

22 April 2009

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the Alliance's first consultation memo. In this we would like to share with the progress made to date by the Alliance in building the Consortium of Centers and ask you for your feedback.

As mentioned in our earlier email, the Alliance engaged the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to work on the architecture of the Consortium. BCG started this work by interviewing Center leadership and 'benchmarking' with some relatively similar organisations. Additionally there have been a series of consultations with the Alliance members. The consultants have used the results of these consultations and its 'benchmarking' to design potential options for the Consortium design.

We invite you to read the attached PowerPoint document that outlines the design process and some key questions being discussed. Note that this document is a working draft and should not be taken as representing the final or official view of the Alliance or any of the Centers. Its primary aim is to inform our stakeholders and facilitate discussions that will be used to further develop the Consortium design. A critical component of the coming weeks is the alignment of the Consortium design with the separate but interdependent design of the CGIAR Fund. The design of each has bearing on the other. The identification of specific interdependencies and co-design of complementary structures in these areas has not yet been done.

At the end of the PowerPoint document are five questions to which we welcome your response. Your comments are not limited to these questions; please feel free to add any additional remarks for the Alliance to consider.

Two options are available for you to respond. You may either email your comments directly to the Alliance Office (f.chandler@cgiar.org) or you may follow this link (<http://alliance.cgxchange.org/consortium-feedback>) to an on-line form where the questions are listed and you can enter your comments in the box provided for each question. At the end of the form is a report that provides a list of all responses received.

Your input is valued and will be used by the Alliance in refining the Consortium design. The draft Consortium constitution, including the Board charter, and Consortium CEO job description will be discussed at the Alliance meeting (11-13 May 2009). The Alliance will further refine the Consortium documents based on your feedback and share the update and any key design issues or questions at the CGIAR June ExCo meeting.

Thank you for taking the time to review the progress made to date by the Alliance in building the Consortium of Centers and in providing us with your input. If you have any questions or seek clarification, please contact Steve Hall (s.hall@cgiar.org), Pamela Anderson (CIP-DG@CGIAR.ORG) or Fiona Chandler (f.chandler@cgiar.org).

On behalf of the Alliance: Pamela Anderson and Fiona Chandler