



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS, COMMENTS, AND ACTION ITEMS

INTRODUCTION

The Independent Steering Committee (ISC), the Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) Planning and Management Committee (PMC), the A4NH Program Management Unit (PMU), with resource persons from the A4NH community met on October 15-16, 2018, at the Wageningen International Congress Centre in Wageningen, the Netherlands for their second annual meeting as an ISC. The newest ISC member, Emorn Udomkesmalee, whose three-year term will officially begin in 2019 joined the meeting as part of her orientation. The other individual nominated for the 2019-2021 term was not available to attend the meeting and has not yet formally accepted the invitation to join the ISC. A list of participants can be found at the end of this summary. Robert Paarlberg chaired the meeting.

The purpose of the ISC is to propose strategic direction to the CRP, including priority setting, which includes review of A4NH proposals to the CGIAR, as required; annually review and provide written recommendations to the A4NH Director and IFPRI Board of Trustees and Director General on the performance of A4NH overall and its flagship research programs, including their plans and budget for the subsequent year; review the external evaluation plan of A4NH and the individual external evaluations undertaken and provide comments for the IFPRI Board of Trustees and the A4NH management response to evaluation recommendations; and provide advice to the A4NH Director and PMC on partnerships and stakeholder perspectives and needs.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- To review A4NH's progress in 2018 and provide recommendations on the performance of A4NH overall and each of its five flagship research programs.
- To review the plans outlined and resources allocated for 2019 and provide strategic guidance for A4NH overall and for each of its five flagships.
- To provide recommendations to the A4NH Director on how and where to allocate approximately \$6 million in carryover funds from Phase I.
- To provide advice to the A4NH Director on the proposed way to assess the country coordination and engagement model in A4NH's five focus countries.

At the beginning is a list of the main issues raised by the ISC and the actions A4NH proposes to take in response. After that is a summary of the ISC's recommendations and key comments with the decisions reached during the meeting at the end.

MAIN AREAS OF ISC CONCERN AND A4NH PLAN FOR ACTION

Topic	Plan for Action	Timeline <i>Responsibility</i>
Carryover from Phase I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the recommendations to allocate \$2 million in 2019 to the seven selected expressions of interest 	By Jan 15, 2019 <i>PMU with PMC</i>
Strategic Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a written description of the strategy, including the implementation plan for 2019 	In March 2019 PMC meeting <i>Janet Hodur with John McDermott</i>
Country Coordination and Engagement Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present summary on 2017-2018 assessment of A4NH's five focus country teams Present plan for formal partnership review 	In March 2019 PMC meeting <i>John McDermott with Devesh Roy</i> In Nov 2019 ISC meeting <i>John McDermott with Devesh Roy</i>

RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

In 2017, A4NH introduced a new way of reporting to the ISC, which it continued in this year's meeting. A slide deck served as A4NH's full report on 2018 achievements and 2019 plans. It was sent to the ISC members to review before the meeting. The agenda was structured so that for each flagship, the ISC could provide strategic comments and clarify issues on the report. As was requested at last year's meeting, this year's report included an accompanying Word document with more notes and full citations of referenced publications to provide more detail to the ISC members. The ISC suggested that in the 2019 meeting materials, A4NH should provide flagship-level information on partnerships with national institutions and local consultants; it would be adequate to limit the list to the five focus countries. A second recommendation was that time should be set aside on the evening of the first day of the meeting for the ISC to deliberate on the first day's presentations. Both of these suggestions will be incorporated into planning for the 2019 meeting.

The ISC provided the following recommendations and comments to the A4NH Director on five additional aspects of the program and each of the five flagships.

SYNERGIES ACROSS FLAGSHIPS

The ISC encouraged the A4NH Director and PMC to think about how to encourage more synergies between flagships. The joint initiatives described in the expressions of interest for FP1 and FP4 were an interesting development. The systems approach in FP1 would make it easy to accommodate the research concerns of other flagships, so they could be the logical leader to convene these synergies. The ISC encouraged FP1, as part of its stakeholder consultations in four of the five focus countries and other external communication, to take the opportunity to communicate its own work as well as the work of other A4NH flagships. Specifically, the ISC recommended that FP1 and FP4 make more joint presentations to other partners and stakeholders and in next year's meeting, the two flagships make a joint presentation to describe what research they have been doing or will be doing together. The more synergies A4NH builds across the flagships, the easier it will be to communicate a unified focus to outsiders. An interaction with the Policies, Institutions and Market (PIM) CRP would be helpful as well.

Management Response

We agree on the desirability of cross-flagship research and A4NH is designed for FP1 to be the main collaborative platform for A4NH in focal countries. FP4 also has a complementary role with regard to cross-flagship policy work (through the A4NH policy working group). The concerns of the ISC on giving FP1 time to establish its research portfolio and methods are also noted. Some of the key FP1 country diagnostics outputs will be completed in early 2019 and two integrative events, one in Ethiopia in February 2019 and one in Bangladesh in March 2019 will be convened with national partners and across A4NH flagships and other CRPs (including PIM, CCAFS, WLE and the AFS-CRPs) and Centers.

CLIMATE CHANGE

A4NH is working with the CRP on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) through a few flagships on specific areas and has other initiatives that time did not allow for elaboration. Before next year's meeting, the ISC would like to get a short statement describing A4NH's relationship to climate change and more details on the type of research A4NH is doing that relates to climate change.

Management Response

We are happy to provide additional information on A4NH initiatives linked to climate change research. These include: joint efforts with the CRP on Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) on food systems in Ethiopia and Bangladesh, a systematic review of climate, nutrition and equity; contributions to a planned 2019 CCAFS conference on food system transformation from a climate change perspective, and joint engagement and information exchange with the Rome-based agencies around climate change; partnership with Columbia University on integrating climate information into research in nearly all A4NH flagships (FP1, FP2, FP3, and FP5); an upcoming publication in *Nature* on climate change, income and micronutrient/nutrition security to 2050.

AQUACULTURE

During the meeting, several flagships mentioned opportunities they were exploring with WorldFish and/or the CRP on Fish. The ISC observed that there is a real opportunity for aquaculture, particularly as it relates to nutrition and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), where A4NH is well positioned to participate. In next year's meeting, the ISC would welcome an update on how A4NH has responded to this growth area.

Management Response

We agree. The main areas of collaboration between A4NH and WorldFish and the CRP on FISH have been negotiated around food systems and food safety in Bangladesh (and then in Nigeria) and integrating fish into the developing CGIAR Antimicrobial Resistance Hub at ILRI. The pace of developing new joint work will depend on fund raising. In addition, through A4NH's engagement with the UN Rome-based agencies, we are supporting a document on the implementation of fish agri-food systems currently led by WorldFish and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Janet Hodur, A4NH Communications Specialist, provided a good presentation on A4NH messaging. The ISC was in agreement that it is very important to nail down A4NH's identity and establish its brand. They provided some preliminary reactions to the presentation during the meeting and they requested that a communication strategy be developed in writing before next year's ISC meeting, including discussion and clarity on audience and the particulars of the communication strategy. For example, will it be a differentiated strategy for particular audiences and to what extent will it be specific to flagships or overall

A4NH. Lastly, the ISC advised the A4NH Director not to feel trapped by its own acronym and to include in the written communication strategy the emphasis that should put on ‘food systems’ as well as ‘agriculture.’

Management Response

Agreed. A communication strategy will be developed and discussed at the next face-to-face PMC meeting (with ISC present as observers) in Bangladesh in March 2019.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UN ROME-BASED AGENCIES

The ISC recognizes that the UN Rome-based agencies and committees can be important channels for amplifying A4NH’s messages. The ISC encouraged A4NH to think strategically about how it can influence the agencies/committees’ engagement around particular topics globally, but also how A4NH can work through the Rome-based missions and/or activities in the five A4NH focus countries.

Management Response

There is considerable investment in engaging with the UN Rome-based agencies already, including contributions through the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN). A4NH will decide on specific strategic areas of support to SCN and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). A concerted effort has been made by FP4 with the World Food Programme (WFP); A4NH funding will provide some support to that partnership in 2019. One gap that will be explored is the engagement of the agency missions in the five A4NH focus countries.

FLAGSHIP 1: FOOD SYSTEMS FOR HEALTHIER DIETS

The ISC encouraged FP1 to push forward beyond descriptive work to evidence-based inferences and proposed interventions. There’s a natural tension between those who want to focus on strengthening the weak or incomplete evidence-base regarding food systems dynamics and those who think FP1 should already begin to consider innovations and ground-level interventions to test them. There are valid reasons to go slow. It might also help FP1 to do a ground-truth test on taking a specific problem in a specific country to see how a food system perspective adds more value than a traditional value chain approach. The chair noted that there were differences of opinion amongst the ISC on whether FP1 should go into specific problems now or be patient.

Management Response

The FP1 team will take these comments into account in planning their 2019 plan of work and budget and seek further ISC guidance in 2019.

FLAGSHIP 2: BIOFORTIFICATION

HarvestPlus continues to face short-term challenges related to delivery and breeding, which the ISC recognized but did not spend much time discussing in their closed session. Instead, they focused on the long-term challenge of handing off the delivery program to entities outside the research community, or A4NH in particular. For example, would this handover take the form of a public health initiative, with support from public sector institutions or will it be commercialized or some combination of the two? ISC encouraged FP2 to be thinking in the long-term about this because biofortification has been a research project for 15 years and it should not remain a research project going into the future. In the next meeting, they would like to be presented with more specifics about the latest thinking on the horizon and dates for steps in the process.

Management Response

IFPRI, CIAT, the HarvestPlus Program Advisory Committee (PAC) and management, and the core investors in HarvestPlus are working to develop a future strategy for catalyzing delivery-at-scale and mainstreaming of micronutrient breeding across the CGIAR breeding programs. In 2018, significant steps were taken to develop partnerships with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) on commercialization, with the World Bank on including biofortified crops in agricultural investments, and with CIP and other CGIAR Centers on setting targets and developing harmonized indicators and metrics of success. These efforts will continue in the coming years. The role of A4NH/HarvestPlus research in informing, monitoring, and evaluation these scaling and mainstreaming efforts remains as per the A4NH Full Proposal for Phase II (2017-2022) and can fit with a variety of scaling partners and modalities.

FLAGSHIP 3: FOOD SAFETY

FP3 is doing wonderful work in new areas. It has proven that the research teams are occupying more than just a niche. FP3 faces some of the same dilemmas that FP2 is facing in relationship to scaling up and out of aflasafe™. Although the ISC did not have any advice on how aflasafe should be scaled either through the public sector alone or through the private sector, they asked for regular reporting on process in scaling up aflasafe as part of the annual meeting.

Management Response

We agree that good progress has been made in FP3. We will provide updates on the innovative ways that aflasafe is being scaled-up in partnership with public and private organizations in Africa.

FLAGSHIP 4: SUPPORTING POLICIES PROGRAMS AND ENABLING ACTION THROUGH RESEARCH (SPEAR)

FP4 is a powerful part of A4NH's reputation as a strong research program. The ISC observed there are synergy opportunities with other A4NH flagships that are not being fully grasped, e.g., with regard to the urban food systems/diets/nutrition proposal being developed by FP4. The other A4NH flagships are not in as strong of a position to develop the policy aspects of their work, which means that FP4 may need to push itself a bit more into health or agriculture policy or food systems thinking. The ISC does not want to see FP4 drift into being only a nutrition research program. Its resources and expertise would not be fully utilized by A4NH.

Management Response

Agreed. In 2019 we will report on how opportunities are being pursued between FP4 and FP1 on urban diets and food systems, and on enhancing FP4 engagement with agriculture-health and food system policy issues. Although it was alluded to during this year's meeting, FP4 invested in developing a strategic proposal on Urban Food Systems for Better Diets, Nutrition, and Health in 2018. The team has been interacting actively with FP1 through preparing joint proposals, participating in relevant conferences organized by FP1 leaders, and organizing a partner and donor European meeting with SNV in The Hague to promote partnerships and networks. FP4 will also continue to interact with FP1 on methods and tools for the analysis of food system and food environment level drivers of diets in low- and middle-income countries.

FLAGSHIP 5: IMPROVING HUMAN HEALTH

There are enormous opportunities for FP5, particularly with the growing interest in antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The ISC saw real potential for FP5 to dominate this research space. They acknowledged the research program is still young, has quite modest funding levels and not particularly adequate staffing,

and will be undergoing a leadership transition in 2019. The ISC encouraged the A4NH Director and PMC to keep an eye on FP5 to make sure the leadership transition is successful. There is also a need for the research conducted to be clearly defined and aligned to A4NH research objectives.

Management Response

Agreed and proposed actions will be taken. A4NH will take a leading role in AMR.

DECISIONS

ALLOCATION OF PHASE I CARRYOVER

First, the ISC agreed that the PMU and PMC could proceed with allocating nearly \$2 million from the Phase I carryover to seven areas proposed as part of the expressions of interest process in the 2019 budget. The seven and their proposed 2019 budgets were:

[FP5] Managing risks from agriculture-associated AMR	\$500,000
[FP3] From theory to practice: A new paradigm for food safety	\$300,000
[FP2] Development, testing and mainstreaming of a standardized MEL system for biofortification	\$300,000
[FP4] Building resilience through improved productivity, food security, health and nutrition: Assessing the potential roles and impacts of WFP’s Food for Assets (FFA) Program in Zimbabwe	\$390,000
[FP4] Stories of Challenge: Understanding Drivers and Developing Responses to the Double Burden of Malnutrition	\$200,000
[FP1] Anchoring outputs and processes to national and sub-national food systems actors and processes	\$150,000
[FP1] Resource-smart urban value chains and food systems	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$1,990,000

Although the original offer was to allocate \$6 million across 2019-2021, in advance of this meeting, the A4NH Director revised his recommendation to allocate \$5 million with around \$2 million in 2019 guaranteed, in light of the financially risky environment in which A4NH operates. During the meeting, John McDermott explained more about the implications. A4NH started Phase II in 2017 with \$8 million in carryover. In 2017, A4NH was allocated \$19.4 million in W1/W2 funding, which was a bit less than what was proposed in the Full Proposal and FP1, FP4, and FP5 experienced 6% cuts in the W1/W2 funding. At the end of 2017, only \$18.5 million was received. In 2018, the total W1/W2 allocation was \$19 million but A4NH continued with a budget of \$19.4 million plus the 2017 carryover (approximately \$4 million). However, in 2018, the CGIAR System approved a new CRP (on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals) and five more flagships. The overall CGIAR budget has not changed, but the money has been spread across the System. It is very likely that \$2 million of A4NH’s carryover will cover holes in income for 2017 and 2018 from the CGIAR Fund. Following this explanation and discussion, the ISC advised that it would be wise for the A4NH Director to reserve some of the carryover in order to respond to shocks that may come in 2019-2021 and to only commit additional carryover funding on a year-to-year basis.

The ISC expressed appreciation for the opportunity to review the 14 expressions of interest and participate in the decision-making process. They acknowledged there were some weaknesses in the process, as shared by the PMC and summarized in the memo for this meeting, and said it is difficult for flagships to be asked to come up with new ideas without guarantee they will receive what they asked. However, they trust the A4NH Director and PMC to move forward.

Management Response

The decisions on the carryover funding were discussed by PMC and will be implemented as per the ISC decision.

ASSESSING PROGRESS OF COUNTRY COORDINATION AND ENGAGEMENT UNIT

Secondly, the ISC agreed to the A4NH Director's plans for assessing progress of the five country teams that make up the Country Coordination and Engagement Unit. Now that all five country teams are more or less functional and meeting, the PMU has refined their work plans so that they are standardized to include: (i) an annual report to the PMU following their particular terms of reference; (ii) a situational analysis report describing main changes in national policy and practice, new demands, and opportunities; (iii) 1-2 e-newsletters, coordinated with the A4NH Communications Specialist; and (iv) other products negotiated with the flagships and the PMU, such as joint research or capacity development or communication products. It is the responsibility of John McDermott and Devesh Roy, co-leaders of the Country Coordination and Engagement Unit to review the annual work plans and reports, conduct an annual discussion with the Country Coordinator and strategic partners, and consult with other members of the PMU and PMC on how the Coordinator and team are functioning. Linked to the CGIAR Business Cycle, so in 2021, the PMU will conduct a formal partnership review using a national facilitator, which will help A4NH assess how successful this model of partnering in the five focus countries has been.

Management Response

The ISC decision is being implemented with next reporting back in March 2019.

ISC ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Activity	Timeline
Review 2019 Plan of Work and Budget (POWB) <i>Flagship Leaders will provide a brief commentary on how ISC comments will be incorporated into their annual planning. This response will accompany the POWB.</i>	December 4-14, 2018
Confirm transition plan for rotation of ISC members. <i>One current member will rotate off the ISC at the end of 2019 and be replaced by a new member who will begin his/her new term in 2020. If the individual nominated to serve from 2019-2021 declines, the ISC will need to advise on the next alternate to nominate.</i>	By March 2019
PMC Bi-Annual Face-to-Face Meeting <i>ISC members are welcome to attend as observers.</i>	March 19-21, 2019 Dhaka, Bangladesh
ISC 3 rd Annual Meeting	November 13-14, 2019 IFPRI HQ, Washington, D.C.

INDEPENDENT STEERING COMMITTEE (ISC)

Mary AMUYUNZU-NYAMONGO

Founding Director and Technical Advisor of the African Institute for Health and Development
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: manyamongo@gmail.com

S. Mahendra DEV

Director (Vice Chancellor)
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research
Mumbai, India
Email: profmahendra@gmail.com

Joyce KINABO

Professor of Human Nutrition
Sokoine University of Agriculture
Morogoro, Tanzania
Email: joyce_kinabo@yahoo.com

Robert PAARLBERG (ISC chair)

Adjunct Professor of Public Policy
Harvard Kennedy School
Boston, United States of America
Email: Robert_Paarlberg@hks.harvard.edu

Emorn UDOMKESMALEE

Senior Advisor to and a former Director
Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University
Bangkok, Thailand
Email: emorn.udo@mahidol.ac.th

Jeroen A. BORDEWIJK

Former Senior Vice President Supply Chain Excellence Programme (retired), Unilever
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Email: bordewijk.jeroen@gmail.com

Shenggen FAN **ex officio member*

Director General
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: s.fan@cgiar.org

John McDERMOTT **ex officio member*

Director, Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH)
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: j.mcdermott@cgiar.org

Emmy SIMMONS

Former Assistant Administrator
United States Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: emmybsimmons@aol.com

MANAGING PARTNER REPRESENTATIVES

Gina KENNEDY (on behalf of Stephan Weise)

Theme Leader, Diet Diversity for Nutrition and Health
Bioversity International
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: g.kennedy@cgiar.org

Mark LUNDY (on behalf of Maya Rajasekharan)

Theme Leader, Sustainable Food Systems
Decision and Policy Analysis Research Area
International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
Cali, Colombia
Email: m.lundy@cgiar.org

Ruerd RUBEN

Program Manager, Global Food and Nutrition Security and
Professor of Impact Analysis for Food Security
Wageningen University and Research Centre
Wageningen, Netherlands
Email: ruerd.ruben@wur.nl

Jo LINES

Professor of Malaria Control and Vector Biology
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
London, England
Email: jo.lines@lshtm.ac.uk

Victor MANYONG

Director for Eastern Africa and
Leader of the Social Science Research Group
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Email: v.manyong@cgiar.org

Marie RUEL

Division Director
Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: m.ruel@cgiar.org

FLAGSHIP LEADERS

Ekin BIROL

Senior Research Fellow and
Head of Impact Research Unit, HarvestPlus
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: e.biorol@cgiar.org

Inge BROUWER

Associate Professor
Department of Agrotechnology and Food Sciences
Wageningen University and Research Centre
Wageningen, Netherlands
Email: inge.brouwer@wur.nl

Stuart GILLESPIE

Senior Research Fellow
Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Brighton, England
Email: s.gillespie@cgiar.org

Delia GRACE

Program Manager
Animal and Human Health (joint)
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: d.grace@cgiar.org

Jeff WAAGE

Consultant
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
London, England
Email: jeff.waage@lshtm.ac.uk

RESOURCE PERSONS

Namukolo COVIC

Senior Research Coordinator
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) –
Eastern and Southern Africa office
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Email: n.covic@cgiar.org

James GARRETT

Senior Research Fellow
Bioversity International
Rome, Italy
Email: j.garrett@cgiar.org

A4NH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)

Tigist DEFABACHEW

Budget, Contracts, and Grants Manager
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: t.defabachew@cgiar.org

Janet HODUR

Communications Specialist
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: j.hodur@cgiar.org

Hazel MALAPIT

Research Coordinator
Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division
A4NH GEE Unit Leader
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: h.malapit@cgiar.org

Elena MARTINEZ

Research Analyst
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: e.martinez@cgiar.org

Devesh ROY

Senior Research Fellow
A4NH MEL Unit Leader and CCE Unit Co-Leader
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
New Delhi, India
Email: d.roy@cgiar.org

Amanda WYATT

Program Manager
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Washington, D.C., United States of America
Email: a.wyatt@cgiar.org