



Photo by Aulia Erlangga / CIFOR

ISPC 2017 Work Plan: In Brief

August 2017



Independent
Science and
Partnership
Council

Brief Number 55

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) of the CGIAR provides advice on science and partnership strategies to donors that can enhance their capacity to support effective agricultural research programs for development.

The continuing evolution of the CGIAR System, including the nature and scope of the ISPC, is reflected in the proposed [ISPC work plan for 2017](#).

ISPC WORKSTREAMS

The ISPC work plan is organized around five workstreams:

- Agri-Food System Innovation and Partnership: Provides advice on innovation and impact processes and modalities – including the central role of partnership.
- Foresight and Prioritization: Provides advice to the System Council (SC) to support decisions on the strategic direction of the CGIAR, cutting edge and emerging developments in technologies and methodologies, and CGIAR research priorities.
- Impact Assessment (IA): Provides advice on ex-post impact assessment methodologies, informs donors about the actual impact of CGIAR research, and works to change the culture of CGIAR to integrate impact assessment in a coordinated way through capacity development and by providing guidance on IA strategies.
- Program Review: Provides ex-ante advice on the quality and relevance of CGIAR research, and may also need to include monitoring of implementation of “must haves.”
- Science Dialogue: Engages partners in identification, design, implementation, and communication activities to contribute to the improvement of the quality and relevance of CGIAR science, and underpins both the program review and foresight functions.

These clusters are built upon past ISPC workstreams, with some adjustments and additions to reflect changes in the tasks the ISPC is being called upon to deliver in the new CGIAR system, and also to enhance the focus and efficiency of the workstreams.

LOOKING AHEAD

The ISPC work plan for 2017 includes greater emphasis on innovation and impact processes, including the central role of effective partnerships, reflecting the increased importance of bridging research to impact in the new CGIAR system, and the need for a system-wide approach. It also includes increased emphasis on building foresight and prioritization capacity in order to respond to greater

demands for ISPC to provide strategic guidance in these areas. The work on assessing impact will see the delivery of a major set of outputs from the first phase of the SIAC project (Strengthening Impact Assessment in the CGIAR) on impact assessment methods, capacity building and results and these will be synthesized to provide insights on system performance, as well as provide support to impact assessment improvements in the system. In addition work on developing SIAC Phase II will be included in the workstream. The ISPC Council will remain active on program review, albeit at a considerably lower level of effort than that of 2016. And finally, the work stream on science dialogues builds upon past work on mobilizing science, expanding it to encompass the exchange and communication of science narratives with a broad range of stakeholders.

For more information, see the [ISPC Work Plan and Budget 2017](#).



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