

IFPRI Board of Trustees

Meeting summary: December 4, 2022

The IFPRI Board of Trustees held a hybrid meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, on December 4, 2022. Meetings of the Strategy & Program Council, IFPRI Audit Committee, and CGIAR Audit, Finance, and Risk Committee were held in the weeks prior. A summary of the Board's discussions and decisions is as follows.

The Board:

- Commended IFPRI staff for their hard work during the CGIAR transition and praised the tremendous impact that IFPRI's work is having by providing strategic research in a context of COVID-19, conflict, and climate change. In the RePEc system, IFPRI continues to be ranked first in agricultural economics departments and research, second in Africa economics research, and fifth in development economics research. IFPRI is in the top 1 percent of all institutions registered in RePEc worldwide.
- Discussed various points highlighted in the Director General's report, including demand for IFPRI's services and the enabling policy environments required for research and technology uptake; IFPRI's work on climate adaptation and mitigation (and role in COP27 and COP28); new work on fragility, conflict, and migration; geographic reach and non-Headquarter staffing; and issues around bilateral funding. **IFPRI's 2023 Annual Plan was approved.**
- Heard a presentation from Hilary Wild, Chair of IFPRI's Audit Committee, on the joint activity of the IFPRI Audit Committee and the CGIAR Audit, Finance, and Risk Committee, who met together in November. The Board **approved the 2023 budget** of \$112 million, including a projected budget deficit of \$1.2 million and took note that a revised budget is anticipated in Q1 2023 following full forecasting. The Board also **approved the 2022 external audit plan** and noted that the external auditors will reach their contract limit after this audit cycle. The need for a system-wide solution to the current funding model was also discussed.
- **Approved IFPRI's 2023 Salary Program**, which includes an average of 4 percent for merit increases and 1 percent for salary adjustments in IFPRI's United States and overseas offices, plus increases to the research and corporate services salary ranges in the United States and in Senegal. Inflation is being closely monitored and management may follow up with further adjustments once more data emerges in 2023. Issues relating to gender, diversity, and inclusion – including the proportion of women in senior roles – were also discussed.
- **Approved IFPRI's proposed internal restructuring**, after the plan was presented for discussion and feedback during the Strategy & Program Council meeting. IFPRI's management and staff were applauded for embracing this change, which will align IFPRI's structure with that of the CGIAR Systems Transformation Science Group. Channing Arndt and Purnima Menon were congratulated for their new roles as Senior Directors for Transformation Strategies and Food and Nutrition Policy, respectively.

- Heard a presentation from Hilary Wild, member of the HarvestPlus Program Advisory Committee (PAC), on the proposed integration of HarvestPlus within One CGIAR. The Board **approved the HarvestPlus recommendations** presented by the PAC and **mandated a HarvestPlus Transition Planning Group** to oversee the development of a detailed transition plan by March 31, 2023.
- Discussed points raised by board members and IFPRI's Senior Management Team in relation to the Integration Framework Agreement and **approved the Integration Framework Agreement**, noting that a reference to quality assurance will be added to the text.
- Received a report from Pascal Lamy on IFPRI's Strategy & Program Council (SPC) meeting, which was well-attended by board members and staff. The SPC praised IFPRI's work on the Ukraine crisis, which has been highly appreciated by policymakers. They reiterated the importance of investing in this type of capacity so that IFPRI can respond to such crises in the short-, medium-, and long-term. SPC members also discussed the 2023 Global Food Policy Report, which will focus on short- and long-term responses to crises. IFPRI researchers were encouraged to introduce as much novelty as possible on this topic and highlight specific areas of interest.
- Heard an update from Charlotte Hebebrand, IFPRI's Director of Communications and Public Affairs, on the 2022 Retreat for IFPRI Staff Everywhere (RISE), including on staff feedback and outlook for the future. Several board members were able to attend some virtual RISE sessions, and all board members are encouraged to attend this annual event when possible.
- Received an update on progress made by the ad hoc Board Chair selection committee. The committee has identified several suitable candidates for the next IFPRI Board Chair and hopes to be able to make a formal recommendation to the Board soon. To promote continuity, **Nancy Birdsall's term as a board member was extended by up to one year, to December 31, 2023.**
- **Approved the membership of IFPRI's Nominating Committee for 2023.**
- **Approved the reappointment of three Emeritus Fellows** – Nurul Islam, Sherman Robinson, and Mark Rosegrant – each for a three-year appointment. The Chair highlighted the value that such appointments bring to the Institution.
- Expressed their appreciation to Marco Ferroni for his more than five years of service as Chair of the System Board / System Management Board, and offered congratulations to Lindiwe Sibanda, who will take over as System Board Chair from January 1, 2023.