



Engagement Framework 2.0: Update

Purpose

This document provides an update on the development of the *Engagement Framework 2.0*, led by the Partnerships & Advocacy Global Group (P&A), under the Regions & Partnerships (R&P) Division. As noted in “Appendix A: Update on Implementation of H LAP Recommendations” (pg. 6-7), shared during System Council 18 (SC-18) as part of Agenda Item 12, “Regions and Partnerships. Developing and Deepening our Engagement”, CGIAR committed to developing a second iteration of the [Engagement Framework](#) in 2023, based primarily on the [High-Level Advisory Panel Recommendations](#) on engagement with the Global South, and in the context of the ongoing CGIAR-wide reforms.

The Engagement Framework was created to enable CGIAR to harness the power of its many and varied partnerships across its geographies and beyond. It supports CGIAR and its partners to broaden their base of resources, expertise, and experience to co-create, deliver, and scale research, innovations, and technologies toward greater impact. To this end, it pays special attention to approaches, support systems, and services required for engagement. These include three fundamental and transformative approaches for effective engagement, namely capacity sharing for development (SC19, Agenda Item 15), advocacy engagement, and private sector cooperation.

Action Requested

The System Council is requested to continue to support the (1) development of the Engagement Framework 2.0 in preparation for its review and endorsement before the end of 2023, and (2) its operationalization through ongoing activities, including the preparation of the new 2025-2027 portfolio of Research Initiatives.

Document category: Working document of the System Council.

There is no restriction on the circulation of this document

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Background

1. In March 2022, CGIAR released, [“Toward Great Impact: A CGIAR Engagement Framework for Partnerships & Advocacy”](#) (hereafter, Engagement Framework), which was developed in response to the System Council's acknowledgement that the transformation of food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis requires a consistent approach to partnerships and advocacy.
2. The Engagement Framework was developed through extensive consultations with partners, stakeholders and CGIAR staff, and sets out guiding principles and approaches that create new and transformational opportunities for CGIAR and its partners to co-develop research and share and scale knowledge, innovations, and technologies. It also lays out an indicative partner typology and segmentation structure, stewardship mechanisms, and the overarching support systems and services that will guide and enable CGIAR to better deliver effective and meaningful partnerships and purposeful advocacy. The Engagement Framework was devised as a high-level framework that will be operationalized through policies, procedures, and guidelines.
3. In July 2022, the CGIAR System Board appointed an independent High-Level Advisory Panel (HLAP) to guide CGIAR in improving its strategic engagement with partners during its transition to One CGIAR. The Panel was tasked to “advise on fostering ownership of reforms and mechanisms for joint learning and engagement...” with partners across the regions in which CGIAR works. The HLAP delivered its recommendations on 11 January 2023 through its report, [“On Improving One CGIAR's Strategic Engagement with Partners”](#). In addition to three high-level recommendations and 20 proposed actions, the HLAP reviewed and provided targeted comments on how to strengthen the Engagement Framework.
4. This document captures the efforts conducted to date to update the Engagement Framework, primarily based on the HLAP's recommendations, but also in the context of the ongoing CGIAR reform process.

Update

5. In Q2 of 2023, an Engagement Framework Task Force (EFTF) was constituted with two representatives from Science (Oscar Ortíz, Senior Director, Crop-based Systems, Resilient Agri-food Systems; and Channing Arndt, Senior Director, Transformation Strategies, Systems Transformation), one representative from Regions & Partnerships (Temina Lalani-Shariff, Regional Director, South Asia and Regional Director, Southeast Asia and the Pacific (a.i.)), and one representative from Partnerships & Advocacy (Javier Mateo-Vega, Senior Director, Partnerships Stewardship, Innovation and Intelligence), the latter serving as the convener of the group. In addition, Amanda Harding from the consultancy Convene has supported the task force with strategic engagement with external and internal groups. The group drafted and agreed upon Terms of Reference and a work plan to produce an updated and improved

Engagement Framework by the end of 2023.

6. The EFTF agreed that the Engagement Framework will remain a “live document and process” for the foreseeable future, allowing its components to be stress tested and continuously improved, for example through the development of the new CGIAR 2025-2027 Research Portfolio.
7. An advanced draft of the *Engagement Framework 2.0* has already been prepared by P&A, informed by the HLAP recommendations and proposed actions under three general areas: (1) Overall Engagement Framework; (2) Partners and Stakeholders; and (3) Agenda-setting, Decision-making and Capacity Sharing.
8. Members of the EFTF, as well as the two co-conveners of the HLAP, and the leadership and members of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) have already reviewed the advanced draft of the *Engagement Framework 2.0*. A “Listening Session” with both internal and external groups was facilitated by Convene on 27 September 2023 to garner additional insights to further improve the document.
9. It is important to note that members of the EFTF have been working with members of GFAR on improving the “guiding principles” of the *Engagement Framework 2.0* based on GFAR’s [“Selected Criteria for Assessing Quality of Research Partnerships”](#). This ongoing collaboration, which will broaden to include key actors involved in partnerships for research-for-development, aims to produce by mid-2024 a global set of principles that would be adopted and monitored by a broad range of actors in food and agricultural research. Performance indicators to measure the application of these principles will be set out as part of this exercise and captured in operational guidelines for partnership stewardship.
10. The *Engagement Framework 2.0* will be brought forward to the System Board and System Council for review and endorsement in Q4 2023.