

Evaluation of the CSO-CGIAR Forum: Summary of Comments

Liked most

- Excellent free interactive atmosphere of sharing.
- Sharing experiences and connecting people.
- Liked the process of dialogue.
- Very useful in that it marks a turning point in the way CGIAR conducts its business and recognizes the need for deeper engagement of strategic partners.
- New dynamic is highly appreciated and needed.
- Good interaction between many actors, contacts made, networking, gained insight into how to improve interaction.
- Liked the fact that the Forum opened up a dialogue involving many stakeholders and started making innovative mechanisms for multistakeholders research platforms.
- Much more interaction and diversity than ever seen in a CGIAR meeting.
- Exhibits very professional.
- Liked the opportunity for CSO representatives to propose ideas and offer suggestions.
- We got the impression that CSO are valued partners in development and research.
- Liked: networking and interacting.
- Forum= opportunity for the CGIAR to know its weaknesses and allow CSOs to see that CGIAR is opened to change.
- Useful for networking and learning.
- Lively, creative.
- Very important experience sharing, created a ground to learn from each other
- Set the stage for the future.
- Beauty of the professional dialogue in an informal setting.

- Good opportunity to bring CSOs' perspective into the CG research agenda.
- Open and frank discussion, no hesitation to raise critical questions.
- Open dialogue vs lecture: this is a new paradigm.
- High time we had such a forum.
- Meeting international organizations and partners.
- Diversity.
- Management of participants and working groups.
- Hearing that the CG takes CSOs seriously.
- Small discussion groups and overall emphasis on dialogues and two-way exchange of information.
- Opportunity for knowledge sharing.
- Got to know other people and their institutions.
- Free expression and information sharing.
- Objective attained: way for joint work is open.
- Direct contact between partners.
- Round table discussions were creative and useful.
- Giving CSOs for the first time an opportunity to be heard was excellent.

Liked least

- Limited time.
- Limited opportunity to link with other CSOs.
- Didn't find it useful because... "CSOs were only recipients and had a representational function."
- Opportunity for participants to engage but limited time for definite agreements.
What is CGIAR's long-term vision for CSO engagement?

- No innovations.
- Talk show was less engaging.
- Interactions too casual.
- CGIAR participants did not spend enough time looking at posters.
- Lack of interaction between managers and young scientists.
- Didn't like that CGIAR center partners scientists were not invited in addition to the CSO presenter.
- Too little interaction.
- Little focus on past history.
- The room was not good for interactions.
- The allocated time was too short.
- No clear way forward.
- Insufficient time allocated to subsessions.
- Time pressure.
- Due to lack of translation into Russian unable to fully participate.
- Selection of winners raised questions about transparency.
- Announcement of the 1USD M took the focus away from future ideas.
- Weak institutional arrangements to link CGIAR and CSO.
- Too many side discussions – facilitators should ask to move discussions outside.
- Too loaded, too many things happening at the same time.
- No clear and strategic framework developed. No clear strategy for follow up.
- Chat Show format lost momentum of earlier discussion.

- Not enough structure in the meeting leading to multiple and fragmented outcomes.

Advice/Comments

- Take the results of this forum and put them into practice.
- Each group should have had a CGIAR person to listen to ideas.
- More discussions on joint projects.
- More focus.
- More time for discussions.
- More private sector involvement.
- More time for informal interaction.
- Build on the past.
- Should choose main themes of discussion.
- This is a good start. This is an excellent opportunity to involve CSOs in the decision making processes of the CGIAR. This needs to be strengthened.
- Less ambitious tasks, be more realistic.
- The CGIAR should work with GFAR secretariat to move this forward. This will allow both to pool resources and build on past experiences.
- Could have learned more about funding.
- The event should be viewed as a starting point in a process.
- Keep opening door to CSOs.
- Spent a lot of money but still feels like a token interaction. Need a more analytical process, leading to coherent strategy.
- The Forum enhances work and collaboration with CSOs, have CSO Forum on a regular basis.
- Need to make CSO-CGIAR dialogue on a regular basis at all AGM.

- Need for better preparation and planning of the engagement.
- Forum should be earlier in AGM to leave time later for follow-up.
- A suggestion is for the CGIAR to listen more the demands of the local community.
- Ensure that Center DGs and director of research participate.
- Launch an open competitive grant scheme mechanism for innovations based on criteria of eligibility which would take into account the quality of partnerships as a criterion.
- Take the results of this forum and put them into practice.
- The CSO-CGIAR Forum is a good beginning and needs to be nurtured despite the road blocks.
- Liked the fact that the Forum opened up a dialogue involving many stakeholders.
- We wait to see how the CGIAR will capitalize and take into account the means to move forward
- Consolidate relationship and funding opportunity for CGIAR and CSO collaboration.
- Arrange posters in a better and more visible way; people waited, but judges didn't visit all posters.
- Provide forum for sharing lessons learned and best practices.
- Have such event earlier in the AGM as it helps to get to know people.
- Implementing these recommendations is important!
- Create CGIAR award to farmer who participate in activities of CGIAR in research and implementation.
- Recommend: regional thematic fora to promote CGIAR-CSO partnership.
- Keep online conversation active.
- Need better translation services.
- Maintain the momentum.

- CGIAR should link more to CSO instead of being the main actor.
- Identify and circulate agenda ahead of time so participants can come prepared.
- Need to improve the way the sessions are facilitated.
- Need more CGIAR representatives in the discussions.
- Good to have few than many participants so that to have clear and focused ideas on issues of concern.
- In all future meetings, to include CSOs.
- More meetings with the CGIAR needed to develop trust and confidence.
- Need to have the CG representatives sharing their experiences and views on the partnership.
- Parts of the CG center funds should be allocated to CSOs.
- Forum should be institutionalized at AGM 😊.