

# Towards a Strategic Framework for Engagement Between the CGIAR and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)



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# Overview

1. Retrospect: CGIAR NGO Committee
2. Definition of CSOs
3. Examples from other international organizations
4. Engagement between CSOs and the CGIAR – why, who, and how?
5. Suggested framework for CSO-CGIAR engagement

# Who do we mean by CSO?

The United Nations defines “civil society” as

*“the associations of citizens (outside their families, friends and businesses) entered into voluntarily to advance their interests, ideas and ideologies.*

*The term does not include profit-making activity (the private sector) or governing (the public sector).*



# Why should international organisations reach out to CSOs?

## 3 Examples: United Nations, European Commission and World Bank

- acknowledge growing importance of civil society in international debates, as globalization expands and scope of government power is being transformed
- expect effectiveness gains through more open engagement with civil society
- Decentralization of engagement activities by developing new creative mechanisms and interfaces



What are the benefits that CSOs can bring to strengthening CGIAR research impact for development?



# Key Benefits for the CGIAR:

- **Give voice** to stakeholders and help ensure that their views are factored into research priority, policy and program decisions
- **Promote ownership** for technology and policy development and outputs by building common ground for understanding research needs and program strategies
- **Bring innovative ideas**, new perspectives and solutions to research questions
- **Strengthen and leverage research programs** by providing local and regional knowledge
- **Increase capacity** for research uptake and thereby strengthening research effectiveness

# Whom do we want to engage with ?

## Types of CSOs

### 1. Representation

**Organizations that aggregate and present voices of groups of citizens**

=> such as farmer organizations (e.g. IFAP), (inter)national associations of NGOs engaged in development and environmental protection;

### 2. Advocacy

**Organizations that lobby on particular issues**

=> e.g. development aid, environmental protection, food security, patenting, biotechnology, consumer and producer interests, and fora that advocate agricultural research;

# Types of CSOs (continued)

## 3. Technical expertise

**Organizations that provide information and advice**

=> e.g. universities and advanced research institutions (ARIs) in the South and the North;

## 4. Capacity-building and service delivery to farmers

**Non-profit organizations that conduct technology implementation and outreach programs, and facilitate the translation of research into direct benefits for farmers**

=> e.g. grassroot organizations, national and international NGOs providing services to farmers/ farmer organization (e.g. Africa 2000 Network, Sasakawa Global 2000)

# How to engage with CSOs?

EMBED and MAINSTREAM throughout the agenda setting, planning, implementation and evaluation processes



Identify and develop points of involvement



## *Typology of "engagement":*

- *Information sharing*
  - *Dialogue*
  - *Consultation*
- *Mutual information and learning*
  - *Partnership*

# Suggested Framework for CGIAR-CSO engagement

# Principle of engagement between the CGIAR and CSOs

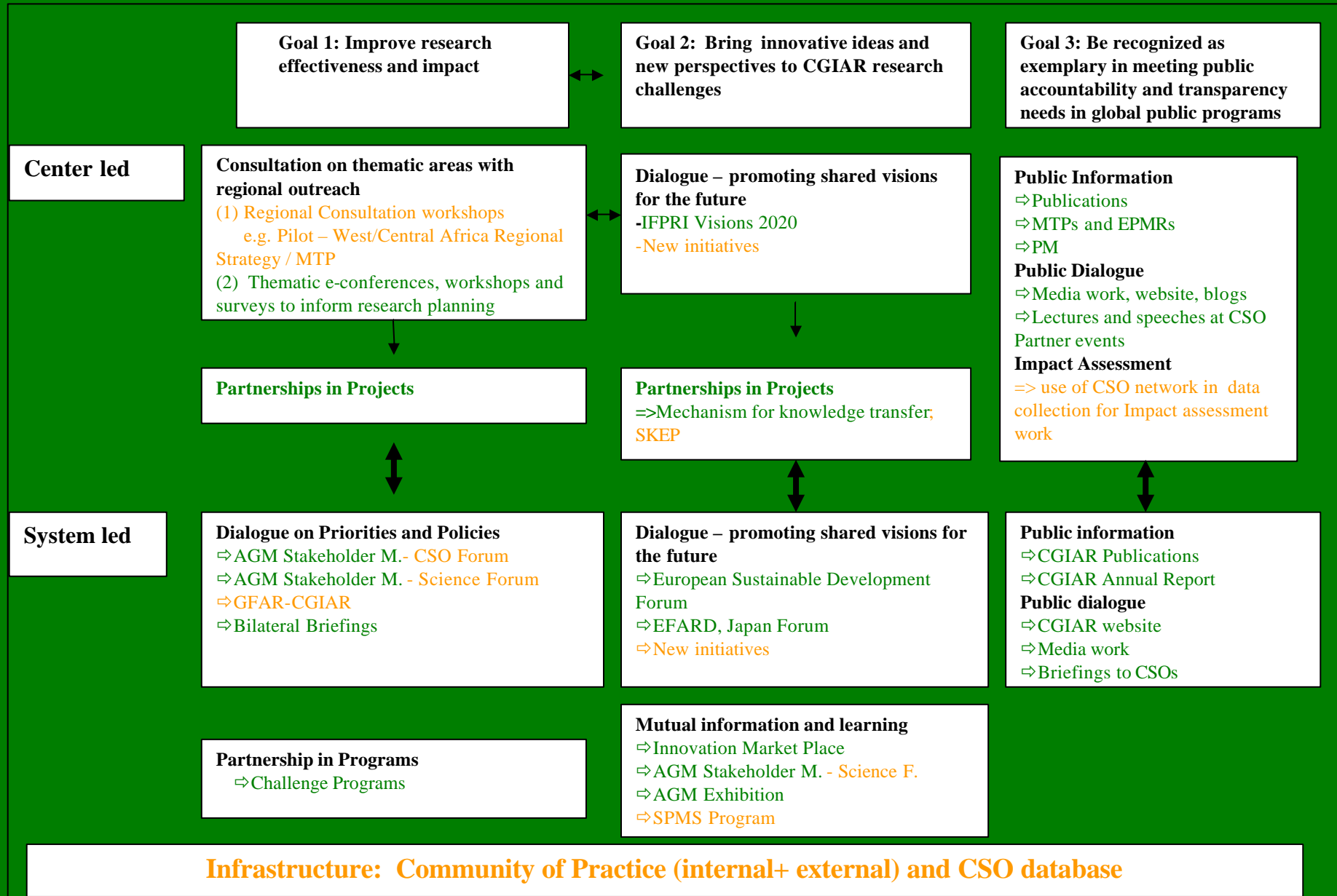
*“Giving voice to civil society stakeholders within the CGIAR, to enable the CGIAR to better shape its research agenda and implementation for the benefit of the poor.”*

# *Goals of engagement with CSOs*

## Three goals

- 1. Improve CGIAR research effectiveness and impact;*
- 2. Bring innovative ideas and new perspectives to CGIAR research challenges;*
- 3. CGIAR's recognition as exemplary in meeting public accountability and transparency needs in global public programs*

# Fig.1: Suggested Framework for Improved Engagement between CSOs and the CGIAR



# Fig.1: Suggested Framework for Improved Engagement between CSOs and the CGIAR



# Recommendations

- 1. A more holistic approach to engagement with CSO**
- 2. Establish network of CGIAR CSO focal points**
- 3. Establishment information system on CSO engagement**
- 4. Enhance current mechanisms for engagement with CSOs**
  - Public information and dialogue
  - AGM: CSO Forum and Science Forum

# Recommendation

## (continued)

5. Develop new mechanisms for engagement with CSOs
  - GFAR-CGIAR collaboration in conducting CSO consultations
  - Mechanisms for engagement with CSOs in impact assessment work
  - Regional consultations informing strategic planning  
=>Pilot West/Central Africa and/or East Africa
  - Scientific and Know-how Exchange Program (SKEP) with CSOs
  
6. Dissolve the dormant CGIAR NGO Committee