

CGIAR Challenge Programs Cycle 2 - Call for Ideas / Concept Notes

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) invites all interested parties to submit ideas/concept notes for Cycle 2 of Challenge Programs that could be supported by the CGIAR and its partners. Details are provided below in a "Question & Answer" format. Recipients of this message are encouraged to share this note with their respective constituencies.

1. What is the CGIAR?

The CGIAR is an association of 64 public and private members who support a system of 15 international agricultural research centers that generate public goods for the benefit of developing countries. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Bank are the CGIAR's co-sponsors. More than 8,500 CGIAR scientists and scientific staff work in more than 100 countries around the world, harnessing the best of cutting-edge science to increase food security, reduce poverty, and protect the global environment.

2. Who is issuing this call?

The CGIAR System Office, on behalf of the Executive Council of the CGIAR, is issuing the call for ideas for CGIAR's Challenge Programs.

3. What is a Challenge Program?

A CGIAR Challenge Program (CP) is a time-bound, independently-governed program of high impact research, that targets the CGIAR goals in relation to complex issues of overwhelming global and/or regional significance (and with global impact), and requires partnerships among a wide range of institutions in order to deliver its products. (Please refer to the Attachment for details). Three CPs, namely, Water and Food, HarvestPlus, and Generation, were launched in 2003 on a pilot basis. The inception phase of the Sub-Saharan Africa CP, the first regular CP, was implemented beginning in January 2005. Descriptions of and web links to the Cycle 1 CPs can be found at:

<http://www.cgiar.org/impact/challenge/index.html> .

A detailed description of the process and guidelines for developing and implementing CPs is available at: http://www.cgiar.org/pdf/cp_cycle2_process&guidelines.pdf

4. What is an idea for a CGIAR Challenge Program?

An idea or theme for a CGIAR CP is one that:

- is aligned with CGIAR-approved System Priorities;
- addresses an issue of overwhelming significance. The issue addressed can be global, regional or sub-regional in importance, but with a global impact;
- fits within the CGIAR mission and goals;
- is likely to generate significant outputs and impact.

Description of the CGIAR System priorities can be found at:

<http://www.sciencecouncil.cgiar.org/activities/spps/pubs/Priorities%20Dec%2005.pdf> .

The document “Strategy for the Implementation of the CGIAR System Priorities for Research: Update and suggestions for a consolidated process” gives the Science Council’s views on CPs as tools to implement priorities. It can be found at:

http://www.cgiar.org/exco/exco11/exco11_sc_strategy_implementation_priorities.pdf

5. Who can submit ideas for Challenge Programs?

The CGIAR invites all stakeholders to submit ideas which could become agricultural research and development programs of global relevance. Submission of ideas, presented as short **Concept Notes** (2-4 pages) is the first step in a competitive process leading to the identification and preparation of CPs. Ideas may be submitted by e-mail to the following address: cpideas@cgiar.org

6. Does the CGIAR provide financial support for submitting ideas?

No, resources are not available from the CGIAR at this phase of CP development.

7. Is there a deadline for submitting ideas?

The deadline for submitting ideas for Cycle 2 CPs is **January 5, 2007**.

8. Will the submitted ideas be publicized?

The idea titles and names of proponents will be posted on a special page for CPs at the CGIAR website (www.cgiar.org).

9. How will the submitted ideas be evaluated?

The Science Council (SC) of the CGIAR is responsible for the evaluation and recommendation to the Executive Council of the ideas submitted by all stakeholders. Once endorsed by the Executive Council, the ideas are submitted for final approval by the CGIAR.

10. How will one know if the idea submitted has been selected?

The proponent of the selected idea will be formally notified by the CGIAR System Office. All the selected ideas and the names of proponents will also be posted on a special page for CPs at the CGIAR website.

11. What will happen to the selected ideas?

The selected ideas will be promoted to the next stage of the process (phase 2). The Executive Council will issue calls for the submission of pre-proposals on the selected ideas.

12. If an idea is selected, will the pre-proposals on that idea be eventually funded?

Not necessarily. Once an idea is selected, open and competitive processes will also be implemented at the succeeding phases described in the Attachment. There is no guarantee that an individual, institution or group who submitted a selected idea will be awarded a grant.

13. What will happen to the other ideas submitted but not selected?

The list of submitted ideas will be kept in the CGIAR web site. Some of the ideas could be developed by the proponents and other interested parties into proposals that may be submitted to non-CP funding sources.

14. When will the next phase, i.e. development of pre-proposals, be launched?

Immediately after the CGIAR's approval of the CP ideas or themes recommended by the Science Council and endorsed by the Executive Council, a call for submission of pre-proposals will be issued. The CGIAR System Office expects to issue the call for the development of pre-proposals by **April 9, 2007**.

15. Where can additional information on the CGIAR Challenge Programs be found?

All information relating to the different phases of Challenge Programs are available at the CGIAR website. In addition to presenting detailed information on the Consultative Group, its activities and major impacts, the site also provides links to the fifteen international agricultural research centers supported by the CGIAR.

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