

# **Fund Council**

6<sup>th</sup> Meeting (FC6)—Rome, Italy November 8-9, 2011

# **GCARD 2012 Funding Proposal**

(GFAR was requested to put forward, in consultation with the Consortium, a new proposal that takes on board innovative ways of doing business, outreach and communications and combine them in a scaled-down face-to-face meeting.)

Document presented for Agenda Item 15: Any Other Business

> <u>Submitted by:</u> GFAR



# **GCARD 2012**

Funding Proposal to the CGIAR Consortium and Fund

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### GCARD 2012: Funding Proposal to the CGIAR Consortium and Fund

### Context

The first Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD), held in March 2010 in Montpellier, France, was a milestone international event. GCARD 2010 brought together over 800 participants from all sectors concerned with the role of agricultural research and knowledge as vital tools in international development. GCARD 2010 was judged extremely successful by its participants, with 90% of the delegates rating the content and discussion of GCARD as equally valuable, or more valuable, than other recently attended conferences (ex-post survey responses).

Organized by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), in partnership with the CGIAR, the GCARD was created as a core part of the reform of the international research system and has brought together the processes of GFAR with the reform of the CGIAR. GCARD now provides a unique rolling mechanism for global dialogue, partnership and catalyzing actions across all stakeholder sectors in agricultural research for development.

The Conference forms an important element of the reform of the CGIAR and building more effective and transparent partnerships towards development impact:

- Participants of the GCARD 2010 welcomed the CGIAR reform process, endorsing the aims of building a new vision and strategic direction for the CGIAR, to create increased openness, dynamic partnerships, an outcome-based culture, and clarified accountabilities.
- Analyses by the CGIAR, insights gained through the GCARD e-consultations and Conference
  and direct discussion with GFAR constituencies, enabled regional needs to be integrated
  into the new Strategy and Results Framework for the CGIAR Consortium, better targeting
  the development needs of the poor and bringing wider perspectives of partners directly into
  the framework's development.
- The CGIAR's new large-scale international research programmes (CRPs) were grounded in public discussion prior to and during the GCARD Conference, significantly helping to crystallize the themes and develop the partnerships required for impact, in light of national programs and development commitments.

Since the GCARD 2010, the CGIAR CRP leaders have been consulting widely with their research partners as these new programmes have been developing, including through the new use of econsultations. However, the CGIAR's inputs represent only a part of the roles, investments and capacities that we need to mobilize together to achieve development impacts that can touch the lives of many millions of people. Achieving the desired impacts from the new CRPs requires catalyzing a wide range of AR4D actions and national investments beyond the CGIAR's direct responsibilities and in all relevant spheres.

The ongoing GCARD process provides an important means for the Consortium's work to be further refined, developed and linked with others involved in the pathways between research, knowledge

access, its use in innovation and resulting development impacts. GCARD also provides wide public accountability of international actions to those they seek to serve and mutual accountability in research-for-development partnerships through awareness-raising, consultation and dialogue in this open and inclusive mechanism.

The GCARD Roadmap is the key outcome from the GCARD 2010, agreed by representatives from all constituencies in AR4D, including CGIAR Centers and other advanced research institutions, national research and development institutions, farmers, civil society organizations, the private sector and the development assistance community. The Roadmap's core focus is strengthening and transforming the systems by which knowledge in agriculture is generated, shared and used in agricultural innovation and enterprise, so that these processes are driven by development demands, are centred on the needs of resource-poor smallholder producers in particular and ensure that agricultural knowledge and innovation contribute their full part towards increased food and nutritional security, sustainably increased agricultural productivity and improved rural incomes.

The Roadmap provides a clear path forward and a six-point plan for action among all involved, recognizing clearly that "business as usual" is no longer an option:

- 1. The need for collective focus on key priorities, as determined and shaped by science and society,
- 2. The need for true and effective partnership between research and those it serves,
- 3. Increased investments to meet the huge challenges ahead and ensure the required development returns from AR4D,
- 4. Greater capacities to generate, share and make use of agricultural knowledge for development change among all actors,
- 5. Effective linkages that embed research in the wider development context and actions enabling developmental change,
- 6. Better demonstration and awareness of the development impact and returns from agricultural innovation.

The GCARD Roadmap and GFAR's role in facilitating these transformations at all levels have been directly welcomed by the Agriculture Ministers of the G20 in their June 2011 Declaration: "Action plan on food price volatility and agriculture".

**The G20 Conference on Agricultural Research for Development**, held in Montpellier on 12-13 September 2011, further recognized the crucial role of GCARD in addressing these enormous challenges:

"The next GCARD in Uruguay in 2012 is a major next step for Agricultural Research Systems aimed at enhancing their development impact. The interested G20 Countries are encouraged to support, through national focal points, the preparation of a successful and inclusive GCARD."

The G20 meeting also highlighted the specific value of GFAR, the CGIAR and the GCARD in addressing future needs:

"To help identify and describe future challenges and opportunities, and shape priorities for Agricultural Research for Development, existing mechanisms, in particular GCARD, CGIAR and GFAR are essential. The principle of a Global Agricultural Foresight Hub, proposed by GFAR, was widely welcomed. It provides an opportunity for G20 countries to support the development of a neutral platform, linking international, regional and national levels and should be further elaborated."

### **GCARD 2012 - Main Features**

### THEME: FORESIGHT AND PARTNERSHIP FOR INNOVATION AND IMPACT ON SMALLHOLDER LIVELIHOODS

The GCARD 2012 is being designed by a multistakeholder committee, including Dr Anne-Marie Izac, for the Consortium Office and Dr Ruben Echeverria, bringing the CGIAR Centre Directors' perspectives.

As the focus now shifts from *what needs to be done* to *how do we make it happen*, the GCARD2 will look at practical ways to improve foresight and partnerships for innovation and impact on small-holder livelihoods. By processes of consultation and action throughout 2012, it will help prioritize and plan international actions in research, knowledge sharing and innovation and help to create the partnerships and capacities required for the CRPs to lead through to substantive impacts.

The GCARD 2012 Conference provides a unique and vibrant platform in which to build cooperation around key forward-looking agenda. Establishing equitable partnerships along the pathways to impact and building common ownership of agendas will add crucial value to the SRF and help to refine and strengthen the value and relevance of the CRPs among the diverse implementing partners required for their impact.

This thematic focus of the GCARD2 and the need for the SRF to take on a longer-term perspective in planning and prioritizing actions to meet future needs was strongly endorsed by CGIAR representatives during the recent GCARD 2012 planning meeting: "Foresight and examining what the world may be like in the future and therefore, what agricultural research is needed now, is crucial for better focusing the CGIAR's work and should be the major focus of the GCARD2".

The Consortium's involvement in the GCARD planning has also strongly emphasized the role of GCARD 2012 and the value of its outcomes in developing critical partnerships for impact, supporting the implementation of the SRF and helping to develop and shape its associated Action Plan, the development of which was requested at the last CGIAR Funders' Forum.

The conceptual framework of the GCARD2 addresses global priorities, bringing together the GCARD Roadmap's transformational *processes* in international and national systems and *thematic AR4D areas* common across the MDGs, the GCARD2010 regional and global analyses, the CGIAR SRF System-level Outcomes and the FAO programme of work.

The concept focuses on the Roadmap 'entry' issues of foresight & prioritization, equitable partnership and capacities required and the thematic outcomes of reducing rural poverty, improving food and nutrition security and sustainable management of natural resources, including their complex interactions, benefits and trade-offs.

### Actions towards the GCARD 2012

Throughout 2012, the programme of work of GFAR is dedicated towards supporting the delivery of the GCARD Roadmap at all levels. Actions directly relevant to the CGIAR and towards realizing the value of the reform include:

- **Foresight:** The initiation of the Global Foresight Hub and its associated meetings, studies and consultations towards GCARD 2012, including studies directly commissioned with the CRPs and their partners and intended beneficiaries to examine specific long term implications of their programmes and partnerships towards impact.
- **Partnerships:** Examination of the implementation partnerships and impact pathways required, working back from desired impacts on the ground and objectively engaging diverse stakeholders to explore their perceptions of the programmes, likely blockages and barriers to impact at scale and understand the perspectives and needs of innovation partners in aligning their actions with the CGIAR CRPs.
- **Capacities:** Exploration of the capacity needs in national systems (public, private & civil) in transforming research outputs into innovation, enterprise and development outcomes in the areas identified and of how these could be met through innovative programmes and collective actions. This includes directly mobilizing the voices of young professionals and examining curricula needs to create viable and valuable careers in AR4D.
- **Gender:** The Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP) established by GFAR is creating collective action through a community of practice that now brings together FAO, the CGIAR Regional Fora, National research and development institutions and NGOs in a rolling series of actions to re-examine and address the role of innovation in better meeting the needs of women farmers and, supporting the developing CGIAR Diversity & Gender strategy and programmes such as AWARD, in strengthening the role of women in AR4D institutions.

### Processes mobilized through this support

- The GCARD 2010 established the value of the Fora and networks mobilized through GFAR in reaching out to a wide range of partners and mobilizing the involvement of around 2000 stakeholders in reshaping AR4D at national, regional and international level. Similar processes, combining reviews, e-consultations and face-to-face meetings will be mobilized in each of the above areas to ensure wide involvement and connection with the agendas under discussion and the processes being addressed.
- Specific lead-up events, such as a high-profile international Conference on Women in Agriculture, to be held in New Delhi in March 2012, meetings of the Global Foresight Hub and continued engagement with the G20 processes will help shape the agenda and actions to be reported in the GCARD 2012.
- Processes that directly engage partners from focal regions of the CRPs and engage partners and intended beneficiaries along intended innovation pathways will be mobilized using the convening power and regional ownership of the Regional Fora, to help the lead Centres to create awareness and understanding of the ideas concerned, beyond their immediate research partners, and begin to align these program concepts, as they emerge, into practice with the needs and demands of national AR4D systems.

### The GCARD 2012 Conference, Punta del Este, Uruguay, October 2012

- Pre-conference sessions to be organized on 27-28 October 2012 will include discussions on specific themes and meetings of constituencies. These will provide direct opportunity for the CRPs to individually highlight research results and to interact with existing and potential partners.
- During the Opening Session on the first day, presentations will be made by the CGIAR Consortium and GFAR Chairs, with a respondent panel of diverse constituencies, to highlight actions since GCARD 2010 and plans and progress in delivering towards the GCARD Roadmap's aims at national, regional and international levels. This interaction will help all the constituencies, especially the CGIAR Centers, identify the gaps in wider understanding of the change process and make mid-way corrections of their work.
- The Policy Forum will discuss the links between agricultural innovation and market opportunities for smallholder farmers and highlight how innovation can better serve the needs of women. Policy-makers and visionary thinkers will give their reflections on the discussions and issues raised.
- Partnership and Innovation sessions will reflect, among others, on the partnerships required for implementation and impact of case study CRPs, what these mean in practice and what lessons are being learned in striving towards large scale impacts.
- Discussions on capacity building will help identify what capacities are required for completing the jigsaw from meeting local development needs and demand through to international agricultural research, as well as the roles required of CRPs in helping to foster the capacities required in national systems and to help advocate and mobilize the linked investments that may be required.
- The breakout sessions will be moderated by key experts in the respective areas, who should also ensure building the required atmosphere for all stakeholders to be part of the discussions.
- The Innovation Marketplace exhibition will invite all stakeholders, including CRPs, CSOs, Regional Fora, farmers' organizations, agro-enterprise networks etc. to present their work and results supporting all aspects of the AR4D. It will provide space for direct presentations and interactions of individual CRPs with donors, partners and policy makers, thus giving more visibility on each on-going programme. The Innovation Marketplace will also be an opportunity for critical self-reflection and building wider partnerships.
- On the last day, an interactive wrap-up session and a Round Table Plenary will be organized to listen to the representatives of each constituency how they have benefitted from the Conference, and what will be their actions to move forward for implementing the RoadMap. The CG Centers will have an opportunity to present how they will reshape their Action Plan and SRF based on the outcomes of the GCARD2.

# Annex 1. Detailed actions proposed for support, including responses to questions raised by the Consortium

### 1. Donor commitments to GCARD

Support to the programme of work of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research is provided by many agencies and investors, most of whom provide support to GFAR actions and overall outcomes through the GFAR Multi-donor Trust Fund . These investments are made in the programmes of GFAR, which are themselves determined by all stakeholder constituencies, including of course the CGIAR.

The **detailed budget breakdown** requested is attached as Annex 3. This provides full transparency on cost items, based on the experience of 2010 and separates the anticipated direct costs of the GCARD 2012 Conference from those of wider GFAR operations and processes delivering towards the GCARD Roadmap objectives. We have made explicit the elements requested from the CGIAR Fund for the 2012 Conference (42% of the direct cost budget, exclusive of GFAR direct staff investments) and shown the budget requested for collaborative actions in foresight, partnership and capacity development to be undertaken in direct partnership with the CRPs and in turn helping to strengthen the SRF revision and Action Plan. Conference costs remain below those entailed for the previous CGIAR Annual General Meetings.

"GFAR" and "CGIAR" donors can often in fact be from the same donor source, but these are here differentiated according to the purpose for which funds are provided. The GCARD Conference already provides opportunity for funding of specific agendas of interest to particular agencies, e.g. Agropolis Foundation and CIDA are presently discussing funding commitments in support of specific sessions of the Conference. By contrast, some other donors who provide direct support to the CGIAR Fund, e.g. IDRC have told us informally that they wish to make contributions to the GCARD Conference costs via the CGIAR Fund mechanism as a convenient funding vehicle, both to help strengthen the CGIAR Reform and to avoid creating new funding pathways just for the GCARD.

Our budget proposition makes explicit the total direct costs entailed (based on experiences in GCARD1) and how these are envisaged to be shared, these are elaborated in detail in the attached spreadsheet. These costs will be further refined during our visit to Uruguay in December.

**Sponsoring of national partners** is addressed in the attached budget breakdown. We look forward to feedback from the Consortium Office's discussions with CRPs on which partners they might wish to be supported to attend.

As in 2010, nearly half the Conference costs are flagged for sponsorship to enable individuals from developing countries and in particular sectors such as farmers, CSOs, small enterprises and public research, extension and education, to directly attend the GCARD; i.e. those who would otherwise be unable to have their voices heard. Many of these will be the partner organizations and intended end-users of the outcomes of the CGIAR CRPs themselves.

### 2. Foresight

The emphasis on foresight in GCARD 2 was strongly requested by Ruben Echeverria, as GCARD Organizing Committee representative on behalf of the Centre Directors. The Beijing Science Forum meeting and the Foresight Exchange Workshop pre-meeting organized by GFAR and a range of partners provided an excellent opportunity to discuss and further develop the Global Foresight Hub from its earlier concept. GFAR is an open and inclusive mechanism, not a research agency and the Global Foresight Hub enables the interaction of the forward-looking activities undertaken by many and diverse actors around the world, focusing their different 'lenses' on common or new challenges.

The Hub will bring together foresight and projections, creating synergies to get the best from all approaches. Specific themes, consultation and analysis processes are being developed, including through the Beijing workshop. Consultation and feedback are intrinsic to all these processes. We feel that these processes will be a valuable mechanism for strengthening the SRF as it is progressively revised to take better account of foresight on future agricultural issues.

It is our understanding that ISPC is currently scoping its intended foresight role within the CGIAR. The door is very open to cross-linkage here and we enjoyed a good partnership in delivering a robust contribution to the Science Forum, where GFAR led the foresight sessions together with Marcio De Santos on behalf of the ISPC. After the foresight session, Derek Byerlee of ISPC expressed strong interest in direct partnership on land use issues and bringing his quantitative approaches together with wider perspectives in the Hub. A similar view was expressed by Mark Rosegrant from the session podium; IFPRI/CRP2 is keen to link its models and projections, via the Foresight Hub, with wider perspectives on alternative scenarios.

### **GFAR Foresight actions in 2012**

The Beijing pre-meeting proposed the most useful entry issue for consideration to be: **What could be the farming patterns of the future?** The relative future viability and value of different farming systems and scales under different scenarios was also strongly flagged in discussions during the Beijing Science Forum sessions.

Forward-looking actions around this theme would entail exploring different combinations of forms of farming at local, national and regional levels – exploring and anticipating who could be the farmers, what forms of production and market organizations might be involved and how will they contribute to/affect hunger reduction & nutrition, poverty alleviation and sustaining biodiversity and natural resources. Tackling this through a forward-thinking perspective, reconciling quantitative and qualitative approaches, will enable inequality issues to be addressed, expand issues to the future of rural areas and secondary and tertiary rural livelihoods and look beyond food production alone (e.g. considering viable livelihoods, attracting young people, rural identities, pastoral and rural societies, multi-functionality, rural enterprises, environmental services)

### Foresight linkage to the SRF and CRPs

Our proposal to the Consortium and Fund for support of CGIAR-related GCARD foresight actions aims to bring out advances in foresight related to the farming patterns of the future and their implications. The Hub will address a range of perspectives and contexts, among which the evolution of the SRF and consequent focus of international research efforts is clearly an important dimension. It is for this dimension, not the wider Foresight Hub actions, that we are requesting specific investment in the GCARD 2012 process via the Consortium and Fund.

To help the CGIAR to implement and evolve the forward-looking SRF and action plan, the actions we propose here would directly involve the CRPs, as requested by Anne-Marie Izac at the G20-ARD meeting in Montpellier. They would also directly involve those who have undertaken relevant forward-looking activities in their regions and themes of focus, cross-linking assumptions made in their planning with the perspectives from other studies and policies.

The CGIAR is a key partner in GFAR and the costs referred to in our proposal would enable specific foresight action around the CRPs in partnership with other GFAR constituencies. Costs envisaged are detailed below. We envisage the CGIAR researchers concerned working together with external foresight partners in the themes and regions concerned, mobilizing actions that bring together diverse forward looking perspectives, reviews of literature etc. The multistakeholder GFAR perspective here enables the CRPs to engage with others in open discussion of future farming scenarios and visions. An outline of the complete sequence of activities is given in the Annex 2.

### The proposed approach for this process

In regard to the CRPs concerned, the proposed actions over the year ahead to GCARD 2012 are:

- 1. Consortium and CRP partners to review and document their forward-thinking analyzes and the perspectives, projections and scenarios established with regard to future farming patterns in the CRP context.(CGIAR-supported)
- 2. Through the above review, identify visions and key challenges that have emerged from these perspectives and how the programme and partners thinking has responded to those priorities. (CGIAR-supported)

A similar and simultaneous process for actions 1 & 2 will be facilitated and supported by GFAR Secretariat and Regional Fora, through e-consultation and direct interaction among diverse stakeholder, to map, explore and highlight the diversity of future visions around these contexts. (GFAR-supported)

3. Spotlight the messages resulting from these activities, to be carried to the GCARD, via writing workshops synthesizing alternative visions and challenges entailed under different assumptions of farming patterns. These will bring together findings and contributors from actions 1& 2, highlight alternative future visions, with wide-based consideration of interacting factors, enabling environments and policies and how the CRPs and their partner

- development programmes, or new programmes, might best address their implications. CGIAR funding requested for 5 workshops, each with 15-20 persons = USD 250,000
- 4. Contributors selected from the workshops to prepare a Progress Report on "Improved Foresight and Subsequent Implications for Action" as input to the working groups of the foresight session. These will report the diversity expressed and document advances, failures and challenges in improving foresight. CGIAR funding requested for workshop = USD 50,000
- 5. Preparing thematic discussion material for the Foresight Sessions working group activity with a two-day foresight workshop before the GCARD, to meet and prepare thematic proposals, turning diversity into action proposals. Producing 3 short thematic papers on: what implications of the Progress Report for i) research priorities and actions, ii) partnership and iii) capacity building? Included in GCARD Conference cost.
- 6. GCARD 2012 Foresight Session: plenary presentation of the Progress Report, working groups on the 3 thematic proposals for improved foresight. Desired outputs from the GCARD session to include position statements of the working groups on i) improved foresight for research and innovation priority setting and actions, ii) partnership for improved foresight, and iii) capacity building for improved foresight.
- 7. Way Forward Towards GCARD 2014: Synthesis of the position statement for inclusion in action plans for the GCARD Roadmap and CGIAR SRF, plenary discussion of the synthesis during the last day meeting for deciding actions to be taken for improved foresight in relation to key challenges, partnership and capacity building.

### 3. Partnerships and pathways towards development impact at scale

We enjoyed a very constructive interaction with those involved with the GRiSP programme in Africa last week in the IFAD Scaling-up workshop and this has highlighted the value of the approach proposed here. I must emphasize the intention is not to develop research partnerships and uptake pathways for the CRP programmes, which are already being articulated by the CRP leaders concerned, but rather to help embed these in the wider policies, linkages, investments and user commitments required at all levels to help ensure impacts can be achieved at the scale projected.

Our aim, for which we have been exploring partnership with a range of emerging CRPs, is to examine the relationship between the intended outcomes of the research programmes concerned and the perspectives and frames of action of other partners within potential impact pathways. In this we seek to establish feedback loops, from the outset, that can bring mutual understanding and accountability between different actors in these complex chains. This involves consideration of who are the intended **users** of research products at different levels and what it will take for their efforts and actions to be aligned and committed towards a shared purpose.

The CGIAR Consortium is not responsible for the actions of development partners, but to achieve successful impacts, CRPs will need to do much to help support and align actions and investments towards shared goals. Development partners increasingly consider it crucial to recognize and

understand the political economy around the desired impacts, factoring in externalities that may prevent or impede desired impacts. Whether public, private or civil sector actors are involved, establishing objective feedback mechanisms from the outset can greatly enhance understanding and commitment to the processes entailed.

Providing space for local/national perspectives and regional frameworks to consider research processes and create feedback loops on their products can increase mutual understanding and accountability during research-for-development processes and enhance scale-up of research outcomes. This is particularly important for the CRPs, which are ambitious programmes that seek to achieve impacts at large scale. The challenge is that the CGIAR is responsible for only a part of the investments and control only some of capabilities required to achieve a CRP's development objectives. The many partners and the multiple levels of actions and interaction that the CRPs envisage result in complex webs of inter-dependence. Within these webs, there are clearly many levels of inter-accountability and many potential feedback loops, including from policy makers and farmers.

In a world of systems of innovation, global partnerships and ever increasing pressure to demonstrate local impacts, the emphasis must be on user feedback loops as integral elements of a 'web of accountability'. But instead of a general concern about accountability and feedback we must consider: Accountability to whom? Accountability for what? Feedback from and to whom? Feedback about what, and in what form?

The objectives here are to: (1) demonstrate how existing user feedback loops can be identified and analyzed; (2) identify opportunities for enhanced user feedback; and (3) develop a plan to test the value of alternative mechanisms for enhanced user feedback.

We propose studies here in partnership with 3 CRPs. Commissioned expert studies and discussion, and F2F workshops with partners in the countries concerned (cross-read with their wider regions of focus) would determine the end-users in question and develop the feedback mechanisms involved in a focus country of each CRP, in relation to its defined objectives. E-consultations would establish the regional relevance of the assumptions made and conclusions reached and so requirements for impact at regional scale. In addition to our ongoing discussions with the rice programme in Africa, in Beijing interest was expressed in this concept from other CRPs, including those on policies, institutions and markets, climate change and water, land and ecosystems. Working with research and development actors in the countries determined, study teams of CGIAR and external experts will together:

- 1. Draw from national investment plans and sector strategies, interviews and other sources to identify the major research and development initiatives involved
- 2. Map the linkages and relationships between these initiatives (in terms of underlying framings and associated narratives; flows of resources and personnel; coordination mechanisms, etc)

- 3. Analyze how the CRP and its intended Products for take up by others (e.g. Knowledge of farmer technology needs, adoption patterns, and constraints to adoption) and Product Lines (e.g. Effective systems for large-scale adoption of technologies) fits into this picture
- 4. Identify and analyze past, extant or envisaged user feedback loops. These loops will be analyzed through a framework that asks: From whom? About what? To whom? In what form? For what purpose? How often?
- 5. Identify gaps and/or opportunities for enhanced user feedback
- 6. Develop an action plan to work with selected actors to test the value of alternative mechanisms for enhanced user feedback and aid the evolution and enhanced impact of actions under the CRP concerned.
- 7. Workshop and consult on the perceptions and implications of partnership and various forms of intended CRP product users for impact at scale, addressing national perspectives from a range of stakeholders. Engage regional stakeholders and share experiences with those addressing similar contexts across the region to determine challenges in scaling up regionally.

For this work, GFAR has already committed USD 50K of core funds to the development of rice feedback loops in Africa and we are keen to extend this approach to others. Taking into account your request that we focus efforts on a few specific cases, we calculate a budget of USD 80,000 each for pilot studies and partnership feedback workshops with each of three CRPs, thus 240,000 total.

### Annex 2. Processes towards the GCARD 2012: The Global Foresight Hub

The Global Foresight Hub is under active development and was discussed in detail at the Science Forum among 30 leading agencies concerned with foresight analyses around the world. It will mobilize a range of leading organizations, including the CGIAR Consortium and ISPC, that are active in modeling, assessments, projecting future scenarios and foresight analyses into an open, inclusive community of practice not bounded by any one institutional view and:

- a) Working together to address common concerns, each through their own contexts and methods. Cross comparisons of these analyses will create a summary of what is already being done around the world and key areas of common interest as well as identifying gaps in these analyses.
- b) Engaging these analyses with stakeholders across civil society and the private sector and directly engaging policy makers from the outset,
- c) Developing capacities among young professionals in developing countries for nations to undertake foresight analyses directly and from their own perspectives.

A series of core questions will be addressed across these analyses, taking a perspective to 2030, reviewing and mobilizing foresight perspectives together, to develop new understanding of emerging development challenges, what is required to achieve desired impacts and the roles required of innovation towards meeting these needs. Preliminary identification of core themes in the 2011 Science Forum has recognized issues of:

- Anticipating consumption demands and their implications for sustainable production and supply
- Meeting the food security needs of the 1 billion undernourished people in this world
- Creating viable livelihoods and income opportunities for resource-poor smallholders, recognizing that in many contexts these are women
- Strengthening the resilience of systems and production environments under threat

There is no single 'right' view here, all projections are shaped by the perspectives and contexts used and assumptions made. Through focusing different lenses on common challenges, the Global Foresight Hub can create tremendous synergies among diverse analyses, enhancing understanding of agriculture and food issues within a wider context of social, economic and environmental issues to inform, but not prescribe, both policies and priorities.

The CGIAR Consortium, and CRP2 as the programme concerned specifically with policies and institutions, have requested direct engagement and inclusion in the Global Foresight Hub, so that a) analyses shaping the SRF's evolution and operation can be strengthened and grounded in wider perspectives and b) the CGIAR's findings have wider value and impact.

#### In 2012:

- The GCARD2 consultation process will include establishment, shaping and activation of the Global Foresight Hub. Further meetings of leading agencies and individuals will map areas of knowledge and gaps around the core themes and identify how their won analyses can better contribute to shared understanding
- These studies will link with the scenarios projected in the CRPs and develop study
  questions around specific issues in which the CRPs are projecting needs and impacts,
  enabling them to benefit from wider foresight analyses and capabilities, bringing a range of
  external perspectives to bear on the assumptions being tested and strengthen their
  robustness.

- Scope for an African Foresight Academy will be explored and piloted.
- This work will also begin to create collective assets such as common datasets from these analyses that would strengthen further analyses as the SRF and CRPs evolve. They will also draw on new data, such as that developed under new trade monitoring systems being developed by FAO and partners through the G20 initiative.
- e-consultations will be initiated on priority topics and within the regions/constituencies, together with commissioned studies, preparation of background and synthesis documents etc.

