

A Proposed Sustainability Framework for the CGIAR

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Purpose of this Report

- To develop a stewardship framework for CGIAR activities that encompasses, but is not limited to stewardship of genetically modified organisms through all stages of product development, distribution and use;
- To develop a strategy for minimizing the risks to farmers, the environment, individual CGIAR Centers and the CGIAR System from adoption of new agricultural technologies;
- To promote sustainable management by enhancing scientific, technological, and institutional policies surrounding stewardship of CGIAR products;
- To develop understanding of public law requirements governing responsible stewardship of transgenics and other regulated technologies.

Outline

- What is Stewardship
- Key Aspects of a Stewardship Regime
- A Series of Structural Considerations

Definition of Stewardship

Merriam-Webster: the careful management of something entrusted to one's care.

BIO: the responsible management of a product from its inception through to its ultimate use and beyond.

- Focus on management

Civil society: taking shared responsibility for the impacts to human health and the natural environment that result from the production, use, and end-of-life management of a product

- Focus on responsibility

Working Definition of Stewardship

An overarching management vision that shapes processes for managing information and intellectual property rights, as well as for addressing the environmental, health and safety issues surrounding the products themselves.

This definition incorporates BOTH

- the management issues identified by industry
- the shared responsibility emphasized by civil society

Under this definition, stewardship encompasses careful management of and responsibility for:

- research processes,
- use on the farm and in the broader environment,
- information
- intellectual property rights bound up with certain crops.

Key Aspects of This Stewardship Regime

- Material traceability
- Containment protocols
- Data management

Focus should be on:

- shaping institutional routines, behaviors and practices
- Cultivating the kind of stewardship environment that PPPs demand
- promoting efficiency, coherence and collaboration

HACCP-based Stewardship Framework

- Hazard Identification
- Control Points
- Critical Limits
- Monitoring
- Corrective Action
- Validation
- Documentation

Adapted and Streamlined Approach

- Stewardship Concern
 - At each stage identify unique and continuing concerns
- Methodology and Response
 - Identify Best Practices
 - Create a protocol/plan for responding
 - Focus on Knowledge Management
- Oversight
 - Training
 - Lines of Responsibility
 - Reporting Requirements

Reflects these Priorities

- Simplicity—not “more red tape”
- Credibility
- Effectiveness
- Integration of information and capacities
- Flexibility but also consistency
- Appropriateness

Responsive to Likely Private Partner Concerns

- Trade disruption from stewardship failure
- Liability
- Confidentiality
- Compliance with domestic statutory regimes
- Biosafety
- Bad publicity/loss of reputation
- Need to protect long-term viability of technology, competitive advantage and market strategies
- Sustainability

Additional Likely CGIAR Center Concerns

- Shut-down of project over stewardship
- Stakeholder Objections
- Reputation/Credibility

More Thoughts on Data Management

- Need a mechanism to capture, distill, and convey stewardship information.
- Need standardized protocols that provide consistency to research and development involving transgenic, novel or IP-protected varieties.
- Need to integrate awareness of stewardship into the set of information that travels with that information throughout the research, development, and deployment processes.

To Facilitate This Aspect of Stewardship, The GGIAR Might Consider

- Centralized negotiations over access to privately held IP rights.
- Standardized legal documents and protocols associated with managing novel crops and other proprietary intellectual property.
- BUT, be sure to leave room to tailor agreements to the diversity of projects the CGIAR undertakes.

Probably Need to Employ Multiple Approaches

- Articulate a standard System-wide position for some points
- For others, Identify a range of acceptable approaches and leave choice among them to negotiators of a particular PPP
- And finally, for others, address case-by-case

Involvement of National Partners

- Capacity-building and joint implementation with national partners should be part of the System-wide stewardship planning process.
- This will mean identifying and involving national partners (and end users) early in the process.
- Offers a collaborative opportunity to develop a consistent approach to stewardship that furthers development of and access to IPGs.

A Framework is merely a tool.
The hard part is using it

Thank you!