

**The CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) is seeking to appoint a Chair for its Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA)**

**Position summary:**

The Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) of the CGIAR seeks a qualified candidate to serve as Chair of its Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA). The ISPC is a panel of eminent scientific experts whose aim is to strengthen the quality, relevance, and impact of CGIAR science. Within ISPC, SPIA has a mandate to provide CGIAR members with timely, objective and credible information on the impacts at CGIAR System level of past donor investments, to provide support to and complement the CGIAR Centers in their *ex post* impact assessment activities, and to support the overall impact orientation of CGIAR research. Impact assessment is vital within CGIAR as a way to ensure accountability and also to inform system learning and decision making.

In recent years, SPIA has operated with a budget of approximately \$3.5 million per year for research funding. The SPIA Chair plays an important role in ensuring that these funds are used as efficiently as possible to expand the evidence base on CGIAR impact.

The SPIA Chair is an *ex officio* member of ISPC, and serves for a term of 3 years with possibility of renewal for one additional term. The position requires a minimum commitment of approximately 40 days per year, and a larger commitment may be possible for an individual with more time available.

SPIA operates from the ISPC Secretariat based at FAO in Rome, but the SPIA Chair will normally be expected to work from his/her home base, with frequent teleconference and e-mail interaction with members of the Secretariat staff. The SPIA Chair will work closely with Secretariat professional and administrative staff and with a rotating set of academic members of SPIA. Secretariat staff handle all of the administrative work of SPIA and also provide the day-to-day management of SPIA programs.

**Essential duties:**

- Provide strategic guidance and oversight to SPIA and its program of work;
- Ensure key links between SPIA and the international academic community;
- Represent SPIA and the CGIAR impact assessment community in relevant internal and external fora;
- Participate as a member of ISPC, including but not limited to reporting and seeking Council input on SPIA activities.

**Required qualifications:**

- PhD in economics, agricultural economics, or related field;
- Outstanding record of research and publication on agricultural development and related policy issues;
- Demonstrated communication and networking skills in diverse cultural, disciplinary and stakeholder contexts;
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in a cross-disciplinary environment;
- Good knowledge of the institutional architecture of international agricultural research for development, and specific familiarity with CGIAR.

**How to apply:**

Interested candidates should send their full CV and publication list, a covering letter, and the names and current contacts of three referees via e-mail to [ISPC-Membership@fao.org](mailto:ISPC-Membership@fao.org) by 15 May 2017.