

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Documenting adoption of Natural Resource Management (NRM) practices

Email expressions of interest to: Nuri Niyazi: nuri.niyazi@fao.org
no later than: 23:59 Rome, 20th November 2015

The CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council's Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) is inviting expressions of interest from universities, consultancy firms, research institutes, or consortia of the same, to validate and document the adoption of CGIAR-related Natural Resource Management (NRM) practices.

NRM research spans a wide range of technologies, management practices, and policies including crop, soil, water, pest and livestock management practices, approaches to land use management, forest governance and related policies. Adoption decisions, unlike crop germplasm improvement outcomes, are not always discrete (e.g. farmers may choose a subset of recommended practices), and are hence significantly more difficult to track and document. Attributing outcomes to CGIAR research may not be easy in cases where multiple organizations have contributed to the development and promotion of a particular NRM practice (e.g. conservation agriculture or agroforestry). Further, innovative natural resource management practices diffuse through multiple mechanisms and are often combined with traditional practice in unexpected ways.

Objective of the call

The primary objective of this work package (SIAC Activity 2.2¹) is to use a multiplicity of approaches (desk review, personal interviews of scientists at CGIAR, expert opinion, carefully-timed farmer surveys, frontier technology² like remote sensing or drones, and qualitative methods including stakeholder interviews) to estimate current levels of adoption for a number of high-priority NRM practices. Similar to major efforts such as the [DIIVA](#) project that documented the adoption of improved varieties, the goal with this work is to demonstrate the viability of systematically tracking and documenting the outcomes from NRM research. The goal is to produce a report, to make available to donors and CGIAR stakeholders, that summarises reliable information on NRM research outcomes that have been verified and that can be attributed to the work of the CGIAR.

Database of CGIAR NRM research outcomes

In early 2014, SPIA hired a consultant who reviewed claims of NRM outcomes made in the Performance Management System (PMS) documents (2006-2010) and annual reports (2003-2012) of CGIAR centers, as well as annual reports of all 15 CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs). From this scoping process we have narrowed down a list of six high-priority NRM practices in a range of countries for which we would like updated adoption estimates, as follows:

¹ Strengthening Impact Assessment in the CGIAR (SIAC) is an initiative of the CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council's Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA). The four year (2013-2016) project aims to bridge the gap in generation of high-quality data on uptake and diffusion of CGIAR research outputs and to assess their impact on CGIAR System Level Outcomes (SLOs). More information on specific objectives and activities can be found on <http://impact.cgiar.org>.

² Refer SIAC Activity 1.2 for MSU-led SPIA effort to test innovative approaches. <http://impact.cgiar.org/methods/nrm-technologies>

Priority NRM practices	Priority countries
Agroforestry (particularly “fertilizer trees”, leguminous fodder shrubs)	Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda
Alternate wetting and drying (AWD) in rice production systems	China, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh
Conservation agriculture in maize-based systems	Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Iraq, Mexico
Cocoa integrated crop and pest management (ICPM)	Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria
Micro-dosing of fertilizer in maize-based systems	Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mozambique
Integrated soil fertility management	Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC

We would like to solicit EoIs from institutions who can demonstrate comparative advantage in contributing to this effort. A 1-page description for each of these technologies is attached to this call.

Who can submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs)?

The call is open to consulting firms, researchers from universities, research institutions and think-tanks, as well as other public/private entities. Familiarity with the CGIAR system will be considered an advantage in the EOI evaluation decision.

Procedures for the Submission of the EOI

Interested individuals and institutions should submit an short EOI by pdf (not exceeding two pages), with the following information:

1. Name and institutional affiliations of the proponents, and names of most significant partner organisations would be expected to be involved.
2. Stipulation of which practice-country combinations the Eoi relates to (i.e. potentially interested in all; only specific practices; only specific countries)
3. Main ideas for how adoption of specific NRM practices will be determined. Include information on possible methods, tools, techniques and innovative approaches that could be applied. Include information on how data will be verified and validated through two or more approaches for a sub-set of outcomes.
4. An estimate of time for each named individual potentially available for this work, broken down by: first six months of 2016; second six months of 2016; first six months of 2017. No detailed budget is required, but if there are known costs (e.g. daily rates for staff / consultants) or expected costs (e.g. estimated cost per HH survey interview) these should be stipulated as much as possible.
5. A brief statement on anticipated risks, particularly if innovative data collection technologies are proposed.

EOIs should be sent to Nuri Niyazi (nuri.niyazi@fao.org) and James Stevenson (james.stevenson@fao.org) no later than **23:59 Rome, 20th November 2015**. EOIs will be reviewed as received, so earlier submissions are preferable, and immediately following this deadline a final list of pre-selected **institutions will be invited to attend a workshop on 1st and 2nd December 2015 at FAO in Rome** to which travel and accommodation costs will be paid. **On submission of an expression of interest, please keep these dates free until you hear back from us.** The objective of the workshop is to help develop workplans and broker collaborations for funding sets of viable case studies to be implemented in 2016-17.

Definition of a case study

We consider each country-practice combination to represent a single case study in a broader database of NRM outcomes for the CGIAR. The choice of method for a case study will vary according to such factors as: how easily observable the practice is relative to counterfactual or “conventional” practice; the availability of secondary data to guide sampling; etc. To the extent possible, we are seeking nationally-representative data on adoption of these practices for the most relevant crop(s) or production systems.

The final output for each case study should comprise the following:

- **Brief review of all relevant literature reporting adoption for the practice-country combinations** <2 pages
- **Description of method(s) used for estimating adoption** > 6 pages
(this should provide sufficient detail to allow the process to be repeated in subsequent years)
- **Results** >2 pages
- **Discussion of and connection to other case-studies** >2 pages

For each case-study, preparation, data collection, analysis and reporting should all be completed within the period January 2016 – June 2017.

Funds available

The total funding envelope for this activity is approximately US \$700,000, and we intend to work with a small number of institutions in a collaborative effort to carry out this activity.

Criteria for evaluation of expression of interest

- Quality of writing and evidence of background research
- Strength of case for comparative advantage in collecting these data
- Reputation and experience of individual proponents
- Appropriate balance between innovation, rigour and feasibility in methods proposed