

Cluster level information for POWB - 2019

DI1.1 – RTB Breeding Community of Practice

OUTPUTS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED (1 OR 2)

Output code - Title	Description available in MEL is clear and complete	End date is 2018	Major risks that may hinder the delivery of results ¹	Main source of funding	Means of verification
DI1.1.3.1- Protocols and trait dictionaries for agronomy variables for the RTB crops documented, aligned, formatted and available in Crop-Ontology platform for RTB trial management systems	Yes – particularly for Deliverable 7057, the PhenoHarmonIs workshop	Yes	Minimal other than standard global crises	RTB Earmarked type 1 and 3	Workshop report, databases
DI 1.1.3.2. Trait dictionary and ontology with gender-responsive scoring for Participatory variety selection (PVS) for RTB crops is available in the Crop-Ontology platform for use by RTB trial management systems	Yes.	While final date is 2019, several deliverables are scheduled for 2018, which nicely highlight gender responsive elements of PVS	Minimal other than standard global crises	RTB + others including NextGen cassava, BBB, RTBFoods	Datasets + brief reports

¹ Focus on technical or geographic considerations.



OUTCOMES TO BE HIGHLIGHTED (1 OR 2)

The cluster is increasingly serving its function of bringing the RTB Breeding CoP and partners together, and serves as a locus for interaction across crops, flagships and partners, and is thus contributing to enhanced genetic gains (Outcome 1.1). The current milestone for this outcome may be modified to reflect contributions of this cluster by including a mention of quality traits. I think we will be able to mention clear examples of clonal crop improvement for quality traits across crops (highlighting RTBFoods and interactions it has brought about), and, of course, engagement with EiB (majorly focused on processes for improving effectiveness of breeding programs in achieving our targets) and the portfolio of products and the ways they are contributing to achievement of this outcome.

We will also want to highlight the ways that the cluster contributes to outcome 1.4 (Climate resilience). This cannot go without a mention at the Flagship level.

And we must come back to the contribution of this cluster to 1.5 (Outcome 1.5: Collaboration for more effective breeding enhanced through a breeding community of practices including at least 40 stakeholders in 10 countries). The milestone seems adequate, but the indicator of having the Cluster mentioned in relevant partner reports may not be so easy to achieve as people often forget to mention their partners, benefactors, etc. in their rush to self-promotion and survival. But across the cluster, there will be evidence (including engagement with BPAT and EiB under outputs DI1.1.1.4 and DI1.1.2.1), the reincarnated web portal (and its participants), publications, workshop reports, that serve as indicators of this.

MAIN CHANGES IN THE LOGIC OF THE CLUSTER AND AREAS OF WORK THAT WILL BE DISCONTINUED

There are no real changes to the logic of the cluster – only areas where the cluster appears strong and others which seem to need attention. In fact, I feel satisfied that the cluster is getting increasingly used/populated. I will update the state of the cluster report which I provided last year, but am pressed for time right now, so just include key mentions and notes on developments and plans.

During the planning process, I added name to the leadership of each cluster so that I could facilitate additions /changes in the MEL as necessary. This is not ideal, and a broader engagement of CoP members would ideally be contributing to these processes. We will change as interest arises. Further, I will be retiring (reluctantly) from CIP at age 65 in June of 2019, so clearly some planning for this transition – if there is to be one – needs to occur at the RTB and Flagship level.

DI1.1.1. Partnership strategies and knowledge sharing portal (Ferguson+Carey)

- Portal in the process of being resuscitated in a more accessible way, including communication platform (Slack) (Trushar to assist with this key deliverable)
- Also the entry point (DI1.1.1.4) for engaging with EiB through sharing center/program responses to BPATs in terms of developing improvement plans.



DI 1.1.2. Metrics and monitoring tools for RTB breeding (Carey+Kulakow)

- This is where the product profiles coming out of our programs can be shared/considered (DI1.1.2.1).

DI 1.1.3. RTB Breeding Databases Support Systems (Arnaud+Carey)

- This is a robust and popular Product which provides locus for CoP engagement through trait ontologies and tools, engagement with other flagships through ontologies, and other initiatives such as big data.

DI 1.1.4. Cross-learning and scalable methods for clonal crop breeding and variety selection (Ceballos+Carey).

- This Product is finally starting to get a little more populated. In particular, potato breeders from CIP-China/Asia have decided to populate output DI1.1.4.3. We have added an output for citizen science (DI1.1.4.4), and hopefully, with increasing interest in themes related to heterosis exploitation in clone hybrids and resource allocation (genetic gain / USD invested) we will have more people practicing here.

DI 1.1.5. Scaling strategy for more effective use of populations and elite breeding lines (Ceballos+Carey)

- This Product is quite inactive, but may well soon also present a valuable point of focus for this important topic.

NEW KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Partner	Brief description of collaboration and value added*
Tools for Polyploid Crops (David Byrne Texas A&M U. and others)	This collaboration has the potential for providing valuable resources and opportunities for RTB Breeding CoP and EiB platforms. David Byrne asked for letters of commitment as he puts together a proposal to USDA to develop a CoP for polyploid crops. I think that an indication of interest in this coming from our CoP will be useful to him and to the consortium of US and WUR partners that they have put together for this project.

*e.g. scientific or efficiency benefits in achieving expected results

NEW INTERNAL (CGIAR) COLLABORATIONS AMONG PROGRAMS AND BETWEEN THE PROGRAM AND PLATFORMS

Name of CRP or Platform	Brief description of collaboration (give and take among CRPs) and value added*
Excellence in Breeding platform	This has become very important in 2018 and will presumably continue to be important in 2019 and beyond.
Big Data	Interaction particularly around ontologies and data management
CCAFS	This may be strengthened through adoption of the ClimMob tool for crowd sourcing/citizen science (which was developed by Bioversity with support of CCAFS), and will now be adapted for use by RTB Breeding programs.

*e.g. scientific or efficiency benefits