Dear Frank,

Livestock Agri-Food Systems CGIAR Research Program: more meat, milk and eggs by and for the poor

ILRI and partners are very pleased to submit for review and consideration the above named pre-proposal based on the invitation of the Consortium’s Phase 2 portfolio call and in response to the CGIAR’s 2016 – 2030 Strategy and Results Framework.

After a history of being the Cinderella sector, this pre-proposal is the first step to livestock seeking to assert its rightful place on the CGIAR research for development agenda. Rightful, as livestock contributes 40% of agriculture GDP and is growing. Also, FAOSTAT figures for 2013 indicate that livestock commodities are four of the top five highest value agricultural commodities globally, with a total global value (2004-2006 international dollars) of $679 billion. Almost a billion small holders in developing countries depend directly on livestock for their livelihoods and many, many more indirectly. The recognition that past agricultural research and development investment has not sufficiently delivered on nutritional security and the resulting increased emphasis on nutritional security in the SRF will require the CGIAR to increase the proportion of investment on this topic. A bold and transformative livestock research agenda is ideally placed to contribute here, as well as addressing poverty and food security in a sustainable manner.

This pre-proposal is structured around six flagships: three address technology development (genetics, health and feeds), one specifically addresses issues relating to livestock and the environment, another focuses on systems and value chain-based strategies to promote improved livelihoods, resilience and nutrition, and one on the critical matter of scaling for impact. Consequently, drawing from careful internal and external review, this pre-proposal builds on several strong elements of the current Livestock and Fish CRP. These discernable common elements then should not be regarded as mere legacies of the past but rather essential links between the old and the new investments and prerequisites of the compelling and transformative research for development endeavor we are striving to build.

You will note that this pre-proposal, despite the absence of fish, is larger in breadth and scope, and proposed budget than the current Livestock & Fish CRP. There are several reasons for this: (a) the consolidation of the livestock agenda now scattered over at least 7 CRPs; (b) the agenda has been expanded to respond to the recommendations of the ISPC commissioned white paper on livestock; (c) the overall level of research and development effort required to be impactful has been significantly expanded as the livestock agenda in the current phase is regarded as underfunded, and (d) much larger efforts for (i) gender, (ii) capacity development (iii) M&E, data and RBM and (iv) communications and knowledge management are contemplated. However, you will be pleased to note in this submission that despite the consolidation of the livestock agenda referred to above, this program is strongly linked to other CRPs and so also anticipates the need for resources to co-finance and co-create research products with other agri-food systems CRPs, and the integrative ones (PIM, A4NH, CCAFS, WLE) in which ILRI leads selected flagships or collaborates at tier 2 level. Through consultations during the course of
pre-proposal development, we have identified a number of exciting research initiatives across other CRPs and look forward to fleshing out the modalities of collaboration during the full proposal development once the overall CRP framework has been confirmed.

You will also note the innovative partnerships being forged within and outside of the CGIAR to expand the comparative advantage of the Lead Center and leverage research and development expertise for the livestock agri-food system research for development program. Although not named in the flagships or the pre-proposal as a whole, this CRP will similarly build many national partnerships within and between carefully selected benchmark countries, many of which are also designated CGIAR collaboration countries for the portfolio of CRPs for the CGIAR as a whole.

ILRI and our partners in this endeavor are very pleased to have had the opportunity to develop and submit this pre-proposal for consideration. We wish to thank the Consortium and the Fund Council for the opportunity to do so.

**NB. the pre-proposal is submitted in the required MS Word Format, but due to the differences in settings of some computers, we are aware that sometimes the pagination may vary and so are also submitting a PDF version.**

With best wishes,

Jimmy

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