



What is the CGIAR Consortium?

Information Note from the CGIAR Consortium General Counsel¹

The CGIAR Consortium's official name is the *Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers*. It is an independent international organization with full international legal personality² whose members are engaged in research for a food secure future and whose main role is to oversee the implementation of CGIAR's Strategy and Results Framework, including the CGIAR Research Programs.

The CGIAR Consortium operates under the authority of a legally constituted board, the Consortium Board³ and in accordance with the internal operating rules set forth in the CGIAR Consortium's Constitution.

The CGIAR Consortium is part of **CGIAR** which is a *global research partnership for a food secure future*⁴, which also includes the CGIAR Consortium members, donors (CGIAR Fund donors represented by the Fund Council and bilateral donors), as well as partner organizations who all contribute to implement the CGIAR's Strategy and Results Framework⁵. All System components (Fund Council, Fund Office, Independent Science and Partnership Council, Independent Evaluation Arrangement) are part of CGIAR.

The CGIAR Consortium has 3 components:

1. The Consortium Board

The Consortium Board is the sole governance body of the CGIAR Consortium. Its primary legal and/or fiduciary responsibility is to govern the CGIAR Consortium to ensure that it is financially viable and able to carry out its mission effectively.

2. The Chief Executive Officer of the CGIAR Consortium and the Consortium Office

The CEO is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day operations of the CGIAR Consortium and, under the supervision of the Consortium Board, represents the CGIAR Consortium in its external relations, together with the Chair and other members of the Consortium Board, as appropriate⁶.

The Consortium Office supports the CEO who in turn reports to the Consortium Board. The Consortium Office is simply an office or a unit and not a legal entity. This is why the CEO is the CEO of the CGIAR Consortium (the organization) and not the CEO of the Consortium Office. Likewise, policies adopted by the Consortium Board are CGIAR Consortium policies (policies of the organization) and not Consortium Office policies. The Consortium Office does not employ staff, the CGIAR Consortium (the organization) does.

¹ Elise Perset.

² The CGIAR Consortium has been an international organization since the entry into force in 2012 of the Agreement establishing the CGIAR Consortium as an international organization.

³ Article 6 of the Constitution.

⁴ Cf. the CGIAR Branding Guidelines.

⁵ Cf. the CGIAR Glossary which defines CGIAR as "the global scientific research-for-development partnership consisting of the Consortium, Centers, CGIAR Funders, Partners and other CGIAR Participants to implement the SRF based on the goals expressed in the CGIAR Principles and the aspirations expressed in the Joint Declaration".

⁶ Article 13 of the Constitution.

3. The CGIAR Consortium members

The CGIAR Consortium has members (Centers or CGIAR Consortium members) which are legally independent bodies and, although members of the CGIAR Consortium, are separate from the CGIAR Consortium.

As members, they have a number of rights in connection with the CGIAR Consortium's governance, as follows: the right to (i) be consulted by the Consortium Board for advice and feedback; (ii) participate in meetings of the Consortium Board for agenda items in which member issues are to be discussed; (iii) elect nominated Consortium Board members; (iv) appoint one (non-voting) observer to the Consortium Board to represent the interests of the Centers; (v) cast a (non-binding) "no confidence" vote in the Consortium Board; (vi) remove Consortium Board members (under exceptional circumstances, such as gross negligence of duties, fraud or criminal activity); (vii) propose and approve amendments to the Constitution; and (viii) admit nominated members to the CGIAR Consortium⁷.

Terminology:

- When the term "**CGIAR Consortium**" is used, it means the organization represented by its board and CEO, and does not include its members. For example, a CGIAR Consortium position on an issue is the Consortium Board's position, which may or may not be shared by the boards of its members, although the CGIAR Consortium does consult with its members and will generally take positions that also represent its members and their interests.

For clarity, it is recommended that the following footnote be used in formal documents when referring for the first time to the CGIAR Consortium: "The CGIAR Consortium means the *Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers*. Although the CGIAR Consortium consults its members and generally represents their views and interests, it acts in its own right and its positions do not necessarily reflect the positions of its members".

- When we wish to refer to the CGIAR Consortium including its members, we need to use the expression "**the CGIAR Consortium and its members**".
- When we refer to "**CGIAR**", we mean the CGIAR Consortium and its members, donors (CGIAR Fund donors represented by the Fund Council and bilateral donors), as well as partners who all contribute to implement the CGIAR's Strategy and Results Framework.

⁷ Article 15 of the Constitution.