fruitful future.

**ONE INVESTMENT OF US$3.5 million** in agricultural practices in parts of South Asia yielded at least US$165 million in economic return over a 20-year period.

**ESTIMATED 30 million households** reached globally through CGIAR research through the adoption of improved plant varieties, livestock breeds or trees in 2020.

CGIAR has shown it is among the best investments in a fruitful future.
What is the One CGIAR transition?

For 50 years, CGIAR has been a leader in agricultural science and innovation for development. From specific food crops to water systems to policy, CGIAR’s institutions across the globe – working independently and together in partnership – have produced science that has brought benefits to hundreds of millions of the world’s poor.

But the world has changed. And CGIAR has to change with it.

The world faces escalating climate and biodiversity crises. Research in agriculture, food, land and water is more multi-disciplinary than ever before. Traditional funding models have shifted dramatically. We know much more about the interconnected nature of our food, land and water systems.

Today, we need to improve food security, increase biodiversity, spur economic growth and strengthen resilience in the face of the climate crisis.

So, CGIAR began an ambitious transformation in late 2019, aiming to unlock the combined capabilities of its people, knowledge and global presence to achieve greater impact. The One CGIAR transition aims for:

- a sharper mission and impact focus
- unified governance
- institutional integration
- a new research modality
- more, and pooled, funding.

This is an opportunity for CGIAR to become a truly global organization; a leader in food, land and water systems research; a partner of choice locally and globally; and a more dynamic and stimulating place to work.
Why is this happening right now?

The window of opportunity to curb climate change and biodiversity loss, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, is closing rapidly. Around 660 million people may still face hunger in 2030, in part due to the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The conflict in Ukraine is compounding the precarious fiscal situation of low- and middle-income countries, raising serious concerns for food security in the short and long term.

CGIAR needs to respond and – by coming together as one – is uniquely positioned to do so. **No other actor has the decades of experience, the bedrock of research, the network of partners and the backing of governments to deliver the knowledge and innovations needed.**

The move to operating as One CGIAR is what our partners want and are asking of us. CGIAR is also stepping up its engagement and consultations, striving to ensure the views of valued country and regional partners are not only heard but appropriately incorporated.

CGIAR works with 3000+ partners in nearly 90 countries around the world, and as part of the current reform, CGIAR has adjusted and strengthened its strategy to better reflect and integrate partners’ perspectives and needs.
How will CGIAR be different?

Building on an expanse of experience and evidence, a fresh 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy sets out a systems transformation approach to deliver across impact areas that zero in on the most pressing issues of the day:

- nutrition, health and food security
- poverty reduction, livelihoods and jobs
- gender equality, youth and social inclusion
- climate adaptation and mitigation
- environmental health and biodiversity.

Teams of CGIAR scientists across multiple disciplines have crafted a portfolio of Initiatives within and across three action areas:

- Genetic Innovation,
- Resilient Agri-food Systems
- Systems Transformation.

The Initiatives are launching in 2022, succeeding the previous CGIAR Research Programs.

Alongside the Initiatives and supported through pooled funds, the 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy frames CGIAR’s offer, with common systems for delivery and performance management.
How will CGIAR be working with partners?

With a unified presence and clear entry points for engagement, CGIAR will be much more accessible to partners and stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local levels, and much more responsive to local ambitions and needs. Partners across the globe will have access to CGIAR’s full breadth of capabilities.

An integrated operational structure with unified leadership will provide aligned decision-making and unlock opportunities for greater collaboration within CGIAR and with partners, and drive the transition to a common culture and ways of working. CGIAR’s people will have greater opportunities to learn and grow in a truly global organization, with more interaction across disciplines and regions.

All work is aligned with the Engagement Framework for Partnerships & Advocacy, which sets out the guiding principles, systems and approaches for partners and CGIAR to achieve common goals.