



Dear Colleagues,

The Transition Management Team (TMT) recently met in Washington, DC, to continue to move implementation of the CGIAR reforms forward. I know the reform effort has been a long road, but we are getting closer and there are signs of significant progress that I am excited about:

- We are much closer to having a Consortium Constitution and Fund Framework that multiple stakeholders support. We have worked to achieve this comfort level through face-to-face meetings, teleconferences, and electronic consultations in recent months with donors, Alliance leadership, and the World Bank in its role as trustee. For example, several outstanding issues on the Fund were resolved during an e-consultation with donors earlier this month.
- The Strategy Team just completed their much anticipated fourth progress report on the Strategy and Results Framework and Mega-Programs. The Strategy Team welcomes your feedback on this paper (available at: <http://sites.google.com/a/cgxchange.org/alliance>) as input to the final draft report that will be completed in late October. This document and subsequent versions will form the basis for consultations in lead up to the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) and inaugural Funders Summit.
- The Alliance has launched a formal search for Consortium board members and is expected to announce the members by December 2009. The Alliance is also nearing completion of a number of critical analyses (e.g. the net cost impact of the System reform, opportunities for System shared services, and design of the Consortium Office).
- The Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) is off to a good start with the regional reviews nearly completed and regional electronic consultations underway with more than 1,000 participants. For the early takeaways from these consultations, please visit the GCARD blog: <http://gcardblog.wordpress.com/>
- In the coming weeks, we plan to share a draft of the CGIAR Declaration—a brief overarching document that clarifies how the various pieces of the new System fit together and the role of key players.
- The Members Survey completed last Spring is being updated to provide a current view of donor commitment to the new Fund.

As we move closer to ExCo-17, which will take place on November 3-4 in Rome, I am confident that we can get firm agreement on the design of a revitalized CGIAR System and that we will achieve the goals we set out for ourselves in December last year when we agreed to implement these reforms. I'd like to ask that we all keep these guiding goals in mind in the coming critical months:

1. Clear strategic focus;
2. Increased research output, outcome, and impact;
3. Greater efficiency, effectiveness, and relevance;
4. Simplicity and clarity of governance;
5. Enhanced decentralized decision making; and
6. Active subsidiarity to capitalize on complementarities of the Centers.



As we continue to resolve the remaining tough issues, I encourage you to also remember our shared values that have successfully brought us this far - trust, empathy, and a mindset that strongly believes the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Again, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and I'm looking forward to engaging with you in the coming months to successfully complete this stage of the CGIAR reform.

Warm regards,

Kathy Sierra
CGIAR Chair
On behalf of the CGIAR Transition Management Team