

Revitalizing the CGIAR: A summary of Alliance Next Steps

At its meeting of 28-30 November 2008 in Maputo, the 15 members of the Alliance of the CGIAR Centres agreed to create a Consortium as a legal entity with the Centres as “shareholders”. On 5th December CGIAR members endorsed the new organizational model, which includes the creation of the Consortium. This document briefly summarizes the purpose of the Consortium and the steps the Alliance will now take to create it.

The Consortium will have an international legal persona; it will be governed by a Consortium Board and managed by a CEO/Executive Director. Its purpose is to increase the capacity of the Centres to deal with global issues, catalyze innovation and harness synergies and collective strengths of the centres and partners to achieve at global scale the mission of the CGIAR. The Consortium will provide a strong system voice in international debates and fora and will offer a unified entry point into the System. The Consortium, working closely with partners, will lead the development of the Strategy and Results Framework for the whole system.

During the transition leading to the establishment of the Consortium, the Alliance has agreed on specific steps for co-designing, with our partners, the initial Strategy and Results Framework. We agreed to have a draft process by March 2009, hold initial consultations and present the process, and considerations about the nature of mega-programmes within the Strategy, to the May 2009 ExCo meeting. This will be followed by the consultation process to develop the Strategy and Results Framework and associated mega-programmes. We anticipate that the first Conference on Agricultural Research for Development, planned for early 2010 in Montpellier, will allow us to finalise this consultation process.

The Alliance has formed a task force of Board Chairs and Directors General that has been delegated the authority to manage the process of planning and establishing the Consortium together with the Alliance Office. This task force will ensure that a draft Consortium Charter is produced for discussion by the Alliance during its May 2009 meeting. The Alliance has agreed that the Consortium Board will appoint the CEO/Executive Director, set and monitor standards, make structural adjustments where necessary, improve delivery systems, ensure compliance with its decisions and manage risks.

Based on the draft Consortium Charter, the task force and the Alliance Office will provide to the full Alliance an ex ante assessment of the costs of establishing and operating the Consortium, including the costs of the Consortium Office, CEO/Executive Director, Board, common services and functions and management of mega-programmes.

The Boards of the Centres joining the Consortium will ratify the Consortium Charter, and approve the creation of the Consortium and its Consortium Office, including their operating costs, at the September-October 2009 Centre Board meetings.

We expect that the Consortium will be formally established, including the appointment of the Consortium Board, following this ratification, toward the end of 2009. The establishment of the Consortium as a full international legal entity may take more time, depending upon the legal options for incorporation that will be chosen.

We will work with the transition management team to coordinate our activities with all the teams working on the other foundation blocks of the change process.