

## **A “Window 3 & Bilateral Science Group Integration” modality Mechanism for funding Global Science Group Projects through Window 3 and bilateral investments**

### **Purpose**

This Discussion Paper proposes a mechanism to further empower the Global Science Groups (Genetic Innovation- GI, Resilient Agri-Food Systems- RAFS, and Systems Transformation- ST) of One CGIAR to implement the shared research agenda.

This mechanism will finance through Window 3 of the CGIAR Trust Fund (W3), or bilaterally, research implemented by CGIAR’s three Global Science Areas and which advances CGIAR’s 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy and complementary to the CGIAR Portfolio of Initiatives. This Global Science Group Integration mechanism provides an additional channel for funding One CGIAR shared research agenda through W3/bilateral because CGIAR’s Senior Leadership Team agreed that the three Global Science Area should be enabled and equipped to implement W3 funding.

### **Drivers**

Window 1 of the CGIAR Trust Fund (Portfolio or Initiative designation) remains the only mechanism for funding the System Council-approved CGIAR Portfolio of Initiatives. The Global Science Group Integration mechanism provides a channel for funding projects through W3 and bilateral agreements that are complementary to the CGIAR Portfolio of Initiatives and managed by CGIAR’s Global Science Groups. The intent is to provide an investment option to coordinate research management and delivery through the Science Group structures, and to drive efficiencies through a harmonization of procedures.

The Global Science Group Mechanism responds to requests to build finance and research mechanisms that are aligned and further empower the Global Science Groups as an integral part of the One CGIAR integrated operating matrix structure. This mechanism will enable research oversight on projects that are complementary to the CGIAR Portfolio of Initiatives and are aligned to the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy and support a pathway to finance research that is complementary to the CGIAR Portfolio, but not eligible for W1 contributions (e.g. Genome Editing).

### **Principles**

This mechanism adheres to the following principles:

- Follow funder-driven preference to support Global Science Groups, including multi-donor funding;
- Approved by CGIAR Global Science Groups as complementary to the CGIAR Portfolio of Initiatives and are aligned to the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy; and
- Operating under and established One CGIAR common systems for planning, reporting, and oversight and adhering to a set of standard terms and conditions.

This mechanism will be in place until the end of the current Business Plan 2022-24 period, and be subject to System Board review at end of 2024.

## Mechanism

Relevant Global Science Group Managing Director will approve the funding as aligned to the CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy and complementary to the set of CGIAR Initiatives they are leading. Global Science Group Managing Director will be responsible for quality assurance during implementation of the project and will include the project in the purview of any Action Area level research advisory function. A Window 3 agreement Annex will provide the template for delegations, approvals, and standard provisions.

For each investment, the relevant Global Science Group will select a CGIAR Center to act as the designated intermediary. Under direction of the Global Science Director, this CGIAR Center (designated intermediary) will be responsible for implementing the project and allocating budgets across CGIAR and external partners, as outlined in the proposal and supporting agreements. This designated intermediary will sub-contract to other CGIAR Centers and partners as agreed in the proposal.

The designated intermediary will Accept standardized conditions for the mechanism and:

- Enter into a W3 agreement with Funder which will contain standardized conditions based on a template to be developed (e.g., role of the Global Science Group, overhead, reporting, etc.)<sup>1</sup>;
- Sub-contract to other CGIAR Centers and partners per agreement;
- Receive funds from Funder and pass funds on to other Centers or partners as relevant based also on a standardized template containing terms;
- Maintain fiduciary responsibility for the funds vis a vis the Funder.

## Background

CGIAR’s integrated operational structure, as endorsed by the System Council in March 2021, is designed to deliver CGIAR’s 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy. As of July 2022, the three Global Science Groups – led by Managing Directors – have overseen the design and launch of a set of interconnected CGIAR Initiatives funded through W1.

At its retreat in June 2022, CGIAR’s Senior Leadership Team– comprising the Executive Management Team, Center Directors General, as well as CGIAR’s Global and Regional Directors – agreed that the three Global Science Groups should be enabled and equipped to implement W3 and bilateral work based on strategic or Funder choice. Such a mechanism provides Funders with greater access to the full range of CGIAR’s capabilities from across Centers, with clear entry-points for engagement, and supported by common research quality assurance processes.

At the same time, CGIAR Centers will continue to originate and deliver projects funded through W3 and bilateral sources as an integral part of CGIAR’s 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy and which remains essential for CGIAR’s funding mix.

## Next steps

Consultations across the CGIAR Senior Leadership Team as a deliverable from the June 2022 SLT retreat. Alignment and information sharing across System Board and System Council. Piloting investments as part of 2023 FinPlan.

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<sup>1</sup> For W3 funds, the standardized conditions would be set out in an annex to the W3 side agreement between the Funder and the Center