



May 31, 2016

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## **Summary of the consultation among eligible developing countries in the East Asia and Pacific region, May 19, 2016**

### **Introduction**

1. As part of the new governance structure of the CGIAR System, a System Council is to be established with voting membership representing funders and developing countries. The agreed distribution of voting member seats on the Council is as follows:
  - a) eligible funders will identify members for up to 15 seats;
  - b) eligible developing countries will identify members for 5 additional seats.
2. Council members, alternates and the formation of constituencies are to be agreed upon by members of the two groups mentioned above based on consultations to be organized prior to the first Council meeting (expected to be held in July 2016).
3. For developing country seats, it is agreed that balance among the following regions should be taken into account in allocating the seats: East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and West Asia and North Africa.
4. Consultations are being organized, on a regional basis, to provide an opportunity for developing countries to discuss and agree on the five developing country seats.

### **Eligibility for a developing country seat on the Council**

5. In its decision on the establishment of a new governance structure, the Fund Council<sup>1</sup> agreed that developing countries would be eligible for a seat on the Council if the country is: (a) a funder to the CGIAR Fund, (b) a host country of a CGIAR research center, or (c) a country with a significant national agricultural system, recognizing the critical contributions of such countries to agricultural research and investment for development.

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<sup>1</sup> The Fund Council agreed to move to a new governance structure for the CGIAR System at its thirteenth meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, in April 2015. See *Decision on the CGIAR System Organization*, adopted by the Fund Council, on April 29, 2015.

6. The criterion that is being used to identify “developing countries with significant national agricultural systems” is countries with annual agricultural research spending of USD 100 million or above, according to IFPRI’s Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI).

7. Applying the agreed criteria, eligible developing countries listed on a regional basis are:

- a) East Asia and Pacific: China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand
- b) Latin America and Caribbean: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru
- c) South Asia: Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka
- d) Sub-Saharan Africa: Benin, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda
- e) West Asia and North Africa: Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Turkey

### **Initial consultation among eligible developing countries in the East Asia and Pacific region**

8. On May 19, 2016, a consultation was held with representatives from eligible countries from the East Asia and Pacific region. All eligible countries had confirmed their interest in participating on the CGIAR System Council.

9. The purpose of the consultation was to provide an opportunity for the countries of the region to discuss and agree upon the member and alternate who will be responsible for representing the East Asia and Pacific region on the CGIAR System Council and to reach common understanding for the how the constituency could operate.

10. Representatives from China, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand participated in the consultation, and a list of participants is set forth in the annex to this summary. All four countries expressed their keen interest in the work of the CGIAR System, their support for the work of the Centers, and the importance of agricultural research for their countries.

### ***Constituency arrangements***

11. The representatives agreed that they would collaborate as a constituency to ensure representation from the region on the CGIAR System Council. The representatives also agreed that while members of the constituency would be those eligible for a developing country seat on the Council as set out in paragraph 5, other countries in the East Asia and Pacific region should be invited to join as observers in the constituency if they are interested.

12. It was agreed that for purposes of promoting the active engagement of all countries in the constituency, a strong and robust consultative mechanism should be established, including the organization of consultations prior to each Council meeting to discuss issues and views of the constituency members. These meetings could be organized in-person or virtually. It was suggested that the Council Member would require a good support team in order to ensure effective outreach to other members in the constituency, while another expressed the view that the secretariat that is servicing the System Council should assist in the coordination work of the constituency, including through the provision of good background information.

13. One representative suggested that consultations be organized in conjunction with other regional events concerning international agriculture for development, such as the annual FAO regional conference for Asia and the Pacific.

### *Proposals for the selection of the Member and Alternate*

14. A number of proposals and ideas were tabled with respect to choosing the member and alternate for the constituency. It was recognized that other proposals may be shared in subsequent consultations. Proposals that were raised during the consultations include:

- a) The member and alternate should rotate among the eligible countries, in alphabetical order, with the member and alternate holding the position for a two or three year term, and this should be agreed as a fundamental principle for the constituency;
- b) The criteria agreed by the Fund Council should be given considerable weight in determining the member and alternate as these were good indicators of the strength of contribution that could be made to the System Council by the member;
- c) Recognizing the complexity of the CGIAR System, and the benefits of having regional representation from a member who is knowledgeable and experienced in working with the system, the member should be selected based on the criteria and experience and should not necessarily rotate. Rotating the alternate could serve to allow for broader regional engagement;
- d) In light of the urgency of appointing a member and alternate before the first Council meeting in July, the group should agree on the member and alternate for a first three year term, and then continue their consultations during the term to decide on future arrangements;
- e) Before deciding on a member and alternate for future terms, the countries should assess the performance of the member and alternate.
- f) China expressed its willingness to serve as the member of the East Asia and Pacific Region constituency. China indicated that China meets each of the three criteria for the seat and should also be eligible as a funder that contributes more than US\$10 million annually if account were taken for China's contribution to hosting the China-CIP office for Asia Pacific (CCCAP). China also expressed its commitment to setting up a regional secretariat to coordinate cooperation between CGIAR and East Asia Pacific region if China were to serve as the member.

15. The representatives were unable to reach a consensus agreement, and therefore agreed to reflect upon the discussions and to consult further.

### *Next steps*

16. Participants were requested to submit their name, title and email address to the CGIAR transition team at [cgiartransition@worldbank.org](mailto:cgiartransition@worldbank.org) to ensure that all participants had an accurate mailing list.

17. Those participating in the consultation were invited to submit their proposals and ideas in writing for further consideration. Written submissions should be sent to [cgiartransition@worldbank.org](mailto:cgiartransition@worldbank.org), and the transition team would circulate such submissions to other participants.

18. The transition team indicated that it would welcome receiving suggestions from participants as to when a second consultation could usefully be organized, bearing in mind that the first System Council meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2016.

## ANNEX

### Participants in the initial virtual consultation with eligible and interested countries in East Asia & Pacific region on May 19, 2016

#### China

Dr. Ke Jin  
Deputy Director General  
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)  
Email: [jinke@caas.cn](mailto:jinke@caas.cn)  
Tel: +86 10 82105699

Mrs. Zhai Lin  
Division Chief at Department of International Cooperation  
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)  
Email: [zhailin@caas.net.cn](mailto:zhailin@caas.net.cn)  
Tel: +86 10 82105703

Mrs. Huang Dandan  
Deputy Division Chief at Department of International Cooperation  
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)  
Email: [huangdandan@caas.cn](mailto:huangdandan@caas.cn)  
Tel: +86 10 82105704

#### Malaysia

Nik Husni  
Counselor (Agriculture)  
Embassy of Malaysia in Washington, D.C.  
Email: [nikhusni@moa.gov.my](mailto:nikhusni@moa.gov.my)  
Tel: +1 202-572-9727

Muhamad Othman  
Advisor to the Executive Director (EDS16)  
World Bank  
Email: [mothman@worldbank.org](mailto:mothman@worldbank.org)  
Tel: +1 202-458-1205

#### Philippines

Dr. Segredo R. Serrano  
Undersecretary of Policy, Planning, Research & Development and Regulations  
Department of Agriculture  
Email: [llanera72@gmail.com](mailto:llanera72@gmail.com)  
Tel: +63 2 920-4084

Dr. Josyline C. Javelosa  
Agriculture Attaché  
Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, D.C.  
Email: [joy.javelosa@philippinesagriculture.org](mailto:joy.javelosa@philippinesagriculture.org); [philagri.wdc@gmail.com](mailto:philagri.wdc@gmail.com)  
Tel: +1 202-467-9422

## **Thailand**

Ms. Benjarat Pharerai  
First Secretary (Agriculture)  
Embassy of Thailand in Washington, D.C.  
Email: [benjaratp@thaiembdc.org](mailto:benjaratp@thaiembdc.org)

Ms. Chayada Polpun  
Assistant to the Minister (Agriculture)  
Embassy of Thailand in Washington, D.C.  
Email: [chayadap@thaiembdc.org](mailto:chayadap@thaiembdc.org)  
Tel: +1 202-338-1543