

## NOTES AND DECISIONS

### CONSORTIUM BOARD/ALLIANCE MEETINGS

March 27, 31 and 1 April 2010

Montpellier, France

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Chair: Carlos Perez del Castillo, Consortium Board Chair

Participants: See Appendix 1

This document provides a synthesis of the outcomes and decisions of the different meetings that took place in Montpellier: one Consortium Board meeting and two Consortium Board-Alliance meetings.

#### **1. Consortium Board Criteria for Mega Programs**

The Board has agreed to use the following set of criteria in their final selection and approval of MPs (including those selected for fast tracking). As MPs are developed and since they are an innovation for the CGIAR, lessons will need to be drawn by the teams implementing the MPs, and appropriate monitoring and evaluation tools will need to be used, from the inception of the programs.

1. Building complementarities, synergies and collective action among Centres in line with the CGIAR reform process, and ensuring that strategic research planning is done collaboratively among Centres and partners;
2. Demonstrating innovation; new areas of CGIAR work with interactions among Centres and greater partnerships (including outside the CGIAR Centres) in different regions;
3. Producing greater impact on the ground in terms of reducing poverty and hunger and improving food security and environmental sustainability. The impact pathway must be clearly spelled out and quantified.
4. Indicating clear strategic focus and added value to current Centres and programs
5. Each MP needs to articulate clearly its strategy regarding gender research issues and capacity building

The Board also agreed that the following items should be addressed in the MP 12 pagers:

- A one-page abstract
- Clear objectives
- Justification of the project
- Measurable results
- Centres involved and their input
- Management arrangements for implementation
- Timeframe
- Expected outcomes
- Necessary partners at the international, national and regional level
- Innovation
- Integration with other MPs
- Risk
- Quantified impact pathway
- Gender research strategy
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Budget
- Names of 3-4 referees

## **2. Assessment of Mega Program proposals by the Consortium Board**

The Science Task Force of the Consortium Board is responsible for designing an appropriate review process, which it will implement upon receipt of the 12 pagers and longer proposals for those MPs that are fast-tracked. It will consider different mechanisms to do this, such as, but not restricted to, commissioning external peer reviews, consultations with the iISPC. It will also set up and implement a relevant process for reviewing the final SRF. These reviews will allow the Science Task Force to make fully justified recommendations to the Board, for its consideration.

***ACTION: Science Task Force, Consortium Board***

## **3. Decisions concerning the MPs and their components**

After GCARD, and based on the stakeholder's views, the following decisions were made on the portfolio of Mega Programs. The Consortium considers it is important to remain flexible in the development of the Mega Programs as some re-adjustments will be necessary once all of the MPs are fleshed out.

*Thematic area/MP1: Integrated agriculture systems for the poor and vulnerable*

The Consortium Board is very much aware of the complexities involved in the development of this MP and does not expect its fast tracking at the May meeting. However, in view of its conceptual importance for the process of CGIAR reform, the Board selected it for fast-tracking. The Consortium Board will assess the situation at its October meeting and determine whether some of its components are ready to be fast tracked at that time.

This MP will take a very integrated approach at the system level. It has three components each with a geographical focus, and a crosscutting focus on the needs of the poor and the most vulnerable groups.

- Integrated agricultural production for dryland systems
- Integrated agricultural production for tropical humid systems
- Integrated coastal/aquatic systems

*MP2: Policies, institutions, and markets for enabling agricultural incomes for the poor*

Following comments received during GCARD, there will be greater focus on poverty reduction and public/private partnerships as part of the research on value chains

*Thematic area/MP3: Sustainable productivity increase for global food security*

The Chair advised AfricaRice, IRRI and CIAT that the Consortium Board is willing to support the fast tracking of the rice component of MP3 as long as it fulfils the Consortium Board's criteria for MPs (in particular complementarities and joint actions among Centres). Each proponents of the GRiSP advised the Alliance that they welcome the concrete inclusion of other Centres in the development and implementation of the GRiSP. They will hold consultations with the other Centres before 10th May and the proposal for this component to be fast-tracked will clearly spell out how the different Centres are involved, their input and the interactions between this component MP with other MPs.

To more explicitly reflect the range of agricultural commodities relevant to food security, components of MP3 will include:

- Rice-based production system
- Maize-based production system
- Wheat-based production system
- Pulses and legumes
- Roots and tubers, bananas and plantains
- Sorghum, millet and barley

- Livestock and fish

Crosscutting issues concerning the conservation and use of genetic resources (globally) will also need to be addressed in this MP. Modalities to do this most effectively should be agreed upon among proponents (see below, under MP 8 and under Challenge Programs)

*MP4: Agriculture, nutrition and health*

There has been no significant change as proposed in the draft SRF document

*MP5: Water, soils and ecosystems*

It was suggested to change the title to “water scarcity and land degradation”. The team writing the 12 pages will consider this. The Challenge Program on Water and Food will be fully integrated into this MP.

*MP6: Forests and Trees*

The essential features of the MP as described in the SRF-MP document prepared by the Alliance for the GCARD have not changed.

*MP7: Climate Change*

Concerning the fast tracked MP on climate change, discussions were held by the Consortium Board Chair with the Climate Change Challenge Program. The Challenge Program has agreed to take on the responsibility to develop the MP on climate change with the involvement of the Centres. Consultations will take place between the Challenge Program and the Centres starting immediately. The Challenge Program agreed to transform its launching conference into a large stakeholder consultation (early May in Nairobi) to provide direct inputs to the development of the full proposal. The Challenge Program will be integrated into this Mega Program.

*MP8: Mobilizing Agriculture Biodiversity for Food Security and Resilience*

A number of Centres expressed strong reservations about this MP, as described in the SRF-MP document the Alliance prepared for GCARD. The value addition of a MP focusing on *ex situ* conservation of genetic resources, which 11 centres engage in, and *in situ* conservation, undertaken by most Centres, was questioned. Stakeholders’ feedback concurred. The meeting thus concluded that components of this MP could be re-distributed into other MPs (e.g., *in situ* genetic resources conservation in MP3, agrobiodiversity and ecosystem services in MP5 and policy in MP 2). Modalities should be defined in consultation with the MPs, to ensure that genetic resources issues relevant to the interests of the System are appropriately accommodated (with the exception of the genebanks). The meeting concurred that genebanks should not be part of a MP. Rather, the genebanks, as a core competency of the system and a global resource, require sustained and separate funding.

For Thematic Areas/MPs 1 and 3, the Consortium Board will decide whether the components will proceed as full-fledged MPs or not based on the evaluation of the 12 pages submitted on each component.

**4. Decisions on Challenge Programs**

In accordance with a previous Alliance decision to incorporate the challenge programs in the MPs:

- The Climate Change Challenge Program will be integrated into MP7.
- The Generation Challenge Program will come to its normal end in 2013; its databases and research support functions (e.g., bioinformatics) will be integrated into MP 3, following discussions with MP 3, whilst its other functions will be wound down in 2013.
- The Harvest Plus Challenge Program will be incorporated in MP 4 (Agriculture, Health and Nutrition).

- The Water and Food Challenge Program will be incorporated into MP5.
- The sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program will require an arrangement between the donors and FARA.

#### 5. Decisions on Platforms

The Board discussed the suggestion by some donors that there should be a fast tracked platform on gender research. The Board decided not to establish such a platform at this stage. Rather, it will commission, as a first step, a time-bound scoping study to analyze the gender research the CGIAR has implemented (as a baseline) and make a recommendation to the Board on the most effective mechanisms for embedding effective gender research in all the MPs. Particular importance will be paid to best practices in gender research, development of standardized indicators, methodology development, and capacity building for gender responsive R&D.

**Action: interim Consortium Office to prepare the TORs of the scoping study with inputs from IFPRI.**

The Board has not yet discussed the proposed platforms on Capacity Building and Strategic Planning and Intelligence.

#### 6. Next steps post-GCARD

The Consortium will adhere to the following timetable:

- From now until May 10, teams of scientists will finalize the SRF and develop 12-page descriptions of the MPs and in the case of MP1 and MP3 12-pages on the components listed above. In addition, proposals that are more detailed will be produced for the three MPs the Board has decided to fast track (more details on this later in the report).

**Action: Alliance**

In preparing the 12 pagers, the teams are asked to take on board the following decisions regarding the MP budget requests.

- Determine the activities in MPs that are already covered in the existing CGIAR budget (restricted and unrestricted) and what is not. This will help give a picture to the Fund and the Consortium Board on what the funding gaps are. Work out what funds are needed (the gaps) all along the delivery pathway and make a plan to address this.

**Action: teams developing the 12 pagers.**

- MPs should be developed based upon an ambitious funding scenario and other scenarios that step up the work over time if funds are not immediately available at the ambitious level.

**Action: teams developing the 12 pagers**

- Check that the \$250million mentioned as a likely amount to be invested by donors in the Fund in 2011 is a correct figure.

**Action: Fund Relations Task Force Consortium Board**

- In the absence of system financing plan coming from the donors, the Consortium should develop one; this will require input from the ADE-Finance.

**Action: ADE-Finance, in liaison with the interim Consortium Office**

- The Consortium Board should determine what the Consortium overhead will be that Centres will charge on their bilateral projects.

**Action: Consortium Board Chair with the interim Consortium Office**

- Given the renewed commitment for the development of MPs in 2010 arising from GCARD discussions, the Consortium Board Chair will send a letter to the Fund Office asking them to release funds (proposed \$3million) for MP development. Suggestion to include in this letter the rest of the 'asks' coming from the Consortium (e.g. the 2010 funding will not be less than

the funding for 2009); the urgency in getting the MP proposal assessment criteria from the ISPC.

**Action: interim Consortium Office**

- On May 10, the Consortium Board Science Task Force starts to review the SRF, the 12-pagers and the longer submissions for the three 'fast tracked' MPs, through the review processes it has designed, and prepare recommendations to the Consortium Board. The Task Force will determine the specific details of the processes and will inform the Centres as soon as possible.

**Action: Consortium Board Science Task Force**

- By May 24, the Consortium Board will made a decision concerning the SRF, the MP portfolio of the 12-page MP descriptions and the three 'fast tracked' MPs. Ideally the Consortium will approve the SRF and send this to the Funders Forum; approve the fast tracked MPs to go to the Fund Council, and give the green light to the further development of the Mega Program portfolio in which donors and stakeholders will have full participation in the development process.

*Fast Tracking:*

In view of donor's request for a few MPs to be fast tracked to provide them with concrete possibilities for funding in 2011, the Consortium Board decided that three MPs should be further developed as potential candidates for fast track treatment:

MP1 – Agricultural systems for the poor and vulnerable - the Consortium will take stock of the situation of the development of the different components at its May meeting and will assess which of its components can be fast tracked.

MP3 – Sustainable productivity increase for global food security – the Consortium expects to receive a proposal for rice that is fully in line with the criteria it has established

MP7 – Climate change and agriculture – the Consortium expects the Challenge Program to prepare a joint proposal with all interested Centres and through a large stakeholders' consultation

From May until October, the Consortium will establish a process for the development of the MPs in which all partners, stakeholders and donors will be invited to contribute their inputs.

By the third meeting of the Consortium Board, in early October, the Board will appraise progress and take decisions regarding those MPs that are ready for submission to the Fund Council for funding.

## **APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANT LIST**

### Consortium Board

Carlos Perez del Castillo (Chair)

Ganesan Balachander

### Centers and Challenge Programs

Marco Wopereis	AfricaRice (representing Engida Getachew)
Papa Seck	AfricaRice
Paul Zuckerman	BIOVERSITY
Emile Frison	BIOVERSITY
Ruben Echeverria	CIAT
N. Sanginga	CIAT
Andrew Bennett	CIFOR (Alliance Board Chair)
Frances Seymour	CIFOR
Julio Berdegúe	CIMMYT
Tom Lumpkin	CIMMYT
Pamela Anderson	CIP
Charles Crissman	CIP (ADE-SCIENCE)
Mahmoud Solh	ICARDA (Alliance Executive Chair)
Henri Carsalade	ICARDA
Willie Dar	ICRISAT
David Hoisington	ICRISAT (ADE-SCIENCE)
Michelle Veeman	IFPRI
Shenggen Fan	IFPRI
Bryan Harvey	IITA
Hartmann	IITA
Emmy Simmons	ILRI
Carlos Sere	ILRI
John McDermott	ILRI (ADE-SCIENCE)
Colin Chartres	IWMI
John Skerritt	IWMI
David Molden	IWMI (representing Colin Chartres and John Skerritt)
Jillian Lenne	IRRI
Bob Zeigler	IRRI
Dennis Garrity	WORLD AGROFORESTRY
Steven Hall	WORLD FISH
Remo Gautschi	WORLD FISH
Alain Vidal	CHALLENGE PROGRAM
Jean-Marcel Ribaut	CHALLENGE PROGRAM

### Interim Consortium Office

Anne-Marie Izac

Fiona Chandler