Prashanth Vishwanathan / IWMI

CGIAR Independent Science for Development Council

S22 ISDC Update

Holger Meinke, ISDC Chair

June 2025

Objectives of ISDC Portfolio Review

Independent Science for Development Council

Review Inception Report Template

- In concert with the Chief Scientist's Office of CGIAR, ISDC commented on the Inception Report Template to ensure alignment between the needs of the System Council, the assessment criteria and the Template as a basis for an objective, efficient and fair review process. (Completed)

Review Inception Reports

- Ensure that Inception Reports expand on and adjust the earlier reviewed proposed work and meet the requirements / expectations of SC.
- Focus on the main threads articulated in the summary review and proponents' targeted responses to specific proposal critiques.

Assess proposed outputs alongside Budgets

- Review the project documents vis-a-vis elaborated budgets developed during the Inception Phase.
- Ensure budgets provide a transparent view of the distribution among participating CGIAR Centers, NARS, and other partners.
- ISDC will not conduct a detailed budgetary analysis but will provide broader remarks on feasibility. This is in line with ISDC's remit, mandate, and composition. Other actors (e.g. internal audit), are better positioned to conduct rigorous budgetary analyses

MELIA

- Ensure CGIAR management's planned actions incorporate recommendations arising from previous evaluations.
- During its review, ISDC will reference the ongoing Evaluability Assessment exercise.

Quality of Research for Development

- Apply the Quality of Research for Development frame of reference.
- Determine and communicate which criteria will be applied to the Inception Reports.

Independent Science for Development Council

ISDC Advisory Timeline 2025

Review Blog

1

February

- Review/feedback of report template
- Internal planning

2

March/April

- Attendance & presentation at SC drop-in call

3

May/June

- ISDC & SME induction*
- Receive reports 30 June

4

July

- Review process (4 weeks)
- In-person meeting 19 July
- Report to SC Secretariat: 7 August

Confirmed timeline; in-person ISDC meeting in July

**ISDC review will look for any evidence that P/A teams have incorporated early advisory* from past and planning for future measurement

Process of Review

Independent Science for Development Council

SME* Assessment

- 1 independent SME – Previous reviewer of same proposal in 2024
- 13 SMEs

SME-ISDC Assessment

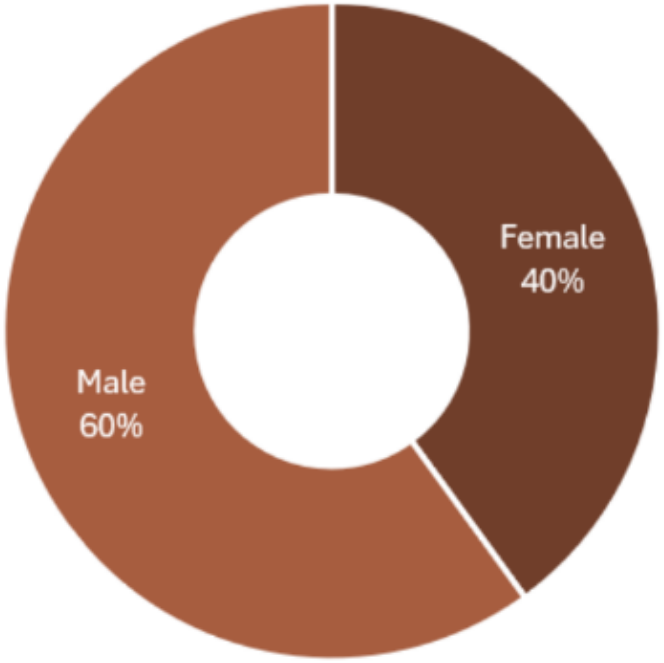
- ISDC member and SME work together to build consensus

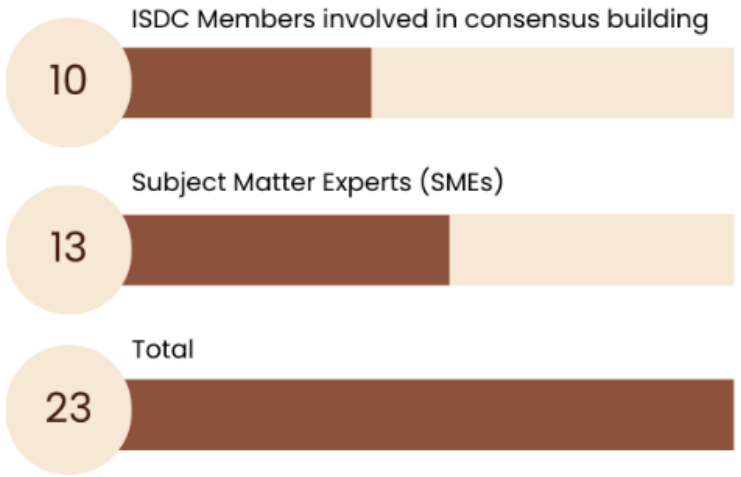
ISDC In-person Meeting

-ISDC consensus for reporting

* Subject Matter Expert

Process of Review





New ISDC Members & Current Recruitment

- 1 April
  - Erin Lentz, Associate Professor of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin
- 1 July
  - Bruce Lankford, Emeritus Professor at the University of East Anglia
  - Ingrid Fromm, Research Associate, International Agriculture Bern University of Applied of Sciences
- Recruitment for 1 additional member and a chair in progress (SIMEC)

ISDC 101

What

An easy-to-use and engaging online platform that helps users independently understand the why, who, how, and what of ISDC.

Why

Make the ISDC induction process simpler and faster, reducing workload and improving the learning experience.

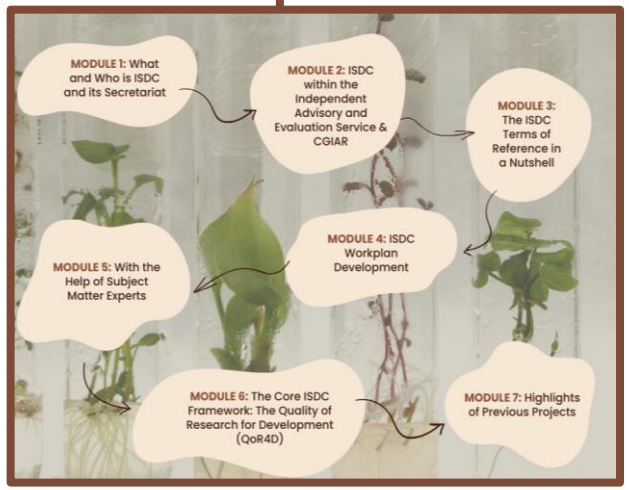
How

Through a free and interactive platform that combines visual graphics, videos and website links that includes quizzes after each module for self-assessment.

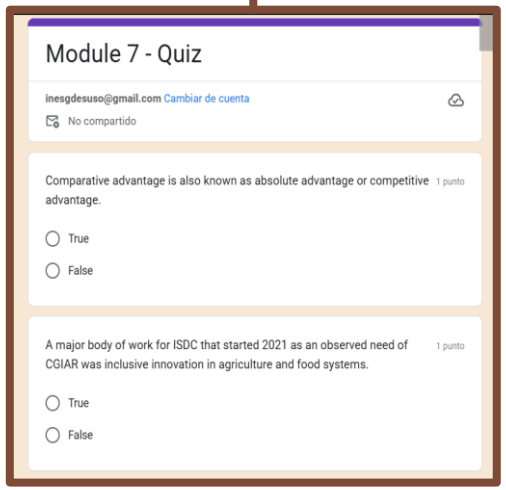
Who Benefits?

Click here or use the QR Code to start your ISDC online

7 Modules

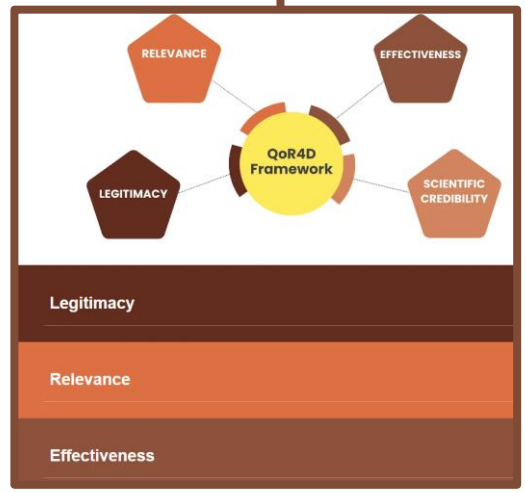


Quizzes



Videos

Interactive



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Discussion

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CGIAR | Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service