



Research
Program on
Rice
**Global Rice
Science
Partnership**

3rd GRiSP Oversight Committee (OC) Meeting
26 October 2013
Yaoundé, Cameroon

<p>Participants:</p>	<p>IRRI BOT: Stephen Baenziger and Robert S. Zeigler (DG, <i>ex-officio</i>)</p> <p>AfricaRice BOT: Barbara Becker, Masa Iwanaga, and Adama Traoré (Interim DG, <i>ex-officio</i>)</p> <p>CIAT BOT: John Hamer</p> <p>Independent Experts: Paul Mafuka (INERA, DR Congo), Kei Otsuka (GRIPS, Japan)</p> <p>Program Planning and Management Team (PPMT): Nour Ahmadi (Cirad), Bas Bouman (GRiSP Director), Achim Dobermann (IRRI), Alain Ghesquiere (IRD), Osamu Koyama (JIRCAS), Joe Tohme (CIAT), and Marco Wopereis (AfricaRice)</p> <p>Guests/observers: Philippe Ellul (CGIAR Consortium Office), Edgar Torres (CIAT)</p>
<p>Regrets:</p>	<p>Subbanna Ayyappan (ICAR, India)</p> <p>Zhang Fusuo (CAU, China)</p> <p>Susan McCouch (Cornell University)</p> <p>Rita Sharma (IRRI BOT)</p> <p>Beatriz da Silveira Pinheiro (EMBRAPA, Brazil)- <i>resigned from the OC due to changes in professional assignment</i></p> <p>Anne-Lucie Wack (Agropolis Foundation, France)- <i>resigned from the OC due to changes in professional assignment</i></p>
<p>Supporting documents:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 01. 2012 GRiSP OC Minutes 02. GRiSP OC TOR and 2013 Members 03. Matters arising from Oct 2012 meeting 04. GRiSP CRP 3.3 2012 Annual Report 05. GRiSP OC Meeting Agenda 06. GRiSP Gender Strategy version 2.0 07. GRiSP IDOs and Impact Pathway 08. GRiSP Phase II Outline 09. GRiSP Plan of Work and Budget (POWB) 2013

Dr. Robert S. Zeigler, IRRI Director General, formally welcomed the members of the GRiSP Oversight Committee (OC), Program Planning and Management Team (PPMT), and guests to the 3rd GRiSP OC meeting held at the Hilton Hotel in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Dr. Adama Traoré, interim DG of Africa Rice, thanked GRiSP for its wholehearted support and active contribution to the success of the recently-concluded 3rd Africa Rice Congress.

Eight members of the OC were present, which constituted a quorum. Members who were not able to attend have officially conveyed their apologies. Dr. Kei Otsuka (OC vice chair), presided over the meeting on behalf of the chair, Dr. Zhang Fusuo, who was unable to come. In his message, Dr. Kei Otsuka said that it was a big opportunity for GRiSP to contribute to the rapid changes and excitement in Africa.

Dr. Philippe Ellul, newly-appointed Senior Science Officer of the CGIAR Consortium, was invited to provide information on the Consortium Research Program (CRP) Phase II proposal development and new directions at the CGIAR. Dr. Edgar Torres, rice program leader of CIAT, was also present as an observer.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

Mid-term 2013 teleconference for the OC - this was not undertaken due to the difficulty of finding a common time for members from various parts of the world. However, the GRiSP Director has constantly communicated and shared all the GRiSP publications with the Oversight Committee, as follows: a) 2012 Annual Report entitled '*GRiSP in Motion*', b) '*Women in Motion*' (gender-based studies), c) Gender Strategy plan, d) '*Partnership in Motion*', and the e) Intermediate Development Outcome (IDO) reports submitted to the Consortium Office.

Dr. Barbara Becker suggested that enough time should be devoted to discuss and reflect on the role of the OC on cross-cutting issues such as governance, composition, and function. The agenda should also be always forward-looking.

Approval of the proposed agenda/minutes of last meeting

After slight revisions, the OC subsequently approved the agenda items for the meeting as well as the minutes of the 2nd OC meeting held in October 2012.

The following topics were presented and discussed at this meeting:

Topics	Discussion
1. GRiSP update-cross cutting issues	Dr. Bas Bouman presented the proposed results-based management of the CRPs, and the concepts of intermediate development outcomes (IDOs), impact pathways, and theories of change. He also discussed the timeline for preparations leading to the submission of the GRiSP Phase II proposal, as well as updates on the gender strategy and suggested partnership arrangements.

Results-based management of GRiSP

- In line with the CGIAR's proposed funding scheme to 'pay for performance' through results-based management system (RBM), GRiSP submitted a proposal to the Consortium Office for a pilot project that aims to design and test an effective system to collect and evaluate quantitative and qualitative indicators of progress toward the Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDOs) within a 2-year time frame (*Update- the proposal was approved by the CO at \$600,000 for 2014, with expectation of same funding in 2015*).
- For this to work, a series of proposed activities would and should be fast-tracked:
 - Develop and put in place a SMART system of indicator collection, aggregation, analysis, and evaluation.
 - With national partners: set targets, indicators, and aspirational outcomes
 - Regional :collect indicators in key target areas: surveys (tablets), measurements, local statistics and data bases
 - Global scale: aggregation and synthesis of the above, (inter)national databases, modeling, remote sensing (RS), and geographic information system (GIS)
 - Through monitoring and evaluation (M&E), use the progress indicators to evaluate and guide GRiSP.

Partnership arrangements

- GRiSP could coherently manage its 900 partners and different arrangements by:
 - Determining regional or national development priorities; targets or aspirations (food security, poverty, sustainability); and development indicators and targets in the rice sector (yield, productivity).
 - Taking stock of current partnership mechanisms and enhancing global ownership by accommodating India, Bangladesh, Korea, Embrapa, etc.
 - Improving global ownership through the Africa National Expert committee (Africa), CORRA (Asia), FLAR (Latin America), and RRRTC- WCA (West Asia).

Gender

- GRiSP's revised gender strategy, "*Mainstreaming Gender in Rice Research and Technology Development*", was formally approved by the Consortium Office. The revised gender strategy entails 'gendered' outputs (GRiSP's products and services), outcomes, and indicators of progress. It is based on a specific impact pathway and theory of change on how

	<p>‘empowerment’ of women in the agricultural research for development (AR4D) arena and in the rice value chain (women farmers, post harvest operators, processors) accelerates the delivery of GRiSP’s intermediate development outcomes.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is incumbent upon research organizations to convey ‘realities’ to the donors through the use of indicators, to make sense of the direction (where to go), roadmap (how to get there), and progress. • Developing measurement indicators and instruments would be costly which would involve determining how much of the scientists’ time would be diverted to doing RBM instead of doing research, and how many staff would be involved. • Without contribution from research and development partners, the IDOs will not be easily achieved. Thus, an enabling environment is an important determining factor. • GRiSP needs to do out-of-the-box science and be able to track how the products move in the pipeline. Leave plenty of chance for future findings in the current framework.
<p>2. Preparations for CRP 2nd phase proposal development: directions and priorities</p>	<p>Dr. Philippe Ellul, Senior Scientific Officer of the CGIAR Consortium Office, presented the preparations for CRP 2nd phase proposal development, directions, and priorities.</p> <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CGIAR underwent a reform process in 2008 and currently has the following features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) that governs how the CG centers will work together to attain its objectives ○ Donors united in CGIAR fund ○ 15 centers within the CGIAR consortium ○ \$870 million budget in 2012 with 12% annual increase (<i>Note: has been reported to increase to US\$1B in a CGIAR news release in Dec 2013</i>). • The five (5) entities of the CGIAR are the Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA), Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC), partnership and stakeholders, gender, and the Consortium (composed of the Consortium Board, Fund Council, and the 15 research centers). • The Consortium Office (CO) monitors the CRPs, submits proposals to the Fund Council, and evaluates CRP progress. Monitoring is done through the annual CRP portfolio report, annual financial report, and report on the CGIAR intellectual assets.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonizing the different terminologies and structures used across all CRPs has primarily necessitated a CRP 2nd call. Other reasons for having a harmonized reporting system are to have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ increased internal CRP coherence ○ increased coherence across the CRP portfolio ○ increased impact of the whole CRP portfolio (strategic linkages among the CRPs, linkages between commodity and system CRPs), ○ agreed division within the program <p>Suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current management of CRPs by the CO should have more clarity in priority setting in terms of resources allocation. It needs to be done top down using global foresight as a basis, to indicate how the US\$900 million of resources can be allocated/prioritized to achieve the SLOs. • There needs to be a clear view of what each program would be doing. • There seems to be a strong emphasis on harmonization between the funders and the CO. However, the role of the CO as a service provider for the different centers and CRPs should be clarified. • The CO should concentrate and extend some of the current CRPs rather than fund new ones.
<p>3. OC Governance/ Terms of Reference</p>	<p>The topic was discussed lengthily in a closed session among the OC members and a report was produced describing the revised terms of reference (TOR) of the GRiSP Oversight Committee and other related matters (<i>please see Annex 1 appended below</i>).</p> <p>Suggestions/comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oversight Committee is, fundamentally, an inward looking body that provides inputs to the CRP. Should it also lead a global effort to seek support from CGIAR and other partners to address global issues on rice? • Future OC meetings should be for two (2) days, instead of one (1) day only. It was proposed to have a ‘reading day’ before the OC meeting proper to provide chance for members to read and understand all documents. Another day should be spent for presentations and a closed session to look at cross-cutting and strategic issues. • Topics for discussion would be assigned to the OC members who should prepare a summary/report that would be included in the minutes. Issues, recommendations, and action needed from the OC should be summarized at the end of each agenda item so that everyone would be on the same page. • OC members should visit the GRiSP website. Invitations would be sent again to the OC members so they could access the website (done). • Proposed timeline: M & E meeting in December 2013 to discuss results-

	<p>based management, metrics and indicators (Bangkok); PPMT WebEx in January 2014, and OC WebEx in March 2014 before the submission of the proposal for Phase II.</p> <p>Action: Send drafts of the GRiSP Extension Proposal document and the 2013 annual report to OC for comments (<i>done</i>) and submit comments by end of November (<i>done</i>).</p>
<p>4. Science achievement reports</p>	<p>IRRI, Africa Rice, CIAT, Cirad/IRD, and JIRCAS made brief presentations on their center's science achievements over 2013.</p> <p><u>Africa Rice Center</u></p> <p>Dr. Marco Wopereis (Africa Rice DDG and Director, Research for Development) reported on the progress achieved and the way forward. A number of highlights were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in germplasm collection, characterization, and regeneration • Upgrading of facilities used in phenotyping platform (both for abiotic and biotic stresses) • Marker-aided selection studies for various traits • Hybrid rice development • Multi-environment trials for developing Advanced Rice for Africa (ARICA) • Increase in number of member countries of the Agronomy Task Force (doing diagnostic and yield gap surveys, developing protocols, conducting training, and establishing & maintaining weather stations) • Harvest and post-harvest machinery design and testing (combines, parboilers) • Automation of M & E of all activities/projects (web application) • Production of instructional videos for weeding, transplanting, safe use of herbicides, and use of rotary weeders; technical drawings; and farmer training modules • Technical expert services for rice sector investment and disaster or conflict response. <p><u>CIAT</u></p> <p>Dr. Joe Tohme (AgroBiodiversity Research Area Director), discussed activities on harnessing generic diversity and varietal development such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of phenomics and genomics platforms for genes discovery and traits development (genes for disease resistance, population breeding and genomic selection) • Transgenic high iron-zinc rice biosafety confined trials • Hybrid rice breeding

- Accelerating rice breeding to increase genetic gains

Dr. Tohme also added that since 2011, CIAT's budget allocation and research activities have been reduced. The focus of their work is on themes 1 and 2 due to presence of critical mass in these areas.

Cirad

Dr. Nour Ahmadi (Senior Scientist) presented Cirad's contributions to GRiSP product lines in 2013. The following activities were reported:

- Under theme 1, phenotyping and genotyping of three association panels, and gene discovery using association analysis approach were performed; studied heat tolerance during the flowering time, temperature sensing in high latitude context (Senegal) and high altitude context (Madagascar); root development (constitutive and adaptive development).
- For theme 2, methods and tools for the integration of genomic selection in rice breeding strategies;
- theme 5- economic viability of family rice farms in Mali; correlation between use value of irrigation water and water supply costs, decision making supports (Osiriz and InfoArroz)- subscription on rice market report and other popular publications; tutorial book for "direct seeding in permanent mulch.

IRD

Dr. Alain Ghesquiere (Director of Research) provided the following updates:

- Two international laboratories were initiated in 2012-2013.
- One IRD scientist outposted to CIAT since 2002, Matthias Lorieux, is expected to take the supervision of the rice genomics and genetics programs in Montpellier (2014).
- Activities on product lines 1.1 to 1.3 include:
 - curating, phenotyping, and field trials in Africa in relation to GRiSP new frontier PRAY project,
 - MENERGEP new frontier project which has improved donor genes/QTLs conferring valuable traits; and
 - determining the complete genome sequence of *Oryza glaberrima* (Note: *O. glaberrima* is the African domesticated rice species which has lower yield value than Asian rice, *O. sativa*. It was cross-bred with Asian rice to produce NERICA or New Rice for Africa).

JIRCAS

According to **Dr. Osamu Koyama** (Director for Research Strategy), JIRCAS organized a domestic supporting mechanism among rice-related research

institutions in Japan. A national committee was created, working on themes 1-5, and their achievements are listed as follows:

- A number of stress tolerance genes and promising QTLs for delaying senescence, drought tolerance, and high salinity tolerance were studied (theme 1).
- A linkage between JIRCAS, IRRI, and Africa Rice has been started for screening genotypes of the early-morning flowering (EMF) and heat tolerance traits (theme 2). Note: EMF trait is effective in escaping heat stress at flowering because the plant can flower in early morning at cooler temperature.
- In collaboration with AfricaRice and IRRI, new potential donors of novel loci/genes for phosphorus deficiency tolerance have been identified. The targeted traits are internal P utilization efficiency, P acquisition efficiency, and root development and architecture (root hairs, root branching, and seedling root vigor).
- For theme 3 (production systems), floodplain ecosystem as high potential areas for rice production was explored in Ghana in collaboration with Savanna Agricultural Research Institute.
- The growing world economy offers opportunities as well as threats to farmers. JIRCAS is tackling these threats by R&D in post-harvest toward value-added products under theme 4, such as characterization of aromatic varieties and study of wet-milling based products.
- New projects were initiated in Africa (micro-reservoir for rice production), Asia (greenhouse gas mitigation in irrigated rice paddies), and in Latin America (Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development- SATREPS).
- GRiSP capacity building funds allocated to JIRCAS were used to organize three workshops on rice blast, P-Utilization efficiency, and agricultural model inter-comparison and improvement).

IRRI

Dr. Achim Dobermann (DDG for Research), reported that a 'breakthrough' drought-tolerant variety "Sabhagi dhan" (which literally means rice developed through collaboration) initially released in India, has created dramatic changes on the lives of thousands of poor farmers in Eastern India. The variety was also released and spread in Bangladesh, and Nepal, through the "Stress-Tolerant Rices for Africa and South Asia (STRASA) project funded by USAID and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

A visioning exercise, **IRRI towards 2035**, was recently undertaken by the members of IRRI BOT and Management and have identified the following thrusts:

- Trait and variety development for smallholder farming environments

- Interdisciplinary research on future rice-based production systems
- Healthier rice
- Technical services and consulting, including genomics, breeding tech and services, agronomy and rice information
- Education

New initiatives

- Activated, “rapid-response genetic resources” – elite gene pools that can readily evaluated for new traits
- Modernized phenotyping in terms of scope and scale and creation of the GRiSP Phenotyping Network
- International Rice Informatics Consortium (IRIC) involved in sequencing and analysis of genomes
- New plant breeding structure which has received a \$12.5 M grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to implement the Multi-Environment Testing (MET) + regional hubs, with new market research segment and consumer surveys

Highlights of IRRI research

- Breeding for drought tolerance and healthier rice varieties
- Real-time disease management and characterization of regional and national pest resistance strategies
- Re-engaging in mechanization R & D
- Global rice monitoring and forecasting systems (monitoring the stages of growth, yield accuracy results, crop insurance, web GIS systems)
- Inter linkages of ICT platforms for delivery and moving from Nutrient Manager to the Crop Platform Manager
- Establishment of the Hybrid Rice Research Consortium and enhanced partnership with the private sector.

Suggestions/comments

- The work and contributions of the six (6) PPMT member centers as key architects of GRiSP should be highlighted in GRiSP Phase II. Report value-added activities of all GRiSP partner centers.
- Cirad has great institutional commitment to GRiSP which does not seem to be matched by government support. The OC might be able to help maintain the commitment by alerting the European Commission level to become more involved with Cirad/IRD research.
- GRiSP **new frontier research** can be used as a mechanism or incentive for attracting people with new ideas, and future GRiSP fora should include a special session for discussing blue sky research.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRiSP has presented opportunities for a global partnership and alignment with international research agenda, with the principle that broader and organized partnership enhances global-scale exchange of scientific knowledge and results.
<p>5. OC Business Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OC met closed-door and produced a revised TOR for the OC (<i>Annex 1, appended below</i>). • Dr. Kei Otsuka was appointed as new Chair of the GRiSP OC, replacing Dr. Fusuo Zhang of China Agricultural University. • The next OC meeting will be held back to back with the 4th International Rice Congress in October 2014 at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibit Centre. (Note: It was decided that the next OC meeting be held on October 27-28, right before the opening of the 4th IRC).

The meeting ended at 6 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Donna M. Robles

GRIISP Oversight Committee Report

(October 26, 2013)

The GRIISP Oversight Committee (OC) discussed its governance functions and recommended that its role as described in the Terms of Reference (TOR) be changed to:

- Provide strategic guidance on the major directions of rice research in GRIISP, acting primarily as the highest level scientific advisory board.
- Monitor progress towards the major objectives of GRIISP.
- Be an advisory body to the Program Planning and Management Team (PPMT) and its respective governance bodies: the boards of IRRI, Africa Rice, and CIAT; and to JIRCAS, IRD, CIRAD on the progress being made in GRIISP and synergies arising from enhanced collaboration.

The OC recommended that the GRIISP Program Director (PD) use the OC in a manner that can best help him and his team as an advisory board. It is expected that the OC will receive and read relevant documents as they are developed for the CGIAR reporting system, thus allowing the OC meeting to focus on key issues required to meet its function. The key functions of the OC committee will be to:

- (i) Monitor and review progress in science and its development relevance in relation to the GRIISP Themes and Products at a global level, with particular emphasis on multi-institutional and cross-regional activities and the synergies arising from a global program. This function will be facilitated through a strategic report by the PD that is a summary of progress (what is working, what is delayed, what has changed, and what will not be completed). The OC may choose to appoint some of its members to oversee specific Themes in GRIISP or specific categories of cross-cutting work. Center boards and other institutional or regional advisory bodies or steering committees will continue their role in overseeing science at the institutional, regional, or research area level.
- (ii) Provide oversight and advice on the cross-cutting global activities in GRIISP.
- (iii) Provide updates on collaboration with other CRPs and appropriate system level interactions that support the GRIISP Mission.
- (iv) Provide advice on the management and organization of GRIISP, including recommending new strategic research partners to the GRIISP Program Planning and Management Team (PPMT). The OC may also recommend enlarging the PPMT to include representatives from other strategic partners with an international mandate for rice research.
- (v) Provide advice on center policies that impact directly on implementation and scientific progress of GRIISP. Although each center will have relevant policies for key areas of science, there may be situations in which individual center policies differ. If this could

have an impact on the outcomes of GRiSP, the OC will be the appropriate forum for discussion.

- (vi) Propose external reviews on specific areas of research in GRiSP or whole GRiSP components (Themes, Products, others). Reviews can be proposed by the OC, the GRiSP Program Director (PD), and/or PPMT, but the OC should be the body to decide which reviews are implemented. External reviews of GRiSP as a whole Consortium Research Program (CRP) will be commissioned by the CGIAR Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA of the Fund Council). Monitor implementation of recommendations from OC-commissioned external reviews. Evaluate external reviews of GRiSP as a whole (commissioned by the IEA) and the implementation of the review recommendations.
- (vii) Be well informed about GRiSP global and regional activities in order to represent GRiSP at global, regional, or national events (as needed).
- (viii) The main functions of the OC chair will be to chair OC meetings, work with the PD to develop the OC meeting agenda including those topics which need to be discussed for action and advice, write a report summarizing the conclusions and recommendations of the OC, and together with the PD, keep OC members well informed of developments in GRiSP between meetings.