



United States
Department
of Agriculture

Research,
Education, and
Economics

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

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AUG 24 2017

Elwyn Grainger-Jones
Executive Director,
CGIAR System Organization
1000, Avenue Agropolis
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Email: egraingerjones@cgiar.org

Dear Elwyn,

Recent discussions between the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA; <https://nifa.usda.gov>) and the CGIAR have highlighted the potential benefits to each from information sharing, cooperation, and coordination of selected efforts. The mission of the CGIAR system to advance agricultural science and innovation to enable poor people, especially women, to better nourish their families, and improve productivity and resilience so they can share in economic growth and manage natural resources in the face of climate change aligns well with NIFA's mission to invest in and advance agricultural research, education, and extension to solve societal challenges. CGIAR's science focus on reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services also aligns well with the science priorities of NIFA.

Recognizing this alignment, and the benefits that increased collaboration between NIFA and the CGIAR system of 15 international agricultural research centers may bring to improving food and nutrition security, improving natural resources and ecosystem services, and reducing poverty, NIFA intends to explore two activities of mutual interest to NIFA and the CGIAR system:

1. Opportunities for NIFA-supported researchers to spend time undertaking research at CGIAR centers;
2. Opportunities for CGIAR-supported researchers and NIFA-supported researchers to share information, discuss technical innovations in agriculture, and to propose and participate in collaborative research that can improve food and nutritional security, and improve natural resources and ecosystem services.

NIFA has the ability to convene U.S. land-grant universities and other U.S. colleges and universities into its intended cooperative efforts. The desired outcome of this enhanced collaboration between NIFA and CGIAR would be collaborative application of scientific expertise that aligns talents and resources to achieve greater impacts globally in addressing issues of interest to institutions. Nothing in this letter is intended to be binding under United States or international law nor create any obligation for NIFA or the CGIAR.

We would appreciate your confirmatory reply if the foregoing reflects our shared understandings.

Sincerely,



Sonny Ramaswamy
Director