

Advisory Committee Meeting 4/17

8 June 2017 15:00-16:00 SE Asia Standard Time

Venue: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/462436317>

Participants

James Lomax	UN Environment (Chair)	Luc Beerens	Mars Food
Matthias Bickel	GIZ BRIA	Christ Vansteenkiste	Vredeseilanden-VECO
Hammad Naqi Khan	WWF-Pakistan	Jessica Sim (alt)	Olam International
Mushtaq Memon	UN Environment	Peter Sprang	SRP Secretariat
Wyn Ellis	SRP Secretariat	Lea Las Pinas	SRP Secretariat

Apologies

Paul Nicholson	Olam International	Bruce Tolentino	IRRI (Co-Chair)
Ladda Viriyangkura	Thai Rice Department		

Meeting Report

1. Introduction

- JL called the meeting to order at 15:06. MM of UN Environment Asia and the Pacific Office, was acknowledged in an observer capacity.
- JL thanked and congratulated WWF-Pakistan on behalf of the AC for the successful organization of the first SRP National Dialogue and Stakeholder Workshop in Islamabad on 23 May, and on the launch of the Pakistan SRP National Programme to be hosted by WWF. He also expressed appreciation to Mars Food for its support and active participation in the event, which generated great interest and positive feedback from participants, and introduced several opportunities for synergies to elevate the profile rice sustainability as a policy priority in Pakistan.

2. Approval of report of last meeting (3-17) and adoption of agenda

- SRP Advisory Committee Meeting Report 3-17 was approved without amendment.
- Following the recent launch of the national programme in Pakistan, and considering stakeholder interests, LB proposed to include discussion on follow-up activities in Pakistan in the agenda. JL recommended to incorporate this topic into future Secretariat Reports.
- The agenda for meeting 4-17 was adopted unanimously.

3. Secretariat and Working Group Reports (WE/JL/LLP/PS, Annex 1, for info)

- WE presented highlights of SRP operations for the month of May, followed by working group activities as presented by LLP, JL/WE and PS, respectively.

- *Operations* – Invoices totalling \$190k have been raised, and contributing members are requested to expedite settlement.
- *Working Group 1* – SRP rice video: <https://youtu.be/I3NJqJVx9KE>, is now at its final editing stage, and AC members are invited to send final comments by 16 June (Friday).
- *Working Group 2* – Progress on Visioning Workshop, COP23 and strategic partnerships were presented to the AC. Further discussion was deferred to the relevant agenda items (4 and 5).
- *Working Group 3* – One of the main outcomes of the SRP Training Strategy Workshop held in Los Banos (2-6 May) was a consensus among participating members on the need to prioritize revision of the SRP Standard and PIs. TORs have been drafted for an external consultant to lead the revision process, and will be tabled at the next AC meeting following finalization and endorsement by WG3. The WG is also developing a Roadmap for the Standard and Assurance model, with UTZ, GLOBALG.A.P. and Control Union involved in the process.
- *First Global Sustainable Rice Conference and Exhibition* – The updated programme is now available at the conference website: <http://www.sustainablericeconference.org>. Speaker invitations and sponsorships are current priorities of the organizers in cooperation with Conference Steering Committee members.
- *Approved grant proposal* – A bid supported by Sustainable Rice Platform in partnership with Rothamsted Research and Barefoot Lightning, was selected for funding by the UK Space Agency. A small grant (\$50k) will be used to conduct a scoping study on technology convergence for rice. This is expected to lead to a larger proposal in October to access grants of up to UKP 10 million from the UK Space Agency's main funding programme. Workshops will be held with private sector partners in Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam, as well as in Rothamsted, UK during the coming months.
- *GEF-7 and WBCSD* – The World Business Council for Sustainable Development has invited SRP to participate as a partner in a GEF-7 Global Impact Programme to be developed and submitted for funding (ca US\$50 million). GIA and IRRI will also be involved, and UN Environment has been recommended as Implementation Agency. A Concept Note is now in development.

4. Visioning exercise ("The Future We Need"): Recommendations from WG2 (Annex 2, JL, for decision)

- JL provided an overview of the main strategies of WG2, particularly in elevating SRP to participate in higher level discussion with global stakeholders, and creating shared value. Among its priority activities are the visioning workshop and participation at COP23.
- A total of 4 Expressions of Interest from potential external consultants for "The Future We Need" study and Visioning Workshop were reviewed, using an evaluation framework to ensure a transparent process.

- The bid by Rogers MacJohn was selected as the most robust and well-structured, although it was also the most expensive bid. Ongoing discussions have been initiated with the Team Leader, Richard Rogers, with the aim of streamlining the scope of work to reduce costs, without comprising the robustness of the proposed engagement.
- We proposed that the costs of the exercise (budgeted at 80k+ direct workshop costs of ca 15k) could be covered partly via member dues and partly through ad hoc member contributions. GIZ and Olam have indicated their readiness to contribute. LB, however, expressed concern over ensuring alignment among all SRP members on the desired impacts of the visioning exercise, as well as on the feasibility of the project timeline. It was agreed that we should not impose excessive pressure to finalize in time for the October conference.
- WWF-Pakistan also stressed the importance of including all actors and stakeholders; JL clarified that the envisioned activity is a high-level exercise focusing on institutional positioning, in order to mainstream the rice sustainability agenda in all sectors and at all levels.
- Notwithstanding issues raised by members, JL proposed to accept the Rogers MacJohn bid, while the Secretariat continues negotiations on project scope and cost. MB seconded the motion, and the Rogers MacJohn bid was accepted on this basis.

[WE to continue negotiations with Richard Rogers and report back ASAP]

5. COP23 participation (JL, for info/decision)

- JL presented 4 key opportunities for the SRP at COP23: Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (Helvetas); Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC); World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); and the Sustainable Innovation Forum (SIF).
- It was noted that:
 - Switzerland has invited Helvetas to present WAPRO, in which SRP is a partner;
 - CCAC will hold its high-level assembly of over 50 country partners as a side-event;
 - WBCSD will hold a high-level forum;
 - The SIF is a high-level forum hosted by UN Environment, and will be the largest business-focused event held during the negotiations.
- MB reported that a GIZ team is also making preparations for its participation at COP23; he will share the information guide when available in approximately in 4-6 weeks). He also recommended that SRP partners with country delegates from Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam and explore the possibility of incorporating an SRP angle into their respective presentations.
- JL thanked MB and encouraged other members to forward any information that they may have on possible sideline events, in which SRP may participate.

[MB to forward Information Guide, and other members to forward possible opportunities to the Secretariat for COP23 sideline events]

6. Secretariat governance (proposal for legal entity/financial operations [JL, Annex 3, for decision])

- JL informed that the issue on Secretariat governance is an ongoing process, that will depend on the outcomes of the Visioning Workshop.
- He reported that the draft MOU between UN Environment and IRRI is progressing, and that UN Environment's involvement and engagement may be further strengthened through the possibility of assigning a senior-level representative to the AC in the near future.
- In his email of 8 June, BT reiterated IRRI's support for the establishment of SRP's legal identity, one which continues to involve its founding institutions and key members on its governing body. Moreover, he expressed strong support to start work on establishing the legal identity as soon as possible, in anticipation of an extensive process.
- In the same email, BT reminded the AC of IRRI's offer to undertake administrative roles on SRP's behalf, such as invoicing, collection of dues, budget and financial management, and servicing of payments, as a response to the challenges encountered by the UN Environment system, until such time that these responsibilities can be fully turned over to the SRP legal entity.
- In the interim, JL recommended that the governance issue be maintained as a "for information" item on the AC agenda.

7. AOB

- As earlier expressed by LB, follow-up activities on Pakistan event will need to be identified to maximize interests and ensure momentum. HNK reiterated that the event has indeed generated a lot of interest, and that WWF-Pakistan is fully supportive to further promote collaboration.
- WE noted that WWF Pakistan team is producing a 2-page concept note or Road Map for establishment and operationalizing SRP in Pakistan, including hosting capacity for at least the coming 6-12 months as an interim measure. The Secretariat will share the Workshop Report and participant list when available.
- In the interests of time, LB requested further offline discussion with JL on the subject of follow-up.
- JL concluded the meeting by encouraging AC members to remain active and involved, and to contribute with recommendations and comments to strengthen SRP's programmes and activities.

[WWF-Pakistan to forward Concept Note, Workshop Report and Participant List]

The meeting adjourned at 15:58 SE Asia Standard time.

Annexes:

1. Secretariat Update and Working Group Reports (May 2017)
2. Proposal by Rogers MacJohn and Analysis of EOIs received
3. Proposal for Joint Ownership of SRP