



Fund

## CGIAR Roundup

Update from the CGIAR Fund Office  
May -- June 2015



### Celebrating World Environment Day Highlights from CGIAR Research

On June 5, CGIAR joined the global community in marking the day by [launching a new podcast series](#) with a call to change how we see food and where it comes from, releasing a new set of [briefs on critical agriculture issues for UN climate talks](#) and the impact of global warming on poor smallholders, and featuring stories on how CGIAR's work is critical to [achieving the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

*Photo: Neil Palmer/CIAT*

## Water, Land and Ecosystems

A new report proposes a [paradigm shift in how we view water and soil salinity](#). Recycling saline water and restoring salt-affected soils could **significantly increase food, feed and renewable energy** without expanding land use. In Ethiopia, CGIAR water experts contributed to an ambitious strategy for the development of irrigation to [boost food production and incomes](#) of millions of farmers.

## Reaping Results from Rice Research

*Rice Today* features [50 years of impact](#) in India, cooperation to **speed the release of new varieties** and transfer of the "scuba" gene into rice varieties in West Africa.



(Photo credit: IRRI)

## Intellectual Property Rights

An IP expert at the CGIAR Dryland Systems program explores the potential [implications for global public goods](#) and poor smallholder farmers of the Enlarged Board of Appeals of the European Patent Office's ruling that **marker-assisted selection** is a technical method.

## Agricultural Science & Technology Indicators

A new report suggests that [investment in agricultural R&D in WANA countries](#) remains below levels required to sustain the agricultural sectors' needs and **policy implications for governments** in the region.

## Efforts to Combat Maize Lethal Necrosis

In May, CGIAR and its partners **shared knowledge and best practices** on diagnostics and protocols for managing MLN – a devastating disease that is [threatening Africa's main grain, livelihoods and food security](#).

## New Finding to Alter How GM Crops Are Viewed?

CGIAR's International Potato Center and its partners found that 8,000 years ago a [soil bacteria inserted some of its genes into domesticated sweet potato](#) to give **traits selected by farmers**, challenging GM crops' "unnatural" status. See [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#)

## Climate-Smart Agriculture

### Kenyan Farmers Embrace Climate-Smart Technologies

Video features CGIAR work to introduce [drought-resilient crops](#) to improve livelihoods and food security of poor smallholders.

### Taking Action for a New Climate Agreement

New [UNFCCC toolkit](#) provides information to help policymakers and farming advocates engage in negotiations.

### Acting Locally, Informing Globally

CCAFS Annual Report highlights how [CSA was advanced](#) in farmers' fields and in global initiatives through diverse partnerships.

### Climate Change and Fish Production

Due to its resilience, adaptability and diversity of species, [aquaculture](#) may respond better than other forms of agriculture to rising temperatures.

### Preemptive Livestock Breeding Strategy

CGIAR presented its [strategy and evidence](#) of threats to the UNFCCC science advisory board.



Photo: Charlie Pye-Smith, World Agroforestry Centre

## Gender, Nutrition & Health Highlights

### Pearl Millet Richer in Iron Reversed Deficiency in Children

A study published in the [Journal of Nutrition](#) demonstrates the effectiveness of biofortification programs, such as [CGIAR's HarvestPlus](#), to significantly improve levels of key micronutrients, including iron.

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### Launch of Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy

On June 3, CGIAR's Agriculture for Nutrition and Health program, the Leverhulme Centre on Integrative Research in Agriculture and Health, and IMMANA launched a new global network and [platform for learning and sharing](#).

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### Reducing Gender Gaps & Constraints to Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

Noting [lack of reliable water as a major barrier to health and nutrition](#), a paper explores the untapped potential of irrigation to improve nutrition and empower women in Africa.

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### Strategy to Promote Research on Gender and Land

In a recent blog, experts from the CGIAR program on Policies, Institutions and Markets share experiences and ideas about the [best ways to publicize results of scientific research](#).

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### Understanding How Women Use Forests

In a study conducted as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry, scientists contend that [gender-responsive analyses are needed](#) to design REDD+ initiatives that do not negatively impact women's livelihoods and resilience.

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### CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

The [2014 Annual Report](#) features the development of global indicators to measure women's dietary diversity, control of aflatoxin, delivery of biofortified crops to poor farming households, and the evaluation of the program's research on food safety.

### CGIAR Dryland Systems Program Launches Youth Strategy

Strategy seeks to enhance youth's access and control of agricultural assets, technologies, services and decision-making to [position youth as agents of change](#) and drivers of innovation.



### Crop Gene Banks Are Preserving the Future of Agriculture, But Who's Preserving Them?

In a recent article, experts argue that [genebanks need consistent long-term funding](#) or they will have to take a crisis-management approach simply to maintain the viability of germplasm.

Photo: CIMMYT



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## CGIAR Roundup, Update from Fund Office

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