

CGIAR Partnership Mapping

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Background

1. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is an international network for agricultural research. It comprises 15 globally distributed research centres which receive funding from the multi-donor CGIAR fund.
2. In 2009 the CGIAR announced that it would align its centres' research into coherent, multidisciplinary programmes called CGIAR Research Programmes (CRPs).
3. The project is a scoping exercise for the Department of International Development (DFID) to map UK partnerships with CRPs. The project will examine the type of contribution from the partner, the scale of the partner's input, associated partners and identify any benefits gained, such as specific research skills.
4. The project aims to encourage transparency of current partnerships, developing a resource tracking UK-CGIAR partnerships. The resource hopes to highlight opportunities where new UK partnerships could form with the CRPs and potential skills gaps in UK agricultural research. It will also identify any inequality in the quantity of partnerships between UK institutions and CRPs.

Initial Findings

5. So far 26 UK partners have provided data on their partnerships. A further 9 potential UK partners have been identified and contacted.
6. The UK's expertise in agricultural research is extremely valuable. So far 69% of UK partners have been able to contribute specialist knowledge not available in centres to partnerships. Key UK knowledge contributions include C4 photosynthesis, genomics and research to policy/practice translation.
7. 89% of these respondents also identified mutual learning or access to unique expertise within CGIAR centres as a key benefit. CGIAR partnerships therefore appear to be acting as important knowledge exchange mechanisms in both directions.
8. The ability to pursue research which could not have been conducted by a single country is repeatedly cited as a core benefit of partnering.
9. Total funding for the 26 respondents has been ~£10.5 million. This was primarily used for staff costs and travel.
10. Partnerships have been successful in accessing funding partners outside CGIAR, 38% of partnerships receive funding through associated partners.
11. UK-CGIAR partnerships have been largely positive experiences with only 2 respondents identifying challenges in the management of partnerships, both around logistical issues. A further 2 respondents identified limited funding as an on-going challenge in their research.