

## Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service (IAES)/ Evaluation Function Progress and Plans

### Purpose

The presented materials provide an update on progress on ongoing engagements (through provision of specific deliverables); the materials seek Council input and supply information for the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of System Council.

- **For input:** Concept Note Cluster Evaluations of 3 Science Groups (2024) – **SC19-20b**
- **For information (electronic input invited from 6 to 27 Oct 2023):** Management Engagement and Response Evaluation Guidelines, operationalizing the [CGIAR Evaluation Framework and Policy](#) (2022)
- **For information:** Genebank Platform Evaluation [Inception Report](#) and [Terms of Reference](#); Evaluability Assessment of four Regional Integrated Initiatives [Terms of Reference](#)

### Approach

#### **(1) Concept Note: 2024 Science Group Cluster Evaluations of 3 Science Groups (Appendix 1)**

To meet steering, learning and accountability needs related to the evolution of CGIAR's research portfolio, IAES has planned for 2024 Science Group Cluster Evaluations. IAES consulted the approach with the Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC) (M28, M29) and with CGIAR's Science Managing Directors (Apr 2023). Aligned to the CGIAR-wide Evaluation Framework (2022), an independent external evaluation of the three Science Groups in 2024 will support evidence-based steering, contribute to CGIAR's institutional learning, and facilitate accountability pertaining to the efficiency and effectiveness of the CGIAR portfolio. The exercise will also assist IAES and SIMEC to identify parameters and evaluative needs for the 2025-2027 multi-year evaluation plan.

#### **(2) The Management Engagement and Response Evaluation Guidelines (Appendix 2)**

A discussion version of the Guidelines on Evaluation Engagement and Management Response are supplied. The Guidelines' purpose is to secure management engagement in process and performance evaluations, and to guide management in providing a formal response to evaluations for strengthened use of evaluations in CGIAR. The key audiences include CGIAR senior leadership, science leaders and intervention managers who commission decentralized evaluations and/or engage in independent evaluations; and, specifically, managers

responding to evaluation recommendations. To date, the development of the Guidelines benefited from input from the members of Monitoring Evaluation and Learning community of practice, and included virtual consultations with 3 members of the Senior Leadership Team.

- (3) **Ongoing Evaluation Work:** Additional reading supplied covers (a) Genebank Platform Evaluation Terms of Reference and Inception Report; and ToRs for Evaluability Assessment of RIIs.
- a) The ongoing evaluation of the [Genebank Platform](#) (from 2017-21) has produced an [Inception Report](#), aligned to the evaluation [TORs](#) (endorsed by SIMEC on 22 June 2023 (M29)). The evaluation's purpose is to provide evidence regarding the Platform's efficiency and effectiveness and support the institutional learning of Crop Trust and CGIAR. The evaluation aims also to identify good practice and lessons for the [Genebanks Initiative](#), Genetic Innovation Science Group and CGIAR at large. The TORs and Inception Report benefited from input by the Crop Trust staff, CGIAR's Genetic Innovation Science Director and lead of the Genebanks initiative.
- b) [Terms of Reference for the Evaluability Assessments of Regional Integrated Initiatives](#) (RIIs) respond to the [mandate of the CGIAR IAES Evaluation Function](#) to study evaluability and set out the purpose, objectives and a process, in accordance with the [CGIAR Evaluability Assessment Guidelines \(2022\)](#). TORs were developed in consultation with the management of the RAFS Science Group management and coordinator of RIIs and through two virtual consultations with leadership and members of 4 RIIs: [Fragility to Resilience in Central and West Asia and North Africa \(CWANA\)](#); [Asian Mega-Deltas \(AMD\)](#); [Transforming Agrifood Systems In South Asia \(TAFSA\)](#) ; [West and Central African Food Systems Transformations \(WCA\)](#). IAES vetted the TORs with SIMEC in August 2023 (Response Matrix to SIMEC queries are available upon request). As the work proceeds, IAES will continue to liaise with RII management, Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and Portfolio Performance Unit (PPU) to coordinate the development of the Management Response (MR). Two remaining RII EAs will be addressed in 2024.

### Action Requested

IAES solicits views from the System Council on the approach to Science Group independent evaluation in 2024 (SC19-20b). System Council is invited to comment on MER Evaluation Guidelines from the issue date through 27 October 2023. IAES invites SC members to send feedback via email at [IAES-Evaluation@cgiar.org](mailto:IAES-Evaluation@cgiar.org) with cc to Secretariat of System Council. Otherwise, the System Council is requested to read and reflect on the Terms of Reference for the Evaluability Assessment of the RIIs, and Inception report for Genebank Platform evaluation.

<b>Distribution Notice:</b> The attached documents may be shared without restriction.
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