

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
**INTERIM SCIENCE COUNCIL**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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DRAFT  
PR 3/11.1 CP

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Dear Ian,

On behalf of the Interim Science Council (iSC), I am pleased to transmit to you and the Executive Council (ExCo) members the attached report on the assessment of the 41 challenge programme (CP) concept notes in the **regular CP process**.

As in the **Pilot Phase**, the iSC adopted a modified Delphi approach in our assessment of the concept notes. In the first round of assessments, the iSC members quickly gravitated towards 18 candidate CP concept notes, which received favourable endorsements from several members. After further deliberation and e-mail exchanges, the iSC agreed to narrow down the list and consequently unanimously identified 13 CP concept notes.

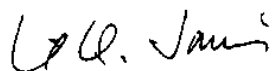
It is my honour therefore to endorse for the ExCo's consideration these 13 CP notes which in our judgement fully meet the criteria established by the Group for ideas/themes around which CP should be built: they address issues of overwhelming significance; they fit within the CGIAR mission and goals, and they are very likely to generate significant output and impact.

As the report notes, the iSC was impressed with the range of submissions. A good number of concept notes came from non-traditional partners of the CGIAR from the North and the South, thus accomplishing in part the rationale for challenge programmes as a way of opening up the System to fresh ideas and to new partners.

On behalf of the iSC, I express our appreciation to the proponents for their fine and enthusiastic effort in support of the CGIAR reform process.

Finally, I wish to express my grateful thanks to the iSC members and the iSC Secretariat staff for completing the whole task in virtual mode in a most expeditious manner.

Yours sincerely,



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CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Interim SCIENCE COUNCIL

**Assessment of Challenge Programme Concept Notes**

**The Regular Process**

Interim SCIENCE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

February 2002

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## ***Summary and Recommendations***

*The Interim Science Council (iSC) assessed 41 challenge programme (CP) concept notes in the **regular CP process** as requested by the CGIAR Executive Council (ExCo). Among the 41 concept notes, 35 were fresh submissions in response to the open call made on 15 November 2001, and 6 were carried over from the **pilot CP process**.*

*The iSC applied an evaluation process which took into account the three broad criteria approved by the CGIAR at AGM 2001. The iSC used a modified Delphi approach to reach its decision which involved each iSC member evaluating all 41 concept notes in two rounds of e-mail discussions and exchange of views.*

*The iSC considers that the following 13 CP concept notes, not necessarily in ranked order, fully meet the criteria set for a CP concept note and **recommends** them to the ExCo for pre-proposal development.*

*Development of sustainable agricultural production systems in Central Asia & the Caucasus*  
*Reducing poverty by removing market barriers caused by animal diseases*  
*Securing livestock genetic resources for present and future food security*  
*Increasing productivity in the coastal zone*  
*Beating the heat: Climate change and rural prosperity*  
*Harnessing global IPM initiatives*  
*Urban harvest: A challenge programme on urban and peri-urban agriculture*  
*Agriculture, poverty and combating desertification*  
*Improving livelihoods and natural resources management in Sub-Saharan Africa*  
*The rainforest challenge: Forests as resources for the poor*  
*Agricultural biodiversity for sustainable development*  
*Biological nitrogen fixation*  
*Sustainable mountain development*

*Brief comments on each of the above concept notes are provided in the report.*

*The iSC **recommends** further that in the call for pre-proposals for the successful concept notes/ideas, the proponents be advised to define clearly their research objectives, the proposed methodologies, their expected outputs and the linkages between the research outputs and the expected impacts.*

*With regard to the rest of the concept notes with interesting and relevant ideas but which do not meet the minimum criteria for stand alone CPs, the iSC proposes that they should be drawn to the attention of the proponents of CP proposals under preparation, and to the Systemwide and inter-centre programmes for their consideration, as appropriate.*

## 1. Introduction

Following the CGIAR AGM 2001, the Executive Council (ExCo) at its first meeting agreed to launch a **regular process** for new challenge programmes (CP) in parallel with the accelerated **pilot process** in which 10 CP concept notes and pre-proposals were formally accepted as submitted. On 15 November 2001, an open call was made for new concept notes (Phase 1) to be submitted to the interim Science Council (iSC) by 15 January 2002. ExCo requested the iSC to evaluate the CP concept notes based on the criteria approved by the Group and recommend to ExCo by mid-February 2002 those that should be considered for pre-proposal development.

A total of 35 new CP concept notes were submitted by 15 January 2002. In addition, six CP concept notes carried over from the pilot process were included for evaluation alongside the 35 new concept notes. Thus, iSC proceeded to analyse the concept notes submitted for 41CP candidates as listed in Annex 1.

The evaluation process applied by the iSC is described in Section 2. The outcome of the iSC evaluations is summarised in Section 3. An overall assessment on all concept notes is given in Section 3.1 and comments on each of the 13 CP concept notes recommended for pre-proposal development are given in Section 3.2. The report ends with few concluding remarks in Section 4.

## 2. The Evaluation Process

The iSC applied the three broad criteria approved at AGM 2001. To facilitate the application of the criteria, the iSC decided to elaborate a number of key dimensions under each criterion as shown below by the bullet points in italics.

- (i) **Addresses an issue of overwhelming significance. Issue addressed can be global, regional or sub-regional in importance:**
  - *Sufficiently problem-focused and key issues are identified*
  - *research objectives are reasonably defined*
  - *competence and comparative advantage of CGIAR Centres and partners are highlighted.*
- (ii) **Fits within the CGIAR mission and goals:**
  - *strong links to poverty alleviation, food security and environmental sustainability*
  - *generates international public goods*
- (iii) **Is likely to generate significant outputs and impact:**
  - *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.*

The iSC adopted a modified Delphi approach to reach its decision. This involved each iSC member evaluating all 41 concept notes in two rounds of e-mail discussions and exchange of views among iSC members. One of the iSC members served as moderator.

The first round involved each iSC member sorting out the 41 concept notes into 4 classes:

Class A -- Recommended, fully meets the three criteria.

Class B -- For further study, meets criteria but not outstanding; concept too limited to stand alone; may be integrated into other CPs and/or system-wide programmes and inter-centre activities.

Class C -- Not recommended, fails to meet the criteria.

Class D -- No opinion.

For each concept note, the iSC member was requested to provide comments justifying the choices, particularly for Class A concept notes. The comments and scores submitted by the iSC members were analysed and returned to all members for their information.

In the second round of e-mail discussions, the iSC members were asked to pay more attention to those concept notes numbering 18 which had already received favourable endorsements from several members.

Comments from the iSC members were consolidated into brief commentaries.

### **3. Assessments**

As a result of two rounds of e-mail discussions and exchange of views, the iSC unanimously identified, for pre-proposal development, 13 CP concept notes which fully meet the above criteria. As the assessment focussed on whether a concept note met the criteria or not, the iSC did not necessarily rank one concept note against another amongst the 13 CPs.

It should be recognized that the criteria were applied to the concept notes as they were submitted. There was considerable variation in the way they were prepared, in the degree of focus, the science they reflected and in the detail of partnerships. Therefore, the selected concept notes do not represent in full measure the relative potential or importance of the problem area for the CGIAR as the iSC might eventually suggest as more complete proposals are developed.

An overall assessment of all the 41 concept notes is presented in Section 3.1, and comments on each of the 13 CP concept notes are presented in Section 3.2.

#### **3.1 Overall Assessment**

The main conclusions of the iSC with regard to the assessment of the 41 CP concept notes are as follows:

- (i) The iSC was impressed with the range of submissions but notes that the quality of submissions is variable. Submissions varied in length from a quarter of a page to several pages. A good number of concept notes came from non-traditional partners of the CGIAR from the North and the South, thus accomplishing in part the rationale for

challenge programmes as a way of opening up the System to fresh ideas and to new partners.

As would be expected from an open, unrestricted call for ideas, there were instances of overlapping and duplication. Some of the proposals, although potentially relevant, were rather limited in scope and could very well be accommodated in the broader CP proposals under preparation or folded into some of the existing Systemwide programmes and inter-centre activities.

(ii) **The iSC recommends for pre-proposal development the following 13 CP concept notes, not necessarily in ranked order.**

- *Development of sustainable agricultural production systems in Central Asia and the Caucasus*
- *Reducing poverty by removing market barriers caused by animal diseases*
- *Securing livestock genetic resources for present and future food security*
- *Increasing productivity in the coastal zone*
- *Beating the heat: Climate change and rural prosperity*
- *Harnessing global IPM initiatives*
- *Urban harvest: A challenge programme on urban and peri-urban agriculture*
- *Agriculture, poverty and combating desertification*
- *Improving livelihoods and natural resources management in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- *The rainforest challenge: Forests as resources for the poor*
- *Agricultural biodiversity for sustainable development*
- *Biological nitrogen fixation*
- *Sustainable mountain development*

The iSC believes that these CPs fully satisfy the broad criteria for CP concept notes: they address issues of overwhelming significance; fit within the CGIAR mission and goals; and are likely to generate significant output and impact.

(iii) **The iSC recommends further that in the call for pre-proposals for the successful concept notes/ideas, the proponents be advised to define clearly their research objectives, the proposed methodologies, their expected outputs and the linkages between the research outputs and the expected impacts.**

A well-defined hypothesis; the expected value added from the CP; reasons why they believe the CP could make a difference where previous efforts have been found wanting will enhance the attractiveness of a CP for CGIAR and external donor support.

This lack of clarity has been observed as a common deficiency of the pre-proposals in the previous pilot phase.

(iv) With regard to the rest of the concept notes with interesting and relevant ideas but which do not meet the minimum criteria for stand alone CPs, the iSC proposes that they should be drawn to the attention of the proponents of CP proposals under

preparation, and to the Systemwide and inter-centre programmes for their consideration, as appropriate.

### **3.2 *Comments on Individual CP Concept Notes***

#### **3.2.1 *Development of Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC)***

The proposed CP is relevant and timely as it addresses the problems of increased poverty, decreased agricultural productivity and increased food insecurity in a region that is going through rapid economic and social transition. There are significant numbers of poor people in the CAC who would clearly benefit from the improved agricultural technologies, policies and institutions that this expects to generate. The CP builds upon a regional collaborative programme which has benefited from extensive consultations among the CGIAR Centres active in the region and their NARS partners.

The concept note outlines broad programme thrusts without specifying the critical research and capacity building efforts that are needed to provide a solid scientifically focussed framework around which the regional research and development collaborative programme could be built. In developing the pre-proposal, the proponents may want to give particular attention to sharpening the priorities and focus; defining specific research objectives and outputs within a realistic time frame; specifying research hypotheses; describing the scientific methods under each programme theme; and elaborating on the comparative advantages of the respective partners involved. The global CP for a region should provide, in other words, a focused research base and framework upon which other smaller efforts can be built rather than providing "core" funding for a large general effort.

#### **3.2.2 *Reducing Poverty by Removing Market Barriers Caused by Animal Diseases***

The main argument for this CP revolves around the benefits that are expected to accrue to poor livestock farmers in developing countries with better access to world livestock trade. This simplistic view needs further elaboration and analysis. Nevertheless, the broad objectives, if achieved, have the potential to be extremely beneficial to small animal producers in raising productivity, reducing losses due to diseases and improving their access to domestic trade. The concept note has benefited from substantial stakeholder involvement in identifying general problem issues and the level of expertise amongst the partners involved--actual and potential--is indeed high. Overall, the concept note has considerable merit.

The proposed CP has considerable potential from a number of perspectives but a number of key issues require clarification and amplification in the pre-proposal. Particular attention should be given to clearly defining the research objectives, hypotheses, supporting information and arguments, and specific research questions. The biological components of the concept note are, in particular, overly general. Further, there is a need to clearly define the nature of the partnership including the division of responsibilities.

#### **3.2.3 *Securing Livestock Genetic Resources for Present and Future Food Security***

The concept note addresses an issue of overwhelming global importance and provides a clear problem and goal focus. The performance, adaptation and disease resistance of the vast majority of world's livestock breeds has not been systematically recorded. The development

of global databases of livestock phenotypes and genetic diversity and the development of valuation methods and decision aides for optimisation of resource allocation are the major primary IPG outputs expected from this initiative.

The objectives of the proposed CP are clearly laid out in the concept note and are central to the CGIAR mission focused on poverty alleviation and food security. Ultimately, this research is expected to lead to the development of improved livestock genotypes with enhanced productivity and adaptation to reduce risk for poor farmers. The fact that the poorest households--and particularly women within them--derive a proportionately higher share of their income from livestock activities implies that the impact from this research will preferentially benefit the poor. Activities proposed will complement and integrate with the FAO-led state of the world review of livestock genetic resources. Strong support from FAO enhances credibility and likelihood of success. This concept note could be merged with other concept notes addressing the same or related topics, e.g., #10 Conservation of domesticated animal resources, and #11 Characterization of Latin American cattle.

#### ***3.2.4 Increasing Productivity in the Coastal Zone***

The concept note addresses urgent issues of global significance for a set of threatened resource bases and livelihood systems that depend on them. The issues, already highlighted by international conventions, are of a scale that requires an integrated challenge programme approach. The CGIAR has not devoted sufficient resources to this type of integrated approach to resource management and development for coastal habitats that accommodate major portions of world's poor.

The CGIAR Centres are well placed to provide leadership and contribute to this complex challenge that requires a cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary expertise that can add real value to the existing initiatives of individual CGIAR Centres and of others. The range and depth of partnership anticipated to implement the programme appears appropriate. It should be possible during the pre-proposal stage to be more specific in terms of the objectives, outputs and expected impact as clear priorities and targets for the IPG research are set, e.g., what types of coastal zone areas and problems can such a CP reasonably be expected to impact? This should enable the proponents to justify the CP beyond a Systemwide programme proposal made in 1996.

#### ***3.2.5 Beating the Heat: Climate Change and Rural Prosperity***

The theme of this CP is related to an important international convention and the work of the IPCC. The concept note is well intentioned and of much relevance to the goals of the CGIAR. It has identified three broad research themes impact, adaptation and mitigation, and research outputs and targets are only broadly defined. The potential relevance of the CP to CGIAR goals is not in doubt and the CGIAR has unique strengths and advantages to offer in a broad-based global collaborative effort. The CGIAR itself has also much to gain as a result. Although stakeholder participation and involvement has been confined largely with the CGIAR System, this is beginning to change.

The pre-proposal would benefit from being specific about the scientific dimension of the problem and research hypotheses. It could indicate what work has been done in the CGIAR that is relevant to this CP, and elaborate the relative importance of three themes – impact, adaptation and mitigation – in a targeted manner. The scientific competencies and the

comparative advantage of the CGIAR Centres should be highlighted as well as the collaborate source of expertise it does not have. There is a very clear need to establish priorities and boundaries. Potential for impact should be realistically established.

### ***3.2.6 Harnessing Global IPM Initiatives***

The concept note addresses a theme of critical importance, focusing on an issue of global concern and which can be expected to generate high-value IPGs. The overall goal is well defined and consistent with the CGIAR mission and goals. A more specific objective relates to enhancing national and regional capacity in IPM and promoting its incorporation in mainstream agriculture to reduce losses caused by pests. Four specific outputs are listed, though not all are likely to be achieved within five-year time frame. Targeted beneficiaries are resource poor farm households, particularly women who would benefit from reduced pest incidence, increased IPM capacity to manage the system, increased productivity, higher incomes and greater food security and a healthier, pesticide-reduced environment in diverse agroecologies. An indicative list of partners is given.

In developing the pre-proposal, a stronger rationale for the CP is required, beyond addressing an issue of global importance, e.g., prospects for leveraging new donor support. As this is not a new initiative, i.e., it builds on the success of the on-going CGIAR SP-IPM, more emphasis on the "added value" dimension of this CP -- in terms of partnerships, programme synergy, scope of coverage and possibilities of attracting new funding -- would greatly enhance the strength of the concept note. The pre-proposal would need to define the specific areas, crops, pests, and agroecologies targeted, as well as the key researchable issues under investigation.

### ***3.2.7 Urban Harvest***

The idea presented in the concept note builds on a current inter-Centre initiative, SIUPA (The Strategic Initiative on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture) convened by CIP. This topic has clearly global importance in an area which so far has received limited research focus. Urbanisation is an increasing trend in the developing regions, particularly Asia which the CGIAR has identified as a priority region. Urban poverty alleviation is very much a concern of the CGIAR. Food security of poor people in the megacities of the developing world is a rapidly emerging challenge, and tackling it through means of agricultural research would fit well with the CGIAR's mission and goals. Urban and peri-urban agriculture can make an important difference to food security, but they also pose several environmental and health risks and challenges for producers and consumers, which need to be addressed by research.

The CGIAR has some relevant experience in urban and peri-urban agriculture and in research that applies well to those biological and sociological conditions as evidenced from the inter-Centre programme on urban/per-urban agriculture. Relevant areas in which the CGIAR Centres have competence include IPM, resource management, crop nutrition, socioeconomics and participatory research. Post-harvest technology is an important research area, which needs strengthening. The partnerships in the current initiative make this initiative very feasible as a global challenge programme. The potential impact is very significant. The proposal could also be focussed on selected sub-regions of high priority, with high potential spillover to other sub-regions. Further, there is a need to put some boundaries on the technologies to be delivered, and on processes such as packaging, marketing, market

information, policy or whatever the priorities might be so that the final proposal is more specific and linked to anticipated outcomes.

### ***3.2.8 Agriculture, Poverty and Combating Desertification***

The nature of the problem addressed by this concept note--desertification-is undeniably important, as it is focused on poverty and severe environmental degradation in the dry areas of Africa and Asia. As such, it addresses an issue of global significance, of relevance to both the development and environmental communities. The concept note is somewhat broad, however, and focuses perhaps too much on the applied/adaptive research dimension (described as a "development programme for Africa and Asia") with, consequently, less attention given to the strategic research objectives and expected outputs and IPG value. Key issues, new insights, and researchable questions should be identified at this stage and the time frame given to meet the broad development objectives should be realistically considered. A review of past research achievements and failures--which are considerable to-date--should be an integral part of the pre-proposal.

Although the list of partners involved, or potentially involved, is large, the specific roles of CGIAR and non-CGIAR partners would need to be clearly defined, and the competence or comparative advantage of the partners indicated. A clear mechanism for coordination will be essential as is a strategy to ensure grassroots support for this initiative. The "Stakeholder Dialogue" is expected to commence in due course. Provided a number of specifics can be adequately addressed in the pre-proposal, targeting high probability impacts, this proposed CP has considerable merit.

### ***3.2.9 Improving Livelihoods and Natural Resources Management in Sub-Saharan Africa***

This CP proposal is led by the regional organization FARA. The iSC considers that a well designed CP for Sub-Saharan Africa, a priority CGIAR region, is highly desirable. The current CP concept note addresses important issues of food insecurity and poverty alleviation, and is consistent with Plank 4 of the new CGIAR vision and strategy. It delineates the research system that has been emerging on the continent, building on past institutional successes.

This pan-African CP would benefit at the pre-proposal stage from: specific proposals for research hypotheses, problem areas, intended outputs, and potential impacts of the CP; an explanation of how the CP differs from business-as-usual and can be expected to achieve impacts that could not be obtained otherwise; a strategy to build regional partnerships that will be effective to achieve impact while keeping down the already high transactions costs of regional coordination; and how it should contribute to and benefit from the NEPAD process. Also, there may be merit in devising a CP with a clearly defined sub-regional focus, as a pan-African project may be too large and unwieldy to implement. Given the significance presence of diverse CGIAR Centres in the region, their roles should be clearly spelled out.

### ***3.2.10 The Rainforest Challenge: Forests as Resources for the Poor***

This proposal signals a clear commitment from the world's leading organizations in the field of conservation and development, IUCN and WWF (with substantial resources of their own). The CP idea fits in well with the ongoing ASB programme and expand the

capacity of that programme to scale up and out. In fact, as stated in the proposal, the governing body of the ASB programme is endorsing this CP proposal. Overall, the concept clearly meets CP criteria. It addresses a big challenge in the wet tropics worldwide where secondary forest management for poor people's needs and restoration of degraded lands are under-researched topics.

The proposed broad concept and outcomes could be further negotiated with ASB to ensure adequate IPG orientation towards productive benefits for the hundreds of millions of poor people who inhabit these forests. The proposed partnership with the CGIAR Centres and programmes is highly complementary and value adding, including in bridging the gap between science and policy, and between efforts of conservation and development organizations. It also strengthens the R &D relationships between the North and the South.

### ***3.2.11 Agricultural Biodiversity for Sustainable Development***

Agricultural biodiversity has been part of the heartland of the CGIAR activities through decades of work related to improvement and conservation of genetic resources and through new responsibilities and challenges in securing equal and ready access to genetic resources and to benefits that are more likely to accrue due to modern biological research. Understanding the dynamics of agricultural biodiversity, the extent and nature of genetic erosion and development of strategies to prevent it and cope in changing situations are a global challenge of overwhelming significance. The concept note links the CGIAR research directly to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to which the proposed activities would contribute. The proposed INRM framework provides a new approach to biodiversity research, in which many Centres can contribute.

The primary objective of assessment of trade-offs between protection/conservation of biodiversity and production and the multidisciplinary systems approach would seem to require a broad consortium for which the envisaged partnerships are very appropriate. Despite the importance of the theme globally and as related to international conventions, a strong case would have to be established in the pre-proposal for the need and value added of a global consortium instead of developing the concept as Centre based regionally focused activity. This type of activity, although unlikely to affect poverty and food security in the short term, is likely to create significant impact in the long-term.

### ***3.2.12 Biological Nitrogen Fixation***

The concept note addresses a great scientific challenge of potential relevance to the poor farmers, since biological nitrogen fixation (BNF) technologies require few externally purchased inputs and can widely be adopted by producers with limited resources. For many poor farmers, BNF is a viable, cost effective alternative or complementary solution to industrially manufactured nitrogen fertilizers. The latter are generally unavailable, unaffordable and little used by the food insecure farmers. The proposed research will address new potential from biotechnology that could offer enormous impact at national regional and global levels. There are many viable but under utilized opportunities for the expansion of BNF-based technologies within the farming systems of developing countries such as the intercropping of legume with cereals and their inclusion in rotations as part of cereal-based farming systems. The contribution of BNF to agroforestry, pastures and

rangelands builds on the CGIAR's comparative advantage and could facilitate mainstreaming of integrated nutrient management, which fits in well with the CGIAR's thrust in NRM.

The concept note fits within the CGAR's mission and goals as the inclusion of BNF technologies could generate benefits for resource-limited farmers, in terms of increased incomes, improved livelihoods, better human nutrition, food security and sustainable management of natural resources. The theme is likely to draw on developments in science, is conducive to collaboration among the crop-based Centres, trees, livestock and NRM. The crosscutting issues on land management are linked to biodiversity, a field in which the Centres possess expertise. Prospect for partnering with NARS, ARIs and development agencies are good provided the concept note is better focused, goes beyond the partners listed, and draws on lessons from long-standing scientific programmes. The tangible outputs appear realistic, and can be defined more clearly in the pre-proposal stage.

### ***3.2.13 Sustainable Mountain Development***

The overall objectives of this concept note, poverty alleviation, sustainable management of natural resources, protection of biodiversity and rural development in mountainous regions, are very important and timely given that 2002 is the UN's Year of the Mountains. The CGIAR is already contributing towards those goals in its regional INRM activities and crop improvement projects, and is often the only major research supplier in addressing regionally important poverty, resource management and conservation issues of mountain environments.

Given the heterogeneous and special ecological nature of the mountain and highland environments in which a number of current research initiatives are focusing, this concept would be best developed further into a regional challenge programme. In a regionally focused approach the impacts are likely to be high and the outputs may have also international relevance. A regional consortium, such as the well-established CONDESAN, might be an appropriate research platform and a forum for defining the researchable problems, in which the CGIAR has a role, to complement other research and development activities.

## **4. Concluding Remarks**

The iSC believes that all 13 of the concept notes endorsed above could be built into good CPs, if they are properly detailed and articulated in an operational sense. However, most of the proposals have a long ways to go before they can be judged adequately by the iSC for quality of science, potential impacts in terms of CGIAR goals, and contributions beyond what already is on-going in the CGIAR and in its various partner institutions in agricultural research. The additional information categories and needs are detailed in the comments above. The iSC emphasizes that its judgement and commentaries on the 13 concept notes included in this note reflect the level of information that was initially requested from prospective CP proponents.

The iSC, through both the regular CP process and the accelerated pilot one, has gained enough experience with the process to make some specific suggestions on how the process should be changed in the future. Two main suggestions are as follows:

- In the future, prospective CP proponents should be asked to provide a more systematic and detailed description of the prospective CP, and a brief analysis of its intended outputs, impacts and contributions beyond what already is being done by the CGIAR and its partners; the additionality of the proposal must be clearly identified, since most of the proposals imply quite heavy transactions costs that need to be offset by added benefits.
- Proponents need to understand more clearly what constitutes a CP – many of the existing concept notes implicitly indicate a lack of understanding of the necessary breadth and depth of scope intended for CPs and even the criteria on which they will be judged. CPs are not narrow, small research projects.

**CP Concept Notes**

1. Monitoring and investigating minilivestock as potential sustainable candidate to use biodiversity in the tropics (Padova University, Italy)
2. Salinity and soil fertility kit (Uwe Schleiff, Consultant, Germany)
3. Indigenous knowledge and utilization and underutilization of commodities in West African Forests (University of Hamburg, Germany)
4. Project BOSAWAS (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Nicaragua)
5. Integrated modelling of land use and its biophysical effects in forest margin areas (University of Kassel, Germany)
6. Global assessment of conflicting water use: Water for food vs. water for nature (University of Kassel, Germany)
7. Global assessment of the relation between agriculture and water quality (University of Kassel, Germany)
8. Global assessment of groundwater resources and their future potential for agriculture (University of Kassel, Germany)
9. Characterization of Latin-American cattle breeds through molecular genetics and genomics (University of Mar del Plata, Argentina)
10. Research for poverty alleviation (International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, China)
11. Linking smallholder farmers to growth markets within a globalized economic system (PhAction, UK)
12. The contributions of the Future Harvest centres to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (ICLARM)
13. Promoting agricultural technologies through the media of school micro-business, plays, essay competitions and other means of popularization (University of Greenwich, UK)
14. Development of a computer-based integrated water resources management system or water and soil conserving analysis (University of Jena, Germany)
15. Organization of a system of information images and sounds for research on irrigation and societies (IRD, France)
16. Agricultural biodiversity for sustainable development (IPGRI)

17. Policies and strategies for the improved management of genetic resources (IPGRI)
18. Underutilized crops to enhance nutrition and diversification of incomes (IPGRI)
19. Harnessing global IPM initiatives for sustainable harvests, improved livelihoods and healthier production environments in Africa, Asia and Latin America (SP-IPM, IITA)
20. Strategies to reduce environmental threats: The Amazon (EMBRAPA, Brazil)
21. Conservation of domesticated animal genetic resources (University of Goettingen, Germany)
22. Increasing productivity in the coastal zone: Reversing habitat degradation and advancing livelihood options (ICLARM)
23. Vulnerability under increasing variability (ICLARM)
24. Fish as indicators of ecosystem change (ICLARM)
25. Creating the triple helix: Effective crop biotechnology partnership for the developing world (Rothamsted International, UK)
26. Water quality parameters for monitoring the drainage area of intensive agriculture in southern region of Brazil (EMBRAPA, Brazil)
27. Urban harvest: A challenge programme on urban and peri-urban agriculture (CIP)
28. China-CIP potato program: From China to East Asia and Southeast Asia (Ministry of Agriculture, China)
29. Strengthening CGIAR's access to and delivery of proprietary science (Cornell University, USA)
30. Unwrapping the poverty, livestock and environment nexus – Towards greater sustainability and accountability (ILRI)
31. Securing livestock genetic resources for present and future food security (ILRI)
32. The rainforest challenge: Forests as resources for the poor (IUCN/WWF)
33. Information and communication technology enabled knowledge sharing and distance learning for enhanced food security (ICRISAT)
34. Food safety and risks: Health and economic implications for the rural poor of the semi-arid tropics (ICRISAT)
35. Biological nitrogen fixation for increased crop productivity, enhanced human health and sustained fertility (ICRISAT)

36. Development of Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and the Caucasus (ICARDA)
37. Beating the Heat: Climate Change and Rural Prosperity (ICW-CC, ICRAF)
38. Reducing Poverty by Removing Market Barriers Caused by Animal Diseases (ILRI/FAO)
39. Agriculture, Poverty and Combating Desertification (ICRISAT/ICARDA)
40. Improving Livelihoods and Natural Resources Management in Sub-Saharan Africa (FARA)
41. Sustainable Mountain Development (CIP)