

## CGIAR centers and Donors first meeting held at CIP meeting Room, Kigali on November 16, 2015.

### **In Attendance**

1. De Vanssay Arnaud - European Union
2. Mark Davies - DFID
3. Malick Haidara – USAID
4. Joseph Mulambu – CIAT/HARVEST +
5. Eliud Birachi – CIAT
6. Speciose Kantengwa – IITA
7. Athanase Mukuralinda - ICRAF
8. Robert Ackatia\_Armah – CIP
9. Kirimi Sindi – CIP

### **The Agenda**

1. Introduction of the CGIAR Centers work in Rwanda
2. Introduction to the Site Integration process for the CGIAR centers
3. Review of areas both groups can work together in policy engagement

The meeting started at 10:10 am

The meeting was chaired by Joseph Mulambu

Each center gave a brief introduction of the its activities in Rwanda and the technical capacity they have in general

This was followed by questions to clarify issues that were not clear and then progressed to suggestion on how the two partners can improve their effectiveness.

These are some of the issue and suggestions that were discussed :

1. How can the centers participate as CGIAR in the policy advocacy in the country?
  - a. One suggestion was that we could start being active in the sectors working group meetings. These are agriculture sector working group, and the nutrition working group.
  - b. In these working groups the centers can add an informed voice in some of the deliberations in these meetings and influence the direction that they should go.
2. Another issue raised was how researchers in the centers can collaborate.
  - a. This is an area the center integration can assist in ensuring that common research issues are addressed in the same research.
3. The centers will also have similar partners to work with and that will increase synergy and get better results particularly working in common sites.
4. The centers can also identify common key issues that are important to the country and requires a common strategy- some of the areas of common interest are; nutrition, seed system, climate change, and a focus on some areas that needs to be looked at as a complex issue like the need for agriculture growth that is a government current focus.
5. One of the areas the centers can assist the donors and the government is in identifying some measurable indicators instead of global indicators like growth of the sector.

6. The donors and the centers can identify specific areas that could bring greater value for money spent.
7. The centers needs to explore how they can give the ministry of agriculture more technical assistance as this is one area that is required. It involves translation of research results into real policy and work on the ground.
8. The centers should have a common repository for research results and papers to improve the availability of information that can inform all the donor community.
9. Some of the areas the centers will bring on board through site integration is having some common indicators.

The meeting ended with the promise that there is should be greater consultations between both groups to ensure that we can influence policy.