



**CCAFS-PIM workshop announcement:  
Mobilizing a CGIAR Agricultural Insurance Research Community  
IFPRI, Washington, DC, 20-22 January 2014**

## Rationale

Index-based insurance is a significant component of the research agendas of CCAFS and PIM. Most of the CGIAR Centers have at-least some activity related to index-based insurance. While the diversity of expertise and approaches that CGIAR researchers bring to challenge is an asset, there is an urgent need and clear opportunity to unite as a community around a shared vision and a common framework for thinking about the roles insurance can play in addressing climate-related development and adaptation challenges. Identifying and exploiting synergies, and raising visibility among relevant development organizations and private sector partners will help position the CGIAR's insurance research community to have greater impact.

CCAFS (Jim Hansen) and PIM (Maximo Terero, John Hoddinott) agreed to jointly sponsor a workshop as an early step in a collaborative process of fostering greater coherence and collaboration to the CGIAR's work on insurance. Emphasis will be more on pathways toward development Outcomes than on research challenges. Specific objectives of the workshop are to:

- Bring the community together around a shared vision and a consensus framework for understanding the contributions of insurance to agricultural and rural development and adaptation goals;
- Take stock of relevant expertise and approaches across the CGIAR; and
- Inform the design of viable Outcome-driven proposals for an upcoming call under CCAFS Flagship 2: *Climate Information Services and Climate-Informed Safety Nets*.

## Program overview

**Day 1** will focus on developing a shared vision for the potential ways that insurance can contribute to climate-related challenges, and consensus around “big-picture” issues. To set the stage, the program will open with independent (non-CGIAR) keynote presentations on (a) a typology of functions that insurance can play in climate-resilient agricultural development; (b) a survey of recent and anticipated advances in index-based insurance for agriculture in the developing world, with emphasis on where it is currently scaling; and (c) current insurance and re-insurance industry approaches to index-based insurance. We may also include keynote presentations on how insurance fits within the strategies of the two sponsoring CRPs. Discussion topics include:

- How can index insurance help in rural development?
  - A simple theoretical framework
  - How do we identify the best index insurance product?
  - What is index insurance really bad at?
- How can insurance be designed to complete the toolbox?
  - Should insurance be combined with other financial products? How?
  - How do we effectively link insurance with other risk management options to unlock productivity?
  - How can we make sure index insurance is responsibly covering the important losses?

- Data?
  - How can agricultural systems models be used to help? How can they be counterproductive?
  - How can satellites be used to help? How can they be counterproductive?
  - How can participatory processes help? What are their limits?
- Doing business?
  - What is attractive and what is not attractive to the insurance industry?
  - Are farmers getting their money's worth from the insurance?
  - What kinds of options exist in insurance delivery?
  - When does insurance make sense at individual, group, large scales?

**Day 2** will focus on taking stock of (a) the locations where the CGIAR works on insurance, (b) the types of insurance applications, and (c) the range of methods and expertise that CGIAR researchers bring to the table. We will also examine how CGIAR capacity aligns with the interests of development organizations and funders. External resource people will provide feedback on CGIAR strengths and value-addition. Topics for discussion include:

- Short presentations by CGIAR centers
- Mapping exercise to determine:
  - Country/regions where CGIAR centers were/are/will work
  - Specific risks CGIAR centers projects have dealt with
  - Type of products
  - Scale of interventions (size of target populations)
  - Type of research conducted (qualitative, quantitative, natural experiments, etc.)
  - Partners involved (local research centers, MFI, insurers, re-insurers, etc.)
- Feedback from external experts on where CGIAR centers are, and future direction

**Day 3** will focus on guidance for participants who are preparing concept notes under CCAFS Flagship 2. Topics include:

- Explanation of priorities and process to apply to CCAFS Flagship 2
- Evaluation criteria:
  - Clear strategy to deliver compelling Outcomes
  - Capacity to deliver, including appropriate external partnerships
  - Integration – across Centers, external partners, locations
  - Alignment with regional priorities
  - Innovation
  - Leveraging
  - Continuity with past and ongoing CCAFS work
- Feedback from external resource people and CCAFS leadership on project concepts

## **Participants**

Given the goal of consolidating an insurance research community across the CGIAR, we will seek to involve broad representation of work on weather and climate-related insurance across Centers. CCAFS Regional Program Leaders and a small set of external resource people will be invited. The target size is 25-30 participants.

## **Workshop organizing committee**

Jim Hansen (CCAFS, IRI), Helen Greatrex (CCAFS, IRI), Maximo Torero (IFPRI), Miguel Robles (IFPRI).