

(14<sup>th</sup> October 2015)

## **Work Plan and Budget (2016)**

### **of the CGIAR's Independent Science & Partnership Council (ISPC)**

#### ***Executive Summary***

The ISPC aims to provide independent advice and expertise which will enhance the relevance, effectiveness and quality of science in the CGIAR, as well as the impact and value for money of its research for development efforts and herein presents its WorkPlan and Budget for 2016 for consideration by the Fund Council.

The ISPC saw the retirement of its Executive Director in 2015, and two members of the Council who had come to the end of their terms were replaced (October). Substantial time was devoted in 2015 to the review of 13 CRP-II pre-proposals and 9 EOIs for cross-cutting platforms, but work was also carried out on developing a qualitative prioritization framework leading a Task Force (both requested by the Fund Council), the '*Spatial development initiatives and growth corridors*' study (hereafter referred to as Growth corridors study), a '*Research for development partnership*' study (hereafter referred to as Partnerships study), follow-up activities on the biotechnology and metrics studies, follow-up to the 2013 Science Forum and impact assessment activities under the SIAC program.

The ISPC work program for 2016 will continue to be organized around the four pillars: Strategy and Trends, Independent Program Review, Mobilizing Science and Partnerships and Impact Assessment. The outcomes of the Growth corridors study will be further analyzed and synthesized in the form of an ISPC report. A draft report on the Partnerships study was released at the time of the ISPC September meeting – further progress on this is dependent on feedback from stakeholders. Work will continue on the prioritization exercise to develop a framework for qualitatively assessing relative priorities across sub-IDOs, and explore, to the extent possible, supplementing with more quantitative approaches. The ISPC furthermore aims to embark on a new strategic study on the science of impact. The dominant activity of the ISPC work program in 2016, however, will be the review of the CRP-II full proposals and crosscutting platforms that will be carried out in two phases. A Science Forum will be held in April 2016 on the topic: "*Agricultural research for rural prosperity: rethinking the pathways*" and work will continue in 2016 on the research for development partnership. There will also be a continuing effort to strengthen impact assessment in the CGIAR through direction and management of the SIAC project, and options for extending the SIAC initiative into a second phase in 2017 will be explored.

The ISPC budget request for 2016 is USD 3.644 million, all of which is requested from CGIAR Funds, i.e., from system costs; the annual USD 1.350 million contribution from the FAO is no longer forthcoming as of 2016. The total budget requested under the scenario of a strengthened ISPC based on the Task Force report recommendation is USD 4.294 million.

### ***ISPC's mandate and theory of change***

The current (post-2009 reform) purpose of the ISPC is *to provide independent advice and expertise to the funders of the CGIAR through services to the Fund Council and the Funders Forum*. The primary target audience for the ISPC is therefore the donors. By providing the donors with independent scientific advice the ISPC encourages and facilitates donor support for high quality, relevant and therefore effective agricultural research by the CGIAR Programs. Such research will contribute to the CGIAR System-level Outcomes, which will result in impacts that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

The ISPC also *'serves as an intellectual bridge between the funders and the Consortium'*, so a secondary target audience of the ISPC is the Consortium, comprising the Consortium Board, Consortium Office, the Centers and the CRPs. It is the Consortium that implements the independent scientific advice from the ISPC, supported by the funders.

If successful, the advice of the ISPC will result in positive changes (improvements) in the quality, relevance, effectiveness and impact of CGIAR research. It will also result in positive changes (increased amount and better targeting) in donor support for the CGIAR.

To deliver this advice, the ISPC and its secretariat organizes its work program and resources around ***four pillars***:

- **Strategy and trends** - advice is provided on the strategic direction of the CGIAR and also on cutting edge developments in technologies and methodologies.
- **Independent program review** - provides *ex ante* advice on the quality and relevance of the CRPs.
- **Mobilizing science and partnerships** - identifies appropriate partners to contribute to improving the quality and relevance of CGIAR science.
- **Impact assessment** - aims to inform scientists and donors about the actual impact of CGIAR research.

The work program for 2016, as in previous years, is organized around the four pillars. For further information about the Council and its previous work please visit <http://ispc.cgiar.org/>.

### **Strategy and Trends**

One of the key roles of the ISPC is providing advice on trends and emerging issues affecting agricultural research, as well as potential strategies for addressing them which are relevant to the CGIAR. To enhance the ISPC's role on foresight and prioritization, the Task Force (TF) for strengthening the ISPC discussed possible strategies and options for upgrading its capacity in this area, following up on the recommendations of the MTR, but the TF report recommendations have not yet been approved by the Fund Council.

The ISPC continued its work on the Growth corridors study and conducted follow-up activities on the Biotechnology and Metrics studies. The study of Spatial development initiatives and economic growth corridors and their potential implications on CGIAR research follows-up on an earlier ISPC study on farm size and urbanization and a concern of the ISPC that the situation of rural areas across Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia is often treated as being static in CGIAR foresight or program planning, when in many areas changes are occurring, being driven from outside the agriculture sector. Activities carried out included the commissioning of a background paper to serve as a basis for a scoping workshop that will involve CGIAR research program and selected CGIAR partners and stakeholders in Africa (side event of the Global Forum on Innovation in Agriculture: [GFIA-Africa](#), November 30<sup>th</sup> Durban). The workshop entitled: “*Corridors, clusters, and spatial development initiatives in African agriculture*” is being organized in close collaboration with NEPAD and ECDPM, and represents a step for completing the study.

## **Plans for 2016:**

### ***1. Spatial development initiatives and growth corridors***

The ISPC expects that the scoping workshop conducted at the end of 2015 will lead to the following outcomes, which have also been analyzed in the background paper:

- (i) Status of active and planned growth corridors relevant to agricultural development in SSA;
- (ii) A preliminary analysis of the major issues and potential risks of these development initiatives (Land tenure, Natural Resource Management, etc.)
- (iii) Identification of potential knowledge gaps and research priorities in the ongoing transformational change initiatives;
- (iv) Scope of the ISPC strategic study, and analysis of the opportunities and principles of engagement for future CGIAR R4D and potential partnerships in SS Africa.

The workshop outcomes will be complemented by further analysis and synthesis, to be written into an ISPC report for informing future CGIAR agricultural research for development strategies in SS Africa and developing countries in general.

[USD 25k for the publication of report under this activity in 2016; see Table1]

### ***2. ISPC Theory of Change and role of ISPC in the overall CGIAR Foresight effort***

The ISPC has been developing its own Theory of Change in 2014 with the intent of developing a more strategic approach to identifying which topics are most important with respect to future CGIAR research. Progress was delayed, however, by the intense involvement in the assessment of pre-proposals. This work will continue in 2016 and will include a scoping study to analyze published Foresight studies undertaken by other organizations in the sector to identify trends of particular relevance to CGIAR research.

[USD 20k for commissioning a scoping study; see Table 1]

### 3. *Prioritization*

The Fund Council at FC-13 (April 2015) requested the ISPC to undertake a prioritization exercise amongst the 45 sub-IDs of the SRF, to be used as a tool to assist it in its evaluation of the CRP-II proposals. The ISPC commissioned several expert consultants to contribute to this exercise and, in addition, a CGIAR key stakeholder on-line survey was launched in June-July 2015 –both of which were aimed at helping inform the ISPC's 'qualitative prioritization exercise'. The overall objective of this prioritization exercise was to develop a framework, independent of Centers' own initiatives, for qualitatively assessing relative priorities across sub-IDs which the ISPC can use at the System-level alongside its assessment of the quality of the individual CRP-II pre-proposals. This framework will also serve as a 'tool' for dialogue between the different parts of the CGIAR System on both the key criteria for a more robust prioritization process in the future and on a mix of methods which might be used. A preliminary qualitative prioritization framework was prepared by the ISPC based on expert opinion, publications and donors' priorities, as a matrix of the sub-IDs targeted by each Flagship project of the phase II CRPs. The preliminary framework was presented and discussed at the ISPC-12 meeting in Rome (September 2015).

In 2016, the prioritization effort will seek to further develop this matrix, based on a wider consultation with experts and CGIAR funders, for providing data to complete and update the initial findings. In the lead up to the independent peer review of full proposals, based on feedback and inputs received, it is anticipated that the ISPC will refine and conduct an expanded qualitative prioritization exercise to feed into a more robust analysis of full proposals. The objective of this exercise will remain the same: to strengthen the quality, relevance, and impact of new investments through the provision of expert scientific guidance through an appropriate qualitative prioritization for the next generation of CRPs. ISPC will take a similar approach in soliciting inputs from (a) a larger set of donors (only 19 responded last time) and (b) some 30 experts drawn from various relevant disciplines (combining survey with Delphi method and/or workshop). Additional support in the form of short-term junior consultant(s) (6 person months) will be required for this activity i.e., in addition to existing ISPC staff time.

More quantitative prioritization efforts have been used by different Centers at different times. TAC itself for many years relied on a quasi-quantitative prioritization tool (a modified congruence approach) for recommending resource allocation at the System level. In 2016, the ISPC will bring in expertise to help explore with PIM/IFPRI ways in which the IMPACT model might be used or adapted to complement the more qualitative exercise on prioritization described above. This is already being used by, and is being expanded upon, by almost all of the Centers under the coordination of the Global Futures project of PIM. There is scope for using this model or combinations of models, to explore ex-ante the impact of different types of research investment at the System level, but validating estimates is a huge challenge here.

[USD 84k to the qualitative prioritization effort and USD 40k to explore more quantitative approaches in 2016; see Table1]

#### **4. *The Science of Impact***

Understanding innovation and impact in dynamic agricultural systems is a relatively new field of scientific inquiry. It is, however, rapidly becoming critical to the CGIAR's ability to pursue an impact-oriented, client responsive AR4D agenda. As part of its counsel on the ongoing development of the CGIAR's research portfolio and the facilitation of global agenda setting on critical issues in sustainable food and agriculture, the ISPC aims to embark on the systematic harvesting of the links among innovation practice and development impact evidence from the CGIAR's current and past activities.

The learning engendered by such a strategic ISPC study is envisaged to become a key tool in helping the CGIAR meet its goals and responsibilities. In addition, coordination of these activities with partners in the international AR4D space would not only significantly enhance the needed evidence base, but also ensure the future systematic collection of such data towards a truly global resource for servicing clients' impact and practice demands in international research and development investment.

Three component activities are envisioned under this study; the first of which – framework development – is planned for 2016. Comparative innovation analysis involving regular face-to-face and virtual meetings will take place in 2017. For developing the framework, concepts from the innovation systems perspective with its focus on institutional determinates of change in complex dynamic systems will be combined with concepts from the theory-based evaluation perspective with its focus on exploring the causal relationships between economic impacts and drivers of change. The framework developed will then be tested in a comparative analysis and refined as required.

The study is ultimately expected to deliver (i) An analytical framework to guide scientific enquiry on relationships, institutions and policies that enable innovation and impact in dynamic contexts; (ii) The establishment of evidence base of the impact effectiveness of key innovation processes, institutional arrangements and polices; and (iii) Critical insights for the development of a series of testable, evidence-based propositions to predict the relationship between innovation processes and impact in current and future agricultural scenarios.

[USD 39k for this activity in 2016; see Table1]

#### **Implementation of the Task Force recommendations related to this pillar in 2016 (if approved by FC):**

Establishment of a new Working Group (WG) on 'Scientific Foresight and Prioritization', which will involve identifying and commissioning relevant expertise from across the CGIAR system, key partners and external experts, and the establishment of the WG to be coordinated by the ISPC. The ISPC will organize and hold the first meeting of the WG on Scientific Foresight and Prioritization, to discuss its remit and work plan, and collate information on work on foresight already underway across the System, e.g. IFPRI through its work on prioritization of agricultural research (e.g. use of IMPACT model and the Global Futures project), the Consortium Office through horizon scanning, and GFAR, particularly through GCARD and the foresight hub.

A session on foresight activities in the CGIAR was organized at the ISPC 12 meeting in Rome (September 2015), which included participation of all CGIAR units involved in foresight. One of the conclusions reached was that ISPC needs to coordinate with the other CGIAR bodies to identify new foresight topics and modalities of engagement where it can add value, to ensure complementarity and to avoid potential duplication or competition. ISPC also needs to disseminate foresight findings and follow-up on them among the Consortium and Fund Council to maximize usefulness and influence of the studies.

The work proposed to be undertaken in 2016 would be used to inform the new System Council who should lead work on Strategic Foresight.

[USD 80k for this activity in 2016; see Table1]

## **Independent Program Review**

The ISPC plays an important role in providing advice to the Fund Council on the scientific credibility and investment worthiness of program proposals, as well as aspects of CGIAR policy.

The 2017-2022 second call for CRPs is being carried out in two stages, with pre- and then full proposals being submitted. The ISPC devoted a substantial time to commenting on the process leading up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> call and then undertaking the review of 13 CRP-II pre-proposals and 9 EOIs received on 17 August 2015. The peer review was conducted by the Council assisted by external reviewers and the ISPC secretariat. The review involved home-based reviews, teleconferences and a face to face meeting of the Council in Rome on 17-19 September 2015 for final deliberations and the drafting of commentaries. The final ISPC commentaries and scoring were shared by the Chair with the FC and CO on 28 September 2015. The ISPC Chair also hosted a CRP portfolio review meeting in Paris on 29 September 2015, with representatives from the Fund Council, Consortium Office, IEA, CRPs and Centers to reach a mutual understanding of the strengths and deficiencies of the portfolio which require action to be taken at the System level. Based on its peer review and considering feedback/inputs received during the Paris meeting, the ISPC will submit a portfolio commentary to the Fund Council by mid-October 2015. The ISPC will host a meeting on 18-19 November 2015 in Rome to discuss individual feedback/guidance for the CRP pre-proposals that have been approved to move to the full proposal stage.

Upon Fund Council's approval of CRP pre-proposals and EOIs in early November, the CB will invite approved pre-proposals to submit full proposals by the end of March 2016. In the lead-up to the call for full proposals, the ISPC will offer its assistance to the CO in development of guidelines and criteria for the preparation of CRP full proposals. It will consider how (peer) recommendations on the CRP portfolio (i.e. portfolio commentary), the feedback on pre-proposals submitted in August 2015, and proposed approach to qualitative prioritization exercise can be incorporated into the overall guidance and template. Assistance to the Consortium in these areas will be provided through existing staff resources.

## **Plans for 2016:**

### **5. *ISPC independent peer review of CRP full proposals and crosscutting platforms***

The ISPC expects the program proposal review component of its work to be even greater in 2016: the CRP full proposals and crosscutting platforms review will be carried out in two phases, with a pre-review between April and June 2016, and a re-review in August-September 2016. The expectation is that an approach similar to the 2015 pre-proposal peer review will be followed: external and internal reviewers will independently review and rate the full proposals, followed by a face-to-face ISPC and Secretariat meeting to discuss these reviews and produce commentaries. CRP site visits by ISPC Council Members and Secretariat staff to gain a more realistic view of capacity and feasibility (than apparent from written proposals) are also anticipated. In December 2016, the ISPC will conduct a final check of the must haves recommended by the CGIAR System Council. Additional meetings with donor representatives, the Consortium Office, and Centers to discuss the ISPC review may also be requested. .

[USD 180k for this activity in 2016; see Table1]

### **Implementation of the Task Force recommendations related to this pillar in 2016:**

Establish the new Working Group (WG) on ‘Quality of Science’. This will involve identifying and commissioning relevant experts from within and outside the CGIAR system. The ISPC will organize and convene the first meeting of the WG to discuss its remit and work plan, and the first few studies to be commissioned on quality of science in the CGIAR, rolling into 2017.

[USD 60k for this activity in 2016; see Table1]

## **Mobilizing Science and Partnerships**

The activities in this key area of the ISPC work include a study of research for development partners and continued development of the successful Science Forum series. The study of research for development partnership explores good practice in multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) in the context of addressing global development challenges. Its purpose is to assist the CGIAR in identifying effective practices and strategies in the rapidly evolving context of stakeholders and global development initiatives. Work in 2015 included presentation and discussion of the revised study concept at ISPC11, as well as series of background studies and the accompanying analysis to synthesize emerging patterns of good practice in MSPs, to arrive at some general principles of engagement and discuss some of the implications for CGIAR practice and positioning. The implications of this analysis, presented at ISPC12, are challenging but not new. Work is continuing within the ISPC to include the various comments and suggestions received on the draft.

The Science Forum series is a flagship series that was initiated by the ISPC in 2009, under its remit of mobilizing science, as a means to reach out to scientists and scientific communities largely external to CGIAR, but who have potentially important contributions to



make to the CGIAR research portfolio and its system level objectives of improving food security, human nutrition and health, alleviation of poverty and environmental sustainability. Three SFs have been held to date; more information is available at the ISPC website at <http://ispc.cgiar.org/mobilize>. Work in 2015 included follow-up to the 2013 Science Forum. Key findings from a follow-up workshop to that Forum were published in a brief in January 2015. In June 2015, a set of papers from the 2013 SF was published in a special section of Food Security entitled “*Strengthening the links between nutrition and health outcomes and agricultural research*”. These include ten original refereed papers (5 authored by CGIAR scientists) together with an introductory paper arising from the September workshop.

## **Planning for 2016:**

### **6. *Research for development partnership study***

The outcomes of the 2015 Partnership study have clearly indicated that:

- (i) Impact at scale means systemic change: Good practice in the new reality of systemic change means that partnership activity needs to be framed within wider change processes;
- (ii) The CGIAR will need to play different roles at different levels in global multi-stakeholder partnership (MSPs): Increasingly play a service provider and trusted advisor role at higher levels whilst the CGIAR’s role in testing and developing foundational science and practice - if effectively linked to MSPs - becomes critical in knowledge application and systemic change agendas;
- (iii) The scientific basis to link MSP practice with impact needs to be established: Strong theoretical case for an impact pathway premised on the more effective interplay between patterns of partnership, institutions and policy. Need a framework to better understand this and an evidence base of what works and how. The CGIAR has a core knowledge role (IPGs) in helping to answer this question.

Work will continue in 2016 to further refine these findings, whilst their implications for CGIAR partnership policy and practice will be discussed and agreed through the organization of an intra-CGIAR partnership workshop as well as an expert panel.

[USD 30k for this activity in 2016; see Table1]

### **7. *Science Forum 16***

The previous two Science Fora focused on research and partnership issues related to the CGIAR SLOs on agriculture and the environment and the potential contribution of agriculture to nutrition and health outcomes. After consultation with the CO and Centers, the ISPC has for SF16 selected the topic: “*Agricultural research for rural prosperity: rethinking the pathways*” to focus on the SLO which has not yet been addressed in a SF– the contribution of agriculture to reducing poverty. The main objective of SF16 is to rethink the pathways for agricultural research to stimulate inclusive development of rural economies in an era of climate change. The Forum will marshal evidence and build on lessons learned to date, to

suggest an updated list of priority research areas and approaches which involve more strategic and inclusive engagement with partners.

SF16 will be co-hosted with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and held from 12-14 April 2016 in Addis Ababa. Next steps, leading up to the Forum, involve developing the program, identifying key speakers, finalizing breakout session organizers, commissioning background documents, launching the SF16 website, calling for proposals for participation of ECS, striving to enhance ECS professional development through better integration into the program, interacting with potential journals for publication, finalizing Forum participants from the registration list, etc. Subsequent to the Forum, a summary of the meeting as well as a distillation of the key messages (ISPC Brief) will be published. The plenary sessions will be webcast and recordings will be available for viewing at a later stage. A two day follow-up workshop to SF16 is also envisaged towards the end of the year.

[USD 200k for this activity in 2016; see Table1]

### **Implementation of the Task Force recommendations related to this pillar in 2016:**

Partnerships are an important part of the delivery mechanism of both science quality and impact. In line with the Task Force recommendations, the ISPC will expand its role on partnerships to further develop a strategic vision on partnerships along the AR4D continuum. This will require close engagement with GFAR and the SO as well as Centers and CRPs. The ISPC will therefore provide scientific leadership and co-ordination across the System to facilitate the building of a network on partnership with representation from across the System.

Activities in 2016 will focus on establishing a Working Group on ‘Partnerships for Impact’. This Working Group will be composed of relevant experts and key stakeholders from within and outside the CGIAR system. The first meeting of the Working Group will be in the latter half of 2016, during which the Working Group will agree its remit on the basis of proposed terms of reference, operating procedures, and an initial work plan. The Working Group will also identify its first partnership-related studies for commissioning or implementation by the ISPC secretariat in 2016. Additional communication and networking needs will be dealt with through the provision of a bespoke virtual working space for the Working Group on the ISPC website.

[USD 80k for this activity in 2016; see Table1]

### **Impact Assessment**

The system-level impact assessment activities of the ISPC are carried out by its Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA). Support for SPIA staffing is made through the ISPC budget (Council and Secretariat, see Table 2). SPIA’s activities and additional consultants have traditionally been funded under the ISPC’s budget for the Council’s activities on an annual basis. For the period 2013-2016, CGIAR funders have committed substantial additional funding for a Program to Strengthen Impact Assessment in the CGIAR (or SIAC).

The activity budget of SPIA identified in this Workplan and Budget request for 2016 (Tables 1-3) is directed entirely as complementary funding towards the accomplishment of the SIAC program within the overall funding for the SIAC project (identified for all four years in Annex A). The SIAC program is broken into four distinct objectives and the ISPC contribution as part of this Workplan, as well as other funding support to activities and management are identified below.

**8. *SIAC Objective 1: Develop, pilot and verify innovative methods for collection and assembly of diffusion data***

The objective is to develop a robust set of methods for routinely tracking adoption of CGIAR-related technologies in a cost-effective manner. Such information is a prerequisite for achieving the highest quality assessment of outcomes and impacts. A set of activities will test innovative ways of assessing the adoption of improved varieties of crops, livestock and fish technologies, agronomic and natural resource management interventions, with the goal of eventually embedding protocols derived on these tests into large-scale surveys carried out by others.

In 2016, following completion of the analysis of the three field experiments comparing DNA fingerprinting to alternative methods for varietal identification (cassava in Ghana; beans in Zambia; maize in Uganda) and completion of two case studies testing innovative protocols for tracking diffusion of NRM technologies (hyperspectral signature analysis for tracking adoption of alternative wetting and drying of rice in Gazipur Bangladesh; mobile phone based applications in tracking adoption of improved nutrient management in India), MSU will hold a meeting in early 2016 to assess outcomes and prepare a document on best practice guidance for gathering data on the diffusion of agricultural technologies. MSU will continue to explore on a pilot scale new alternatives for outsourcing the collection of data on a routine basis that will allow the CGIAR to track adoption of major agricultural technologies in developing countries. This is being done through three innovative data collection projects in India which were funded following a call for adoption studies from private sector providers in India. The competitively selected sub-grants cover: Wheat-rice based farming systems in Haryana and Bihar; Wheat-rice based farming systems in Haryana and Punjab; and Groundnut based farming system in Andhra Pradesh. Fieldwork is expected to be completed in January 2016, following which MSU will write a synthesis of the lessons learned regarding the efficacy of this particular institutional mechanism for generating valid technology adoption estimates.

[ISPC contributes SPIA Chair, panel members and secretariat staff time to this objective, but activities are funded by other elements of the SIAC funding and no further request is made from the budget of the ISPC WorkPlan.]

**9. *SIAC Objective 2: Institutionalize the collection of the diffusion data needed to conduct critical CGIAR impact evaluations***

The objective here is to compile and make available the best available information on outcomes that are at least plausibly attributable to CGIAR research outputs, and on a large-scale. This is where the SIAC program can contribute a key bench-marking function for the

CRPs. Work to fill large gaps in existing adoption databases for genetic improvement technologies (Activity 2.1), natural resource management technologies (Activity 2.2) and policy-oriented research (Activity 2.3) will be continued for priority regions in 2016.

Under Activity 2.1, CIMMYT, CIP, CIAT, IRRI and ICRISAT were funded to collect varietal release and adoption data (using expert elicitations) for 130 crop-by-country (CCC) combinations. In 2015, some Centers made significant progress in completing the data collection (as of September 2015, data collection has been completed for 85 out of 130 CCCs). While ICRISAT is expected to complete this activity before the end of 2015, CIP has requested an extension to mid-April 2016. To complete the data synthesis, organization, and submission of the deliverables, MSU has in turn requested and received (by the SIAC Project Steering Committee) a no-cost extension for the SIAC Phase 1 LOA till July 31, 2016.

Under Activity 2.2, SPIA has hired a consultant to help manage a call for proposal for adoption studies (beginning 2016) of priority NRM technologies such as alternate wetting and drying, cocoa integrate crop and pest management, micro-dosing, fertilizer trees, and site-specific nutrient management. In early 2014, through a review of Centers' annual reports and Performance Measurement System (PMS) documents, NRM outcome claims (derived from or informed by CGIAR research) were identified. This list of claims was refined in 2015, resulting in a shortlist of seven NRM practices that will form the basis for the call for proposal. Ongoing work on estimating adoption of conservation agriculture, soil management and agroforestry technologies in Eastern and Southern Africa, by colleagues at FAO and the World Bank, is also being supported under this activity, and will continue through 2016.

Under Activity 2.3 a consultant was hired to assist SPIA to further develop and help populate an inventory of credible claims about significant policy-oriented research (POR) outcomes from CGIAR research. Phases 1 and 2 were carried out during 2014 and 2015, whereas Phase 3, the external validation of the POR outcome inventory and developing a scoping paper to help define reasonable expectations for documenting policy research related outcomes, will be carried out in 2016.

Under Activity 2.4, the World Bank Living Standards Measurement Surveys-Integrated Surveys of Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) team and SPIA Research Associates based at CGIAR Centers are working together with NARS partners and statistical agencies to see how some of these measures can best be integrated into existing surveys to reduce cost and increase frequency of data collection. As a continuation of the work in 2015, case studies in 2016 will be carried out in Malawi, Uganda and Ethiopia by three SPIA Research Associates: specifically, in (a) Malawi: a cassava identification protocol will be introduced in the LSMS-ISA wave 2 questionnaire, along with leaf-based DNA fingerprinting resulting in improved understanding of cassava varietal adoption, production (yield) estimates, and determinants of adoption; (b) Uganda: an identification protocol for sweet potato, conservation agriculture, and maize identification will be introduced in the Ugandan National Panel Survey wave 4, resulting in improved national estimates of these critical technologies and an enhanced ability to understand production dynamics over time; and (c) Ethiopia: a detailed protocol on crop residue management, and additional questions on chickpea and sweet potato varietal identification will be introduced in the Ethiopian Rural Socioeconomic Survey. This will

provide credible estimates at the national level on crop residue retention, and reliable large-scale adoption estimates of orange-flesh sweet potato and desi/kabuli chickpea adoption.

[USD 139k for this activity in 2016; see Tables 1 and 3]

#### **10. SIAC Objective 3: Assess the full range of impacts from CGIAR research**

While work under Objectives 1 and 2 pave the way for future *ex post* impact assessment studies, Objective 3 activities are focused on carrying out a number of impact assessments of CGIAR research and development initiatives along the entire chain of causation - from research investments to the System-Level Outcomes. Since this causal chain is long and complex, SPIA is approaching it from a number of different perspectives: case studies, to be continued in 2016, that focus on measuring the impact of CGIAR research on health and nutrition (Activity 3.0); long-term large-scale studies of impact for major areas of CGIAR investment (Activity 3.1); sets of short-term micro-scale impact studies using experimental and quasi-experimental methods (Activity 3.2) to provide evidence on the impact of CGIAR research-derived technologies to adopting households; as well as studies of a number of under-evaluated areas of research (e.g. irrigation and water management; livestock and impact types, e.g., examining health and nutrition impacts from CG research (Activity 3.3).

The portfolio of five studies on nutrition and health (Activity 3.0), commissioned in 2014 following a competitive call, will still be running throughout the year 2016, with initial results expected around mid-2016.

In 2015, following a two-stage call for proposals issued in September 2014, five case studies of long-term, large-scale impact (Activity 3.1) were competitively commissioned. The studies will be ongoing throughout 2016, with first results expected towards the end of the year. SPIA is expecting to hold a final results workshop for these studies in October or November 2016.

For Activity 3.2, three new studies started at the beginning of 2015, following a competitive two-stage call for proposals on studies using randomised control trials, and these will run to the end of 2016 or early 2017. For these studies SPIA is planning to hold a mid-term workshop (possibly in conjunction with Activity 3.0) in early 2016.

For the work on under-evaluated areas of CGIAR research (Activity 3.3), such as NRM, irrigation and water management and agro-forestry research, a competitive two-stage call for proposals was issued in June 2015. 26 EOIs were received in August 2015, and ten teams have been invited to submit full proposals by mid-October. SPIA expects to fund three studies that would begin in January 2016. Two additional case studies of under-evaluated research (on gender policy and fish improvement) were selected through a competitive process in early 2015 and will run into 2016, with initial results becoming available in mid-2016.

Under Activity 3.5, SPIA has hired a Research Assistant for six months reaching into 2016, to estimate the CGIAR research investment in various areas of research (e.g. irrigation and water management, social science and policy, natural resource management, training) since its inception; and to estimate the number of household surveys CGIAR Centers/CRPs undertake in a normal year and, if feasible, estimate the financial resources invested in the same.

[USD 188k for this activity in 2016; see Tables 1 and 3]

### **11. SIAC Objective 4: Support the development of communities of practice for ex-post impact assessment**

The CGIAR will benefit from a structured attempt to support the existing capacity and some emerging collaborations on *ex post* impact assessment. Information-sharing and regular interaction are important in enabling the kinds of dialogue that can raise standards of impact assessment in the CGIAR, as well as ensuring that individuals have the skills they need. Activities towards this objective include a now phased-out small grants program (Activity 4.1); a targeted program of capacity-building using competitive calls for collaborations with advanced research institutes / universities (Activity 4.2); conferences and workshops on impact assessment (Activity 4.3); support for independently reviewing and publishing quality ratings of impact assessment studies carried out by CRPs and Centers (Activity 4.4); maintenance and enhancement of the impact website (<http://impact.cgiar.org>) (Activity 4.5).

Activities 4.2-4.5 will continue in 2016: Virginia Tech., working with CIP and CIFOR in strengthening *ex post* IA activities related to implementation of specific IA case studies will produce a final synthesis work in early 2016; and University of Illinois is engaging in similar activities with ICRISAT through September 2016 (Activity 4.2)—report expected in October. SPIA will organize and hold a side-event meeting with the Center/CRP Impact Assessment Focal Points at the Science Forum 2016 meeting of the ISPC (Activity 4.3). Work continues in maintaining and enhancing SPIA's online IA study quality review system as a key mechanism for ensuring high quality assessments of impact (and hence credibility) by the CGIAR, and also for giving Center- and CRP-based economists the leverage they need to argue more effectively for required resources for implementing more impact studies (Activity 4.4). A new website was launched in 2014 and this will require continuous updating and maintenance to ensure effective utilization throughout 2016 (Activity 4.6).

[USD 87k for this activity in 2016; see Tables 1 and 3]

### **12. SIAC Management and oversight**

The SIAC program is governed by a Program Steering Committee (PSC) whose primary functions are to (i) provide strategic guidance in terms of overall direction and appropriate emphasis across and within each of the four Objectives; and, (ii) provide a quality-control function on the decision-making and output of the commissioned activities and reviewing expenditures against budgets. The PSC meets face-to-face occasionally (as schedules permit) and is otherwise convened by teleconference. Technical and administrative support to the PSC is provided by the SPIA/ISPC secretariat which also provides hands-on leadership for managing Objective 4 activities and assists in coordinating some of the activities under Objectives 1, 2 and 3. By the end of January 2016, SPIA expects to publish a report that will synthesize the major preliminary outcomes and strategic lessons from the SIAC program to date, in order to influence the development of the full proposals for the second phase of CGIAR Research Programs starting in 2017. SPIA foresees holding a SIAC meeting in March 2016 to discuss the synthesis and the scope for a second phase of the SIAC program to start in

2017. This idea will be put to the Fund Council in April 2016 for discussion, and a plan will be submitted for approval in the October / November 2016 meeting. In addition, an external review of the SIAC program is foreseen in November 2016. SPIA also intends to continue its work on the Donor Demand for IA information study, building on the results of the donor survey conducted and analyzed in late 2014 and 2015.

[USD 86k for this activity in 2016; see Tables 1 and 3.]

### **ISPC Operations and management**

Up until September 2015, the ISPC operated with a Chair and 6 members (which includes the Chair of SPIA). Council members are appointed in their individual capacity contracted to the Council for stipulated periods of times; ISPC Secretariat staff are employed by the FAO. Two ISPC members reached the end of their terms in September and another ISPC member will reach the end of his term in December. Two new ISPC members were selected (in response to an open advert) by an independent Selection and Nomination Committee and recently approved by the Fund Council. We had expected to bring on one additional ISPC member in 2015 (previously approved by the FC) to bolster the strength of the Council to 7 members – **and one more Council member (8<sup>th</sup> member) if the Task Force report recommendations are accepted by the FC. A new P-5 and two new P2/P3s for the Secretariat are also envisioned under the Task Force report recommendations.** Recruitment is underway to replace the recently retired (July 2015) Executive Director in the Secretariat and it is hoped that by early 2016 that position will be filled. A senior consultant located in FAO in Rome is helping the Secretariat in the interim.

In impact assessment (the SIAC project), the Secretariat initially benefitted from long term consultant support for project and financial management, but then, in April 2015, created a two year professional project management position (P2) to support the SIAC program. (see budget).

### **Communications**

Communications for the ISPC are handled by part time commitments of two of the professional staff with short term consultant support. The ISPC website (<http://ispc.cgiar.org/>) is hosted on the CGNet server, and there is a yearly maintenance contract in place for the website. The monthly maintenance applies updates to the Drupal core, theme, and modules. The ISPC has also elected to add a staging server, so all updates are applied to the staging server first and if there are no issues, the server is configured to use the updated version as the production site. The same updates are then applied to the original site to bring it into sync with production. The service providers are also carrying out a Search Engine Optimization (SEO) for the ISPC website - this is in line with increasing the visibility of ISPC publications in response to the 2014 scorecard on the ISPC. An initial baseline analysis of how well the site is being ranked will lead to a detailed SEO report that, combined with a keyword list, will be used to execute the Tagging phase.

**TF recommendations:** ISPC will adopt a more proactive communications strategy, involving communication professionals, to raise its influence (through raising its profile). An additional

professional staff member (P-2/P-3 level) with technical writing skills will be hired to help with this activity, which will free up scientific staff currently deployed part-time to cover that skill gap.

[USD 50k for these additional activities based on a new communications strategy (to be developed) in 2016; see Table1]

## Budget

The ISPC budget requirement for 2016 is USD 3.644 million, all of which is requested from CGIAR Funds, i.e., from system costs, as the annual USD 1.350 million contribution from the FAO is no longer forthcoming as of 2016 (see Table 2). Thus, although the total budget is similar to previous annual requests by the ISPC (2015 budget of USD 3.648 million) with some variation within the suite of activities proposed for 2016 (Table 1 and Table 3), it would represent an increase of 42% over the amount received by the ISPC in 2015 from the CGIAR Fund (USD 2.561 million). Table 2 provides details of the 2016 budget for Council and Secretariat by expense item compared with the 2015 budget and 2014 actual costs<sup>1</sup>. The additional budget requested under the scenario of a strengthened ISPC based on the Task Force report is USD 650,000, or a total budget request of USD 4,294 million (a 68% increase over the amount received from the CGIAR Fund in 2015). The additional amount would be expected to approximately double in subsequent years as the full complement of staff and program of work is further developed.

The Chair package for 2016 (USD 160,000) is lower than budgeted for in 2015 and significantly less than the budget for 2014. Up to 50 days are allotted within the total honoraria and per diem costs of Council members, though the average number of days claimed for is typically less and varies between Council members according to their availability. The estimated budget for honoraria for Council and panel members is slightly lower in 2016. SPIA calls on the support of two additional panel members and two Research Coordinators. The latter costs are budgeted under specific SIAC activities, but the former under ISPC's budget.

The ISPC budget requirement for all technical activities in 2016 is USD 1.118 million (Tables 1 and 2). This is an increase compared with the 2015 (USD 945,000) and 2014 (USD 651,000) budgets, but the 2016 budget request includes a USD 180,000 budget for the CRP full proposal review and, in addition, the travel costs of ISPC Members and Secretariat, attributable to specific activities have now been incorporated directly into the activity budgets,

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<sup>1</sup> Note, that although the ISPC requested a total budget of USD 3.648 million in 2015, of which 2.298 million is requested from the CGIAR Fund and USD 1.350 million from the FAO, in April 2015 the ISPC received a notification from FAO that its unspent balance from 2014 of USD 480k could be carried over, thus ISPC's 2015 FAO contribution totaled USD 1.830 million. Subsequently, an additional grant of USD 263k was received from CGIAR for undertaking the ISPC Task Force assignment to assess how best to strengthen ISPC activities. This brought the total available budget of the ISPC in 2015 to USD 4.391 million, a 20% increase over the original work plan and budget submitted in 2014.



as opposed to being allocated to the general ISPC travel budget in earlier WpP&Bs (see note to Table 2). **The total budget for technical activities requested under the scenario of a strengthened ISPC, based on the Task Force report, is USD 1.338 million.**

Full time equivalent staff in the ISPC Secretariat (FTE, Table 2) include 8 professional staff (a D1, three P5, one P4, two P3 and one P2-level staff) dealing with science and study management. There has however been turnover; as the Executive Director retired at the end of July 2015. One of the P5-positions is currently acting as interim Director, who is assisted by a short term senior consultant. This has resulted in some savings in the 2015 budget, but the budget for 2016 is premised on a full staff complement from the beginning of 2016. In April 2015, the SIAC program (impact assessment) hired a fixed term 2-year professional (P2-level, listed above) as the SIAC Program Financial and Administrative Manager, paid through the SIAC W1 funds (see note to Table 2). Until then the SIAC program management was handled through consultancy arrangements. With respect to administrative staff (general staff) support, we have the GS6 Senior Office Secretary and G3 Meetings Secretary (recently returned from 6-months maternity leave). The GS4 Travel and Budget Officer, however, was transferred to another position in FAO late last year and has been replaced with a Project Management and Financial Assistant Consultant, resulting in small savings in 2015 and 2016. The budget requested for personnel in 2016 is USD 1.760 million, which remains in line with the previous annual requests by the ISPC. **Under an enhanced ISPC (i.e. if Task Force recommendations are approved) it is foreseen to hire three additional professional staff (one P5 and 2 P2 or P3-level staff). The total Secretariat personnel budget requested under the scenario of a strengthened ISPC, based on the Task Force report, is USD 2.060 million.**

Table 2 provides details of the 2016 travel budget for Chair, Council, Panel Members and Secretariat. Compared with the 2015 budget of USD 325,000, a lower budget is requested in 2016, namely USD 270,000. **The additional travel budget requested under the scenario of a strengthened ISPC, bearing in mind the additional Council Member and extra travel for the Secretariat, is USD 50,000, or a total budget request of USD 320,000.**

Operating expenses covering items such as meetings, communication (webhosting, website development, publications etc.) as well as miscellaneous expenses is budgeted at USD 86,000 in 2016. This is in line with the actual costs in 2014. In 2015 only USD 50,000 was budgeted, but current projections show that this amount will not be sufficient to cover the actual costs. **Under an enhanced ISPC the 2016 budget for operating expenses would have to increase to USD 136,000 (Table 2).**

Since 2013, the activities of SPIA are co-incident with those of the SIAC program. The ISPC budget provides continuing support for the time of the SPIA Chair, SPIA members and Secretariat staff and contributes a sum similar to that for SPIA activities in 2014/15 (Tables 1 and 2) to a sub-set of SIAC activities identified in Table 3, and by budget category in Table 4. Funding SIAC (Phase 1) is a major undertaking for the system and its four-year budget and funding sources are described in Annex A.

**Budget table 1: ISPC activities 2016**

Activity (in US\$000)	2015 Budget	2016 Budget
<b>STRATEGY AND TRENDS</b>		
1. Spatial development initiatives and growth corridors	40	25
2. ISPC Theory of Change and role of ISPC in the overall CGIAR Foresight effort	80	20
3. Prioritization	-	124
4. Science of Impact	-	39
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT PROGRAM REVIEW</b>		
Review of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call CRP pre-proposal and cross-cutting platforms	60	-
Guidelines for future CRP development, workshop/review of implications of SRF metrics	40	-
5. ISPC independent peer review of CRP full proposals and crosscutting platforms	-	180
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>MOBILIZING SCIENCE AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS</b>		
6. Research for Development partnership study	45	30
7. Science Forum 16	180	200
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>		
8. SIAC Objective 1: Develop, pilot & verify innovative methods for collection and assembly of diffusion data	-	-
9. SIAC Objective 2: Institutionalize collection of diffusion data – in 2015 benchmark outcomes/ LSMS-ISA	78	139
10. SIAC Objective 3: Assess the full range of impacts from CGIAR research	282	188
11. SIAC Objective 4: Support the development of communities of practice for ex-post impact assessment	107	87
12. SIAC Management and oversight	33	86
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>TOTAL Activities</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>1,118</b>

**Budget Table 2: ISPC 2016 budget by expense item compared with 2015 budget, 2015 projected & 2014 actuals**

<b>ISPC BUDGET Table 2</b> in US\$000					
<b>EXPENSE ITEMS</b>	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2015 Actual (Projected)	2016 Budget	2016 Budget incl. TF
<b>Council:</b> (including activities and Council Meetings)					
<i>Honoraria (Chair and Office)</i>	330 <sup>1</sup>	215 <sup>1</sup>	165	160	160
<i>Honoraria (Council and Panel Members)</i>	236	270	186	250	280
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>Technical Activities</b>					
<i>Strategy and Trends</i>	105	120	75	208	288
<i>Independent Program Review</i>	46	100	100	180 <sup>2</sup>	240
<i>Mobilizing linkages/partnerships</i>	71	225	160	230	310
<i>Impact Assessment</i>	429	500	635	500	500
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>1,338</b>
<b>Personnel Costs (Secretariat/Office)</b>					
<i>Professional staff</i>	1,314	1,495	1,326	1,460	1760
<i>Administrative support</i>	271	298	238	205	205
<i>Long term Consultant</i>			166	95	95
<i>Short term Consultant</i>	39	50	9		0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>2,060</b>
<b>Number of staff (Full Time equivalent)</b>					
<i>Professional staff</i>	7.00	8.00 <sup>3</sup>	8.00	8	11
<i>Administrative Support</i>	3.00	3.00	2.00	2	2
<i>Number of Consultants</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1	1
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Travel</b>					
<i>Travel and Per diem (Chair, Council and Panel Members)</i>	148	225	126	170	190
<i>Travel and Per Diem (Office/Secretariat)</i>	104	100	112	100	130
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
<i>Meetings</i>	34	0	11	35	55
<i>Communication (web services, publication etc.)</i>	26	0	35	26	46
<i>Miscellaneous operating expenses</i>	24	50	67	25	35
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Overhead Charges</b>					
<i>IT Charges</i>					
<i>Rent</i>					
<i>Legal Services</i>					
<i>Supplies and Miscellaneous</i>					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,177</b>	<b>3,648</b>	<b>3,411</b>	<b>3,644</b>	<b>4,294</b>
<b>FINANCING</b>					
<i>From the CGIAR Fund</i>	2,407	2,298 + (263 <sup>4</sup> )	2,561	3,644	4,294
<i>From FAO</i>	1,350	1,350+ (480 <sup>4</sup> )	1,830		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,757</b>	<b>3,648</b>	<b>4,391</b>	<b>3,644</b>	<b>4,294</b>

## Notes to Budget Table 2:

1. Funds managed by the Trustee representing ISPC chair cost: USD 330k – represents chair cost for 2014 (amount withheld by the FO); USD 215k – represents chair budget for 2015 (budgeted before the contract for the new Chair was finalized). The carryover from 2014, namely USD 70k, will be offset against the actual costs in 2015.
2. Includes ISPC Secretariat's travel to CRP integrated field visits; travel costs of ISPC members and secretariat have been incorporated into the activity budgets
3. In April 2015, a P2 professional post for financial and administrative management of the SIAC program was created for two years (as originally envisaged in the SIAC proposal), this position is funded under the W1 contribution to SIAC and is therefore not included in the ISPC personnel costs for professional staff.
4. The ISPC requested a total budget of USD 3.648 million in 2015, of which 2.298 million is requested from the CGIAR Fund and USD 1.350 million from the FAO .

In April 2015, we received a notification from FAO that the unspent balance from 2014 of USD 480k will be carried over, thus ISPC's 2015 FAO contribution totalled USD 1.830 million or an increase of 35%. Subsequently, an additional grant of USD 263k was received from CGIAR representing funding for the ISPC Task Force and immediate support to the strengthening of ISPC activities, thus ISPC's total CGIAR contribution for 2015 increased by 11% or a total of USD 2.561 million.

To sum up, ISPC's operating budget for 2015 totalled USD 4.391 million. A 20% increase from the original work plan and budget submitted in 2014 of USD 3.648.

**Budget table 3: SIAC activities funded through the ISPC WP&B 2016**

Activity (in US\$)	2015 Budget	2016 Budget
<b>7. SIAC Objective 1: Develop, pilot and verify innovative methods for collection and assembly of diffusion data</b>		
Funded by W1 and BMGF only		
<b>8. SIAC Objective 2: Institutionalize the collection of the diffusion data needed to conduct critical CGIAR impact evaluations</b>		
Post first-year results meeting with Centers/CRPs & reviewers	38,500	
Leadership on developing/measuring and testing policy outcome indicators	11,000	
Synthesis report	28,290	
LSMS-ISA Researcher position 1 and 2		120,000
LSMS-ISA Researchers' visits to SSA countries and other travel		18,750
<b>9. SIAC Objective 3: Assess the full range of impacts from CGIAR research</b>		
Program assistant for call on nutrition	23,433	
Competitive – Grants from nutrition call	125,000	
Competitive - Grants for conducting RCTs on promising technologies		71,522
Competitive - Grants from long-term, large scale call	25,000	40,000
Grants from under-evaluated areas call		44,828
Team leader – under-evaluated areas	20,085	
Assistant – under-evaluated areas	23,433	
Systematic review of previous IA in Area 1	5,000	
Systematic review of previous IA in Area 2	5,000	
Call for, review and evaluate concept notes for Area 2	5,000	
Systematic review of previous IA in Area 3	5,000	
Call for, review and evaluate concept notes for Area 3	5,000	
Team leader	10,000	
Meta-analysis of large scale/credible CGIAR ex post IA	30,000	
Assess and update spillover benefits of CGIAR research		31,827

<b>10. SIAC Objective 4: Support the development of communities of practice for ex-post impact assessment</b>		
Small grants to support IA community of practice		
Capacity –building of CGIAR centers through competitive process		46,581
Poverty technical workshop - Jul 2014		
Quality-rating process for impact assessments conducted by the CGIAR centers & CRPs	35,679	20,000
Maintain and upgrade the CGIAR Impact website	27,583	20,240
Admin support to Objective 4	44,000	
<b>11. SIAC Management and oversight</b>		
Financial and Administrative Management (Secretariat)		
PSC members to individual Activity meetings	10,815	11,139
ISPC secretariat travel to individual Activity meetings	19,494	21,000
Internal Review / Donor Surveys		50,000
Supplies, communication, printing, mailing, computer and software	2,612	4,259
<b>Total</b>	<b>499,924</b>	<b>500,141</b>

**Budget table 4: SIAC expense items funded through the ISPC WP&B 2016**

<b>Expense type (in US\$)</b>	<b>2015 Budget</b>	<b>2016 Budget</b>
Personnel	23,433	120,000
Travel	68,809	50,889
Sub-grants	125,000	252,926
Consulting	280,070	72,067
Other direct costs	2,612	4,259
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>499,924</b>	<b>500,141</b>

For complete four-year budget (2013 – 2016) for SIAC - detailing additional contributions from BMGF and W1 funds - see annex A

**Annex A - Summary of SIAC Program budget** 4-year totals (2013 – 2016), by activity by donor

<b>Objective / Activity</b>	<b>BMGF</b>	<b>W1</b>	<b>ISPC</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1.0 Cross-cutting costs for Objective 1	597,411	40,700	0	638,111
1.1 Methods for tracking adoption of improved varieties	370,668	0	0	370,668
1.2 Methods for tracking natural resource management technologies	330,000	0	0	330,000
1.3 New institutional approaches for collecting adoption / diffusion data	0	137,500	0	137,500
1.4 Disseminate best practice	0	33,000	0	33,000
<b>1 Innovative methods for adoption / diffusion data collection</b>	<b>1,298,079</b>	<b>211,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,509,279</b>
2.0 Cross-cutting costs for Objective 2	335,428	20,350	0	355,778
2.1 Crop-country estimates of improved variety adoption	1,350,995	159,500	0	1,510,495
2.2 Technology-country estimates of NRM adoption	346,500	1,057,000	0	1,403,500
2.3 Database on policy-oriented research outcomes	22,000	77,000	77,790	176,790
2.4 Long-term institutionalization of outcomes data collection	0	674,750	138,750	813,500
<b>2 Institutionalization of adoption / diffusion data across research areas</b>	<b>2,054,923</b>	<b>1,988,600</b>	<b>216,540</b>	<b>4,260,063</b>
3.1 Long-term large-scale ex-post IA studies	433,000	1,071,271	273,433	1,777,704
3.2 Short-term, micro-level IAs with experimental and quasi-experimental methods	477,000	207,500	398,937	1,083,437
3.3 Ex post IAs of under-evaluated areas	331,436	628,450	113,341	1,073,227
3.4 Pre- and post-doctoral research fellowships	0	20,000	10,000	30,000
3.5 System-level synthesis/meta-analysis of post-2000 conducted CGIAR impact studies	0	0	61,827	61,827
<b>3 Assess the full range of impacts from CGIAR research</b>	<b>1,241,436</b>	<b>1,927,221</b>	<b>857,538</b>	<b>4,026,195</b>
4.0 Cross-cutting support for Objective 4	0	0	77,000	77,000
4.1 Small grants program	0	0	30,000	30,000
4.2 Targeted capacity-building through collaborations with universities (competitive call)	237,070	0	286,125	523,195
4.3 Conferences / workshops on impact assessment	0	45,000	46,000	91,000
4.4 Quality ratings of impact assessments carried out by the CRPs/Centers	0	0	75,679	75,679
4.6 Significantly enhance the <a href="http://impact.cgiar.org">http://impact.cgiar.org</a> website	0	0	80,363	80,363
<b>4 Developing an impact assessment community of practice</b>	<b>237,070</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>595,167</b>	<b>877,237</b>
O1 Financial management	50,715	96,057	10,896	157,668
O2 Administrative coordinator	91,287	122,318	58,500	272,105
O3 Administrative support	17,750	0	0	17,750
O4 PSC members travel to annual review meetings	0	0	0	0
O5 PSC members to individual Activity meetings	0	0	42,954	42,954
O6 ISPC secretariat travel to individual Activity meetings	0	7,374	73,608	80,982
O7 Internal Review/Donor Surveys	0	0	50,000	50,000
O8 External review of the impact and influence of past assessment studies	0	0	0	0
O9 External review of the impact and influence of SIAC project	0	51,523	0	51,523
O10 PSC-Commissioned Reviews	0	0	0	0
O11 Supplies, communication, printing, mailing, computer , software, etc.	0	3,764	18,365	22,129
<b>O Oversight, Management and M&amp;E</b>	<b>159,752</b>	<b>281,036</b>	<b>254,323</b>	<b>695,111</b>
- <b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,991,260</b>	<b>4,453,057</b>	<b>1,923,568</b>	<b>11,367,885</b>
- Total indirect costs	254,031	0		
- <b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>5,245,291</b>			<b>11,621,916</b>



**Annex B: Summary of ISPC activities from WP&B 2015** (activities and activity numbers refer to the 2015 document)

Activity	
	<i>Report</i>
<b>STRATEGY AND TRENDS</b>	
Study on Spatial development initiatives and growth corridors - implications for CGIAR research	Background paper commissioned and available to serve as basis for discussion at the scoping workshop. Topic discussed with CGIAR scientists and partners at ISPC-11 (Bogor) in the context of Asia and at ISPC-12 (Rome). Workshop on “Corridors, clusters, and spatial development initiatives in African agriculture” being organized in close collaboration with NEPAD and ECDPM, as a side event of the Global Forum for Innovation in Agriculture (Durban 30 November; <a href="http://gfi africa.com/Partner-events">http://gfi africa.com/Partner-events</a> ).
Strategic foresight in the CGIAR – role of the ISPC	Discussion session on foresight activities in the CGIAR at the ISPC-12 meeting (Rome, September 2015), with participation of IFPRI through its work on prioritization of agricultural research (e.g. use of IMPACT model and the Global Futures project), the Consortium office through horizon scanning, and GFAR, particularly through GCARD and the foresight hub. This was also a key component of the report of the Task Force for strengthening the ISPC.
<b>INDEPENDENT PROGRAM REVIEW</b>	
CRP-II pre-proposal and portfolio independent peer review	ISPC reviewed 13 CRP-II preproposals and 9 EOIs for cross-cutting platforms received in mid-August, and submitted final commentaries to the FC on 28 September 2015. The ISPC Chair led a meeting in Paris (29 September 2015) to discuss the CRP-II portfolio, and the ISPC will submit a portfolio commentary to the FC and CO in October.
Assistance to the Consortium for future CRP development: SRF, prioritization, and CRP pre-proposal guidelines and template	The ISPC submitted a formal review of the IFAD and IFPRI proposal on quantitative modelling of priorities in CGIAR research in March 2015. The ISPC completed a preliminary qualitative prioritization exercise between June and August 2015, and presented the approach and findings during the 12th ISPC meeting (Rome, September 2015) for feedback/inputs.
<b>MOBILIZING SCIENCE AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS</b>	
Dissemination of the 2013 Science Forum outcomes	Key findings from the follow-up workshop in Washington, DC were published in a brief (Brief no. 47) in January 2015. A set of papers from the 2013 SF was published in a special section of Food Security entitled “ <i>Strengthening the links between nutrition</i> ”

	<i>and health outcomes and agricultural research”</i> in June 2015.
Planning for the 2016 Science Forum	Steering Committee established and a few meetings held virtually. Site visit in July 2015. Skeletal program developed. Contract with UNCC for hosting the Forum finalized. LoA with ILRI in progress.
Preparation of Partnership study discussion brief	The revised study concept was presented and discussed during ISPC11. Comments and suggestions received were included and elaborated in the study of research for development partnership
Series of background studies and the accompanying analysis were implemented to arrive at general principles of engagement and to discuss the implications for CGIAR partnership practice and positioning	The draft document entitled <i>Good practice in AR4D partnership</i> was presented and discussed at ISPC12.
<b>INDEPENDENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	
SIAC Objective 1: Develop, pilot and verify innovative methods for collection and assembly of diffusion data	This objective is largely led by Michigan State University and includes the comparison of varietal identification protocols against DNA testing. However, besides overseeing a review process for calls for tracking NRM outcomes in farmers’ fields, SPIA staff were involved in developing a concept note for new alternatives for outsourcing the collection of data on a routine basis
SIAC Objective 2: Institutionalize the collection of the diffusion data needed to conduct critical CGIAR impact evaluations	This activity extends former DIIVA and TRIVSA project work to collect data on crop varietal release and improve adoption data in South and South East Asia. MSU subcontracted five Centers (CIMMYT, IRRI, CIP, CIAT and ICRISAT) to collect varietal release and adoption data for 130 CCCs. SPIA has worked on an NRM outcomes database and a poverty outcomes database and work is in progress to further develop and help populate an inventory of credible claims about significant policy-oriented research (POR) outcomes from CGIAR research. Work by the two SIAC research associates was continued in the field together with the World Bank LSMS-ISA initiative and national partners in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Malawi.
SIAC Objective 3: Assess the full range of impacts from CGIAR research	Work on the 5 commissioned studies on nutrition and health (Activity 3.0) continued throughout the year. Following an inception workshop in July 2015, 5 studies of long-term, large-scale impact (Activity 3.1) took up their activities. For Activity 3.2, 3 new studies started at the beginning of 2015, using randomised control trials. For the work on under-evaluated areas (Activity 3.3), a report of the

	documented evidence for the impacts of former irrigation and water management research was published and two further studies were commissioned. Furthermore a competitive two-stage call for proposals was issued in June 2015 under which SPIA expects to fund 3 studies. Under Activity 3.5, a Research Assistant was hired in September 2015 for six months to analyse CGIAR research investments and household surveys carried out by CGIAR Centers/CRPs.
SIAC Objective 4: Support the development of communities of practice for ex-post impact assessment.	Activities under the two capacity-building studies (Activity 4.2) with Virginia Tech / CIP / CIFOR and ICRISAT / University of Illinois continued throughout 2015; under activity 4.2, University of Illinois ran a one-week workshop on Advanced Methods in Impact Assessment in Nairobi in September 2015 which SIAC supported further through additional travel grants to researchers from across the CGIAR. A quality rating system was designed and set-up for independently reviewing and publishing quality ratings of IA studies carried out by CRPs and Centers (Activity 4.4); The SIAC impact website was maintained and enhanced ( <a href="http://impact.cgiar.org">http://impact.cgiar.org</a> ) (Activity 4.5).
SIAC Management and oversight	Continuing, including through support to the Program Steering Committee. A SIAC midterm review meeting was held in February 2015 to discuss the activities carried out and the results obtained.