



Senior Officer, ISDC
CGIAR System Advisory Services Shared Secretariat

Candidate Pack

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1. An Overview of CGIAR

CGIAR ('the CGIAR System' or 'the System'), is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food secure future. Our research, which is organized into CGIAR Research Programs, is carried out by 15 Research Centers in close collaboration with various partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations, and the private sector.

CGIAR has a deep commitment to partnership, transparency, and accountability. This is reflected in the CGIAR governance structure which focuses on enabling CGIAR's Research Centers and Partners to conduct high-quality research for development based on a solid foundation of clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities. We believe that everyone in the organization is accountable and seeks to ensure the most effective use of all resources made available to us in support of our work to ensure a world free of poverty, hunger, and environmental degradation. Taking note of the sometimes-complex settings in which, our research actions are undertaken, the CGIAR System Organization and each Center have defined for themselves operational policies and procedures to address inherent risks in all that we do.

To ensure accountability, the CGIAR System welcomes reporting of any illegal or unethical conduct (e.g., corruption, fraud, misuse of resources, abuse of authority, etc.) by anyone associated with our work. Our reporting mechanisms are available to everyone – staff, partners, contractors, suppliers, and anyone else who interacts with the CGIAR System, including the public at large.

Our core aim: a world free of poverty, hunger and environmental degradation

We work to advance agricultural science and innovation to enable poor people, especially women, to better nourish their families, and improve productivity and resilience, so they can share in economic growth and manage natural resources in the face of climate change and other challenges.

Our Strategic Goals and the SDGs

CGIAR's Strategy and Results Framework provides the strategic direction to deliver on our mission and contribute strongly to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have three goals, known as System Level Outcomes (SLOs):

- Reduce poverty
- Improve food and nutrition security
- Improve natural resources and ecosystem services

Our Research Priorities

To achieve our goals, we focus on eight research priorities where CGIAR has a comparative advantage to tackle humanity's greatest challenges:

- Climate-smart agriculture
- Gender and inclusive growth
- Genetic improvement
- Nutrition and health
- Natural resources and ecosystem services
- Nurturing diversity
- Agricultural systems
- Enabling policies and institutions

Our Governance Structure

CGIAR's governance model distributes strategic direction, governing and advisory functions among several entities, reflecting the diversity of stakeholders within the CGIAR System and the critical importance of ensuring that the voices of our partners inform our actions and decisions. Built on a strong partnership between CGIAR's Funders and Research Centers, CGIAR's governance model focuses on enabling Centers and Partners to conduct high-quality research for development based on a solid foundation of clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities. The different components of the CGIAR System are described below.

* *CGIAR's Research Centers* are independent, non-profit research organizations who are members of the CGIAR System and have close to 10,000 staff based in over 50 countries. Each of the [Centers](#) has its own charter, a board of trustees and director general.

**The CGIAR System Council*

Representatives of Funders (funding partners who provide guidance and financial resources for CGIAR Research and are part of a participatory mechanism that enables ongoing collaboration to finance some of the world's most innovative agricultural research) and developing countries meet as a [System Council](#), to keep under review the strategy, mission, impact and continued relevance of the CGIAR System.

**The General Assembly of the Centers*

The General Assembly of the Centers is a forum for CGIAR Research Centers to discuss issues relevant to Centers, including those related to the CGIAR System and the CGIAR System Organization – it is an important linking mechanism for the CGIAR System as a whole.

**The Partnership Forum*

CGIAR's Partnership Forum, an innovation introduced in 2016, brings together our diverse group of stakeholders that actively support the CGIAR System to express their views on our operations. The inaugural Partnership Forum is planned to be convened by CGIAR's Centers and Funders in early 2020 to set the forward direction for CGIAR's '2030 Plan' to deliver on its Strategy and Results Framework

**The CGIAR System Organization ('System Organization')*

An international organization headquartered in Montpellier, France, the System Organization provides governance to the System in collaboration with the CGIAR System Council and is comprised of two constituent parts:

- The [System Management Board](#) is the governing body of the System Organization, and its composition, function and operational procedure are outlined in the Charter of the CGIAR System Organization.
- The [System Management Office](#) is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the System Organization, providing support to the System Management Board and the System Council,

and facilitating collaboration across the System to support the fulfillment of CGIAR's mission and goals.

The System Organization is committed to cultivating a work environment that reflects teamwork, gender equality, and respect for diversity. We endeavour to foster a multi-cultural environment that is free of any form of harassment and discrimination; and that embraces and values individuals regardless of age, ethnicity, race, gender, national or social origin, marital status or any other form of personal identity.

2. The Advisory Services Shared Secretariat

In May 2018, the System Council considered and approved a revised layout for the CGIAR System's advisory functions on science for development, impact assessment, and evaluations. The approval included an agreement to establish a new [CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat](#) ('Shared Secretariat') which would be responsible providing independent advice and operational support for CGIAR's [Independent Science for Development Council](#) ('ISDC'), and [Standing Panel on Impact Assessment](#) ('SPIA'), and implementation of the CGIAR System's multi-year evaluation plan based on [Terms of Reference](#) approved by the System Council in October 2018.

An Overview of the Three Workstreams

** The Independent Science for Development Council*

An external, impartial standing panel of experts in science and development subject matters (including food systems innovation matters that extend beyond the agricultural sector responsible for providing rigorous, independent and strategic advice to the System Council.

**The Standing Panel on Impact Assessment*

An external and impartial standing panel appointed by the System Council, is responsible for providing evidence-based, independent and strategic advice to the CGIAR System on efficient and effective impact assessment methods and practices, and on innovative ways to improve knowledge and capacity on how research contributes to development outcomes.

**The Evaluation Arrangement*

This workstream is responsible for managing and supporting external evaluations of CGIAR's research programs, entities, policies to ensure accountability, promote learning and knowledge sharing and build a culture of evaluation across the System.

The Shared Secretariat's Hosting and Co-location Arrangements

Since their respective establishment in 2010 and 2012, the secretariat for CGIAR System's independent advisory functions on science for development advice and impact assessment (ISPC Secretariat), and its evaluations secretariat functions (Independent Evaluation Arrangement, IEA) have been hosted on behalf of the CGIAR System by the Food and Agriculture Organization of

the United Nations (FAO), a non-voting ex-officio member of the System Council and an important long-term partner.

Implementation of the System Council's 2018 decisions on the future layout of CGIAR's advisory functions requires moving from the existing model of two co-located multidisciplinary expert teams (the ISPC Secretariat and IEA) into the new single Shared Secretariat that will be located at new premises in Rome to facilitate strategic co-location with other elements of the System, whilst at the same time ensuring the ongoing independence of the expert advice provided by the advisory functions. Accordingly, from early 2019, the Shared Secretariat will be established at the premises of Bioversity International (a CGIAR Research Center and international organization headquartered in Rome, Italy), under the overall hosting umbrella of the CGIAR System Organization. A memorandum of understanding between the CGIAR System Organization and Bioversity International has been established to put these new arrangements into practical effect, and as such, staff of the Shared Secretariat will be employed by Bioversity International for and on behalf of the CGIAR System Organization. A small number of CGIAR System Organization staff will also be co-located in Rome at the Bioversity International premises with effect from early 2019 to maximize collaboration between the various bodies.

3. Equal Opportunities Statement

The CGIAR System Organization is an equal opportunity employer, offering a comprehensive package of employee benefits comprising health insurance coverage, a retirement plan, and relocation support where applicable.

Bioversity International, as the legal entity that will be the employer of this role on behalf of the System Organization, upholds these values and has a deep commitment to equality of opportunity for its staff.

4. Stay informed

You can keep up to date with all the latest news about CGIAR through a range of communication channels:

Our website: <https://www.cgiar.org/>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CGIAR-270424969671619/>

Or Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CGIAR/>

And on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cgiar/>

You can also contact the Human Resources Team at:

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