



ISPC Commentary on the pre-proposal for the Genebank programme

The Fund Office (on behalf of the Fund Council) first submitted the CGIAR Genebanks Options Paper for FC13 to the ISPC for comments in early March 2015 as an interim draft, and as a final draft on 17th March 2015. In its subsequent commentary of 3 April 2015, the ISPC expressed support for Option 2 and a much needed renewal of the CGIAR's engagement in genetic resources policy and representation in relevant international fora. The ISPC also recommended that the minimum germplasm health unit costs associated with the conservation and safe movement of germplasm be budgeted additionally within Option 2. 1.1.

The [Options paper](#) was presented at FC 13 and the Fund Council concluded and decided as follows:

“The Fund Council noted the vital importance of the genebanks and recommitted – in both the short and long term – to make it a priority to secure funding for them in line with existing agreements on the partnership nature of support to the genebanks. Recognizing the Council's continuing short-term financial responsibilities for 2017-2021, the following decisions were taken.

- *The Fund Council agreed to commit \$93.1 million for the period 2017 - 2021, per recommendation #1 of the PRT Report.*
- *The Fund Council agreed to a blended approach to funding to reduce the pressure on Window 1 funds, while recognizing that WI funds will remain a safety net.*
- *The Fund Council requested the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT) to provide as soon as possible clear and transparent financials to support building the endowment, and requested the GCDT to complete a detailed costing exercise for FC14 to provide more accurate information on cost.*
- *Beginning in 2017, genebank support should be applied to the relevant CRP research as a line item in Windows 2 and 3, where appropriate, taking care to design this to ensure no disincentives to use of the collections. No fees should be applied for material transfer agreements with third parties.*
- *The Fund Council will apply an across-the-board levy in the event of a funding short fall. The mechanism and exact amount of the levy will be determined by the Fund Council upon the recommendation of the PRT at its next meeting.*
- *A table which further clarifies the breakdown of expenditure items and sources of financing will be appended to the minutes to describe possible solutions. The PRT agreed to prepare the table.”*

The ISPC recognize that more detail needs to be provided to justify the USD 93.1 million but do not consider that the pre-proposal submitted met the basic criteria for consideration as a CRP. The ISPC reiterates its support for funding for the Genebanks but could not support this pre-proposal. It recommends that the Consortium identify an alternative mechanism to call for a detailed proposal justifying expenditure on the Genebanks from 2017-2022.