

THE PROJECT PORTFOLIO

Project Narratives and Project Impact Pathways (Logframes)

INTRODUCTION

This section presents details of ICARDA's six mega-projects and of the Ecoregional Program for Central Asia and the Caucasus, for which ICARDA is the convening Center.

ICARDA annually prepares full conventional logframes for each of its mega-projects, detailing objectives (goal and purpose), outputs, activities and annual milestones, which serve internally as the Center's work plan.

However, commencing in 2005, the CGIAR Science Council has requested a new "logframe" that explicitly shows impact pathways, linking outputs to their use and uptake by intermediate users (outcomes) to their eventual adoption and change by end users (impacts).

Elements of the full (conventional) logframes are therefore embodied in the following project narratives. These narratives include the rationale for the project, a description of the project's major activities and intra-Center linkages between projects, descriptions of the target ecoregion, beneficiaries and end users, and lists major collaborators and systemwide linkages.

Linkages of each project with the current CGIAR outputs are included in the financial tables. The project narratives identify how each project corresponds to the new CGIAR research priorities developed by the Science Council.

The Project Impact Pathways implicitly embody external conditions and assumptions, in moving from outputs to outcomes to impacts. As many of these are common across mega-projects (MPs), these are described below, with specific projects indicated for some assumptions.

External conditions and assumptions

Key assumptions in achieving research outputs include:

- The Center continues to attract restricted funding and grants for specific project research and training activities.
- National research staff trained by the project remain in their positions and strengthen their national research programs.
- No prolonged drought or other adverse climatic events in project target locations (all MPs), and weather conditions are conducive to assessments of pest/disease incidence and severity (MP4).
- NARS in regions and countries experiencing conflict, civil strife and/or economic and political transition are able to maintain active partnerships with ICARDA.
- Rural communities and land users are willing to cooperate in development of communal land and water management options (MP1 and MP3).
- Rural communities are willing to cooperate in analyses of poverty and livelihood determinants (MP5).
- Appropriate natural resource valuation methods are successfully developed (MP5).

Key assumptions (external conditions) for those outputs to generate the stated outcomes and impacts include:

- National partners adopt and implement mechanisms for disseminating and out-scaling research outputs.
- NARS incorporate integrated approaches to natural resource management research within their research agendas (MP3).
- National partners adopt livelihoods analysis frameworks and participatory and community-based research approaches within their research agendas (MP5).
- Countries in post-conflict and/or economic and political transition are able to maintain support to allow outcomes to have their intended impact (all MPs) and regional stability permits trans-boundary cooperation in drought mitigation and basin-level water management strategies (MP1) and combating desertification (MP3).
- National policy-makers and local authorities/decision-makers are willing to adopt recommended policy and institutional options:
 - Governments incorporate land degradation issues into poverty reduction strategies and other rural development initiatives (MP3);
 - National policy-makers and local authorities/decision-makers are willing and able to adopt recommended policy and institutional options and the development of community-based land (MP3) and water (MP1) management institutions;
 - Governments support public policy that encourages adoption by rural communities of *in situ* and on-farm agrobiodiversity conservation practices (MP2).
 - National policy-makers and local authorities/decision-makers are willing and able to adopt recommended policy and institutional options that support the adoption of improved crop and livestock production practices and diversified income generating options (MP4).
- Farmers, especially those in marginal areas, have access to seed of improved germplasm (MP2). ICARDA's research in MP6 on strengthening formal and informal seed systems is intended to mitigate this risk.
- Emerging market opportunities are not affected by international trade relations, regional conflict, or political instability (MP4).