
Science Council Report to AGM08

- Rudy Rabbinge,
Science Council Chair



Science Council in Change

- monitoring and evaluation of relevance and quality of Center and Program research activities
- assessing the long term impacts of CGIAR and partner research
- identifying strategic issues and priorities for research and policy
- promote the mobilization of scientific linkages

Monitoring and evaluation (i)

- Medium Term Plans – *Transferred to Consortium*
 - Quality and utility of planning
 - Focus of research outputs
 - Follow up of EPMR recommendations
 - Standard structure - database
 - All MTPs submitted on-line in 2009
 - **Next year MTPs: Minor logframe adjustment only to 2010**
- External Reviews: ICRISAT, IRRI, Bioversity in progress. *EPMRs are being phased out, new models are being piloted, hindsight and foresight (e.g. CIMMYT review to be condu*



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Monitoring and evaluation (... ii)

- Contributed to changes in Challenge Programs
Completed the cycle of external reviews of 4 current CPs
Reviewed new CP proposals, provided technical comments to new Climate Change CP
- Provided commentary to Center Strategic Plans
Commentary to WorldAgroforestry, CIFOR, IWMI completed and well received. Now preparing commentary on CIAT's Strategic Directions
- Ongoing Stripe Review of Social Science in the CGIAR

Monitoring and evaluation (..iii)

- Performance Measurement system – *Will be transferred to the Consortium*
 - SC contributing to research-based indicators (Results)
 - Outputs: publications; capacity building and data management being developed
 - Outcomes: key indicator for use and adoption of Center results
 - Impact culture and commitment to documenting impact



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Impact Assessment

- Impact of CGIAR and partners in South Asia since the Green Revolution
 - Strategic guidance for ex-post IA of research
- reviews impacts that go beyond economic measures (i.e., environmental, social), positive & negative, direct & indirect
 - provides evidence that the CG has responded well to the agriculture's evolving needs
 - SPIA and Center focal points establish “best practice” guidelines (report and brief)



Policy-oriented research demonstrates positive impacts

- Collaborative inter-Center effort with SPIA to develop and apply innovative methods to document policy research impacts
- 7 case studies (BIOVERSITY, CIFOR, ICARDA, IFPRI, ILRI, IRRI, WORLDFISH) documented positive influence on policy
- 5 case studies estimated benefits of the policy change
 - Range of benefits from \$73M to \$248M (Σ \$750M)
 - One study able to estimate environmental benefits
 - None was able to estimate impacts on poverty

Impact Assessment (continued)

- Social and environmental impact indicators study
 - develop and apply qualitative and quantitative indicators to CGIAR research using economic/non-economic perspectives
- Center impact assessment focal point meeting in Brasilia (Nov, 2008)
 - knowledge sharing; collaborative impact activities; new methods & analyses
- Recent SPIA studies published in refereed journals in 2008
 - In: *Agricultural Systems, Evidence & Policy, Research Evaluation*

Strategic studies

- Ethics and the Mission of the CGIAR
 - A report of the final panel study on ethical issues underlying the mission and program design in the CGIAR
 - useful at this time of change
 - A report (and brief) including all three SC-sponsored studies of ethics
 - particularly for the attention of Center Boards
- Ethical challenges for the CGIAR



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Strategic studies (...ii)

- Biosafety workshop (convened by SC, IRRI and Bioversity) in April 2008
 - Workshop report and recommendations published (SC website). Timely linkage of Center and partner biosafety efforts for transgenic research
- Studies of IP stewardship and liability issues underway
 - The two studies will be combined (in early 2009) – vital for handling 3rd party IP in Centers and necessary for the further development of CGIAR IP guidelines by GRPC
- SC paper on Biofuels was published in May 2008
 - Academies of Science Declaration in preparation



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A Plan for Catalyzing the Mobilization of Science:

1. Strengthen linkages between the CGIAR, ARIs and emerging science providers
 2. Advance linkages between the CGIAR and funding agencies, NARS, NGOs and emerging R&D programs (e.g. AGRA)
 3. Increasing advocacy and visibility for the “Science for Development” mission of the CGIAR
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Science Forum 2009

- A Science forum is being organized by the Science Council with GFAR, Alliance of CGIAR Centers (ADE-Science) and ARIs to be held at Wageningen University, the Netherlands, June 16-17 2009
- A forward-looking event focusing on exploring new science partnerships; an input to the stakeholder Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (CARD)

Science Forum 2009: objectives

1. Review knowledge and innovation
2. Identify areas of rapid scientific innovation for development
3. Explore new modalities for collaboration, leveraging of resources and linkages for more development impact

Science Forum 2009: themes

- In choosing topics, the organisers will consult with stakeholders and seek to identify subjects :
 - i) that cut across the interest of many centres
 - ii) in a field where there are new scientific developments that have the potential to deliver development impacts
 - iii) in an area where the CGIAR can further its mission by better partnerships with scientists in ARIs, NARIs, etc.
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Science Council Membership

The SC welcomed three new members in 2008:

- *Gebisa Ejeta, Jeff Sayer*
and *Derek Byerlee* (as new Chair of SPIA)
- The SC acknowledges the contributions of *Jim Ryan* (former SPIA Chair) and *Mariza Barbosa*, who completed their terms in 2008.

Science Council in the Change Process

The proposed roles for an Independent Science and Partnership Council:

- Help set the CGIAR's strategic directions
- Promote the quality and relevance of science
- Catalyze linkages to global science
- Ensure accountability on overall system impacts
- Assess ex-ante the quality of science in programs and centers

Science Council in 2009, a year of transition for the CGIAR

- The SC looks forward to continue to work collaboratively with the transition team and to provide independent scientific advice and guidance to the development of a new strategic framework for the CGIAR and the formulation of new research programs
- Many original tasks will remain during the transition