

## SCIENCE COUNCIL OF THE CGIAR

### **Strategy for the Implementation of the CGIAR System Priorities for Research: Update and suggestions for a consolidated process**

*A background paper for ExCo-11  
September 30, 2006*

#### **Summary**

The CGIAR endorsed the new System priorities for Research at AGM 2005. This paper summarises the initial allocations of Center project activities and budgets to System Priorities (SPs) based on the information provided by Centers and Challenge Programs in their MTPs for 2007-2009. In general, the allocations were made in a distributed, accounting fashion on a Center-by-Center basis. The MTP format has allowed little indication of the collaborative and cooperative research (and research planning) anticipated for the SPs at the System level. The Paper therefore suggests how framework plans might be developed for each of the 20 SPs indicating, in a general sense, which types of collaborative research approach might be required. The vehicles are not uniform - as the character of the research, and the number and size of partnerships in each SP influence this decision. Two major areas for CGIAR research, germplasm enhancement of staple crops and natural resource management at the landscape level, are suggested to be developed as large Systemwide programs. Two further areas, research on high value fruit and vegetables, and combined research on markets and rural institutions, are suggested to be suitable to be considered for new Challenge Programs with substantial external input. In other cases, the SC has suggested that interim studies and consideration of the concepts produced should be evaluated, before continuing to full proposal development and the selection of any particular research vehicle. The SC looks forward to working with the Alliance and relevant stakeholders to guide and accelerate the process of the definition and implementation of the SP research programs.