

AC Meeting 6/18

IB Meeting 2/18

31 October 2018, 15:00-17:00 SE Asia Standard Time

Venue: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/408582869>

Participants

Ha Chu (HC)	Bayer	Diederik Pretorius (DP)	Ebro Foods
Matthias Bickel (MB)	GIZ	Jackie Hughes (JH)	IRRI
Luc Beerens (LB)	Mars Food	Paul Nicholson (PN)	Olam International
Mark Radka (MR)	UN Environment	Rab Nawaz RN)	WWF Pakistan
Hammad Naqi Khan (HNK)	WWF Pakistan	Wyn Ellis WE)	SRP Secretariat
Peter Sprang (PS)	SRP Secretariat	Lea Las Piñas (LLP)	SRP Secretariat

Apologies

Elizabeth Hernandez (EH)	Corteva AgriScience	Huynh Van Thon (HVT)	Loc Troi Group
Jai Sheel Oberoi (JSO)	LT Foods	Christ Vansteenkiste (CV)	Rikolto
Ladda Viriyangkura (LV)	Rice Department, Thailand	Charlie Butcher (CB)	Syngenta

Invited

Astari Dharma (AD)	GIZ	Sanjay Sethi (SS)	Phoenix Global
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(Draft) Meeting Report

1. Chairperson's remarks

- The meeting was chaired by MR, who called to order the joint Advisory Committee meeting 6/18 and Interim Board 2/18 at 15:05 SE Asia Standard Time.
- MR proposed to move agenda item no. 3 (SRP Governance), to be presented as the first item for discussion. WE proposed inclusion of the topic 'Establishment of SRP National Chapters' under AOB. With no objections, both were agreed unanimously and the agenda adopted as amended.
- WE noted that a corrected Secretariat Report has been circulated to supersede the previously distributed report.

2. SRP governance (Annex 4)

- MR presented background and rationale for the proposed new SRP organizational structure, and requested the AC/IB's guidance on the way forward.
- JH presented the structure proposed under the IRRI Foundation Singapore (IFS), which brings the following advantages:
 - Administrative flexibility to receive and spend funds via the Foundation, as guided by the Board and the SRP Coordinator;

- A risk-free transition from being a UN Environment project to an independent legal entity, maintaining a degree of financial security given current cash flow and income levels (approx. 50% of budget needed for an independent Secretariat)
- Increased flexibility in contractual arrangements and partnerships
- Greater legal clarity around intellectual property as well as the ability to litigate if necessary
- Continuity in services as the Secretariat can be hosted within UN Environment and IRRI under the proposed governance structure overseen by the Board and the broader membership;
- Enables both IRRI and UN Environment to raise funds for sustainable rice-related projects, referring to SRP as a separate entity, as well as allowing UN Environment and IRRI to receive funds for services provided
- Simplifies and clarifies the role of the Board and gives it direct control over substantive and operational issues.
- In relation to UN Environment's role, MR reiterated the following:
 - UN Environment would be legally permitted to participate on the Board with non-voting status; and
 - Institutional hosting of the Secretariat will be under the direction of the Board.
- HNK expressed support for a well-defined governance structure for the SRP, while noting that discussions have been prolonged. He added that SRP may learn from the experience of other organizations such the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and stressed the need for aligning mandates that would be relevant to SRP and its stakeholders (i.e. the IRRI Foundation mandate versus the SRP mandate).
- RN proposed that the AC/IB agree on a timeline, while inquiring as to the economic viability of Singapore as a jurisdictional location for legal entity registration. JH noted that Hong Kong was initially listed, IRRI Foundation in Singapore presented numerous advantages for non-profit operations.
- MB commented that a decision could be expedited once the following are presented to the AC/IB:
 - Full proposal for organizational structure, mandate, legal procedures, etc.; and
 - A proposed detailed process for transition/implementation.
- MB also inquired whether other jurisdictions such as Thailand have been considered. JH noted that IRRI does not have a Foundation registered in Thailand. MB responded that such alternatives were needed in order to provide a realistic benchmark for assessment of the IFS proposal.
- To advance the process, MR noted that resources would be required to obtain legal advice on organizational set-up and registration. UN Environment would be ready to support this.
- PN expressed concern over the proposed structure as an apparent transfer of institutional ownership from UN Environment to IRRI. He requested clarity on the level of independence of the SRP Board within IFS structure. JH clarified that the IFS Board will provide oversight,

but the SRP Board will be operationally independent, although the IFS Board includes a number of IRRI Trustees. PN requested further details on the extent of such independence, since the IFS Board would carry liability.

- LB proposed establishing a Governance Task Force with the main objective of identifying key legal and practical issues pertaining to the IFS proposal. PN seconded, and volunteers were invited. The SRP Governance Task Force will initially comprise MB, JSO, JH, PN and WE as members. SS, who was invited as meeting observer, likewise volunteered to be part of the Task Force.
- MR further proposed seeking the advice of AC/IB members with experience in legal entity setup, while MB proposed that the Secretariat develop a set of criteria for objective comparison and selection of the most appropriate structure for the SRP's key needs.
- PN sought further clarity on the rationale of the proposal/s at hand. MR clarified that the IFS proposal aims to satisfy an immediate need for the SRP to transition, leading towards a viable solution in the foreseeable future.

[Action 1: Secretariat to convene the SRP Governance Task Force]

3. Approval of report of last meeting (Annexes 1-3)

- Report of last meeting (5-18, 10 September 2018) was approved unanimously.
- In relation to the SRP Financial Statement Q3 2018, PN queried the status of Olam's contribution, which was settled in 1 August. LLP clarified that Olam contribution has been received by UN Environment and awaits posting to the SRP account. MR and WE clarified the steps in the UN Environment collection process. [As of writing, the Olam contribution has already been applied to the SRP budget].

[Action 2: Secretariat to develop an overview of the UN Environment collection process for the guidance of contributing members]

4. SRP Assurance Framework (Annexes 5-6)

- WE provided an update on the status of the GLOBALG.A.P. proposal, as well as contracting conditions and options. A Letter of Intent for GLOBALG.A.P., attached as Annex 6, was issued in lieu of the contract, which will take some time to complete via IRRI.
- WE requested AC/IB endorsement of the proceedings. LB proposed accepting the proposal, seconded by PN. The meeting resolved unanimously to accept the GLOBALG.A.P. proposal.

[Action 3: Secretariat to coordinate with GLOBALG.A.P. on assurance model to be launched at the SRP 8th Plenary Meeting and General Assembly]

[Action 4: Secretariat to issue letter of acceptance and finalize SSFA with IRRI to cover contract]

5. SRP Training Programme (Annex 7)

- Astari Dharma (AD) of GIZ was invited as a resource person to present a proposal for development and delivery of an **'Authorized SRP Training Programme'**, with the objective of ensuring consistent interpretation and operationalization of SRP frameworks globally, while protecting the SRP brand and creating a new income stream.

- MR inquired about the estimated demand for SRP training, to which MB replied that SRP's goal of reaching 1 million rice smallholders by 2021 should create strong internal demand. He added that the establishment of national chapters should also boost the demand for capacity building at all levels. AD noted that GIZ projects provide an 'initial market' for SRP training, beginning with Thailand, where 150,000 farmers are to be reached under several major GIZ projects in the coming 5 years.
- On behalf of the Secretariat, WE underscored the need for the programme to remain inclusive and allow entry points for other organizations with relevant capacity and interest.
- PN expressed his support for the proposal and commended the proponent on a new and additional revenue model for the SRP. RN likewise confirmed his support.
- Receiving no objections, the proposal was endorsed. MR requested GIZ to keep SRP informed of progress in finalizing the curriculum and operational details.

[Action 5: AD to coordinate with Secretariat on development and delivery of the SRP Training Programme. A pilot training course will be launched on 3-4 December 2018 in Bangkok.]

6. SRP 8th Plenary Meeting and General Assembly (Annex 8)

- WE provided an overview of the work of the SRP Conference Steering Committee, which provides oversight over SRP's two main events in 2019, namely; a) SRP 8th Plenary Meeting and General Assembly; and b) Second Global Sustainable Rice Conference and Exhibition.
- As an outcome of the Committee's first meeting, it was agreed that the final schedule for the SRP 8th Plenary Meeting and General Assembly will be 22-24 January 2019. Plenary sessions (open) and General Assembly (closed session) will be held on 22-23 January, followed by a one-day field trip to project sites on 24 January. The Wildlife Conservation Society (Cambodia) will manage venue arrangements and finances (covered by a Small-Scale Funding Agreement with UN Environment), while IFC has agreed to provide logistics support for the Plenary.
- IBC Asia will manage all aspects of the conference, with two potential time slots already tentatively reserved at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok (30 Sep to 3 Oct, and 11-14 November 2019). The Steering Committee and IBC Asia will make a final check for conflicts and select the most appropriate date accordingly.

[Action 6: Secretariat to share plenary meeting updates and venue arrangements with the AC/IB within the next two weeks]

7. AOB

- Establishment of National SRP Chapters: WE informed the meeting that a protocol has been drafted to assist SRP members in establishing SRP National Chapters in key countries. The draft protocol is available, which outlines objectives, eligibility criteria and process for establishing national chapters. The draft protocol will be posted on the Members' Area of the SRP website for 30 days to seek member inputs, together with two additional draft documents:
 - **Draft Protocol for SRP National Interpretation Guidelines; and**
 - **Draft Guidelines for SRP Project Registration.**
- Following the 30-day consultation period, the documents will be regarded as final.

[Action 7: Secretariat to publish all 3 documents to Members' Area, and also share directly AC/IB members for review]

MR thanked all participants, and the meeting was adjourned at 16:55 SE Asia Standard Time.

W W Ellis
6 November 2018, Bangkok

Annexes

- Annex 1: Meeting Report – AC Meeting 5-18 / IB Meeting 1-18
- Annex 2: Secretariat Report (September-October 2018)
- Annex 3: SRP Financial Statement Q3 2018 (Amended)
- Annex 4: Proposed Organizational Structure for the Sustainable Rice Platform (IRRI Foundation Singapore)
- Annex 5: Revised GLOBALG.A.P. Proposal
- Annex 6: Letter of Intent for GLOBALG.A.P.
- Annex 7: Proposal for SRP Training Programme
- Annex 8: Terms of Reference – SRP Conference Steering Committee