

Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP)
1st Oversight Committee Meeting
8 October 2011
IRRI, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

Participants:	<p>IRRI BOT: Jillian Lenne, Stephen Baenziger, and Robert S. Zeigler (DG, IRRI)</p> <p>AfricaRice BOT: Barbara Becker and Masa Iwanaga</p> <p>CIAT BOT: Anthony Cavalieri</p> <p>Independent Experts: Fusuo Zhang (CAU, China), Beatriz da Silveira Pinheiro (EMBRAPA, Brazil), Paul Mafuka (INERA, DR Congo), Kei Otsuka (World Bank), and Susan McCouch <i>on webex</i> (Cornell University, USA)</p> <p>Program Planning and Management Team (PPMT): Achim Dobermann (IRRI), Marco Wopereis (AfricaRice), Joe Tohme (CIAT), Nour Ahmadi (Cirad), and Osamu Koyama (JIRCAS)</p>
Regrets:	<p>Papa Seck (DG, AfricaRice)</p> <p>Subbanna Ayyappan (ICAR, India)</p>
Supporting documents:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 01. Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) for the CGIAR 02. Program Implementation Agreement (PIA) between the Consortium and IRRI (Lead Center for GRiSP) 03. Framework Agreement of Cooperation among IRRI, CIAT, and AfricaRice 04. List of OC Members 05. M & E Strategy 06. Gender Workplan 07. Communications Work Plan 08. Capacity Development for the Global Rice Environment 09. Guidelines for New Frontiers Research 10. Guidelines for Allocating Partnership Dev't Funds
Topics	Discussion
1. Orientation on the new CGIAR	<p>Dr. Robert Zeigler, IRRI DG, welcomed the members of the GRiSP Oversight Committee (OC) to its first formal meeting. He presented a brief orientation on the pre-reform and the new CGIAR, emphasizing the intent of the CGIAR reform process to streamline processes and promote an integrated research agenda and partnership among centers. Despite still existing uncertainties in the CGIAR system, GRiSP—the first Consortium Research Program (CRP) to be approved by the Fund Council and Consortium Board—has been regarded as a very positive success model case of the whole change process.</p> <p>The OC members expressed great concern about the uncertainties with regard to funding level, time delays in funding of GRiSP, complex funding, administrative and governance mechanisms in the new CGIAR system, which do not seem in line with the stated goals of the reform process. This has also created many new uncertainties and risks for the Centers and partners involved in GRiSP.</p>

<p>2. General role of the Oversight Committee (OC)</p>	<p>GRiSP is an evolving international alliance among three CGIAR centers, namely IRRI, AfricaRice, and CIAT; Cirad and IRD (France); and JIRCAS (Japan). Scientific oversight of GRiSP was envisioned to be undertaken by an Oversight Committee whose members were selected for their diverse backgrounds and expertise needed in a global rice research program, and as representatives of major rice-growing regions. Their expertise covers genetic resources, rice genomics, plant breeding & genetics, plant physiology, agronomy, plant pathology, soil fertility & plant nutrition, agricultural economics & policy, agro-ecology & environmental issues, and private sector experience.</p> <p>The members of the first GRiSP OC are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRRI BOT (nominated): Jill Lenne & Steve Baenziger • AfricaRice BOT (nominated): Barbara Becker & Masa Iwanaga • CIAT BOT (nominated): Tony Cavalieri • Ex-Officio: Robert Zeigler (IRRI DG) & Papa Seck (AR DG) • Regional members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Africa: Paul Mafuka (Congo) – Asia: Subbanna Ayappan (India) – LAC: Beatriz da Silveira Pinheiro (Brazil) • Global members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Susan McCouch (USA)-on <i>WebEx</i> – Kei Otsuka (Japan) – Fusuo Zhang (China) <p>The rationale for establishing the OC was discussed thoroughly and the members agreed on the following three major OC functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic guidance on the major directions of rice research in GRiSP, acting as its main global scientific advisory body. • Monitor progress towards the stated vision of success. • Be an advisory to the Boards of IRRI, AfricaRice, and CIAT, on progress being made in GRiSP. <p>Professor Fusuo Zhang, Dean, College of Agricultural Resources & Environmental Sciences, Beijing, China was elected as the first OC Chair.</p>
<p>3. OC roles and responsibilities</p>	<p>A rich discussion was held on the OC's Terms of Reference (TOR), roles and responsibilities. Although the basic TOR on operational mechanisms for the OC had been defined in the approved GRiSP proposal document, the OC clarified a number of areas, but also identified several that will require further attention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OC will determine its functions in alignment with the specific roles and responsibilities stated in the framework agreement for GRiSP implementation, which has been signed among the three CGIAR centers involved. • There is a need to further clarify the specific functions of the OC vis-à-vis the functions of the Program Committees of Center Boards to ensure that the OC adds sufficient value to GRiSP and to Center Boards, without duplicating the role of the latter. • The OC has no role in approving or endorsing the GRiSP budget. It should, however, be kept well informed of the budget through semi-annual reports.

	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile and compare responsibilities of the Board PCs in each centre to ensure clarity and reduce overlap. • Extract & consolidate all of the relevant OC responsibilities and procedures listed in the Framework Agreement and share with the OC members for feedback. • Draft detailed TOR for the GRiSP OC and approve them (through e-mail). This will form part of the first GRiSP report to the Consortium. • Lead: Jill Lenne & D. Robles; Deadline: November 10, 2011
<p>4. Reporting, communication and others issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two types of reports will be submitted to the Consortium; the first is a simple technical report summarizing the achievements of GRiSP according to the goals of the CGIAR reform process (a template has been provided by the Consortium, which should be further modified), with a table showing progress against 90+ milestones. It will also indicate lessons learned. The second report will be a public, attractive report highlighting success stories and other major achievements in GRiSP. • The Consortium may also appreciate the input from the findings and learning experiences of OC, which should add credibility to the GRiSP. • In addition to meeting once each year in person (in conjunction with the annual Global GRiSP Forum), the GRiSP PD will organize a semi-annual Web conference of the OC to discuss the semi-annual report and other matters. • The OC will also have a secure, dedicated space on the www.grisp.net web site, with a file cabinet for important documents to share and a discussion forum. • The OC would also appreciate receiving other relevant updates on cross-cutting issues such as capacity building, gender, partnerships, frontier projects, etc. OC members will be expected to provide active guidance on certain scientific matters based on their areas of expertise.
<p>5. Nominations Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to draft guidelines and TOR for a Nominations Committee for feedback from the OC. <u>Action:</u> GRiSP PD, in communication with the OC, to develop draft guidelines in time for the next OC meeting. • A Nominations Committee will be appointed at next OC Meeting
<p>6. Summary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRiSP is extremely well-positioned to tackle global rice problems. It has a solid, well-thought out agenda and already an excellent track record of delivery. It has a stable base for a long-term future. • The OC concluded that GRiSP is already a valuable model and pilot for other CRPs. There is much potential for the OC to pass learning experiences onto the Consortium and to other CRPs. Capturing and responding to learning processes will help the OC to be more effective and efficient in its functions especially as the membership will change over time.