

**Representation of the Alliance of CGIAR Centers
on ExCo and at AGMs
Issues Note**

Background

1. All CGIAR Business is conducted consistent with the CGIAR Charter, approved by Members on October 28, 2004. The current arrangements for CBC and CDC (Alliance) representation on ExCo and at AGMs described below is spelled out in the Charter.
2. At AGM05, during discussion of formation of the Alliance, the question was raised as to whether the Alliance should have two representatives (CBC/CDC Chairs) on ExCo and four (CBC Chair and Vice Chair, and CDC Chair and incoming Chair) at the AGM Business Meeting, as the Centers did before they formed the Alliance.
3. The CGIAR decided, "Change in Alliance membership on ExCo and representation at AGM will be carefully analyzed and discussed by ExCo before a proposal (if any) is made to the CGIAR."
4. Following adoption of the Alliance Principles and Procedures by all 15 Center Boards, the issue was further discussed at ExCo 10 (May 2006). ExCo concluded that, "Alliance membership on ExCo and representation at AGM will be addressed by ExCo either at ExCo 11 or virtually, following preparation of a short issues paper by the CGIAR Secretariat."
5. This paper is in response to ExCo's request.

Alliance Representation on ExCo and Attendance at AGMs

6. As per the Charter, "ExCo is a committee of shareholders, expanded to include stakeholders, incorporating perspectives from all components of the CGIAR System." Currently, membership consists of (a) non-rotating members, including the Chairs of CBC and CDC (now the Alliance Board (AB) and Alliance Executive (AE), respectively), and (b) rotating members representing geographic and functional constituencies.¹
7. The AGM Business Meeting is open to the CBC Chair and Vice Chair, and the current and incoming CDC Chair. In addition, all Board Chairs and Directors General of CGIAR Centers are invited to attend as observers.²

¹ CGIAR Charter, November 2004.

² Ibid.

Issues for Consideration

8. The Alliance consists of four components: the 15 CGIAR Centers, Alliance Board (Board Chairs of Centers), Alliance Executive (Directors General of Centers), and Alliance Office. According to the Alliance Principles and Procedures, the Centers have decided “to work as a collective,” and to abide by the decisions of the Alliance regarding all collective actions.³
9. All 15 CGIAR Centers have voluntarily ratified the Alliance Principles and Procedures and agreed to abide by its decisions. The former CBC and CDC have therefore been consolidated under a single umbrella of the Alliance. However, the division of the oversight function of AB (formerly CBC) and the implementation/managerial function of AE (formerly the CDC) is *internal* to the Alliance. External to the Alliance, Centers have agreed to speak with “a collective, unified voice.”⁴
10. In view of the changes that have taken place, it is important for Alliance representation at both ExCo and AGM to reflect the spirit of the newly constituted structure of the Alliance. The following three options could be considered to reflect these changes:
 - Option 1: No change to current practice, i.e., 2 ExCo Reps. and 4 AGM Attendees (AB Chair/Vice Chair and AE Chair/Incoming Chair)
 - Option 2: 1 ExCo Representative 1 AGM Attendee
 - Option 3: 1 ExCo Representative 2 AGM Attendees
11. In keeping with the structure of the Alliance, our recommendation is for Option 2 above, where the Alliance would have a single representative on ExCo and at AGM that speaks on behalf of the Alliance. Similar to other representational seats on ExCo, the Alliance would decide internally who will occupy the seat, and the views and concerns of the constituency (i.e., the four components of the Alliance) would be conveyed through its representative on ExCo and at AGM.
12. The practice of the AB Vice Chair and incoming AE Chair also attending the AGM Business Meeting should be discontinued, since there is need for only a single person to occupy each seat at the meeting. They could attend the meeting as observers along with other Directors General and Board Chairs. This would be in alignment with the practice of CGIAR Members having only one representative at the table, and other members of the delegation attending as observers.
13. Any changes approved on this matter would be reflected in the CGIAR Charter.

³ Alliance Principles and Procedures, April 27, 2006.

⁴ Ibid.