



GCARD3 Africa Regional Consultation

Theme 3: Increasing the impact of CGIAR and other international agriculture research organisations in Africa

Synthesis of Day 1 Online Consultation

1. CGIAR can contribute to Africa's agricultural development (AAD) and show impact only when scientists in Africa are skilled and can contribute to AAD.
2. This requires strengthening national agricultural research systems to take advantage of existing (and new generated) knowledge and apply it to local contexts to deliver solutions.
3. Institutional development, good governance and accountability of national systems of agricultural research and innovation, and of national governments is also key in this regard
4. Three most significant impacts attributed to the CGIAR in Africa include the work on mealybug of cassava, Nerica and Maize streak virus resistance.
5. Need to address dramatic challenges still arising from competition between agriculture and livestock production
6. CGIAR should focus on producing outputs/outcomes that will make poverty, hunger and malnutrition history in our generation, targeting impacts related to food security and sustaining the environment
7. CGIAR can choose priority countries but its mandate to deliver Global Public Goods also calls for knowledge sharing mechanisms and scaling out effective technologies to non prioritized countries.
8. GCARD 3 sessions on scaling up science recognized the crucial importance of political ownership of the African science agenda (African Union, NEPAD agency and regional economic communities, STISA 2014 & S3A), but the disappointing level of national investments.
9. RUFORUM university network, CORAF/WECARD West African Agricultural Productivity Programme are examples of effective capacity development schemes. New EU-African and OECD (USA, Japan, Canada) research partnerships as well as with Brazil and China, are contribute partially replacing the importance of collaboration with CGIAR
10. What more is needed? What can be done to achieve impact? CGIAR alignment to national/regional priorities and national systems capacities is critical. Genuine collaboration is required and essential as trained African researchers find working opportunities in their home countries.
11. CGIAR should reinforce collaboration with other lead international organizations involved in AR4D in Africa based on comparative advantage.

12. Important role of Development Agencies, like [FAO](#) and [AfDB](#), in helping to define the scope and potential of public-private partnerships for addressing food and nutrition challenges, through capacity building and, enhanced South-South cooperation

Potential follow-up questions:

1. What exactly should be the role for CGIAR centres? Of CRPs? To design genuine partnerships (not opportunistic)? Should Centers mandate change? Where should they lead?
2. Which mechanisms exist or should be put in place to ensure that CGIAR and other international agriculture research organizations impact is maximized?
3. What is the role of the CGIAR in capacity development?
4. As a corollary, should the CGIAR new Strategy and Results Framework (2017-2030) -yet a living document- include a vision for devolution to national systems?
5. Is the current framework for AR4D creating enough spaces for farmers' appropriate role in implementation of programs?
6. Are Innovation Platforms effective and sufficient mechanisms for ensuring impact?
7. How should CGIAR operate to leverage additional financial resources from other agencies for strategic Partners along impact pathways and work in synergy in disseminating appropriate technologies?

Challenges identified in the [Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa \(S3A\)](#) but not yet specifically addressed by participants from an impact perspective:

- Problematic land tenure systems
- Inadequate levels of mechanization
- Food Losses (Many pests, diseases and weeds) and Waste
- Poor incentives

Challenges identified in CGIAR SRF but not yet specifically addressed by participants:

- Overdrawn and polluted water supplies threatening social breakdown and rising levels of conflict
- Nutritious and diverse agri-food systems and diets are becoming more important
- Post-harvest losses of crop, livestock, fish, and tree-products to pests, spoilage and spillage are estimated at 30% to 50% globally

Specific selection of Background Documents for Day 2:

- Selection of documents from the [CGIAR ISPC](#) and [GFAR](#) websites that should stimulate your appetite on these subjects.

- Scaling Up Climate Solutions: Achieving Impact at Scale, Dr Bruce Campbell, Director, CRP on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS), GCARD3 April 2016
- Partnering for Impact: All Malawian Farmers access new Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato varieties, Tom Remington, ILRI, Malawi, GCARD3 April 2016
- Research Impact evaluation through participatory methods: First lessons from CIRAD experience, Hainzelin Etienne, CIRAD, GCARD3 April 2016
- Impact assessment of Agricultural Research – An FAO E-mail Conference (5 May–1 June 2014)
- All presentations made under GCARD3 Theme1 “Scaling up - from research to impact” accessible [here](#).