Regionally Integrated Initiatives (RIIs)

Amplifying regional relevance and impact through integration and innovation systems

CGIAR System Board Meeting (SB25) – December 08, 2022

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Managing Director, Resilient AgriFood Systems (RAFS)
CGIAR
Science and Regional Groups Deliver Integrated Research and Innovation Solutions

CGIAR’s Impact Areas

- Nutrition, Health & Food Security
- Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods & Jobs
- Gender Equality, Youth & Social Inclusion
- Climate Adaptation & Mitigation
- Environmental Health & Biodiversity

Informed Technological solutions (varieties and seeds) at the farm level

Continuous demand creation and solution feedback loops; highly-relevant on-the-ground research; coordination and synergies among initiatives to amplify impact

Farm and landscape integrated technical & socio-economical solutions for resource-poor, smallholder farmers

Enabling environment-level solutions (policies, institutions) at the national, regional and international levels

Resilient AgriFood (RAFS) Initiatives

Regionally Integrated Initiatives

Systems Transformation (ST) Initiatives

Genetic Innovation (GI) Initiatives

SDGs

Resilient AgriFood Systems (RAFS)
RIIs Overarching Objective

Contribute to regional Agri-Food systems transformation for affordable sufficient and healthy diets produced within planetary boundaries in a climate crisis
Global thematic initiatives respond (GTIs) to demand from Regionally Integrated Initiatives (RIIs); at the same time, RIIs adapt, apply, and amplify the outcomes of CGIAR research with regions and countries.
Initiatives – Overall Process & Stages

- **Design & Fine-tuning (ISDC & other Stakeholders Feedback)**
- **Final approval and start**
- **Rapid inception phase (incl. budget and resourcing)**
- **Fine-tuning activities and partnerships**
- **Ongoing adaptive management**
- **Amplify impact through coordinated synergies**

Towards 2030 through subsequent business cycles

- **2021**
- **2022**
- **2023 & Onwards**
Structure of CGIAR’s Initiative Portfolio

Global Thematic Initiatives (GTIs)
- Largely building on strong existing capacities
- Investigates thematic issues that by nature are not specific to a single region or country
- Strong focus on genetic innovations, management of crops, livestock, fish, foresight and policy
- Delivering broad research insights, knowledge, technologies
- Global relevance: May not always be applicable in the regional context

Regionally Integrated Initiatives (RIIs)
- Articulates demand for integrative research from the regions and national partners
- Offers ‘plug-in’ opportunities for GTIs
- Forms and sustains innovation platforms that can assist GTIs
- Tools, technologies, knowledge
- Insights from global research that can be regionally applied
- Opportunities for national researchers to engage with global programs
- Long histories of bilateral systems research
- Responsive to pressing, regionally unique and relevant agri-food systems crises
- Highly participatory, partner demand responsive
- Links innovations across CGIAR to amplify impact at scale
- Conducts research on unique topics of regional and national importance beyond the scope of the GTIs

Research support, research monitoring and evaluation

CGIAR Research Platforms
Innovation Systems
Living Labs
Multi-stakeholder platforms

Action Research | Research in context | Research at scale

PLOS ONE

One CGIAR and the Integrated Agri-food Systems Initiative: From short-termism to transformation of the world's food systems

Basic research
Agroecological region

Infrastructure
Network of stakeholders

Researchers
Buyers
Input suppliers
Farmers
Extension services
Government

Impact areas
Extension areas

Modules

Feedback

Research platforms

Research in context | Research at scale

Knowledge management for innovation in agri-food systems: a conceptual framework

Knowledge management for innovation in agri-food systems: a conceptual framework

Basic research
Agroecological region
GTIs–RIIs synergies through Innovation Packages

Most GTIs innovations need to be validated, embedded and scaled in regional- or country-specific packages.

Innovation Packages contain a combination of innovations cutting across CGIAR AAs, as well as non-CGIAR innovations.

RIIs play crucial role in designing and managing context-specific Innovation Packages with partners.
Resilient AgriFood Systems (RAFS)

Regionally-Integrated Initiatives (RIIs)

Offer opportunities to ‘plug into’ long established partnerships and assure coordination and coherence among initiatives and science groups

**CWANA:** From fragility to resilience in Central and West Asia and North Africa: Transforming responses to drought and climate variability

**WCA:** Market-driven, resilient and nutritious agri-food systems in the humid zones of West and Central Africa

**SEA:** Securing the Asian mega-deltas against sea-level rise, flooding, salinization and water insecurity

**LAC:** Resilient and sustainable LAC agrifood systems: Driving global food security, inclusive growth and reduced out-migration

**ESA:** Ukama Ustawi (UU): Diversification for resilient agribusiness ecosystems in East and Southern Africa

**South East Asia and the Pacific (SEA)**

**South Asia (SA)**

**West and Central Africa (WCA)**

**Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**

Nutrition, Health & Food Security

Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods & Jobs

Gender Equality, Youth & Social Inclusion

Climate Adaptation & Mitigation

Environmental Health & Biodiversity

Resilient AgriFood Systems (RAFS)
(RIIs): Induction/ Kick-off meetings

**CWANA**: From fragility to resilience in Central and West Asia and North Africa: Transforming responses to drought and climate variability

**WCA**: Market-driven, resilient and nutritious agri-food systems in the humid zones of West and Central Africa

**ESA**: Ukama Ustawi (UU): Diversification for resilient agribusiness ecosystems in East and Southern Africa

**SEA - AMD**: Securing the Asian mega-deltas against sea-level rise, flooding, salinization and water insecurity

**SA - TAFSSA**: Transforming agri-food systems in South Asia

**AgriLAC**: Resilient and sustainable LAC agrifood systems: Driving global food security, inclusive growth and reduced out-migration

**Initial Meetings/ Sessions**

**CWANA**: Morocco (May 2022)
Uzbekistan/ Egypt/ Sudan (June 2022)
Lebanon/ Syria (July 2022)

**WCA**: Rwanda (April 2022)

**ESA**: UU:
Kenya (March 2022)

**SEA - AMD**: Vietnam (June 2022)

**SA - TAFSSA**: India (June 2022)

**AgriLAC**: Colombia/ Guatemala (April/ May 2022)

**Other Meetings/ Sessions**

**CGIAR Initiative drop-in calls for Funders: RIIs**
Virtual (June 2022)

**South Asia Stakeholder Dialogue and CGIAR Research Initiative Launch**
Nepal/ India (June 2022)
Bangladesh (July 2022)
Co-design with nearly 2,000 stakeholders

**CWANA:**
145 stakeholders engaged – govt (36), donors/UN (14), INGOs/regional orgs (9), NARS (26), Assoc/NGOs (10), private sector (25), universities (25)

**AgriLAC:**
1200 stakeholders consulted and 70 partners engaged – Academia (11), private sector (6), donors (5), farmer orgs (10), finance inst (4), govt (13), IGO (5), NARS (13), NGOs (12)

**WCA:**
71 stakeholders engaged - NGOs (11), producer orgs (6), multilateral orgs (6), government (6), regional dev orgs (3), public sector agencies (10), private sector (20), banks (2), academia (7)

**AMD-SEA:**
420 stakeholders engaged - policymakers, development workers, researchers, academicians, donors, and NGO & civil society representatives, 8 donors, 16 IDTs

**South Asia (SA): TAFSSA**
535 stakeholders engaged - 35% researchers, 33% government, 15% NGOs, 7% private sector, and 5% academia) + 13 donors + all initiatives working in S. Asia

**ESA: UU**
663 stakeholders engaged from 27 countries from government, private sector, NGOs, NARS, universities, donors, RECs, international organizations) in 28 virtual engagements
RIIs: Funder engagement

Completed
- RIIs received very positive comments from relevant parties during the Initiatives’ Inception/Kick-off meetings with stakeholders and Drop-in Calls with Funders

Next Steps/Ongoing
- To work in close collaboration with other initiatives/science groups/areas
- To send a brief note out to a few funders asking them for ideas and inputs on engaging with them and keeping them updated on initiatives to streamline the process
- To schedule periodic drop-in meeting with funders (3x a year)
- To schedule some “deep-dives” (Ad-hoc) to be responsive to those needs/interests expressed by Funders

In addition, RAFS Managing Director + Tech Support Team have regular meetings with teams in RIIs to discuss:
- Further updates and most exciting/impactful research progress
- Expanded engagement and interest from partners in RIIs
- Updates and progress in reporting
- Implementation rates and budgets for 2022/2023
- Retreat in Q1 2023: methodologies, progress, plans for 2023 and beyond
Thank you!
RIIs Principles

1. **Aligned with ISDC guidance**
   - Not development projects (but offering scaling mechanisms)
   - Clear, regionally relevant research questions, common methodologies
   - Research at scale

2. **Build on regional policy, stakeholder demand, and strong prior investments**
   - Regional problem identification, problem response
   - Prioritized agroecological and market stems
   - Strong pathway towards CGIAR impact areas

3. **Bundling and integrating: Demand and supply feedback loops**
   - Integrating & offering innovations to and from other initiatives, bilaterals
   - NARES and private sector innovations

4. **RIIs:**
   - Interdependent with Global Thematic Initiatives
   - Do not have to work with all initiatives
   - Not the sole and only demand identification channel
   - Not working in all agroecologies, production or market systems

5. **Vertical and horizontally integrated**
   - Vertically integrate ST high-level policy with bottom-up GI and RAFS innovations
   - Horizontally integrate from farms to landscapes to markets and across value chains
RIIs Overview: Main Objectives (ESA: UU)

- Diversifying and sustainably intensifying production
- Reducing risk and digitalizing value chains
- Supporting and accelerating value chain business enablers in maize mixed systems
- Promoting the governing and enabling of multifunctional landscapes
- Empowering and engaging women and youth in agribusiness ecosystems
- Scaling innovations and coordinating CGIAR and partner activities in the region
RIIs Overview: Main Objectives (CWANA)

Creating innovations in partnerships, policies and platforms for the efficient, inclusive and climate-resilient transformation of agrifood systems

Facilitating genetic innovations, seed systems and agrobiodiversity conservation for climate-resilient food and nutrition security

Focusing on sustainable intensification of farming systems for climate-resilient reduction of yield gaps

Supporting integrated food, land, water and energy systems for climate-resilient landscapes

Applying innovations and digital tools for climate-resilient food value chains
RIIs Overview: Main Objectives (WCA)

- Enabling sustainable intensification and diversification of food production through sustainable seed systems and improved management practices.
- Managing climate risks and accessing services through informed digital agriculture.
- Creating pathways for scaling land and water innovations for resilient agrifood systems.
- Enhancing youth and women’s entrepreneurship models in food value chains.
- Creating a coherent management system to catalyse the Initiative’s impact at scale.
RIIs Overview: Main Objectives (SEA: AMD)

- Improving deltaic production systems
- Developing nutrition-sensitive deltaic agrifood systems
- Reducing risk in delta-oriented value chains
- Facilitating joined-up, gender-equitable, inclusive deltaic systems governance
- Introducing evidence-based delta development planning
RIIs Overview: Main Objectives (SA: TAFSSA)

- Developing inclusive learning platforms, public data systems and partnerships
- Transforming agroecosystems and rural economies to boost income, generate jobs and support diversified food production
- Improving access to and affordability of sustainably produced healthy foods through evidence and actions across the food system
- Overcoming behavioural and structural challenges to sustainable healthy diets
- Building resilience and mitigating environmental impact
RILs Overview: Main Objectives (AgriLAC)

- Shaping nutrition-sensitive socioecological-technological “best bets” to operationalize local agrifood system transition to climate-resilient nutrition pathways
- Establishing inclusive, digitally enabled agro-advisories for risk management
- Developing an agrifood system that meets both mitigation and sustainable development objectives
- Creating InnovaHub (innovation hub) networks for agrifood innovation and scaling
- Enabling science-informed policies, investments and institutions
# RII: Financial Overview

## SEA: AMD

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## ESA: UU

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## SA: TAFSSA

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## AgriLAC + CWANA (Portfolio Funding)

### Challenges/Opportunities

- New Funders?
- New Funding Mechanisms (e.g., Seed money)?
- Regular Portfolio Funding (CGIAR)?

Resilient AgriFood Systems (RAFS)