

EVALUATION REFERENCE GROUP Terms of Reference (Executive Summary)

Direct questions to Evaluation Function Lead/CGIAR Advisory Services
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In 2022, the [CGIAR System Board and System Council approved the new CGIAR evaluation framework](#) and revised [evaluation policy](#). The evaluation framework sets the overall approach to process and performance evaluations in CGIAR establishing overarching principles and standards implemented through the evaluation policy. The policy recommends the use of an evaluation reference group for enhanced evaluation quality, rigor and credibility.

Purpose and Objectives of the Reference Group

In line with the CGIAR evaluation policy, CAS Secretariat will source state-of-the-art technical constructive critique around independent evaluation from the reference group. The reference group provides an additional layer of alignment to evaluation industry standards, to reinforce the weight of the CAS Secretariat's evaluation offering. The reference group espouses the principles set out in the [CGIAR evaluation framework](#); it is not a decision-making nor an implementation body.

The evaluation reference group will work with the Evaluation Function Lead, under the oversight of the Director, CAS Secretariat, to provide expert input to CAS Evaluation Function as it implements its approved 2022-24 [workplan](#). Detailed group objectives and related responsibilities align with the workplan, and available to the public upon request. CAS will revise the reference group terms of reference periodically as necessary, in accordance with adaptive management principles.

Qualifications and Experience: The evaluation reference group comprises up to five (5) members with proven technical expertise and experience relevant to the evaluation of both research and development programming aligned with CGIAR's mission: "To deliver science and innovation that advance the transformation of food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis" as specified in the [2030 Research and Innovation Strategy](#).

Membership Terms and Level of Effort: CAS evaluation reference group membership will commence with an initial two-year term, with an option of a third year depending on the assessment of the degree to which CAS and group member expectations are being met. The total level of effort for each group member should not exceed five (5) days per year. CAS Secretariat will pay an honorarium to each member in recognition of their contributions.

Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality terms: The group members are expected to abide by CAS [Conflict of Interest \(COI\) policy](#) and must maintain independence in fact and appearance from CAS throughout the duration of their service. Group members will be free from any real or perceived COI. They will serve in their individual capacities and not on behalf of their institutions and organizations. Inasmuch as reference group members serve in a purely technical capacity, they are not authorized to make any statements on behalf of or regarding CAS, or CGIAR, and are neither employees nor part of any CGIAR governance or line authority. Thus, the reference group members are functionally independent of CAS Secretariat.

Reference group members will comply with the confidentiality requirements of the CAS Secretariat and shall continue to be bound by the confidentiality provisions after their term.