Breakout session P1.1 National Food Security – CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish.

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Speaker Brief Paper

**Context – the problems being addressed**

Farmed animals and fish are an important component of global agriculture and provide the foundation for our animal-source food systems. In the developing world, many people are involved in small-scale livestock and fish production, processing and retail, mainly in the informal sector. Over time, considerable investment has been made in agricultural research, including in the CGIAR system, to improve productivity in these systems so that they contribute more effectively to poverty reduction, food security and economic growth.

The record of translating the products of these research efforts into wide-scale development impacts has been mixed. Improving this record has become more urgent given rapid increases in demand for animal-source foods in the developing world—the so-called Livestock and Blue Revolutions—due to population growth and changing diets as a greater share of the population live in urban areas and incomes increase. In some regions, this increased demand will be met largely by industrial systems, especially for poultry and pork for urban populations. In many contexts, however, the poor will continue to rely on traditional food systems to supply the products they prefer and can afford. For these systems to respond to increased demand, producers and policy makers will need to raise the productivity in the systems by adopting appropriate technologies and institutional strategies developed and promoted by a range of research and development actors. In doing so, better-performing small-scale production and marketing systems will help improve food security among the poor and provide livelihoods and employment for the poor involved in these animal-source food value chains, thereby reducing poverty and enhancing the depth and breadth of rural economic development.

The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish considers partnership between research and development as particularly critical to translating research outputs into wide-scale development outcomes and impacts. It is implementing an approach that immediately engages with development partners to form an AR4D alliance within the selected value chains that it has committed to transform. Selected development partners—both local and international—will be engaged to help identify and test pro-poor technologies and strategies that upgrade the value chains. We expect these development partners also to integrate the ‘best bet’ solutions in their interventions and we will work together to attract development investment to implement the interventions at a scale meaningful for impact.
For us, partnerships are one of the critical success factors that we must get right! It is particularly challenging given our ambitions to transform whole value chains – which calls on us to work with, and catalyze relations among, a very wide range of actors including farmers, traders, extension, consumers, governments and civil society. Based on our current experience on working with development actors, we recognize the challenges of establishing effective partnerships for this purpose. We need to be able to identify the ‘right’ partners for the tasks at hand. We need to align the often differing objectives, timeframes and incentives that drive of research and development actors. We may need to overcome differences in organizational cultures and worldviews and we often face issues around power and decision making that colour such relationships.

Demonstrating the importance we give to this area, the program recently recruited a senior manager to head development partnerships.

**Current activities presented and discussed in the session**

*The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish and the role of development partners:* The overall rationale, assumptions and approach adopted by the program will be described, and the specific role that we expect development partners to play in achieving its objectives.

**Developing a strategy for development partnerships:** The results of the pre-conference meeting *Mobilizing AR4D partnerships to improve access to critical animal-source foods* will be shared. The pre-conference meeting will explore what is needed to establish and grow effective partnerships with the development sector that meet our collective expectations. Specific objectives include mapping the types of partners and partnerships relevant to the program’s impact pathway from production to consumption, reviewing case studies of recent experiences where research has attempted to play a more direct role in serving as the knowledge partner to development actions, characterizing expectations of potential partners if they are to engage with the program, and identifying partnership arrangements that would enable the range of needed research and development actors to work collectively toward pro-poor transformation of the target value chains. The meeting is structured to generate the basic elements of a partnership strategy for the program specific to development actors, including the beginnings of an M&E framework.

**Intended outcomes**

Outputs from the pre-conference meeting and conference session P1.1 will be synthesized in a Livestock and Fish CGIAR Research Program development partnership strategy that will contribute to:

- An explicit appreciation among the program’s core research partners of the expectations of development partners that would need to be met if they are to contribute to achieving our program objectives;

- A shared understanding among stakeholders of the roles of development partners along the program’s impact pathway;

- Alliances of a range of research and development partners working effectively towards a shared goal of pro-poor transformation of the selected value chains, and a means for
evaluating the extent and quality of progress in implementing effective partnership.

**Commitments to collective actions in 2012-2014 (national, regional or international)**

i. With existing resources

- Development of an AR4D partnership strategy document that could provide the basis for a wider discussion beyond the Livestock and Fish CGIAR Research Program on the principles of effective R&D partnerships for achieving impact at scale. The strategy will also propose relevant objectives and indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress.

- Documented case studies and preliminary lessons learned from AR4D partnerships established by the program in its selected animal-source food value chains. Attention will be given to distinguishing:
  - Quick wins: what can be done together with minimal commitment – to begin building relationships and institutional capital;
  - Medium-term joint project activities: what initial activities can be designed and implemented together to learn how to work together to achieve common objectives;
  - Longer-term joint program: as experience working together strengthens the partnership, developing a strategic program of activities to address more complex issues.

ii. With additional support

- Convening a wider meeting with other CGIAR Research Programs and initiatives to share lessons learned and case studies about AR4D partnerships with development actors that help to accelerate research into impact at scale;

- Develop a manual and toolkit for AR4D partnerships specifically tailored to working with development actors.

iii. With specific large scale programme investment

- Have development partners take to scale the value chain intervention packages they have helped to develop in the selected value chains targeted by the program. This would require large-scale development investment.