



To CGIAR members and Alliance Executive
ESSP Science Committee and IGFA Chair

From Emile Frison, Alliance Executive Chair
Rik Leemans, ESSP Science Committee Chair

24 September 2008

Dear Colleagues

Selection of Chair: Challenge Programme on “Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security” (CCCP)

In June we were pleased to advise you of the imminent CGIAR approval of the new Challenge Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security¹ and seek your assistance in identifying possible candidates for the initial key positions of CCCP Chair and membership of the Steering Committee.

Thank you very much for the nominations put forward for both Chair and Steering Committee members. After review and discussion between the Chairs of the ESSP Science Committee and the Alliance Executive we are delighted to announce that Professor Thomas Rosswall has been selected to take on the role of Chair of the CCCP.

Professor Rosswall is a microbial ecologist and ecosystem scientist with extensive research experience in agriculture and climate change. He currently is the Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and has had substantial experience in launching and leading many complex, collaborative international research endeavours. He has held a number of relevant international Board/Steering Committee appointments including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the International Board on Soil Resources Management (IBSRAM). He was also one of the founding fathers of the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Programme (TSBF at CIAT). He is the former Rector of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and was the first Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP; one of the ESSP global change research programmes). He is a fellow of six Academies of Science including the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS). He knows both the CGIAR and the ESSP well.

Professor Rosswall has accepted the appointment with great enthusiasm and is looking forward to collaborate with the CGIAR and ESSP science communities to address key issues of food security in a world with changing climate.

¹ The full proposal can be found at www.cgiar.org/exco/exco14/exco14_climate_chg_proposal.pdf

Next steps

We have received some nominations for the CCCP Steering Committee and are still seeking suitable candidates, especially social scientists and scientists from the South. Please don't hesitate to send us the nominations of such candidates for the Steering Committee, which should be received no later than 15 October. We would be grateful if you would please check that your nominee would agree in the event s/he is approached to be appointed, and also if you would attach their CV. Now that the Chair has been appointed we hope to agree on the full membership of the SC in the next couple of months. We will also initiate the search for a Director of this Challenge Programme, as well as for institutions that are willing to host the CCCP. The first task of the Steering Committee will be to select the Director of the CCCP and the host institution.

With best wishes



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