GRiSP Oversight Committee Meeting 9-10 March 2015 Agropolis Fondation Montpellier, France	
Participants	**GRiSP Oversight Committee (OC) members**: Kei Otsuka, Chair (GRIPS, Japan), Masa Iwanaga (Africa Rice BOT), Stephen Baenziger (IRRI BOT), Rita Sharma (IRRI BOT), John Hamer (CIAT BOT), Robert S. Zeigler (IRRI DG), Luciano Nass (Embrapa, Brazil), Pascal Kosuth (Agropolis Fondation, France), Jan Leach (Colorado State University, USA), Ambrose Agona (NARO, Uganda), and Shaobing Peng (Huazhong Agricultural University, China). **GRiSP Program Planning and Management Team (PPMT)**: Bas Bouman (GRiSP), Nour Ahmadi (Cirad), Alain Ghesquiere (IRD), Osamu Koyama (JIRCAS), Matthew Morell (IRRI), Joe Tohme (CIAT), and Marco Wopereis (AfricaRice) **Resource persons/observers**: Wayne Powell (Chief Science Officer, CGIAR Consortium Office), Philippe Ellul (Sr. Science Officer), Martha ter Kuile and Olivier Panaud (members, GRiSP Evaluation Team), David Johnson, Sam Mohanty, and John Manful (GRiSP Theme Leaders), and Tanguy Lafarge (Cirad). **Regrets:** Lala Razafinjara (AfricaRice BOT), Trilochan Mohapatra (CRRI, India), and Adama Traore (AfricaRice Interim DG), due to important official functions in their respective institutions.
Agenda items	1. Approval of agenda items 2. Discussion and approval of 2014 OC minutes 3. Reading of background documents 4. Discussion and approval: 2014 GRiSP Annual Report 5. Discussion and approval: 2015 GRiSP Risk Register 6. CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework(SRF) 7. Guidelines for GRiSP Phase II

Supporting documents	1. 2014 OC minutes 2. GRiSP 2015 Plan of Work and Budget (POWB) 3. 2014 GRiSP Annual Report draft 4. 2015 GRiSP Risk Register draft 5. CRP 2nd Call final draft 6. SRF Post-Berne

Welcome

Prof. Kei Otsuka, chair of the GRiSP Oversight Committee, welcomed everyone to the beautiful city of Montpellier and thanked Dr. Pascal Kosuth for his kind offer to host the meeting at the Agropolis Fondation. Three new OC independent experts—Dr. James Ambrose Agona (NARO, Uganda), Dr. Jan Leach (Colorado State University, USA), and Dr. Shaobing Peng (Huazhong Agricultural University, China)—were recognized. Dr. Lala Razafinjara (Africa Rice BOT, Madagascar), Dr. Adama Traore (Interim AfricaRice DG), and new member Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra (Director, CRRI India) sent regrets due to official functions in their home institutions.

After a brief self-introduction of all participants, the OC moved for the approval of the agenda items for the meeting and the minutes of the 2014 GRiSP OC meeting.

READING SESSION

As recommended during the November 2014 meeting in Bangkok, a half-day reading session was allocated to guide the OC through the different background documents: POWB, draft annual report, risk register, SRF, CRP Phase II road map, visibility of non-CG GRiSP partners, and thematic reports. The following background information was also provided to the OC:

- The idea for an early meeting (March instead of October) was to fit into the whole reporting timeline of the CGIAR Consortium Office (CO) and allow the OC to review and endorse the annual report before its submission to the CO.
- The GRiSP2014 annual report will be submitted by 30 April 2015. The advance draft shared with the OC was a compilation of individual centers' contributions to GRiSP.
- The draft GRiSP risk register will be reviewed by the OC and endorsed later to the IRRI Board as part of the lead center's (IRRI) risk register.
- The Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) March 2015 version aims for an end of March submission to the Consortium Board (CB) and end of April approval by the Fund Council.
- The document on Guidance for CRP 2nd Call has received a lot of criticisms due to complexities.
- The OC chair will submit a report to the IRRI Board to endorse GRiSP's progress and achievements.

OPEN SESSION

GRiSP Update

Bas Bouman provided an overview on GRiSP activities, timelines, and procedural and budget issues. He recounted the history of budget challenges and ongoing concerns that the budget has not been fixed for fiscal year 2015. He outlined mitigation strategies as schemes that should provide spending guidance until the budget is finalized at the end of March 2015.

Bas Bouman also outlined how some important programs, including theme funding (for innovative projects) and the GRISS Scholars program, will be managed through careful budgeting and assistance from participating centers. He highlighted the need for these programs in advancing rice research and training.

It was reported that the GRiSP Evaluation Team had a week-long inception meeting at IRRI, which involved theme presentations, web meetings, and one-on-one discussions. Follow-up activities for team members include participation at the AfricaRice Science Week and field visits to Bangladesh, India, East and West Africa (Rwanda, Benin, Burundi, and Tanzania), and Latin America (Colombia and Peru). It was hoped that the evaluation report would be timely available to be able to help in the formulation of GRiSP Phase II.

The GRiSP risk register was also presented using the IRRI format, with 10 identified risks that will be updated annually. After receiving the OC's comments, this document will be incorporated into IRRI's official risk register and reported to the IRRI BOT.

Finally, Bas Bouman outlined new roles that he has accepted on behalf of GRiSP. These roles provide the opportunity to shape future GRiSP programs and provide important feedback to the CGIAR, fund providers, and administrators. The roles include joining the Strategic Results Framework writing team, working as part of the CRP portfolio analysis team, being the CRP portfolio director to the Consortium Board, and serving as a CRP representative to BOT and DG meetings. He also discussed his continued role in organizing a commodity CRP-community of best practice.

Observations/recommendations

- The gender budget comes from across all windows (W1 and W2, bilateral, and W3). Most gender-related activities are mainstreamed in the research program. The whole product line 5.1 is mapped to gender.
- Would scholarships run the risk of exhausting reserves because of budget uncertainty? The budgeting process makes it quite hard to do sound scientific planning, including limits for granting scholarships.
- The Consortium should come up with a coherent CRP portfolio that responds to the new Strategy and Results Framework, and show how the IDOs and sub-IDOs would be addressed.

- GRiSP Phase II should not be developed as a photocopy of GRiSP Phase I. Show linkages with other areas, but we should not succumb to the idea of an integrated "cereal CRP."GRiSP would be more effective and have more impact if we continued with a GRiSP CRP.
- Option B scenario (medium aggregation with other CRPs to status quo) was most favored but we need to show how GRiSP can collaborate more with other commodity CRPs through common areas of interest. Figure out the objectives and critical needs and how to approach them.

Theme 1: Harnessing Genetic Diversity

Joe Tohme's presentation and subsequent discussion made clear the following points:

Theme 1 occupies the central position of the GRiSP program. Other themes are designed to flow out from Theme 1 and the presentation was clear in that this expectation has been effectively met.

This theme, by its nature of upstream research (e.g., gene discovery, allele mining), is characterized by strong intercenter collaboration, partnerships, and investment in pipeline activities. It has shown a lot of opportunities for linkage with advanced research organizations. It was clear that GRiSP, through this theme, has developed many exemplary cases of successful collaborative linkages with many organizations in both developed and developing countries. The 5K and 3K genomes projects have demonstrated that the theme has been successful in tapping diversity and obtaining complementary novel genetic resources.

This theme connects effectively three continents (Asia, Africa, and South America), making this CRP global in its nature and demonstrating clear and tangible benefits of the collaboration of three CG centers under one umbrella (the CRP).

Observations/recommendations

- High-throughput phenotyping is essential for Theme 1; genotyping can be outsourced more and more.
- It would be helpful to know the impact by region of short-term and long-term projects in the portfolio. The vision and impact from all these alleles should be demonstrated.

Theme 2: Varietal Development

The theme has three general aspects: (a) enabling the development of new cultivars, (b) accelerating the development of new cultivars, and(c) developing new technologies to support new cultivar development. Four product pipelines or value chains specifically target

1. Unfavorable environments (rainfed environments with their stresses; inbred line development)
2. Irrigated environments (less stressful; inbred line development)
3. Hybrids
4. Cultivars with enhanced nutritive values (both GMO and non-GMO; inbred line development)

Each value chain has its specific targets and needs. The intention is to have a global delivery pathway for new cultivars with emphasis on alleviating poverty and enhancing human nutrition. This theme is clearly related to Theme 1 as it provides the pathway from genetic diversity to product development.

The three CGIAR centers (IRRI, AfricaRice, and CIAT) all have extensive hub systems to develop, test, and bring new cultivars to relevant eco-zones in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. These hubs are critical to their multi-environment testing (MET) to determine the zones of adaptation for the experimental germplasm and released cultivars. MET is also critical for understanding high-value traits and phenotyping. The germplasm is shared and evaluated among the centers. In addition, enabling technologies such as marker platforms and bioinformatics databases are shared so that each program can take advantage of the strengths of the other centers. For hybrid rice, the current level of heterosis in Latin America is between 10% and 15%, which is sufficient to support the production of hybrid rice. Although most hybrid rice is based on a three-line system, scientists are further investigating a two-line system in which the environment changes a line from male-fertile to male-sterile.

In the area of enhanced nutritious rice, natural variation for higher concentrations of zinc (Zn) was found. This variation is unregulated and it is hoped that it will become the industry standard for all future rice as a biofortified cereal. The GMO lines for higher iron (Fe) also have higher Zn; hence, this is an added benefit. The efforts in Golden Rice have found a new elite event that is being backcrossed into elite lines. The outcomes of this theme effort will be measured by the improvement in grain yield and in the number of hectares the improved cultivars are grown on.

Observations/recommendations

- In terms of policy development, an agreement was signed between Bangladesh, India, and Nepal to fast-track the release and exchange of varieties.
- Need to explore and tap some members of the hybrid rice consortium as a mechanism to establish ties with the private sector.
- Other traits that are deployed more widely, for example, disease resistance, could be tracked in terms of adoption and application of technology.
- Optimizing rice productivity per unit of water is already built in the breeding programs and in varietal development. The slogan “More Crop per Drop” and its implications need to become more visible in the vocabulary and narrative of GRiSP. Varieties being developed in India under the Transforming Rice Breeding (TRB) project are on drought tolerance.
- Trees-on-farms or agroforestry is a potent instrument of climate-smart agriculture. Efforts need to be made to work with the World Agroforestry Centre to explore the possibilities of growing suitable tree species in rice-based farming systems. AfricaRice is already doing so. *However, while integrating trees in rice-based farming systems would be good, in some areas, trees are disadvantageous because they provide roosting and/or nesting sites for granivorous birds, for example,* Quelea quelea.
- The power of a breeding program is to create reference populations to drive solutions. This is a challenge not only for routine phenotyping but also for breeding in multi-environments. GRiSP is in a unique position globally as it can do genomic selections for customized deliveries.

Theme 3: Rice-based Production Systems

Theme 3's overall objective is to help ensure more rice in future climates, with less risk and greater returns to labor. David Johnson presented the theme's activities, focusing on four product lines:

- *Future management systems for efficient rice monoculture:* through closing rice yield gaps, employing decision-making strategies to improve resource-use efficiency, crop modeling, and developing sustainability indicators.
- *Resource-conserving technologies for diversified farming systems*: through improved water management, improved varieties and management, and cropping system intensification.
- *Management innovation for poor farmers in rainfed and stress-prone areas*: by optimizing crop management through fine tuning and refining of products and by using predictive tools to match component technologies and improved practices to site-specific conditions.
- *Increasing resilience to climate change and reducing global warming potential*: through nutrient management under drought; deploying stress-tolerant varieties using best management practices.

Discussions followed on how impact can be managed or monitored using web-based tools, on lessons to be learned by African farmers from Asian farmers with regard to the use of small machines such as power tillers (*AfricaRice is already promoting these technologies*), and on targeting "crop advisors" for deploying the suite of technologies made available through *Rice Crop Manager*.

Theme 4: Extracting More Value through Improved Quality, Processing, Market Systems, and New Products (Value Chains)

The report highlighted progress in Africa, describing (4.1) technological advances for harvesting, drying, storage, milling, and marketing; (4.2) innovative uses of rice straw and husks for feeding and for energy production; and (4.3) the development of quality rice and innovative rice-based food products.

A New Frontiers research project that focused on adding value to low-quality rice through re-engineering of rice cooked products (e.g., the development of a new process to make good pasta from different types of parboiled rice), is making good progress.

The report also highlighted Theme 4's cross-cutting activities with other themes, for example, the goal of creating successful varieties to target regional needs. Theme 4 scientists are developing phenotyping platforms and tools to evaluate quality and specialty traits of grains and rice products.

It was noted that Theme 4 activities are very impactful for women.

The GRiSP OC thanked John Manful for an informative and comprehensive presentation.

Recommendations

- CG centers should collaborate more with private sector companies to scale up ongoing projects.

- Highlight women's contributions in the whole value chain.

Theme 5: Technology Targeting and Policy

Sam Mohanty reported that Theme 5 is linked to all other themes as it provides critical feedback from impact and evaluation studies to apply mid-course corrections or make suitable modifications to produce more demand-driven products and delivery. The tools of evaluation, thanks to the latest information technologies, have become more effective, can reach a larger number of targeted clientele, and can process and analyze the results of surveys more rapidly than in the past. The results of surveys often took 2 to 3 years to obtain, but can now be obtained in a matter of months.

Computer-aided personal interview (CAPI), GPS, and smartphones are some of the tools used by scientists to provide estimates on technology adoption. Some of the key achievements follow:

- Estimates of adoption of stress-tolerant varieties in South Asia, the SMART-valleys system in Benin and Togo, and improved varieties and agronomic practices in Ecuador.
- Several consumer preference and value chain surveys have been conducted and the results provided to breeding programs.
- Progress was made toward developing M&E systems at the GRiSP level. Both IRRI and AfricaRice completed large baseline surveys (12,000 households in South and Southeast Asian countries and 4,649 households in 16 African countries) to track GRiSP IDOs.
- Gender-disaggregated data were collected to enable an assessment of the impact of various programs on women in agriculture and on consumer preference, which would help to design better and more inclusive programs for women.
- The GRiSP gender strategy and network focus on mainstreaming, research, and gender capacity development included training conducted at the ground level and project level for NARES partners and rice farmers/extension agents.
- Several quality publications, workshops, calendars, an almanac, and articles in *Rice Today* helped in bringing center-stage the work of the Social Sciences Division, which is the smallest division at IRRI but accounts for one-fourth of the journal articles.
- Crop modeling using satellite technology to track rice production, remote sensing-based information collected on a monthly basis, and hyper-spectral signature analysis are some of the cutting-edge and state-of-the-art technologies that will be used to further improve M&E and impact assessment of GRiSP technologies and practices.

Observations/recommendations

- The size and quality of surveys together with the length of questionnaires could be made less tedious in order to improve the quality of responses from both farmers and enumerators.
- Excellent work was being done in gender-specific research. Although this is embedded in the targets and achievements, it needs to be highlighted to gain higher visibility.

- Theme 5 work is primarily at the target and evaluation level, but the actual capacity building at the cutting-edge field level is in the domain of Theme 6. This needs to be clearly recognized. Sometimes, expectations between the two themes become blurred.

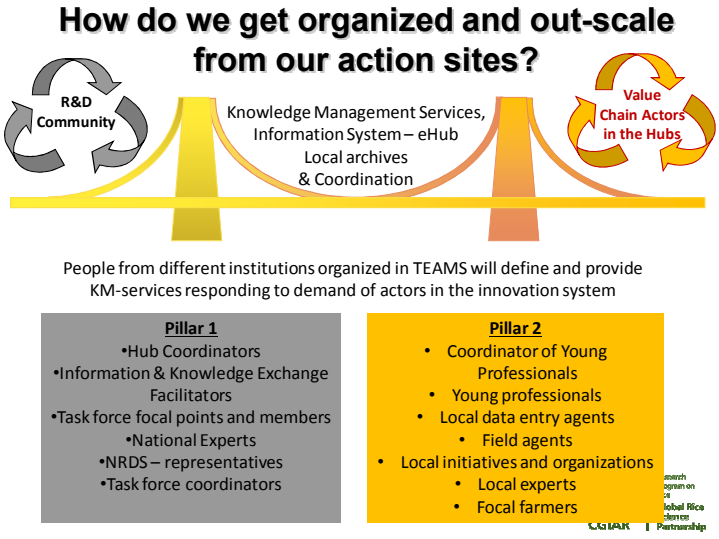
Theme 6: Delivery and Capacity Building

Marco Wopereis presented highlights and progress of Theme 6 (*Supporting the growth of the global rice sector*) on behalf of Noel Magor of IRRI, Kabirou N'Diaye of AfricaRice, and Eduardo Graterol of CIAT-FLAR. The theme's product lines deal with innovation in learning and communication tools and extension capacity development, as well as effective systems for large-scale adoption of rice technologies, in South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In terms of knowledge management, the Rice Knowledge Bank at IRRI is continuously updated in terms of scalable technologies, and it provides a diagnostic tool for on-farm queries. AfricaRice is using the Rice e-Hub, which archives scalable technologies and documents experiences from the rice sector development hubs.

Examples of successful outscaling activities in 2014 included providing tens of thousands of soil fertility recommendations to rice farmers in Asia through the *Rice Crop Manager*, the successful local fabrication of thresher-cleaners in Nigeria, major seed production efforts in both Asia and Africa, and technical backstopping related to seed systems development through the CARD initiative in Africa.

GRiSP works at action sites testing and bringing together rice research products and local innovations in a value chain context. AfricaRice is introducing a new approach involving training of young professionals in service delivery in and around the action sites to accelerate the adoption of rice technologies and provide employment and business opportunities to youth.



Capacity building is an important component of this theme, and examples were given of group training activities in Latin America through FLAR, in Asia and Africa (targeting farmers and technicians), and through the GRiSS scholarship program (targeting young researchers).

In conclusion, the following points were made: Scalable technologies are readily available but a much more pro-active approach is needed to diffuse them. We need to establish a client database and provide "after-sales" service/stewardship. This would be a win-win situation for GRiSP: clients obtain first-hand information on new products/updates; in return, they provide feedback on product performance and data on uptake. Good progress has been made with putting action sites on the map and they provide a dashboard for GRiSP. However, there is still relatively little interaction between GRiSP partners and we need to understand better how we can out-scale from these action sites and how we can stimulate the uptake of technologies by young people. GRiSP can do better in terms of exchange of experiences related to knowledge management and capacity building. We are surely underestimating our outcomes and impact because there is no systematic effort to capture information from development partners. There is a need to conduct regular meta-impact review studies as done by IRRI for the Irrigated Rice Research Consortium.

Observations/recommendations

- Counterfeiting issues in Africa, for example, with respect to certified seeds, quality fertilizers, and pesticides, are not tackled easily at the action site level, and hence should be dealt with at the national level.
- Farmers' use of cellphones in accessing rice knowledge management should be properly tracked, monitored, and supported.
- Geo-referenced data collected from the Philippines through the *Rice Crop Manager* can be connected to other services such as provision of credit.

GRiSP2014 Annual Report

The OC needs to endorse the 2014 GRiSP Annual Report before it is submitted to the Consortium Office. The draft would be ready for sharing with the OC no later than 15 April.

Recommendations

1. The report should be based on theme presentations rather than by centers and should include an overview, key messages, outputs, outcomes, impact, and capacity development**.**
2. The OC should check scientific quality and partnerships and what has been accomplished. Indicate the rationale for why some milestones have not been accomplished and show that no major milestones were left undone. Emphasize gender aspects and linkage with the private sector, universities, and development partners and pick up success stories to make the report stronger.
3. Include publications or scientific output/production. Show evidence in terms of achievements and progress in 2014.Include annexes for why the targets were or were not achieved. Note: The

Plan of Work and Budget (POWB 2015) shows the milestones that are being tracked and the links to track evidence. The tracking of milestones will also be included in the GRiSP M&E system.

Action

- OC to send half-pagers to Kei Otsuka or Bas Bouman on or before 7 April, who will summarize comments and add them to the current draft, if necessary (DONE).
- Bas to email draft or working document to the OC members prior to the IRRI BOT meeting and before submission to the Consortium Office (DONE).
- OC members to endorse annual report (DONE).

CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF)

Wayne Powell, chief science officer of the Consortium Office, discussed the Strategy and Results Framework that will define the future research agenda of the CGIAR. The CGIAR and its partners will jointly achieve the strategic objectives. All CRP research, whether funded via windows 1, 2, and 3, or bilaterally, would be mapped to the SRF. The current CGIAR portfolio consists of 16 commodity, policy, and system-level-based CRPs.

The development of a new CRP portfolio will be a two-step/-stage process that will aim to link science quality with strategic relevance: short pre-proposals will be submitted in 2015 and those invited for full proposals will be prepared in 2016. Complementary top-down analysis will be done, leading into two CRP portfolio development options:

Option A:

- May 2015: CRP portfolio is known (joint Board process and ISPC process)
- Pre-proposal: June-August
- Full proposal: 2016

Option B:

- July 2015: CRP portfolio is known
- August 2015-January 2016: full proposal

With scientific quality oversight being provided by ISPC and all full proposals to be subject to stringent peer review, the criteria for assessment include the following:

- Excellence and strategic relevance
- Ambition, timelines, potential, and comparative advantage
- Leadership and management commitment
- Value for money-attractive investment for donors
- Quality and track record of the team, including critical mass
- Partnerships and potential for global reach and impact
- Scientific and intellectual leadership
- Lessons learned from first-round CRPs

Site visits may also be conducted to review and fully assess management commitment and capability, strength of the proposed partnership, facilities, and infrastructure.

Discussion

- With the assessment criteria and many expected changes in the CRP portfolio, the IEA evaluation reports should logically come in first before the submission of pre-proposals. Current timelines should be changed. *Response: The suggestion makes sense and adds tremendous transparency, but we need to fit in a time frame and retaining investors' confidence is important. All evaluations will be, we hope, known by the end of 2015. The new CRPs would start in 2017.*
- Develop a system or framework to know how many CRPs there will be and what the balance will be between portfolio and system-level outcomes. *With this information, specific CRPs can be proposed to address system-level outcomes.*
- Review the approved extension proposals rather than call for pre-proposals that are quite tedious to prepare. *Donors would like to review all CRPs before they approve the final ones.*

Increasing Visibility/Inclusion of non-CGIAR Centers

JIRCAS

Osamu Koyama reported that JIRCAS serves as a gateway to international cooperation with GRiSP and other international agricultural research centers. GRiSP product lines are closely and widely related to most of JIRCAS's research programs/projects. Rice-related research in JIRCAS amounts to about JPY300 million (about US$2.5 million), which is carried out by about 20 full-time researchers. GRiSP provides opportunities by being part of a global system that promotes a broader and more organized partnership, which further enhances global-scale exchange of scientific knowledge and results.

There may be some inadequacies in the current setup such as a not-so-clear definition and a not very explicit contract, and JIRCAS activities are not visible enough in GRiSP product lines. However, there are clear synergies and win-win situations for both CGIAR and non-CGIAR partners through wider collaboration with NARES and other development partners.

The recent international seminar held in JIRCAS that reviewed past and future rice research collaboration showed that there is a strong need for Japanese contributions to rice science in various areas. The social conditions surrounding the rice value chain have changed so research must fit in. GRiSP is an excellent mechanism for enhancing collaboration and can also facilitate and generate new collaboration through other channels. Some suggested actions follow:

- It is hoped that, with GRiSP II, there will be a continuation with higher integration and a more transparent framework. Non-CGIAR members should be more integrated.
- Roles and duties can be better defined and reporting can be streamlined.
- Activate regional fora as supporting mechanisms, and embrace those who make global or regional contributions to the CGIAR goal.

Cirad/IRD

IRD and Cirad expect to be more visible in GRiSP Phase II through the following mechanisms:

- A clear recognition of Montpellier as appropriate advanced research institutes (ARIs) to accomplish important GRiSP objectives.
- A more integrated portfolio of cross-cutting projects between themes and flagships.
- Better mobilization of the French system of cooperation to share platforms and facilities abroad to strengthen impact in NARES through capacity building.
- A clear assignment of responsibility to implement important parts of flagship projects with centers according to Cirad's and IRD's areas of expertise.
- Co-funding and identification of operation costs to implement flagship projects.
- Need for a more transparent accountability through formal scientific and financial reporting procedures.

Observations/recommendations

- In terms of partnership, JIRCAS's experience with GRiSP has been quite positive. The G-20 agenda that includes alignment of a national with an international agenda was carried out by JIRCAS through GRiSP. Through the GRiSP-Japan national committee, JIRCAS sends staff to CG centers and allows scientists to have international experience.
- For other non-CGIAR partners joining in the future, the criteria for inclusion into GRiSP and the resources brought to the table should be indicated. The non-CGIAR partners should also have institutional mandates to produce international public goods on rice.
- GRiSP will be evaluated by how it has attracted these research centers through networking, collaboration, and knowledge generation.

A special half-day session on French Rice Science Partnership was organized by Nour Ahmadi and Alain Ghesquiere to highlight the contributions of Cirad and IRD to GRiSP (**Annex 1**).

GRiSP Risk Register

GRiSP's risk register covers center-level and CRP-level risks. IRRI has a system in place in which the risk register is reported to the Audit Committee of the IRRI Board. GRiSP PPMT (the risk owners) would submit the updated risk register to Marichu Bernardo of IRRI for inclusion in IRRI's risk register.

Q & A:

- If funding goes down, will it be drawn from IRRI reserves? What is the likelihood that scholars will not be funded next year? *Funds will be drawn from other sources within IRRI through other mitigation options before going to reserves.*

(Note: A few days after the Montpellier meeting, the Consortium Office announced an across-the-board 19% budget cut, which has affected the implementation of a number of GRiSP activities, including GRiSS scholarships, workshops, and extension of new Frontier Projects.)

- If risks should be mitigated, how do we mitigate a CG collapse? *A CG collapse would mean a shutdown of programs either as a mitigation or extreme measure; strategically, the CG system is the greatest risk. Mitigation can also be done by being involved in CG-level decision-making.*

- Should national security or pandemics be added as a risk? Is this a high or low risk? *Africa Rice has decentralized its activities to tackle these concerns, which are basically the center's responsibility and not of GRiSP.*

Recommendations

- Bas Bouman should update and share the risk register annually for comments and endorsement by the OC before it is reported to the IRRI BOT.
- Rearrange numbering from the highest to the lowest risk. For clarity, identify which risks are the contracting institutions' risks or direct GRiSP risks.
- The collapse of the CG system and uncertainty of funding should be included as major risks (highest order).

Action: **The OC has endorsed the GRiSP 2015 Risk Register, as reviewed and amended.**

General Discussion on Implications for GRiSP I and II

Matthew Morell discussed the proposed flexible GRiSP II thematic structure that shows new governance and partnership mechanisms, focusing on integration across ecosystems and the basket of options that could be offered.

Recommendations

- GRiSP management should pay attention to the fundamental lessons learned from GRiSP I and how we can proceed in GRiSP II. Reflect more on the partnerships and how we deal with them.
- Give more attention to health and nutrition, highlight people whom GRiSP works with/for, and make impact acceleration more explicit.

Other matters

Term of external OC members: Based on the current TOR, the term of the external OC members is initially for three years, renewable from two to four years to ensure proper turnover. However, a three-year average appointment may be too short. Thus, it was suggested to consider similarity of appointment with the center boards, that is, an initial three-year appointment and renewal for another three years.

Recommendation: Request all external OC members to stay until 2016 (end of GRiSP Phase I) and then a restructuring can be done in 2017, following the suggestion to adopt the terms of current center board members.

Nominating Committee: The following GRiSP OC members were appointed as members of the GRiSP OC Nominating Committee: Kei Otsuka, Shaobing Peng, Stephen Baenziger, Luciano Nass, and Pascal Kosuth. Shaobing Peng has accepted to chair this committee.

Pascal Kosuth was unanimously selected as the next GRiSP OC chair. Kei Otsuka will step down as chair upon submission of the2015 annual report but will stay on as a member until 2016 (the end of GRiSP Phase I) to work with the incoming chair and ensure a smooth turnover.

Recommendations

- Meet next time around the same period (March) or have an electronic meeting if there's a need to communicate.
- Consider having back-to-back meetings with the IRRI BOT to bring down the cost.
- Tentative date for a possible second meeting in 2015: 19 October, Monday (two days before the IRRI BOT meeting). Venue: IRRI headquarters, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines.

French Rice Science Partnership (FRiSP)

Highlights of contribution to GRiSP

GRiSP Oversight Committee Meeting

Montpellier, 10 March 2015

Time	GRiSP Theme	Speaker
13h00 - 13h05	Introduction	N. Ahmadi
13h05- 13h20	Institutional vision and commitments	P. Caron
13h20 - 13h35	**Theme 5**: Research on rice marketing and policy	F. Lançon
13h35 - 13h50	**Theme 3**: Sustainable management of rice-based production systems	E. Scopel
13h50 - 14h05	**Theme 4**: Post-harvest technologies and value adding	C. Mestres
14h05 – 14h20	**Discussion**	
14h20 - 14h40	**Break**	
	Theme 2: Accelerating the development of improved varieties	
14h40-14h55	Rice x pathogens x environment interactions: Application to disease control	V. Verdier / D Tharreau
14h55 -15h10	Methods for optimizing genetic gains and accelerating varieties development	N. Ahmadi / E. Guiderdoni
	Theme 1: Harnessing genetic diversity	
15h10 - 15h25	Development of novel genetic stocks and associated bioinformatics tools	F. Sabot
15h25 - 15h40	Combining phenomics & modelling to explore novel traits, their genetic diversity and G x E impact on rice phenotypes	D. Luquet
15h40 - 15h55	Genes for improving the architecture and function of rice roots and panicles	C. Perin
15h55 – 16h10	**Discussion**	

Annex 2. 2015 GRiSP Oversight Committee (with GRiSP Director, Bas Bouman)

Front row (L-R): K. Otsuka, M. Iwanaga, R. Sharma, B. Bouman, S. Baenziger, and P. Kosuth
Back row (L-R): J. Leach, J. Hamer, R. Zeigler, A. Agona, L. Nass, and S. Peng