

IFPRI Board of Trustees

Meeting Summary: June 17, 2022

The IFPRI Board of Trustees met on June 17, with several committee meetings in the weeks beforehand. A summary of the Board's decisions and discussions is as follows.

The Board:

- **Commended the Institute** for an excellent year. They praised the leadership demonstrated by IFPRI researchers in responding to the Ukraine crisis; lauded IFPRI's strong engagement with the One CGIAR transition process – including leading or co-leading 11 of the new research Initiatives; and discussed ongoing and upcoming challenges such as the organizational integration, work/life balance, and ongoing food and fertilizer crises. These issues, and others, were also highlighted in the Director General's [presentation](#).
- Acknowledged that responding to crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis, is a particular strength of IFPRI and requires critical research infrastructure and a coordinated approach. The CGIAR is developing an investment proposal that will enable Entities to respond in the short- and long-term around a crisis framework, and is also working to develop a more unified, coherent approach at the regional level.
- Received a presentation from Pascal Lamy, Chair of IFPRI's Strategy & Program Council (SPC), and discussed the Global Food Policy Report and the future of the SPC under One CGIAR.
- Received a presentation from Hilary Wild, Chair of IFPRI's Audit Committee (AC) and representative of the CGIAR Audit, Finance & Risk Committee (AFRC) on the decisions, recommendations, and key discussion points of the AC and AFRC quarter two meetings. In response, the Board:
 - **Approved the IFPRI Audited Financial Statements for 2021.**
 - **Reappointed RSM** to conduct the 2022 audit – an exceptional, sixth year appointment while a common CGIAR approach to external audits is developed.
 - **Approved the continued appointment** of IFPRI's existing legal counsel.
 - Noted the decisions made by IFPRI's Audit Committee and acknowledged the various risks currently facing IFPRI and the efforts being taken to mitigate against these.
- **Commended IFPRI's financial management** that resulted in a lower-than-expected deficit in 2021. This deficit is largely due to under recovery of - overhead due to a decline in the business base and pandemic related disruptions. IFPRI's Director of Finance reported that IFPRI's budget is \$103.2 million in 2022, down from \$116.5 million in 2021, largely due to the elimination of CRP pass-through funds. A \$1.6 million deficit is forecast for 2022, primarily because of the loss of CRP co-financing for bilateral projects. Board members discussed the pressing need to find a longer-term, cross-CGIAR solution to this issue.
- Discussed human resources issues including staff morale, measuring diversity and inclusion, and return to the office.

- **Approved the common One CGIAR Rules of Procedure**, which aim to improve the efficiency of governance within the One CGIAR and streamline decision-making, while respecting individual Centers' governing instruments.
- **Approved the reappointment of two Emeritus Fellows** – Howarth Bouis and Peter Hazell – each for a three-year appointment.
- Expressed enthusiasm for Board Members to attend IFPRI's Retreat for Staff Everywhere (RISE), scheduled for November 2022.