

Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting (Online) of the  
CRP-GLDC Independent Advisory Committee (GLDC-IAC)

Date: 15 June 2020

Time: 4 to 5 PM (IST)

Venue: BlueJeans Video Conference

Attendance

S. No.	Name	Role in GLDC-IAC
1	Dr Etienne Hainzelin, Advisor to the President of CIRAD and Visiting Professor EDIM, University of Ottawa	Chair
2	Dr Jacqueline Hughes, Director General, ICRISAT	Member
3	Dr May-Guri Saethre, Deputy Director General - Research for Development (R4D), IITA	Member
4	Dr Ravi Prabhu, Deputy Director General – Research, ICRAF	Member
5	Dr Jacques Wery, Deputy Director General – Research, ICARDA	Member
6	Dr Herve Thieblemont, Regional Seed Business Development Lead, Asia and Mekong region Director, Syngenta Foundation	Member
7	Dr Michael Battaglia, Research Director, Agriculture And Global Change, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Member
8	Dr Mariame Maiga, Regional Adviser Gender and Social Development, West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development CORAF/WECARD	Member
9	Dr Jane Ininda, Associate Program Director, Emerging Initiatives, AGRA	Member
10	Dr Kiran Sharma, Director, CRP-GLDC and Deputy Director General (Research), ICRISAT	Secretary, IAC

Apologies:

11	Dr Geoffrey Heinrich, Senior Technical Advisor, Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment, Catholic Relief Services	Member
12	Dr Uma Sah, Principal Scientist (Agcl. Extension), ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR)	Member

## **The following agenda items were discussed:**

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Dr Etienne Hainzelin, Chair, welcomed Dr Jacqueline Hughes, Director General, ICRISAT to the CRP-GLDC IAC and requested for a round of introduction.

The Chair opened the meeting and the agenda of the meeting was adopted by the IAC.

The minutes of the fourth GLDC-IAC meeting which was held on 25 and 26 November 2019, were endorsed by the IAC.

### **2. GLDC update**

Dr Kiran Sharma provided an update to the IAC members on the progress made since the last meeting in November 2019. The presentation covered the following topics:

- Annual Report 2019
- PoWB 2020
- SMO FinPlan 2020
- Innovation Fund 2020
- FP6: Common Bean
- Performance Management Review by CGIAR Advisory Services (CAS)
- Mid-term review of plan of work: COVID-19 Risk Impact Assessment

### **3. Update on ONE CGIAR Reform**

Dr Hughes gave an update on the efforts being made by System Management Office (SMO) relating to ONE CGIAR Reforms process. The focus is on value for money, avoid duplication, streamlining, more time for science leaders to conduct research, coordination in-country, Transition Consultation Forum (TCF), Technical Advisory Groups (TAG), unified governance. CRPs will move into big lift projects, which will comprise only W1/W2 funding. W3 may be the money earner as major donors such as USIAD, BMGF are contributing through W3.

Dr Wery mentioned that there are discussion meeting planned between TAG group, donors, science leaders this week, which will provide more clarity at the end of June as to how the future projects will look like and how they will combine regional projects and global capabilities.

Dr Hainzelin informed the members for their interest that as part of ONE CGIAR reforms, following the workshop in 2019 in Montpellier, there has been discussion between CIRAD, CIFOR and other CGIAR and non-CGIAR partners to launch the first study on "socio-economic viability of agroecological practices in SSA". Dr Hainzelin will share two CNs on agroecological transition; one describing the general platform and the describing the first research project. Besides the French funding, European commission, SDS from Switzerland, ACIAR from Australia are considering funding this proposal.

*The following concerns were raised by the members as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and ONE CGIAR reforms:*

- a. What are we doing how we are allowing for the COVID-19 disruptions to our work plan given that we don't know the trajectory of what's going to happen in many countries over the next 6 to 12 months?
- b. Since GLDC started a year later and ending a year earlier, is there a possibility to postpone/extend some of the activities to 2021 and 2022 and even beyond 2022 to achieve the outcomes and the impact that GLDC was supposed to deliver but will not be able to due to the shortened duration and disruptions of the COVID-19.
- c. Has CRP-GLDC has been affected by the shift in funding that recently took place where some donors moving their funds across to other research areas? If yes, how this will impact CRP-GLDC moving forward?
- d. CRPs will be given few more months to wind up in 2022 but that will only be for the purpose of reporting. It is important to have a strategy for the closure of CRP-GLDC in 2021. There is a need to prioritize research activities due to the impact of COVID-19 and ONE CGIAR reforms, and to start planning to position some of the flagship/activities for the continuation beyond 2021.

In response to the concerns raised by the members, Dr Sharma mentioned that the PMU will conduct a mid-term review of plan of work in July 2020 and based on the outcome of this review, necessary steps will be taken to mitigate the risks imposed by the disruptions due to COVID-19 and uncertainties emerging because of the ONE CGIAR reforms. We will continue to follow discussions around the One CGIAR to project the philosophy, activities and outcomes from CRP-GLDC as the best bet for future investments.

#### **4. AOB**

**a. Next IAC meeting**

The chair enquired about the schedule of the next IAC meeting. Dr Sharma indicated that the plan was to organise the in-person meeting during the science week sometime in October/November, which may not be possible this year due to the global situation of COVID-19 and restrictions around travels. However, PMU will plan to have an online meeting in October 2020.

The Chair proposed to schedule the meeting for 3 hours for more strategic discussions, especially on interactions between IAC members and FP leaders and Cross-cutting Focal Points, which couldn't take place because of the unexpected arrival of COVID-19. As discussed in the last IAC meeting, it has been proposed that each member of the IAC has offered to interact with specific FPs to provide guidance and suggestions. Dr Sharma agreed to revive the interaction between IAC and FP leaders and cross-cutting focal points after the mid-term review in July 2020 when we will have a better understanding of any mid-term corrections that would be necessary due to interruption on account of the prevailing COVID-19 situation. Dr Sharma proposed to plan an interactive session with FP leaders and Cross-cutting Focal Points during the next IAC meeting.

It was unanimously agreed to hold the next GLDC-IAC meeting online in October 2020. PMU will create a doodle poll to finalise the date and time.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.