

Advisory Committee Meeting 7/17

30 October 2017 16:00-17:00 SE Asia Standard Time

Venue: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/797599677>

Participants

Mark Radka	UN Environment	Bruce Tolentino	IRRI
Matthias Bickel	GIZ	Jai Sheel Oberoi	LT Foods
Luc Beerens	Mars Food	Christ Vansteenkiste	Rikolto (VECO)
Hammad Naqi Khan	WWF-Pakistan	James Lomax	UN Environment
Wyn Ellis	SRP Secretariat	Lea Las Pinas	SRP Secretariat
Peter Sprang	SRP Secretariat		

Apologies

Ladda Viriyangkura	Thailand Rice Department
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Meeting Report

1. Chairperson's remarks, and welcome of new AC member

- MR welcomed AC members and other participants to Advisory Committee meeting 7/17 at 16:03 SE Asia Standard Time.
- MR introduced Jai Sheel Oberoi (JSO) of LT Foods, who is the new private sector representative to the SRP Advisory Committee, with a two-year term of office, together with re-elected members Christ Vansteenkiste of Rikolto (formerly VECO) and Kh Ladda Viriyangkura of the Thailand Rice Department, who represent non-governmental and governmental organizations, respectively.
- JSO expressed appreciation, support and optimism for collective action to address rice sustainability challenges through the Sustainable Rice Platform.
- MR also acknowledged Paul Nicholson's invaluable contribution to the Advisory Committee on behalf of Olam International over the past two years, and expressed appreciation for his commitment to support the SRP during his term as private sector representative.

2. Approval of report of last meeting (6-17), and adoption of agenda

- MR moved for the approval of report of last meeting. With no objections, the report was approved as circulated.
- The meeting agenda as circulated was adopted unanimously.

3. Conference Outcome Report (Annex 1)

- Based on the goal and objectives set by the Advisory Committee in December 2016, BT reported that the Conference had met its targets and was considered a resounding success. He emphasized the key findings and recommendations outlined in the Conference Outcome Report, noting that the conference had also met its financial target with a modest surplus.
- He reiterated the proposal to hold a full Conference every 2 years, while continuing the annual Plenary Meeting and General Assembly, offering to hold the 2018 event in parallel with IRRI's 5th International Rice Congress (Singapore, 14-17 October 2018). This was fully supported by the AC.
- LB commented that next year's agenda should focus upon the interests of demand side actors, particularly retailers, in order to build more support and engagement from downstream and consumer-facing stakeholders.
- HNK reiterated the need for a clear position in presenting SRP's initiatives, particularly with a stronger focus on country-level action.
- JSO proposed to consider strategic objectives and success indicators, and ensure continued engagement with event participants in the future.
- WE thanked AC members for their comments and suggestions, which will be taken into account in planning future events.
- JL likewise acknowledged feedback from AC members and promised to raise these at the final meeting of the Conference Steering Committee.

[Action: CSC to convene a final meeting]

4. Secretariat Report for September/October (Annex 2)

- WE summarized the Secretariat Report for September/October, highlighting membership, finances and priority activities. Together with the Secretariat Report were the following documents, with comments received from AC members:
 - SRP 7th Annual Plenary Meeting and General Assembly Report (**Annex 3**); and
 - SRP Brochure for COP23 (**Annex 4**- attached final revised version)
 - LB enquired as to criteria used for selection of the 5 countries highlighted in the draft brochure. WE responded that the countries were selected based on available data. LB recommended to consider incorporating countries where pilot field implementation of the SRP Standard were conducted.
 - JL added further inputs on the tagline and formatting.
 - MR encouraged AC members to email their inputs to the Secretariat ASAP for final revision of the brochure, to be distributed at COP23 side events.

- A rapid review of member involvement was conducted by the Secretariat. Out of the 81 current members, about 10 members are categorized as inactive, based on level of participation over the past 2 years. MB proposed to prioritize actively contributing members, while continuing to explore engagement strategies for other members.

[Action: Secretariat to compile AC comments on the brochure and develop final copy]

5. Strategic Visioning Exercise

- WE summarized the background and steps taken in the process of recruitment of an external consultant to conduct the proposed strategic visioning exercise. The Advisory Committee was requested to choose between the two remaining bids (Rogers MacJohn and Peterson-Control Union) and come to a final decision.
- MR proposed a voting process (one vote per organization) and requested each AC member to state their position. Out of 7 voting members present, 5 selected Rogers MacJohn, with 2 abstentions.
- BT therefore raised a motion to approve Rogers MacJohn as external consultant for the Strategic Visioning Exercise. This motion was seconded by HNK, and adopted unanimously with no objections.
- MB recommended to build a relationship with Green Invest Asia / USAID (which was linked to the Peterson proposal), and explore partnerships and SRP membership.
- MB also encouraged AC members to reach clarity on the implementation of any recommendation that may be brought forward during the visioning exercise via a majority vote of the Advisory Committee.

[Action: WE to draft letters to bidders informing of the AC decision]

6. Working Groups Structure (Annex 5)

- We summarized the need to review the Working Group structure, focusing on (1) the remit of WG3, which is over-extended, and (2) in order to address ICT-related issues and strategic opportunities. He informed the AC that WG3 had already discussed the first question, and that detailed proposals would be forthcoming on both.
- Initial feedback from AC members was as follows:
 - a. LB: In which working group or sub-group would the Performance Indicators fall under?
 - b. MB: Performance Indicators could possibly guide the work of the proposed Working Group 4 on ICTs.
 - c. BT: PN could be invited as working lead for the proposed new working group on ICTs.
 - d. JL: Questioned the need for a new ICT group, since ICTs will be required in all three WGs and are already adequately covered.
- In the interests of time, MR proposed to move the discussion to the next AC meeting, when more detail would be presented. It was resolved to include this topic in the next meeting agenda.

[Action: Secretariat to include Working Groups Structure in the next meeting agenda, and to develop detailed proposal for presentation to next meeting]

7. AOB

- JSO proposed to disseminate the SRP Bangkok Declaration on Sustainable Rice among high-level public officials. MB seconded the suggestion, and recommended disseminating further among SRP members, who could also distribute the Declaration among their respective networks. WE noted that the document was available at the Sustainable Rice Platform public site, and has been brought to the attention of members and conference delegates in the latest post-conference Newsletter. However, a separate mass mail to members dedicated to this item will be beneficial, in order to maximize visibility.
- LB proposed to schedule succeeding AC meetings for 1.5 hours.

[Action: Secretariat to send new mail to target groups with link to the Declaration]

[Action: Secretariat to set date/times for next meeting, with duration 1.5h]

The meeting adjourned at 17:10 SE Asia Standard time.

W W Ellis
12 November 2017

Annexes

Annex 1:	Conference Outcome Report
Annex 2:	Secretariat Report for September/October
Annex 3:	SRP 7 th Annual Plenary Meeting and General Assembly Report
Annex 4:	SRP Brochure for COP23 (final version)
Annex 5:	Working Groups Structure