

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS, COMMENTS, AND ACTION ITEMS

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- To agree upon next steps for allocating the approximately \$6 million in carryover funds from Phase I (will be largely based on recommendations from the Independent Steering Committee’s meeting on October 15-16, 2018).
- To share perspectives on how Phase II of A4NH is progressing so far and provide feedback to the A4NH Director and Program Management Unit (PMU).
- To provide information to the PMC on revised planning and reporting timelines and templates, identify how to streamline processes for planning 2019 and reporting on 2018, and agree upon how to raise awareness of expectations among A4NH-affiliated researchers.
- To discuss how managing partner performance is being assessed and provide an opportunity for managing partner representatives to meet one-to-one with the A4NH Director.
- To share information on cross-cutting topics in the program and/or affecting the program and in some cases, identify next steps for moving things forward.

Topic	Plan for Action	Timeline <i>Responsibility</i>
Carryover from Phase I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the new activities being pursued with the carryover in the POWB narrative. • Develop associated work plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 30 for the zero draft of the POWB <i>Flagship Leaders</i> • Starting in late-March 2019 <i>Flagship teams with PMU</i>
Planning and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with preparations for POWB (see PPT and Amanda’s email) • Design flagship planning meetings to get necessary data for CGIAR annual reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 30 for the zero draft <i>Flagship Leaders</i> • Rolling – December through February <i>Flagship Leaders with PMU</i>
Food systems and youth review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each flagship to identify one person to be involved and send to Inge Brouwer and Hazel Malapit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 30 <i>Flagship Leaders</i>
Engaging with GODAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an interest group from A4NH to identify areas for collaboration and proceed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By December 31 <i>John McDermott with PMC</i>
Integrative role of A4NH in CGIAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize cross-CGIAR events to engage CGIAR entities in food systems and healthy diets, potentially in February 2019 around a food safety meeting in Addis and another in March 2019 around our PMC meeting in Dhaka 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed discussion during December 17 PMC virtual meeting <i>PMU</i>
Assessing the CCE Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present results from assessments of country team progress 2017-18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At March 2019 PMC meeting <i>John McDermott with Devesh Roy</i>

RESPONDING TO ISC RECOMMENDATIONS

The PMC started the meeting by reflecting on the ISC's recommendations.

On **climate change**, it was evident that there is on-going work in nearly all the flagships, but it was not necessarily highlighted in our presentation to the ISC. For example, within FP5 there is an on-going project on climate-sensitive disease in Southeast Asia, FP4 is launching work with CCFAS on a climate change and nutrition review, and FP1 is discussing with the Earth Institute at Columbia University (New York) on climate change's more immediate impacts rather than projected further effects with interest in linking this work to on-going FP1 work in Ethiopia and Viet Nam. James Garrett has been engaged with the System Management Office and IFAD. Relatedly, there are a number of small collaborations between A4NH and CCAFS, which would warrant more attention. As next steps, PMC members were asked to send information to Janet Hodur. The PMU will prepare a statement on A4NH's work related to climate change to post to our web site and encourage CCAFS to re-post the information on their site.

On **aquaculture**, A4NH's work has been mostly discussions with WorldFish and the CRP on FISH. There has been an agreement that A4NH and WorldFish would collaborate in Bangladesh and Nigeria. The PMC cautioned that we have to be selective in what we work on with the CRP on Fish. Their social science capacity is quite limited at the moment and they do not have a strong emphasis on value chains because that part of their Phase II proposal was not funded. As next steps, the PMU will start planning a cross-CRP event in Ethiopia around the Food Safety Congress in mid-February and another event around our PMC meeting in Bangladesh in March. One would be designed to discuss more strategic issues and the other to reach operational decisions. The PMU will solicit inputs from the flagships in advance of the meetings.

As part of this discussion, the PMC asked the A4NH Director to clarify how other CGIAR Centers can get involved in A4NH when they are not managing partners. John explained that W1/W2 funds can flow directly from the PMU to other CGIAR Centers (not CGIAR Center to CGIAR Center), but one of the A4NH managing partners has to take responsibility for the partnership. In practice, the relationship is not different than any other subcontract a managing partner has with another institution except for where the money originates.

On **communications**, tentatively, we agreed that in the December virtual PMC meeting, we will further discuss the communications strategy that Janet presented and reactions from ISC and PMC to the new messaging strategy.

On A4NH's **relationship to the Rome-based agencies and platforms**, the PMC agreed that we need to prepare a summary table for the ISC's next meeting to show where and how we are collaborating with the RBAs and platforms and contributing to the UN global and national agendas. The PMU will solicit inputs from the flagships and James Garrett to prepare this table and consider preparing a brochure/2-pager to tell some of the recent success stories.

James reiterated the complexity of these organizations. Having a presence and voice in meetings and in processes is viewed favorably. We need to be able to more readily identify not only where A4NH is working, but actually what it has learned and what tools/research products it can provide for specific countries. The PMU needs to work more closely with James to find ways to communicate back to the managing partner institutions cases where A4NH evidence is being used by RBAs and the platforms. Another suggestion for A4NH to host or co-host a webinar series. As a next step, John appointed a Working Group on Strategic Engagement with the UN Agencies to explore this further. Members will include: James, Ruerd, Delia, Peg Willingham (HarvestPlus), Mark Lundy, Janet Hodur, and someone from IFPRI that John will contact.

On the request to provide a summary in next year's ISC meeting on local partners in our focus countries, the PMC agreed it would not be wise to add this as another part of the slide deck, but perhaps there could be separate information provided with these details as part of the meeting materials. We could also consider devoting one session during the meeting to this topic.

ALLOCATING THE CARRYOVER

The ISC's recommendation to the A4NH Director was to proceed with allocating the carryover from Phase I to the seven expressions of interest that were reviewed most favorably by both the ISC and the PMC. They urged the A4NH Director to be cautious about making commitments beyond 2019 given the uncertain financial environment in which the CRPs operate.

The PMC agreed that not having guaranteed funds in 2020 and 2021 could jeopardize the activities as they were described in the expressions of interest. Some suggested that more of the carryover been spent in 2019 to reduce risks in the future. Several PMC members reiterated their criticism of the expressions of interest process, including that the timeframe was too short, the criteria were not clear, and the budgets looked random. Next time, the PMC would like to be consulted in advance to provide guidance.

Following the discussion, the decision was made to allocate around \$2 million of the carryover in 2019 to the seven expressions of interest. A rolling decision process will be made on allocating funding in 2020 and 2021. Flagship Leaders should mention the new activities in their 2019 POWB narrative and details will be worked out in the work plans for the 2019 PPA amendments.

During the course of this discussion, two other issues were raised.

- The importance on the theories of change seems to have disappeared since Nancy Johnson left A4NH. They were designed to be living documents and provide strategic direction to the flagships. It does not appear that many flagships have internalized their theories of change.
- John told the PMC that managing partners would not likely be allowed to carryover funds from 2018 to 2019, although he did not provide a definitive answer on what the limits might be. [Since the start of Phase II, partners have been allowed to carryover up to 20% of their W1/W2 allocations.] The PMC asked for that information to be shared as soon as possible. For two of the partners – IFPRI and ILRI – their bilateral budgets grew, which unexpectedly freed up the W1/W2 that is used to cover people's time. Some partners said without the ability to carryover the funds, they were being punished for their success in raising bilateral funds.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

The emphasis in the session on planning and reporting was narrowly focused on specific pieces of both. For planning, Amanda emphasized to the flagship teams it was important to carefully review and revise their 2019 milestones in light of the new guidance accompanying the 2019 POWB template and in light of their elevated importance in planning and reporting. A webinar will be held the week after the PMC meeting to explain more aspects of the POWB in detail.

For reporting, we do not have the final versions of the template. However, we can be confident that many elements will be the same. Amanda suggested that each flagship dedicate one session in their annual planning meetings to preliminarily identify what they will report for the two indicators known as 'policies' and 'innovations,' the outcome/impact case studies, and the status of the milestones. The advice was that someone familiar with the guidance would facilitate the process of identifying 'cases' that could be reported and their stage while at the same time assessing the quality of available evidence that would be provided to support our claims. At the end of the session, the flagships would have a rough draft for several parts of the annual report plus agreement on who is responsible for drafting case studies, compiling the evidence, and

so on. This not only would help us get a head start on annual reporting, but would help improve the accuracy and quality of our reporting. All the flagship leaders that were in the meeting at this time agreed this was a good idea. Amanda will prepare resources that can be used and once we have the reporting template, detailed timelines and instructions will be shared over email and in a series of webinars.

A4NH'S INTEGRATIVE ROLE

As part of the discussion around A4NH's progress thus far in Phase II, the PMC agreed that A4NH should host two CGIAR-wide events in 2019 on food systems. The tentative dates and locations will be in February around a food safety meeting in Addis Ababa and in March around the PMC's bi-annual meeting in Dhaka. More details will be discussed during the December virtual PMC meeting.

On cross-country comparisons, although a number of common topics were identified, no final decisions were made on how this could proceed, when, who will be involved, or who will lead.

The Linking Research to Impact grant from IFAD is moving a bit slower than expected. As a reminder, this grant will improve understanding of how organizations like WFP, IFAD, and FAO, are using information to make their projects more nutrition-sensitive. James' hypothesis is that even though we have a general understanding of information channels and knowledge use, these are context specific. For example, the way WFP works from headquarter to the countries is different than the lateral flow of information for IFAD's projects. The literature review and bibliographic database around knowledge translation and evidence-based decision making are complete. Part of the delay has been due to a re-organization at IFAD meaning key personnel have not made time for providing the information and/or for interviews. One significant change is that IFAD has asked James/Bioversity to use the grant for ex-post impact evaluations. It fills IFAD's organizational need for M&E, rather than research, but James is thinking about how they could be double-duty or how it could fill other A4NH needs.

Following a discussion from representatives from GODAN, the PMC brainstormed areas where the A4NH community could engage. Some, but not all of the suggestions, were to identify priority data needs around food systems; work with NIPN in Ethiopia on their ongoing initiative to link national data around nutrition, health, and agriculture; gain access to corporate data around food marketing and sales; and host a hackathon during/around the 2019 ANH Academy in India. The conclusion was to establish an interest group who can help narrow down the list of topics.

PMC UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN 2018-2019 (IN PROGRESS)

Reminder: Yearly schedule of events is kept up-to-date on A4NH TeamSpace [here](#)

Activity	Timeline
Prepare 2019 Plan of Work and Budget (POWB)	October 22 – November 30, 2018
Review and finalize 2019 POWB	December 4-14, 2018
PMC Virtual Meetings in 2018	Friday, November 9 Monday, December 17
PMC Virtual Meeting	January 11, 2019
Annual Reporting to CGIAR	January - March 2019 (details tbc)
PMC Virtual Meeting	February 1, 2019
A4NH-led CGIAR-wide event on food systems	February 2019 (details tbc) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
PMC Bi-Annual Face-to-Face Meeting <i>ISC members will be invited attend as observers.</i>	March 19-21, 2019 Dhaka, Bangladesh
A4NH-led CGIAR-wide event on food systems	Around March 19-21, 2019 (tbc) Dhaka, Bangladesh
Finalize annual work plans for the PPA amendments	March – April 2019 (details tbc)
PMC Virtual Meeting	April 17, 2019
PMC Virtual Meeting	May 23, 2019
2019 ANH Academy Week	June 24-28, 2019 India
ISC 3 rd Annual Meeting and PMC Bi-Annual Face-to-Face Meeting	November 13-14, 2019 IFPRI HQ, Washington, D.C.

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