

Photo credit: IAES

2025 Evaluability Assessments (EAs): Everything You Need to Know



Independent
Advisory and
Evaluation
Service

August 2025

General FAQ about EAs ([here](#))

Everything You Need to Know About the 2025 EAs

1. What is the purpose and expected outputs of these Evaluability Assessments?

The Evaluability Assessment (EA) aims to provide actionable recommendations for improved MELIA components for each of the programs and accelerators (P/As), while preparing the Portfolio for midline evaluations in 2027. Both the EA and mid-line evaluations of [CGIAR's 2025–30 Portfolio](#) are included in the [2025–27 work plan for CGIAR's Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service \(IAES\) \(SC/M21/DP5\)](#), and have been approved by the System Council. An update on the EA process was shared at SC22 ([link](#)).

2. Who are key stakeholders in the Evaluability Assessments?

Key stakeholders include program and accelerator staff, implementing and any supported communities. Donors and CGIAR management, including PPU and PCU, are also key stakeholders.

3. How coordinated is the EA process with the ISDC reviews and the PPU and the PCU?

In line with the 2025 EA Terms of Reference, in April–May, the EA partially assessed Individual P/A draft ToC and MELIA Plans (shared with PPU on 23 May). The partial EA applied Domains A and B from the EA framework (Figure 1) referencing the 2023 EAs of the

Regional Integrated Initiatives (RIIs) ([link](#)). They were cross-referenced with the EA initial review of PPU's guidance on ToCs and MELIA plans. The EA presented to ISDC reviewers as part of their induction for the review of P/A Inception Reports ([link](#)). ISDC reviews are one of key documents for the full EA in August–October 2025.

Figure 1. Seven domains of the EA framework

Credit: CGIAR

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- A vertical stack of seven green rectangular boxes, each containing a letter and a domain name. The boxes are arranged from top to bottom: A. Intervention Logic, B. MEL Systems and Resources, C. Gender diversity and inclusion, D. Long-term evaluability, E. Context and environment, F. Management and Stakeholder engagement and response, and G. Cost Effectiveness and Efficiency.
- A. Intervention Logic
 - B. MEL Systems and Resources
 - C. Gender diversity and inclusion
 - D. Long-term evaluability
 - E. Context and environment
 - F. Management and Stakeholder engagement and response
 - G. Cost Effectiveness and Efficiency

4. How will the EAs of the Portfolio be implemented?

The IAES' [EA Guidelines](#) (also in [Spanish](#)) is the primary resource for the EA process. The EA framework includes six core domains, with a seventh – focused on cost and efficiency (Figure 1) – recently added at the funders' request. Each domain is supported by guiding questions to inform implementation. The EAs support the inception of [the 2025–2030 Portfolio](#), and is being implemented in three phases: inception, implementation and synthesis (for SC23).

The inception phase (March–July) included document reviews and data collection, and a light-touch application of the EA Framework to support the development of the P/A Inception Report. The inception phase concludes with EA Inception Notes for each P/A, developed in collaboration with their teams to guide the approximately 10-day implementation phase (Table 1). The EA process would: validate the EA purpose and scope; identify and involve stakeholders; apply the EA Framework; collect key documents, identify potential evidence gaps, and engage the evaluand; decide on evaluation readiness and make recommendations (e.g., in preparation for 2027 mid-line evaluations of P/As); and use EA results (for the inception and roll-out in 2027). Final EA reports will detail results, that build on ISDC’s review of the Inception Reports. An EA synthesis report will present an analysis of all 13 P/As to the SC23.

Table 1. Estimated iterative 10-day implementation per Science Program/Accelerator

Day	Key Processes and Steps
1–3	Review of P/A documents; interviews; engage with self-assessment EA results per P/A
4–6	Workshop (hybrid format to permit the broadest possible F2F inclusion; or entirely virtual); online as short as 1–2 hours or as long as one-half day, pending agreement in the IN for each EA. The EA team and P/A staff will combine homework and come together to collaborate and co-produce.
7–9	Drafting agreed upon deliverable(s): short and actionable EA report; validation of recommendations.
9–10	Finalizing deliverable based on P/A staff feedback; response from P/A management.

5. Who is conducting the Evaluability Assessments?

The core EA team includes IAES staff and consultants: a Team Lead evaluation consultant experienced in EAs, and a subject matter expert, with additional thematic expertise provided per P/A. To facilitate participation, strengthen program understanding, and build capacity, each program’s CGIAR MEL focal point has been engaged and invited to join the EA team.

6. What is the level of effort required from the P/A staff for this exercise?

The EA implementation phase of the full EA Framework will be detailed in the Inception Notes for each of the 13 P/As (Table 1). The EA workplan will be tailored and iterative, with timelines reflecting scheduling demands, agreed level of effort, and coordination among the EA Team and the P/A staff.

7. What is Evaluability?

At CGIAR, evaluability is defined as “the extent to which an intervention can be evaluated in a reliable and credible fashion” ([CGIAR Evaluation Framework](#), p. 1).

8. Why are EAs important for programs?

The concept of evaluability is regarded as central to fostering a culture of results. While the evaluability of a program can be assessed at any stage in the project cycle, focus on evaluability at the design and inception stage will prepare for overall ‘measurability’, monitoring and subsequent evaluation.

9. What is an evaluation?

The most widely accepted definition of evaluation is by theorist Michael Scriven (1991): “Evaluation is the systematic process to determine merit, worth, value or significance” of the *evaluand*, or that which is being evaluated (p. 139) – thereby emphasizing the role of values in evaluation.

Useful Links to Learn More About EAs



[Blog on the IAES site](#) explaining how EAs are an essential tool for CGIAR managers.



Article: [2025 Evaluability Assessments: Everything you need to know.](#)



[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) – Evaluation and EAs](#)



[IAES’ EA Resource Hub](#)

Reference

Scriven, M. (1991). *Evaluation Thesaurus* (4th edition). Sage Publications.



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