ONE CORPORATE SYSTEM

● WHAT IS ONE CORPORATE SYSTEM (OCS)?

OCS is a cross-center CGIAR initiative designed to develop a common operational support system for managing projects, human resources (HR), information technology (IT), finances, and other administrative and reporting functions. Participation is voluntary, and 10 centers have committed to using it.

> **"OCS will replace old and inefficient legacy systems in a cost efficient way."**
>
> *OCS Steering Committee member*

Some of its characteristics include:

- Harmonization of processes, data, and information across programs, centers, and the whole CGIAR system
- Simplified information sharing, comparability, aggregation, and consolidation
- Automated systems to improve and streamline program, donor, partner, and administrative management processes

The result will be improved internal management and enhanced cross-center collaboration – particularly as centers implement the CGIAR Research Projects (CRPs).

> **"OCS will make possible the implementation of the Consortium concept and CRPs."**
>
> *Researcher*

● WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF OCS?

OCS will make life easier, reducing frustration, improving management capacity, and eliminating inefficiencies. It will:

- Improve (or make possible) coordination across projects and activities
- Save time and cost wastes due to fragmentation of information or duplication of efforts
- Enhance project planning and implementation
- Provide online access to real-time information
- Facilitate decentralization across regions/projects
- Raise management quality and standards
- Increase efficiency and quality of reporting and management
- Ensure transparency and comparability
- Facilitate reusability of information collected at different stages or for different purposes
- Streamline/ speed up decision making; increase empowerment
- Track activities and provide reminders of due deliverables
- Better coordinate activities across units (e.g., research, HR, finance, grants/contracts)
- Increase the competitiveness of the CGIAR system as a whole

> **"OCS will save me time doing the things I don't want to do, so that I can focus on the work I do want to do."**
>
> *Researcher*

> **"OCS is a useful tool to plan and monitor projects. It gives you a direct link to "real time" information, with improved access and flexibility."**
>
> *Administrative director*

> **"We are moving to a system focused on results and impacts. We need to be able to aggregate results, ensure accuracy, and improve accountability to show how our results contribute to the bigger picture."**
>
> *Information management specialist*

ONE CORPORATE SYSTEM

● WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING OCS?

CIP, IRRI, and Worldfish are participating as pilot centers for the earliest implementation of the OCS, set to begin in January 2011. They will be joined by Africa Rice, Bioversity, CIAT, ICARDA, ICRAF, IFPRI, and ILRI.

Each participating center has representatives working with planning groups focused on key thematic areas, including: IT, HR, Finance, and Project Management. Support is also being offered by the CGIAR's ICTKM team and OCS Steering Committee.

The participating centers have been engaged in choosing a consulting company, through a competitive bidding process, to develop the OCS. The contractor will address details such as migrating data, establishing software licenses, ensuring proper configurations, conducting training, and providing on-going support. The choice of contractor will be completed by the end of 2010.

> **When you see a demonstration of what OCS can do, its functionality and how it can resolve tough problems, that really is worth getting excited about!**
>
> *Information management specialist*

● WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OCS?

Implementation of OCS will include the implementation of a change management strategy addressing concerns, communication, and training issues. Input from diverse staff and types of users will be solicited via survey, discussions, and interviews. The feedback and data will be used to identify challenges, advantages, and issues to be addressed. The communication and training will be designed to be user-friendly and appropriate to the needs of different individuals, relying on a range of modalities to help deliver messages and tailor the training most effectively. It also will gather feedback to bring issues and suggestions back to the system during the course of its implementation.

> **OCS is clearly the way to go. We have to move forward. We don't have a choice. We have so much to gain from it.**
>
> *Finance manager*