

ACTIVITY BRIEF

Workshop on Collaborative Research

30 August – 1 September 2016
 SEARCA, College, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

BACKGROUND

Collaborative research was introduced into the 10-year strategic plan of the International Foundation for Science (IFS) in 2011 and first piloted in 2012-2013. The first call for Expressions of Interest asked for people to collaborate on research into neglected and underutilised species. The Pilot 1 countries were Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, with financing from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The second call for Expressions of Interest for 2013-2014 asked for applications for research on biodiversity. The Pilot 2 countries were Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, financed by Carnegie and the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO).

In 2015, IFS and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) agreed to pilot collaborative research in a number of Southeast Asian countries where the two organizations are both active. The third call for Expressions of Interest went out in the second week of January 2016 asking for people to collaborate on research into climate change adaptation and mitigation. Pilot 3 is financed by the Carolina Mac Gillavry Fund and SEARCA. It covers Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam; but when choosing between applications of similar merit, teams with researchers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam will be prioritized.

Eligible “aspirants” were invited into a specially designed social networking platform called CHATTER. In a “plenary workspace,” people discovered each other’s profiles and against a call for collaborative research applications advertised on the platform, coalesced into teams, each receiving access to a private team workspace built on CHATTER where they planned and wrote their team applications.

TIMELINE

Following the period requesting Expressions of Interest from 10-31 January 2016, CHATTER groups formed among the applicants for the purposes of social networking, team building and making applications toward a deadline of 30 June (with an extension until 3 July). Pre-screening of applications at the IFS Secretariat is in July, with external review from August through November, followed by a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee in December, and the IFS Director’s



WORKSHOP PARTNERS



ABOUT SEARCA

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is one of the 21 regional centers of excellence of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). Founded on 27 November 1966, SEARCA is mandated to strengthen institutional capacities in agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia through graduate scholarship, research and development, and knowledge management. It serves 11 SEAMEO member countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam. SEARCA is hosted by the Government of the Philippines on the campus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna, Philippines. It is supported by donations from SEAMEO member and associate member states, other governments, and various international donor agencies.

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decision by 20 December 2016. The grant administration and research phase will begin in January to March 2017.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This IFS-SEARCA Workshop on Collaborative Research is by invitation for all applicants who pass pre-screening. The purpose of the workshop is to improve the quality and effectiveness of collaborative research on climate change adaptation and mitigation through building the capability of early-career scientists in collaborative research concepts, approaches, design, methods and analysis. The workshop's specific objectives are for participants to:

- Learn more about key concepts and issues in climate change adaptation and mitigation and relate these to their own research proposals;
- Become more aware of concepts, approaches, design, methods and analysis in working together as collaborative researchers;
- Learn from the experiences of researchers already involved in collaborative research;
- Broaden their scientific networks and strengthen their research collaboration potential; and
- Get to know their own and other team members.

PARTICIPANTS

- Members of the teams that have submitted applications for the grants and passed pre-screening
- Representatives from Pilots 1 and 2 in Africa

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