Opportunities in international agriculture at UTAS
Crawford Fund Tas Forum - 10 May 2017
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CGIAR

- Global research partnership of 15 Centers – research spans agroforestry, crop improvement, livestock, policies, and water management.

- CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) align the work of the 15 Centers and their partners into coherent, multidisciplinary programs.

- Guided by the Strategy and Results framework, aligned with global development targets:
  
  - reduced rural poverty,
  
  - improved food and nutrition security and
  
  - improved natural resources and ecosystem services.
15 Centres, one vision:
A world free of poverty, hunger and environmental degradation
CGIAR’s long-term strategic donors support used to provide about US$ 1 billion per annum

For every 1 US$ provided to CGIAR over its lifetime, the return on investments is evaluated at 17 US$1

In collaboration with hundreds of partners (national research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations & the private sector), the CGIAR implements Collaborative, large-scale Research Programs (CRPs) in more than 60 countries

With its many partners, CGIAR delivers breakthrough discovery research all the way from field data to integrated delivery to combat some of the world’s most pressing challenges

CGIAR genebanks safeguard the world’s largest and most diverse crop and forage germplasm, indispensable to future food security
Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC)

- A standing panel of 9 experts to serve as an independent advisor to the CGIAR System Council.
- Provides the System Council with independent advice on science, research, and partnership strategies,
- Enhance the Council’s capacity to make evidence-based decisions in support of effective agricultural R4D.
- Work streams
  - Foresight and prioritization
  - Program review
  - Science dialogue
  - Agri-food system innovation and partnership
  - Impact assessment

WG lead for developing a framework for QoR4D
Coordination of the 2018 Science Forum
CGIAR

- The CGIAR Fund is a multi-donor trust fund that finances CGIAR research.

- It is administered by the World Bank and governed by the Systems Council.

- The Systems Council is the decision-making body of the CGIAR. It appoints the ISPC who provide independent advice and expertise to all Fund donors.

- This advice is used to approve CGIAR Research Programs and allocate resources.
Australia benefits from doing good

- Australian economists estimate that wheat developed by CIMMYT has increased the value of outputs from the Australian wheat industry by at least $750 million.\(^1\)

- According to a 2013 study from ACIAR, 98% of wheat currently grown in Australia has ancestry originating from CIMMYT’s genebank.\(^2\)

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\(^1\) Australian Government, 2012. Australian Multilateral Assessment: Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

CSIRO / ISPC collaboration on Agri-food system Innovation and Partnership

Some examples

- Stock-take: Linkages between innovation and impact in agri-food systems
- Current support to innovation in agri-food systems: best suited to incremental innovation and impact
- Implications of these findings on research and innovation practices, strategies, and policies needs urgent attention
Impacts of CGIAR research

- Improved varieties cultivated on 35% of the area in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2010.
- For ten crops with benchmark data, adoption rose from 25% in 1998 to 44% in 2010 (annual gain of 1.45% over the 13 year period).
- 65% of the varietal adoption originated in CGIAR-related materials.
- Long time lags in adoption: something to consider in the context of shorter funding cycles for research and the demand for impact.
- Difficult to find strong evidence with a single study that covers the causal chain from new technology to long-run poverty impacts.
… but there is more: AIRCA*, a group of ‘non-aligned’ centers that nonetheless work closely with the CGIAR and other partners.

* Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture - Transforming rural livelihoods and landscapes: sustainable improvements to incomes, food security and the environment.
Scope for UTAS – CGIAR, AIRCA and ACIAR partnerships

- ACIAR as a core partner in agricultural R4D
- Further highlight our unique capabilities in temperate climate agriculture
- Continue partnerships with individual Centers and CRPs
- PhD programs and scholarships in partnership with CGIAR / AIRCA / ACIAR
- Exposure of undergraduates to the global agricultural R4D agenda
- Joint proposal developments
- Student and staff exchanges
Thank you for your attention!
Questions welcome now or at:
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