

SF18 BREAKOUT SESSIONS SESSION OUTLINE

Breeding for multiple objectives - Crops to End Hunger Initiative

1. Session day and time

Wednesday 10th October 2018, 15:30 – 18:00

2. Session coordinator(s) and affiliation(s)

Eric Witte, USAID
Patrick Webb, ISPC
Rodomiro Ortiz, ISPC

3. Summary

Background

As a cornerstone of the vision for the CGIAR system to contribute to the SDGs, especially SDG 2, a group of donors¹ has proposed an initiative to support more focused, science-based, well-resourced and long term investment for CGIAR plant breeding efforts on priority crops. The implementation of this initiative will build on existing CGIAR programs and expertise. The initiative includes the following: i. defining the selection criteria and analyzing the evidence base by which to identify the future portfolio of priority crops with greatest potential to contribute to reducing hunger, poverty and malnutrition; ii. determining the future role of global public goods research in modern crop breeding and genetics; iii. identifying the comparative advantages of the CGIAR system in breeding and genetics, relative to other public and private sector providers; and iv. identifying the options and scope for further investments through the CGIAR system that will achieve maximum impact on reducing hunger and poverty in targeted geographical areas and countries.

Objective

The objective of this session are to discuss the experience of the Multi-donor initiative and other efforts in determining how to manage multiple objectives in the design of breeding programs. In particular the session will take up the issue of the possible gains and losses of addressing multiple objectives in breeding program and what the implications could be for setting priorities. One of the considerations in this discussion is that efforts to include multiple objectives actually reduce the effectiveness of achieving any one of them – and thus could lead to an overall situation of “lose-lose” rather than the win-win scenarios multi-objective efforts generally seek.

Expected outcomes

- Better understanding of the possible gains and losses of addressing multiple objectives in breeding programs, including considering alternative options for achieving the objectives.
- Identification of the scale at which integration of multiple objectives into breeding programs might be most effective considering the possibility at the level of choosing crops, species, varieties and traits to focus upon

4. Speakers/contributors and affiliations:

Speakers: Eric Witte, USAID; Patrick Webb, ISPC; Rodomiro Ortiz, ISPC
Panelists: Ruth DeFries, Columbia University; Oscar Ortiz, International Potato Center (CIP); Bhavani Shankar, SOAS University of London; Juergen Anthofer, GIZ

5. Rapporteur (for brief report back to plenary on Friday, 12 October; ~10 min) and affiliation: TBD

¹ (AusAID/ACIAR, BMGF, BMZ/ GiZ, DFID, USAID)

6. Session structure & participants

Chair: Maggie Gill

Part 1: Setting the scene (1 hour 10 mins):

- Presentation: Eric Witte : update on Multi-donor Initiative on “Crops to End Hunger” (10 minutes)
- Presentation: Patrick Webb: Should nutrition be incorporated in breeding strategies (including biofortification strategies) or strive for improved diet quality? (10 minutes)
- Presentation: Rodomiro Ortiz: How to incorporate climate resilience in breeding strategies? (10 minutes)

Panel discussion (reactions to the presentations) (35 mins):

Panelists: Ruth DeFries, Oscar Ortiz, Bhavani Shankar, Juergen Anthofer (GIZ)

Coffee Break (20 mins)

Part 2: Group discussion (1 hour)

What ways should we be looking at for reducing tradeoffs and enhancing synergies between multiple objectives of breeding programs? What implications for:

- Shifting our priorities
- Changing the way we measure success
- Changing the way we design and implement research (methods, tools, data)
- Changing the way we communicate research