

## ISDC June 2024 Progress Update

### Purpose

This pre-read provides the Independent Science for Development Council's (ISDC's) 2024 progress update.

### Action Requested

The System Council is requested to read and reflect on ISDC 2024 workplan update to discuss and ask questions during the ISDC chair intervention at SC20.

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Prepared by: ISDC Secretariat within CGIAR's Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service – with the input of ISDC Chair and Vice Chair.

## ISDC June 2024 Progress Update

This Progress Update documents key outcomes, outputs, and activities of the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) from November 2023 through May 2024.

### Three Workstreams of ISDC Workplan 2024

ISDC has three workstreams in this year's workplan, consisting of Portfolio evolution and independent proposal review, the *Agricultural Systems* special issue on inclusive innovation, and the Science Forum.

#### *Portfolio Evolution*

The ISDC Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretariat are involved in consultations with science leaders on the Portfolio<sup>25</sup> evolution. Ongoing discussions provide an opportunity for reflective interactions to improve the 2024 portfolio and to identify strategic engagement opportunities for ISDC. Below are ISDC's formal contributions.

- Initial outline and proposal template review of Mega Programs provided to ISDC in December before decision to revise P25 structure
- Review of the Mega Program proposal outline provided by the Portfolio Performance Unit in April
- CGIAR Portfolio Narrative 2025-2030 review (SC20 pre-read) with a deadline of 10 days in May
- ISDC external proposal review of P25 components (forthcoming in October/November)
- Review of the Companion Document to the 2025-2030 proposals (forthcoming November)

#### *Agricultural Systems Special Issue*

Extending the 2022 workstream on Inclusive Innovation and TropAg symposium on the margins of 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of System Council (SC17), ISDC is supporting a special issue on inclusive innovation in *Agricultural Systems* (Impact Factor 6.765). The special issue will bring together world class thinking on the topic of inclusive innovation from outside and within CGIAR. The special issue is in the editorial phase with an expected 17 publications expected with many already [online](#). To date, the special issue

has 13 papers online or in production, with 42 (39%) CGIAR staff and affiliates authors and five submissions in peer review. ISDC will host its Science Forum during this year's CGIAR Science Week, which will be a launch event of the special issue featuring four paper presentations. At the Science Forum, ISDC will present its accepted paper entitled "Advancing inclusive and effective agri-food systems research for development: A short communication."

### *2024 Science Forum*

The 2024 Science Forum will be held during Science Week on Thursday, 4 July, in Nairobi Kenya. The Science Forum will serve as a launch event for the *Agricultural Systems* special issue on inclusive innovation. Four publications will be presented that focus on CGIAR research, with two early-career corresponding and first authors presenting. The agenda can be found [here](#). This event and special issue will conclude ISDC's three-year work on inclusive innovation.

### **Meetings and Communication**

The ISDC Secretariat semiannual meeting occurred in Nairobi Kenya in February where ISDC engaged with many leaders, scientists, and partners across CGIAR. The chair and/or vice chair also attended the following governance meetings:

- CGIAR Leadership Retreat in Rome, Italy, in February
- Visit to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, United States, in February
- Strategic Impact Monitoring and Evaluation Committee in March
- The System Board meetings as an observer in February and May
- Active participation in "The Montpellier Process: Pooling collective intelligence for action," an international event co-led by the University of Montpellier and CGIAR (19-20 March 2024), France