

## **Advisory Committee Meeting 3/18**

30 May 2018 15:00-17:00 SE Asia Standard Time

**Venue:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/690291813>

### **Participants**

|                    |                      |                      |                 |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Jackie Hughes      | IRRI (Chair)         | Christ Vansteenkiste | Rikolto (VECO)  |
| James Lomax        | UN Environment       | Richard Rogers       | Rogers MacJohn  |
| Ladda Viriyangkura | Thai Rice Department | Bill Guyton          | Rogers MacJohn  |
| Thomas Jaekel      | Thai Rice Department | Wyn Ellis            | SRP Secretariat |
| Rab Nawaz          | WWF Pakistan         | Lea Las Piñas        | SRP Secretariat |
| Luc Beerens        | Mars Food            | Peter Sprang         | SRP Secretariat |
| Matthias Bickel    | GIZ                  |                      |                 |

### **Apologies**

|            |                |                  |          |
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| Mark Radka | UN Environment | Jai Sheel Oberoi | LT Foods |
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## **Meeting Report**

### **1. Chairperson's remarks**

- The Advisory Committee meeting 3/18 was called to order at 15:00 SE Asia Standard Time.
- JH welcomed all participants, and conveyed MR's apologies for being unable to join.

### **2. Approval of report of last meeting (Annex 1), and adoption of agenda**

- The draft report of the last Advisory Committee meeting (2/18) held on 21 March 2018 was approved without amendment and will be posted on the Members' Area.
- With no proposed changes, the agenda as circulated was adopted unanimously.

### **3. Strategic Visioning Exercise – Outcomes and consideration of Consultant recommendations**

- Outcomes and recommendations arising from the Strategic Visioning exercise have been circulated (Annex 2) with a proposal for the AC to vote (Y/N) on key recommendations.
- It was noted that as official secondary representatives, alternates can cast their vote on behalf of their organization.
- MB stressed that an early AC decision is crucial as the consultancy contract ends on 30 May. He therefore suggested to allow Richard Rogers (RR) to present the recommendations and encouraged AC members to reach general agreement on items where there is clear alignment. Any items necessitating further discussion may then be deferred to the next AC meeting to provide time for internal discussions.
- Requiring further internal consultation, JH requested a two-week period for IRRI review, while agreeing to proceed with RR's presentation of key recommendations.

- Following JH's concern, MB recommended that the Secretariat develop a more detailed proposal for AC decision.
- The meeting was in broad agreement on all the Consultant's recommendations; however, more time was requested for internal discussion, and it was therefore agreed that the recommendations will be further discussed and voted upon at the next AC meeting.
- Main discussion and points of agreement were as follows:
  - Governance and Interim Board
    - Secretariat to outline a list of main tasks, structure, required resources and timeline.
  - Secretariat
    - Secretariat capacity must include technical core competence as well as those listed in the recommendations.
    - A budget of \$50,000 should be allocated to cover setup costs for the new structure (e.g. advertisement, transaction and legal fees, etc.).
  - National chapters
    - A clarification must be made on the legal persona to be assumed by national chapters. It was recognized that while following common guiding principles and operational practices, the optimal legal structure and hosting arrangement may vary across jurisdictions.
  - Dues structure
    - It was agreed that membership dues should be ring-fenced to ensure Secretariat operational costs are fully covered. Programme costs must be separately funded.
    - Careful consideration will be needed in regard to dues structures and collection procedures at global/national levels to minimize transaction costs and ensure transparency.
  - Proposed Interim Board
    - Composition of the Board needs to be finalized.
    - WE requested RR for a draft description of the role and responsibilities of the Interim Board, in order to ascertain the level of commitment expected in discharging the role.
  - In preparation for the transition phase, the Secretariat was tasked to develop a 6-month action plan with target milestones and indicative costs, to be communicated with the AC and interim board members.

**[Action 1: Rogers MacJohn to outline Roles and Responsibilities of the Interim Board]**

**[Action 2: Secretariat to coordinate with Interim Board Chairperson and develop a six-month action plan to operationalize the recommendations from the SRP Strategic Visioning exercise]**

**[Action 3: IRRI to conduct a two-week internal consultation, and provide feedback to the next Advisory Committee meeting]**

#### **4. Secretariat Report/Report of Working Groups (Annex 3)**

- WE and the leads of each Working Group briefly presented highlights of ongoing and forthcoming activities.
- LLP provided an update on Working Group 1, highlighting the draft SRP Communication Strategy. An updated and complete version will be presented to the next AC meeting for final review and approval.
- JL provided an update on Working Group 2, including a proposed UN Environment-FAO workshop on development of landscape-level indicators.
- Reporting on Working Group 3, PS highlighted key developments as follows:
  - The decision by UTZ-Rainforest Alliance to exit from the rice sector carries significant implications for the SRP Assurance Framework and has prompted a review of the draft Assurance Framework. A GLOBALG.A.P. webinar will be scheduled, open to all members, to present its assurance management services for the SRP.
  - Need for a review of the revision of the Standard and Assurance Framework to focus on Level 2 (Verification) as opposed to certification as a preferred entry point at launch
  - IP violation by Control Union/Peterson Consulting in unauthorized use of UN Environment, IRRI, SRP and GIZ logos in a recent training programme. Control Union/Peterson was requested in writing to remove the unauthorized logos from all materials.

**[Action 4: LLP to review LB's feedback on the draft SRP Communication Strategy, and circulate a final version to the Advisory Committee members for final review and approval]**

**[Action 5: PS/WG3 to revise Assurance Framework to provide full details on a verification-based programme]**

**[Action 6: PS to establish process for official SRP endorsement of external training courses, and develop an official SRP module]**

#### **5. GLOBALG.A.P. webinar on assurance services**

- PS announced that all SRP members will be invited to participate in the GLOBALG.A.P. webinar on 12 and 28 June 2018.

**[Action 7: Secretariat to release 'Special Announcements' email to members]**

#### **6. Status Report: SRP 8<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting and General Assembly – financing options**

- JH reaffirmed IRRI's position that SRP members participating at the 2018 SRP Plenary proposed to be held as part of the forthcoming 5<sup>th</sup> International Rice Congress (13-17 October 2018) would need to pay for a day pass registration (**US\$396** Special Early Bird Rate, valid until 30 April/**US\$451** Promotional Rate, valid from May to July). The day pass would also allow participants full access to other events, exhibition, meals and breaks and other activities taking place on the same day. The need for cost recovery for the IRC was fully respected by the AC.
- However, LB recommended that in light of forthcoming transition phase during the second half of this year, as well as the intention to launch the new structure and assurance programme during the Plenary event, LB recommended that the Plenary timing be reviewed. This was agreed.

**[Action 8: Secretariat to assess and propose timing/venue options for the 2018 Plenary]**

**[Action 9: Secretariat requested to circulate the Meeting Report by 1 June, and launch a Doodle poll for the next AC meeting to be held within 1 month]**

The meeting adjourned at 17:00 SE Asia Standard Time.

**W W Ellis**

**1 June 2018, Bangkok**

#### **Annexes**

Annex 1: Meeting Report – Advisory Committee Meeting 2-18 21 March 2018

Annex 2: 5-Year Implementation Roadmap with Addendum

Annex 3: Secretariat Report (April-May 2018)

Annex 4: Draft SRP Communication Strategy