



## CGIAR Independent Evaluation Arrangement

### Call for Expression of Interest [Generic]

#### Team Leader

### Evaluation of the CGIAR Research Programmes

#### Background

In the CGIAR agricultural research for development is implemented by 15 research Centers and their partners through CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs). The Strategy and Results Framework (SRF), approved in 2011, determines the CGIAR's comparative advantage in the context of international agricultural research and sets four high-level goals for the CGIAR research in the CRPs, termed System-Level Outcomes: reduction of rural poverty, increase in food security, improving nutrition and health, and more sustainable management of natural resources. An update of the SRF, forthcoming in early 2014, will elaborate on intermediate level outcome goals for the CRPs and include targets for outcome oriented planning. Thus, the SRF provides the broad rationale and content for CGIAR research for the development, implementation and evaluation of the CRPs.

The Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA) of the CGIAR is responsible for external evaluations of the CRPs. The first evaluation was that of the CGIAR Research Programme on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry. In 2014 the IEA plans to initiate evaluations of four CRPs, for which some generic information is given in the table below.

CRP	Lead-Center	2012 annual budget (US\$ million)	Key characteristics and focus
MAIZE	CIMMYT	74.2	The program carries on the long-term research on maize at CIMMYT and IITA. It aims at significantly improving the productivity, resilience and sustainability of maize-based farming systems thus contributing to farmer incomes and livelihood opportunities, without using more land, and as climates change and fertilizer, water and labor costs rise. The strategy is three-fold: sustainable intensification and income opportunities for the poor; new maize varieties for the poor; and integrated post-harvest management.
WHEAT	CIMMYT	40.7	The program carries on the long-term research on wheat at CIMMYT and ICARDA. It aims at building on the input, strength, and collaboration of public and private sector partners to catalyze and head an emergent, highly-distributed, virtual global wheat innovation network that will improve the productivity of wheat farming systems, address the global threat of stem rust disease, and help wheat farmers in developing countries grow their crops in hotter conditions with less water and less fertilizer.

Policies, Institutions and Markets	IFPRI	75.1	The CRP aims at overcoming challenges and failures that prevent effective functioning of policies, institutions and markets that are needed to improve the supply of key public goods and services, direct incentives towards agriculture, help stabilizing food prices, and strengthen relationships that create wealth. The program also addresses macroeconomic dimensions, environmental inputs and outcomes, and important enabling conditions and aims at improving the quality of the policy environment through improved observation and metrics. The CRP builds on prior IFPRI research.
Aquatic Agriculture Systems	WorldFish	20.1	The CRP aims at fostering innovation and innovation capacity of the poor and vulnerable that depend upon aquatic agricultural systems to be better able to improve their own well-being in the face of opportunities and challenges. The CRP represents largely a new research agenda in the CGIAR that uses a demand-driven gender approach and operates through participatory action research. It aims at establishing effective learning and partnership arrangements that can lead to impact at multiple scales.

At this mid-term phase of programme implementation, the CRP evaluation approach will be formative and forward-looking reviewing inter alia, progress made so far towards results, gender mainstreaming, governance and partnership aspects as well as other innovative modalities of work introduced with the Reform. Depending on the extent to which each CRP builds on earlier research done particularly at the lead-center, the evaluations will be able to assess past performance, outcomes and impacts to provide accountability for the investments to-date.

In the next two years the IEA plans to evaluate a total of 10 CRPs.<sup>1</sup> The results of the evaluations are expected to provide inputs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> call of CRP proposals for funding in 2016 contributing both to program proposal development and generating evaluative information for the appraisal of the proposals.

The evaluations will cover all research activities of the CRPs and the processes related to these activities. The evaluation period regarding the CRPs is from 2011 to the time of the evaluation but includes also those planning and research activities preceding the formulation of the CRPs that are an integral part of the programme.

This is a generic call for expression of interest for Team Leaders of the forthcoming CRP evaluations particularly those planned to start in 2014. A generic description of the tasks and requirements is given below as well as generic qualifications for a CRP evaluation Team Leader.

### The Evaluation

The evaluations are scheduled to take place between March- April 2014 and early 2015, with an intensive phase for the conduct of the evaluation foreseen starting in May 2014.

<sup>1</sup> Further five CRPs will be evaluated by the IEA in 2015-16: Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (lead center CIAT); Livestock and Fish (lead center ILRI); Land, Water and Ecosystems (lead center IWMI); Roots, Tubers and Bananas (lead center CIP); Global Rice Science Partnership (lead center IRRI).

The work will be conducted by a team of independent experts led by a Team Leader. The methodology will include various tools, among which visits to implementing Centres and relevant field sites are important.

Comprehensive Terms of Reference are currently being prepared by the IEA in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The IEA Office is looking for **Team Leaders** who will be responsible for leading the evaluations with the support of a team of experts. The Team Leader will work closely with the evaluation manager (either the Head or a senior staff member of the IEA) and IEA research assistant who will provide support to the team.

The Team Leader's tasks will include:

- participation in the identification of the evaluation team members;
- preparation of the inception report;
- guidance and coordination of the team's analysis and work;
- interviews with key stakeholders in the CGIAR Centers, donors, partners and any other institution considered relevant;
- substantive technical lead to the overall analysis, findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation for providing an assessment based on all the available information from documents, desk reviews, surveys, interviews, in accordance with the inception report.
- preparation of the report outline, coordination of the inputs provided by the team members, preparation of the draft evaluation report;
- prepare a comprehensive evaluation report;
- present the report through different means and in different fora to key stakeholders.

The assignment of the Team Leader will require approximately 80-90 working days, including travel and work at home-station, spread over a period of 9-11 months from start of the CRP evaluation.

The tentative stages for a CRP evaluation with estimated time requirement are as follows:

- An inception phase (10 to 15 days) with the objective of defining the scope of the evaluation, clarifying the analytical frameworks, developing the methodological tools; preparation of an inception report;
- Collection and analysis of information (45 to 50 days) including center visits and field travel;
- Report drafting and final consultation with stakeholders (25 to 30 days).

#### **Essential Qualifications of the Team Leader**

- Strong academic background in area relevant to the CGIAR's operations;
- Extensive Evaluation experience of complex programmes, including research, at international level;
- Extensive and proven experience as a team leader;
- Excellent understanding and knowledge of the international debate on the key issues related to the CRP to be evaluated;
- Good knowledge of the main international institutions and mechanisms involved in the areas of research and development that are focus of the CRP to be evaluated;
- Excellent writing skills in English and good verbal communication skills.

#### **Desirable Qualifications**

- Experience in managing major research programmes involving policy aspects;

- Knowledge of the CGIAR.

The Team Leader will not have had any contractual relationship with the CGIAR since 2008 that would bear any consequence on the CGIAR's work and performance the area of activity of the CRPs to be evaluated.

### **Application Process**

Interested persons should send their application by **15 December, 2013**, to the email address [CGIAR-IEA-opportunities@fao.org](mailto:CGIAR-IEA-opportunities@fao.org).

Applications should be composed of the applicant's detailed Curriculum Vitae, and should include:

- Specification of the CRP or CRPs for which the applicant wishes to be considered as evaluation Team Leader;
- Elaboration of experience in evaluation;
- Information on sex, age, and nationality;
- Expected daily fee rate (exclusive of travel expenses);<sup>2</sup>
- Availability between March 2014 to April 2015 (for the first four CRP evaluations).

---

<sup>2</sup>Applicants will be required to provide evidence of rates on previous employment