



Joint Communique: CIFOR-ICRAF and CGIAR Collaboration on Ambitious Joint Programming for Impact

Food, land, and water systems need a profound transformation, to be able to provide food for all, leaving no one behind, within planetary boundaries. Today a powerful and unified global effort is needed to equip food systems to advance human and planetary health to their full potential. The climate crisis is at the forefront of threats to our planet and existence, compounded by land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and depletion of water resources. Food systems are both a driver and a victim of these challenges. Yet — if managed and governed differently — food systems could be a champion of change, allowing us to produce nutritious food for all, while protecting nature and sequestering more greenhouse gases. To do so, transformation of agriculture should encompass all its sectors, from forestry, hunting, and fishing, as well as cultivation of crops and livestock production. Forests and trees are indispensable to solving our global challenges.

CGIAR stands as a global partnership of 15 Research Centres and a vast network of partners dedicated to the mission of enhancing food security, reducing rural poverty, improving human health, and fostering sustainable natural resource management. Our legacy spans more than five decades of impactful research, shaping agricultural practices and policies to meet the challenges of climate change and food security.

Over several months, a series of meetings has been held between CIFOR-ICRAF's Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Directors General of CIFOR and ICRAF; and CGIAR's System Board Chair and Vice-Chair and Executive Managing Director. In the latest of these meetings, held on 7 June 2024, the group aligned on the following:

- As CGIAR family, we recognize that we need each other, and we commit to working together in response to accelerating global challenges.
- We will collaborate on ambitious and joint programming that reflects our shared commitment to a landscape and ecosystems approach; building on our complementary capabilities; and work together to mobilize the associated resources to anchor the benefits of our closer relationship on the delivery of impactful science.
- We acknowledge that our engagement comes after efforts by most CGIAR Centres over several years to deepen their partnership, as reflected in their Integration Framework Agreement (IFA) which paved the way for an Integrated Partnership.
- In recent years, with the support of host countries Indonesia and Kenya, CIFOR and ICRAF have successfully completed a functional merger and now implement an integrated program that includes research on trees in forests, landscapes, and cities as well as soil management and value chains.
- We recognise that program-driven, complementary steps will be needed for both sides to unfold the full potential of our mandates, and for CIFOR and ICRAF to be in full alignment with the CGIAR's Integrated Partnership arrangement.

Building on the strong goodwill of all parties to come together and work closely with each other to develop solutions at the system-level to support our constituencies globally, we agree to explore modalities and take mutually beneficial steps in pursuit of such alignment.



In terms of immediate next steps:

- ✓ Work is underway to amend the CGIAR System Framework and the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization to reflect new, integrated governance arrangements. Once finalized, the One CGIAR family looks forward to formalising an optimal relationship with CIFOR-ICRAF.
- ✓ One CGIAR leadership welcomes CIFOR-ICRAF's continued, close engagement in the process to design CGIAR's 2025—30 Research Portfolio. CIFOR-ICRAF looks forward to seeing key dimensions of its mandate, research approaches, and strategic priorities reflected in CGIAR's work program in the coming years.

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Prof. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda
Chair, CGIAR System Board

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12 Jun, 2024 8:39:58 PM GMT+3

Dr. Doris Capistrano
Chair, CIFOR-ICRAF Board