

Science Council guidance to preparation of Challenge Program Concept Notes, Pre-proposals and Full-Proposals.

The SC will apply the four broad criteria published by the CGIAR System office in its November 2006 call for CP concept notes. The SC considers the first criterion to be of overwhelming importance. The subsequent three criteria will apply to concept notes that fulfill the first. To facilitate the application of the criteria, the SC elaborates here a number of key dimensions under each criterion.

1. Is aligned with CGIAR-approved System Priorities, and either
 - addresses one of the 20 System Priorities. Emphasis in this call will be given to proposals addressing the following System Priorities: Increasing income from fruit and vegetables (3A) and markets and rural institutions (5B/C). This does not exclude the subjects being considered in any subsequent calls.
 - or advances SP research on a globally significant issue through a cross-cutting approach, such as climate change or agriculture and human health.
2. Addresses an issue of overwhelming significance. The issue addressed can be global, regional or sub-regional in importance
 - The program rationale is solid: problem-focus is provided and key issues are identified
 - Research objectives are reasonably defined
 - Competence and comparative advantage of CGIAR Centers and partners are highlighted
 - Program design provides evidence of synergy and significance added through complementary partnerships
3. Fits within the CGIAR mission and goals
 - Strong links to poverty alleviation, food security and environmental sustainability
 - Generates international public goods
4. Is likely to generate significant outputs and impact
 - A time frame is given and exit strategy built into the concept note
 - Tangible outputs appear realistic within the designated CP time frame
 - The number, range and depth of partnerships are described and appear appropriate for the topic under consideration thus improving the probability of successful outcomes.

At the pre-proposal stage, the SC will give particular importance to how well the proposed research is likely to provide deliverable research results that are relevant to the specific System Priority sub-goals and are international public goods by nature. The SC will also assess the proposal's merits regarding: Relevance to CGIAR goals and impact, Quality of science, CGIAR partnerships and stakeholder involvement, and Magnitude and evidence of financial and resource support.

At the full-proposal stage the SC will assess the proposal's merits regarding: Relevance of the expected outputs, Quality of science and qualifications of the research team, Strategy for utilizing and applying results, Collaborative arrangements and beneficiaries involvement in research, Governance and management, Performance evaluation and impact analysis, and Budget and finance.