![Alliance of the CGIAR Centers logo]

29 April 2009

Dear Colleagues,

In February the Alliance and stakeholders met in Rome to clarify concepts and better delineate the scope of the Strategy and Results Framework. The results from this workshop helped design terms of reference for two teams to work on the Strategy and Results Framework and on Mega Program 'mock ups' respectively.

The Alliance is pleased to share with you the results of a workshop held in Nairobi this month to advance our thinking on the design of Mega Programs. The results of this workshop were **three Mega Program 'mock ups'**.

We must emphasize that no decisions have been made on the final portfolio of Mega Programs. This can only be done when there is an agreed Strategy and Result Framework and after an appropriate process of consultation with members and partners.

What is presented in these documents are models developed to explore what Mega Programs might be, what they might aim to do, how they might operate and what the business model for these might look like. Each 'mock up' represents a different type of possible Mega Program – thematic, sectoral, ecoregional. Preparing these 'mock ups' is allowing us to compare different types of Mega Programs, how they might work and if different types of Mega Programs would be managed differently.

They have also been prepared to assist those charged with developing the new Fund to have some ideas on what might constitute a Mega Program.

The Mega Program 'mock up' team (John McDermott (Chair), Hartmann, Charles Crissman, Yemi Katerere, David Molden, Jonathan Crouch, Jean-Marcel Ribaut, David Governey and Albin Hubscher), with further input from the Alliance of Deputy Executives (Research) have circulating these 'mock ups' as work in progress. A copy of all three 'mock ups' is attached. They are also available on the [Alliance communication for consultation internet site](#).

The three 'mock ups' designed at this stage are:
Thematic: **Livelihoods and Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Landscapes**
Sectoral: **From Famine Foods to Drivers of Agro economic Development (Roots and Tubers)**
Ecoregional: **Policies, Institutions and People in sub Saharan Africa**

The Alliance is clear that stakeholder consultation must be an integral to the process of further refinement of the Mega Programs and commits to this both within and in parallel to the GCARD consultation process. We are circulating these 'mock-ups' as the first steps in a wider

consultation process on our current thinking on the design and evaluation of Mega Programs. Your input to the process and the content is welcomed.

As with our first Alliance consultation, two options are available for you to provide your feedback on this initial effort. Questions have been posed as a guide to post comments but you are not limited to these and are encouraged to add any additional remarks for the Alliance to consider.

Questions:
1. The current versions of the model Mega Programs are examples of possible Mega Programs. Sufficient information is given to describe the work to be undertaken, but, for further developing the finally selected topics for the actual Mega Programs in the CG portfolio more information and greater details will be required. What additional information do you feel should be included in the final Mega Program proposal?

2. Dialogue with partners will be essential in the design and implementation of the Mega Programs, especially as alignment with partners is critical to achieving outcomes and impacts. In the examples provided, some key partners and partnership arrangements are described. Do these descriptions adequately address the partnership issue? What else is needed to describe this aspect well?

3. Some of the examples of model Mega Programs proposed are several folds larger than the largest programs currently in the CGIAR. Is there a suitable size and scope for a Mega Program?

4. These descriptions of the model Mega Programs did not consider how common research support services might work across the Centers and their partners. Does this design address what is needed from a Mega Program? Are there common research support services that should be included in the description?

5. Is there anything else you think the Alliance should take into account at this stage in further developing these Mega Programs descriptions?

You can send your comments directly to f.chandler@cgiar.org via email. Alternatively the 'mock up' documents have been posted on the internet along with a form provided to capture your feedback (click here to access internet page and feedback form). All comments received will be compiled and fed into the next iteration. The Alliance will further discuss the Mega Program and present these as a 'work in progress' at the CGIAR June Executive Council meeting. Hopefully this meeting will endorse the work in progress and will give a green light to proceed with the Strategy and Results Framework and Mega Programs.

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).

Thank your for your time in providing the Alliance with your comments.
On behalf of the Alliance: Pamela Anderson and Fiona Chandler