

Multilateral program

CGIAR and IARCs

Funding

	\$m
2009–10 budget estimate	17.56
2010–11 budget estimate	23.40
2011–12 budget estimate	28.90
2012–13 budget estimate	27.90

Medium-term strategy

The system of IARCs comprises the institutions financed under the umbrella of the CGIAR and non-associated centres that also have a global mandate. Under Section 5 of its legislation, one of ACIAR's functions is 'to fund international agricultural research centres'. The IARCs have considerable research capability and a good track record of delivery of benefits, particularly in crop improvement and diversification, where very high returns on investment have been achieved.

The CGIAR reform initiated at the member Annual General Meeting in December 2008 (see Box 7) has been progressing through a series of taskforces and working groups designated to draft framework papers for donor representatives and other stakeholders to consider. These papers have been assessed and discussed with members through a series of consultations, and the transition management team has endeavoured to be consultative and inclusive. The Alliance of CGIAR Centres has taken an active role in the preparation of relevant draft frameworks and in the reform process.

The key components of the discussions to date have covered the:

- » accountability framework
- » Fund Council's roles and membership
- » Consortium Board constitution and responsibilities
- » Independent Science and Partnership Council's role
- » strategy and results framework and mega-programs.

In addition, the regional research organisations engaged in a series of research prioritisation and objective reviews in the context of the 2010 Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD). This process provided the opportunity for stakeholders concerned with agriculture and rural development to debate and build on current regional policies

and research needs. Each region identified priorities, mechanisms and partnerships that would deliver greater impact against development needs to enable more benefits from agricultural research in terms of poverty reduction and impacts for smallholder farmers. These were presented at the GCARD Conference in March 2010 and will be used to inform the new research agenda for the CGIAR.

The Donor and Stakeholder Business meeting in December 2009 endorsed a number of reforms covering the establishment of a Fund Council and associated Multi-Donor Trust Fund; a Consortium Board and constitution; a monitoring and evaluation framework; and other necessary institutional changes to achieve reform. This restructuring progress will need to be supplemented in 2010–11 by finalisation of the strategy and results framework and mega-program structure essential for operationalising the new system. The Consortium Board is currently working with the Fund Council to progress these matters.

The reforms will ensure that the strategy and programs will operate in the new context of the international agricultural research for development architecture. The arrangements will enable the Consortium of CGIAR Centres to speak with a single voice and provide leadership in the international arena.

The CGIAR decided that, during transition and implementation, the changes will be scrutinised and implemented to ensure they pass the following six tests:

- » clear strategic focus
- » increase in research output, outcome and impact
- » greater efficiency, effectiveness and relevance
- » simplicity and clarity of governance
- » enhanced decentralised decision-making
- » active subsidiarity to capitalise on complementarities of the centres.

As part of its Food Security Statement tabled in May 2009, the Australian Government has indicated its intention to significantly increase its budgetary support to the CGIAR from 2009–10, subject to continued good progress on reform.

This increased support is as follows, with total anticipated allocations in brackets:

2009–10	\$7.0m (\$17.56m)
2010–11	\$10.0m (\$23.40m)
2011–12	\$13.0m (\$28.90m)
2012–13	\$14.0m (\$27.90m)

In 2010–11 it is intended that the new funding will be allocated to the CGIAR system primarily on an unrestricted basis. However, the details of these allocations are contingent on finalisation of the reform agenda, and the funding approach for 2011 and beyond will be taken up in consultation with the new Donor Fund Council as the reforms become operational. In the meantime ACIAR will allocate both restricted and increased unrestricted funds to the individual research centres on the basis of previous criteria. This recognises the need to ensure that the centres are provided with the means and certainty of continuing their essential research functions with minimal disruption during the implementation phase. ACIAR will consult with AusAID in contributing to the ongoing reform agenda in 2010–11, and will represent Australia on the new Donor Fund Council.

Current project portfolio

ADP/2005/066 Markets for high-value commodities in Indonesia: promoting competitiveness and inclusiveness
ADP/2005/068 Plausible futures for economic development and structural adjustment: impacts and policy implications for Indonesia and Australia
AGB/2006/115 Linking vegetable farmers with markets in West and Central Java, Indonesia
AH/2004/046 Forage legumes for supplementing village pigs in Lao PDR
CIM/2003/067 Ensuring productivity and food security through sustainable control of yellow rust of wheat in Asia (CIMMYT)
CIM/2004/004 Plant genetic resource conservation documentation and utilisation in central Asia and the Caucasus
CIM/2006/176 Developing molecular markers to enable selection against chalk in rice
CIM/2007/065 Sustainable wheat and maize production in Afghanistan
CIM/2007/120 Improving post-rainy sorghum varieties to meet the growing grain and fodder demand in India
CIM/2007/122 Sustainable intensification of rice–maize production systems in Bangladesh
CIM/2008/027 Development of conservation cropping systems in the drylands of northern Iraq
CIM/2008/047 (<i>proposed</i>) Cropping system diversification, capacity building and rural livelihoods in Afghanistan

CSE/2009/005 (<i>proposed</i>) Improved rice germplasm for Cambodia and Australia
CSE/2009/024 (<i>proposed</i>) Sustainable intensification of maize–legume cropping systems for food security in eastern and southern Africa (SIMLESA)
FIS/2003/059 Sea ranching and restocking sandfish (<i>Holothuria scabra</i>) in the Asia–Pacific region
FIS/2007/116 Improving resilience and adaptive capacity of fisheries-dependent communities in Solomon Islands
FST/2005/177 Improving economic outcomes for smallholders growing teak in agroforestry systems in Indonesia
FST/2007/119 Mahogany and teak furniture: action research to improve value-chain efficiency and enhance livelihoods
HORT/2004/048 Integrated disease management for anthracnose, phytophthora blight and whitefly-transmitted geminiviruses in chilli pepper in Indonesia
HORT/2008/040 Integrated crop production of bananas to manage wilt diseases in Indonesia and Australia (Bioversity)
LPS/2005/063 Improving the competitiveness of pig producers in an adjusting Vietnam market
LWR/2005/001 Addressing constraints to pulses in cereal-based cropping systems, with particular reference to poverty alleviation in north-western Bangladesh
LWR/2005/146 Expanding the area for Rabi season cropping in southern Bangladesh
PC/2005/077 Integrated crop management package for sustainable smallholder gardens in Solomon Islands
PC/2005/134 The use of pathogen-tested planting materials to improve sustainable sweetpotato production in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea
PC/2006/114 Managing cocoa pod borer in Papua New Guinea through improved risk incursion management capabilities, integrated pest management strategies and stakeholder participatory training
PC/2007/111 Incursion prevention and management of coffee berry borer (CBB) in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia (South Sulawesi and Papua)
SMCN/2006/013 Increasing food security and farmer livelihoods through enhanced legume cultivation in the central dry zone of Burma
SMCN/2009/021 (<i>proposed</i>) Climate change affecting land use in the Mekong Delta: adaptation of rice-based cropping systems

Program management

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**Box 7. A reformed Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)—
key components**

The CGIAR approved in principle the following:

1. The CGIAR vision is 'to reduce poverty and hunger, improve human health and nutrition, and enhance ecosystem resilience through high-quality international agricultural research, partnership and leadership,' including three strategic objectives: (a) food for people, (b) environment for people and (c) policies for people.
2. A Consortium of CGIAR Centres will be created that is a legal entity with a board and CEO.
3. A CGIAR Fund will be created that is composed of fund investors and aims at providing multi-year financing. The fund will have a Funders Summit and a Fund Council that will be a decision-making body. The council will be chaired by the World Bank. The council will include donors to the fund, regional representation and selected stakeholders.
4. CGIAR investments will be results focused and time bound through a strategy and results framework to be developed by the consortium in consultation with partners and the Independent Science and Partnership Council. The framework will encompass all channels of funding, and will define how the CGIAR achieves its three strategic objectives. It will be further expressed through 'mega-programs,' which should be developed with strong participation from the south. Gender considerations will be fully integrated including clear indicators.
5. The Funders Summit will approve the strategy and results framework. It will meet every 2 years and provide an opportunity to review performance of the overall system. In off-years all funders will be invited to have dialogue with the consortium, likely linked to the Fund Council timetable.
6. Mutual accountability between funders and the consortium, under the strategy and results framework with full cost recovery, will be operationalised through performance contracts. A dispute resolution mechanism will be developed in case of system-wide disruptions.
7. Partnerships are essential for designing research programs and delivery of research outcomes and impact. Incentives for partnership through the centres, including funding of partnerships, will be built into all levels of the system. Processes to introduce competition, where appropriate, will also be built into the mega-programs.
8. An independent Science and Partnership Council will support the Fund Council and the Funders Summit and advise the Consortium Board.
9. An independent evaluation arrangement will periodically take place at program and system levels. An independent evaluation on the reforms of the new CGIAR will be undertaken in 3 years.
10. A biennial global conference on agricultural research for development will be organised by the Global Forum for Agricultural Research in collaboration with the consortium and the Independent Science and Partnership Council.



IARCs receiving core funding from ACIAR

For full names of centres, see Appendix 9