

ISDC Interim Chair reflections  
on the landscape ahead  
SC8 – Addis Ababa

# What was asked for in SRG discussions?

- Evidence
- Lessons learned from Phases 1 and 2
- Ideas – on what is the added value of the CGIAR *collective*



# Pingali synthesis of Foresight messages

- Disruptive **technological breakthroughs** for enhancing resource efficiency, shelf life, food quality, safety and waste.
- Diversifying from current focus on staple grains toward a **nutrition sensitive food system**.
- **Adaptation of new science tools**, e.g. ‘big data’, ICT, and precision ag. to smallholder systems.
- From **commodity focus to food systems** thinking to identify synergies and trade-offs for enhancing Climate resilience and nutrition security.
- Focus IAR4D on new market failures – **access to modern innovations & scientific knowledge for NARS in LDCs**.

# Cassman summary on Foresight

- Foresight analysis to inform **prioritization of investments** in ag R & D is something the CGIAR should actively engage in and has **comparative advantage** to do so
- Robust crop, cropping system, and livestock models and a relevant **spatial framework** for housing biophysical and socioeconomic/human health and nutrition (SE/HHN) data are prerequisites for performing foresight analysis useful to the CGIAR and its stakeholders
- **Assessing risk** (i.e. yield stability, CV), as well as yields and yield gaps, is essential to inform foresight studies because degree of risk has enormous influence on technology needs and probability of adoption
- A relevant spatial data framework must be robust across scales from local to global, agroecologically robust, and thus could provide coherence across the CGIAR portfolio and be useful for impact assessment across spatial scales.

# Gill summary on Foresight – concepts to stimulate thought at *System* level

- Foresight – quantitative or qualitative lessons
- Smallholders are diverse - disaggregate into those that can be helped by research and those that can't – don't try to reach all
- The importance to impact of understanding local context in SSA – a CGIAR comparative advantage working *with* NARS
- The potential of the bioeconomy for marginal areas – opportunities and trade-offs
- Few global integrated assessments achieve good balance of data between developed and developing countries- CGIAR should redress the balance
- Probability that technologies will transform agriculture in some developed country regions within 10 years – impact on trade
- Growth in interest/opportunities in agri-business entrepreneurship and investment



New context  
agenda

- creates exciting research



# Financial Times Global Food Systems

Paradigm shifts from farm gate to fridge door

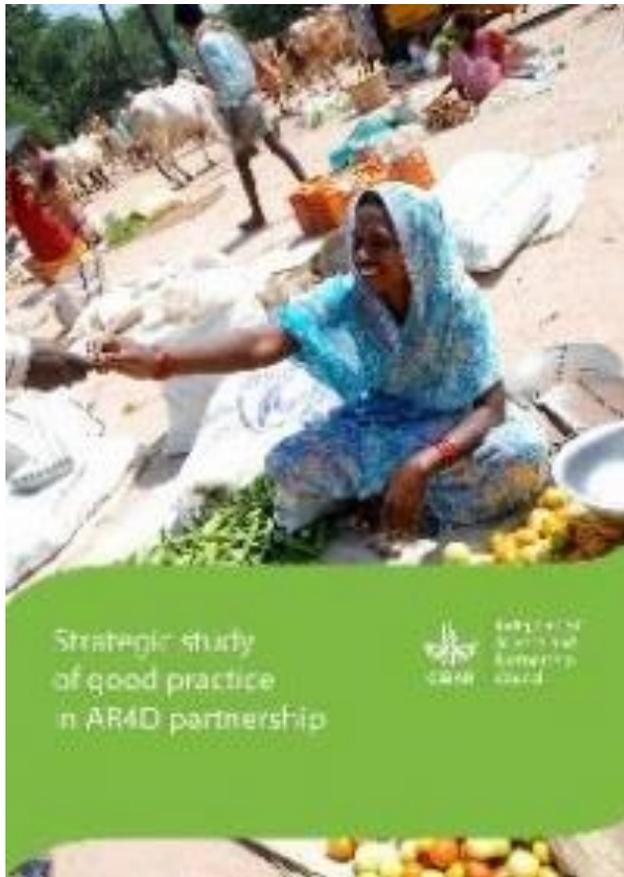
London | 19 November 2019

## **OVERVIEW**

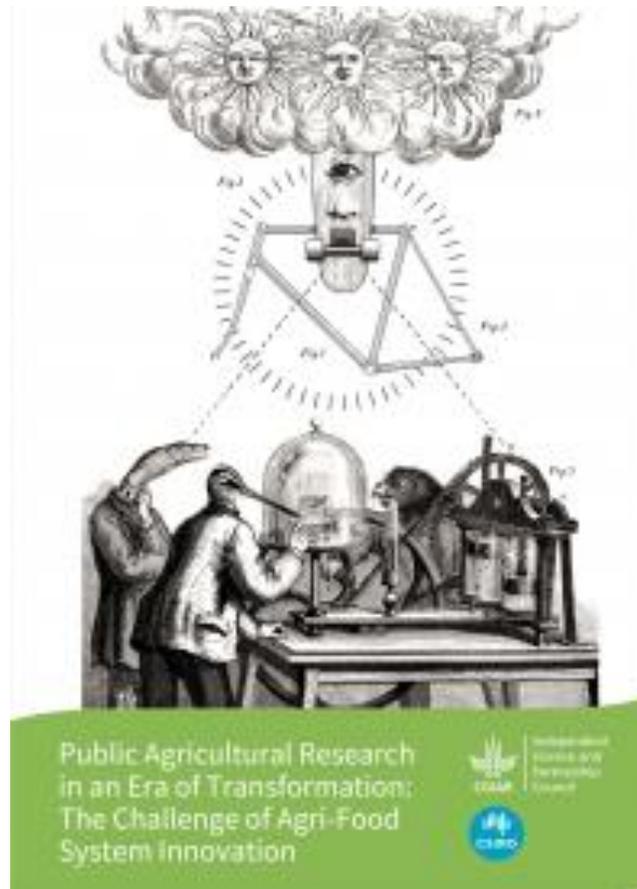
Now in its 3rd year, the FT Global Food Systems international conference brings together life science companies, farmers, retailers, agribusiness firms, technologists, academics and scientists to take an unflinching look at the big challenges facing the agriculture and food industry as the world population grows, and the shadow of climate change lengthens.

# Theme 2: Innovations and Partnerships

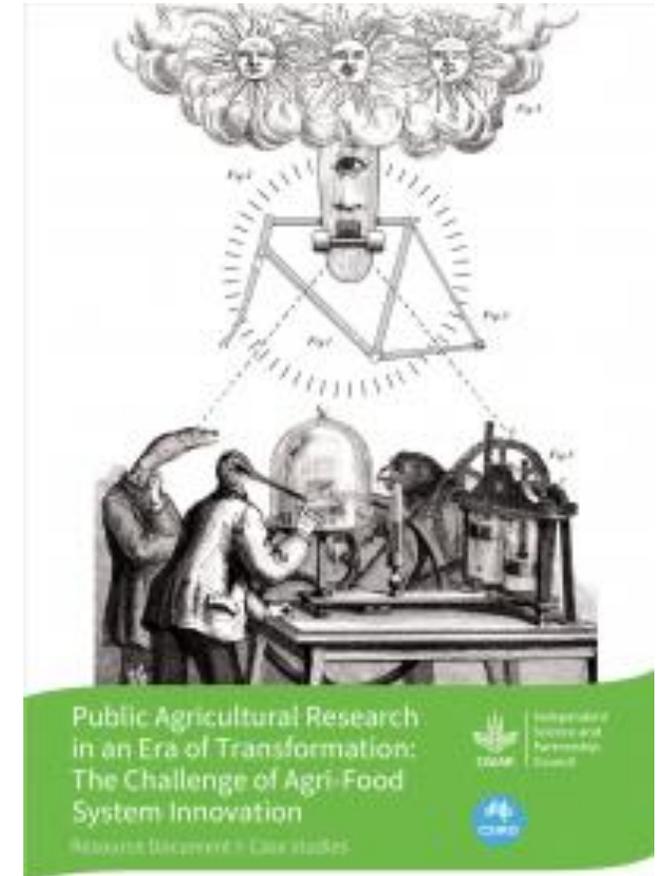
## Good practice in AR4D partnerships



## Report on innovation



## Case studies on innovation



# Lessons learnt from Phase 1 and 2 of CRPs

# Early feedback on what has improved across System?

- Theories of Change & Impact Pathways at FP and CRP levels
- Partnership strategies and new partners (9.1-24.6% of budget to non-CGIAR-partners)
- Budgets for impact assessment (0.2-5.8%)
- Gender issues embedded in research design
- .....

# Lessons learnt from Phases 1 & 2 on modalities

- Pluses and minuses of renewing large tranche of funding simultaneously or phased - both have been tried. Could have different types of System-wide funding: scientific influence vs development impact (see later)
- 8 Agrifood System CRPs
- 4 Global integrating CRPs
- 3 Platforms

# Lessons learnt from Phases 1 & 2

## Process

- Use electronic submission system to enforce page limits and keep format simple
- Align criteria with QR4D – relevance/science quality/legitimacy/effectiveness
- 1 stage system (with chance for applicants to respond to comments) for external review overseen by ISDC

Ideas

# Theme 1 – Research objectives and focus



Our atmosphere is thin and fragile (as seen by ISS crew  
on 31 July 2013)

# THE key challenges of the 2020s

- Climate change – mitigation and adaptation
- SDGs – understanding trade-offs associated with SDG 2 (+ 1?)

***We only have 10 years – need sense of urgency - need bold thinking –  
but don't reinvent the wheel!***



# Google Scholar

Articles  Case law

**Stand on the shoulders of giants**

**Potential to influence the global science agenda**

# How to maximise CGIAR global scientific influence

- A strong case could be made for the unique position of CGIAR at System level to lead/convene on foresight to inform global (developing country but relevant beyond the CGIAR) agenda on AR4D

***invest in this – it is NOT an overhead***

***potential for response from this meeting on urgent action?***

# Justification

- Nearly 80 developing country office locations
- Working in > 80 developing countries
- Respected brand in AR4D
- Growth of scientific talent from developing countries
- Developing country governments turning to CGIAR (CCAFS) for help in Foresight
- Examples of developed country governments giving funding to academics who don't understand development – opportunity for CGIAR to set broader agenda

# Quality of Research for Development

*If you want to be listened to you need to ensure quality*

- Relevance
- Scientific credibility
- Legitimacy
- Effectiveness

# Key questions in setting a research agenda

- **What** are you trying to achieve?
  - decarbonised food supply
  - nutritious diet an option for all
- **Who** will make that happen?
  - national governments – what help do they need?
  - where can **research** help?
- **How** can CGIAR add most value?
  - what is **realistic** – breeding programmes take 15 years to impact?

***Need balance of long-term research and meeting more immediate needs – don't disrupt long-term do do something flexible***

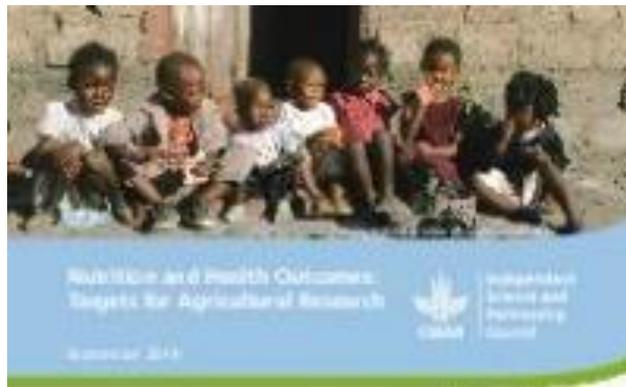
***Synthesise existing knowledge – don't re-invent the wheel***

# Thoughts on selecting topics for System-level funding options

- Challenge-led/Demand-driven but by whom?
- What are you trying to change?
- Keep topics at high level but manageable
- Leave room for flexibility particularly at System level
- Build on the huge investment in first 2 phases but focus on what can be funded through Trust fund – keep platforms
- Choose topics which are researchable – 5 global Challenges are good for packaging research outputs for communicating what is being done, but difficult for framing research questions

# ISPC Science Fora to help set research agendas

## Nutrition & Health outcomes



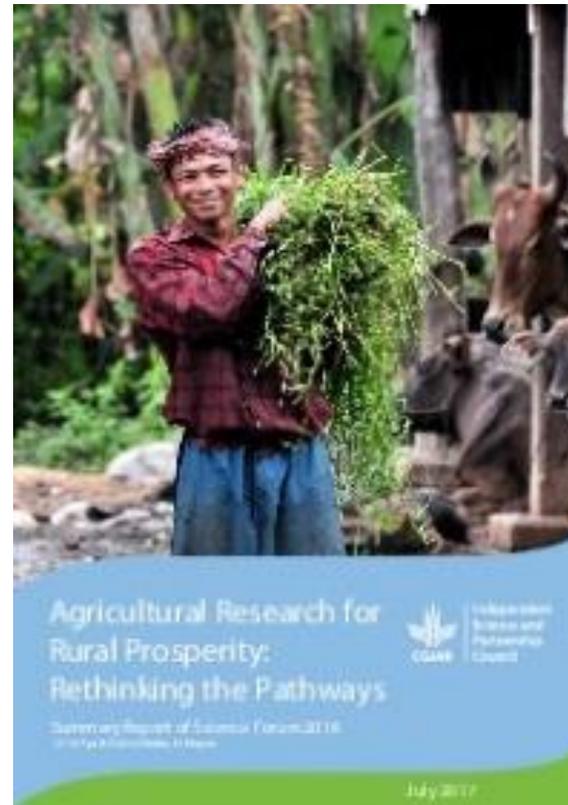
### Insights and recommendations from the CGAR Science Forum 2013

Key to sustainable, economically agricultural growth is the ability to produce more food, fiber and fuel. This is a challenge for the world's poor, as they are the most vulnerable to food insecurity. The CGAR Science Forum 2013 was held in Washington, DC, on 28-29 September 2013. The forum was organized by the CGAR Science Forum 2013 Steering Committee, which was co-chaired by the CGAR Science Forum 2013 Steering Committee and the CGAR Science Forum 2013 Steering Committee.

When we think about the world's poor, we often think of them as being hungry. But the reality is that they are often malnourished. This is because they lack access to nutritious food. The CGAR Science Forum 2013 was held in Washington, DC, on 28-29 September 2013. The forum was organized by the CGAR Science Forum 2013 Steering Committee, which was co-chaired by the CGAR Science Forum 2013 Steering Committee and the CGAR Science Forum 2013 Steering Committee.

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## Pathways to rural prosperity



### Agricultural Research for Rural Prosperity: Rethinking the Pathways

Summary Report of Science Forum 2014



July 2017

## Capturing synergies through SDGs



1. What are the most benefits for smallholder farmers and rural communities to be targeted by agricultural research?

2. How can agricultural research help smallholder farmers improve their livelihoods and contribute to rural prosperity?

3. How can agricultural research help smallholder farmers improve their livelihoods and contribute to rural prosperity?

4. How can agricultural research help smallholder farmers improve their livelihoods and contribute to rural prosperity?

# Synthesis brief for SRG – to be delivered by 30 June – hopefully!

- Short
- Synthesise documents ISPC produced in its 8 years of existence
- Won't give specifics on how you should structure next phase

*But touch of reality – no ISDC staff in secretariat and only 4 Council members*