

July 28, 2015

Dr. Jim Yong Kim
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear President Kim and Secretary Lew,

We are writing to request your leadership in sustaining the World Bank's \$50 million contribution in support of the critical global agricultural research programs being carried out by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

In 2009, in L'Aquila, Italy, world leaders agreed to pursue a Food Security Initiative that would prevent a reoccurrence of the crises engendered by the soaring food prices of 2007-2008 and better prepare for a food-secure future. The World Bank took immediate and instrumental leadership in establishing the Global Food Crisis Response program. The United States launched the bilateral *Feed the Future* initiative. These and other important initiatives, such as the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, have begun to deliver on their promises to significantly increase global investments in food and agriculture, reversing years of stagnant or declining interest in these sectors.

A key lesson emerging from this renewed engagement is that global food security will not be quickly achieved or sustained without continued investment and innovation. Strengthening local, regional, and global capacities for research and technological innovation is critical for transforming agriculture: pushing out the yield frontier, more efficiently using natural resources, and producing nutritious, affordable food. The CGIAR provides an unparalleled global platform for multiple partners to come together in pursuit of these goals.

The World Bank has played an important role in governance and management of the CGIAR since 1972, including taking the leadership in 2009 to revitalize its structure and enhance its strategic results. The Bank's annual contribution of \$50 million in funding has been a constant for many years and an important signal of its commitment to the global agricultural research agenda and its willingness to partner with the 39 governments, foundations, and other donors to the CGIAR.

Until 2009, the CGIAR allocation was a part of the grant funds in the Bank's Development Grant Facility (DGF); since then, the Bank's CGIAR funding has been a special item in the "below the line" grant funding of the Bank's administrative budget. We understand, however, that recent budget discussions have resulted in a World Bank plan to phase out this support entirely in the coming two years. Further, the World Bank is proposing to distance its administrative support for the CGIAR from the Washington headquarters by co-locating the CGIAR Fund staff and the CGIAR Consortium Office in the Consortium's head office in Montpellier, France. We are concerned that these organizational changes may make efficient, accountable management of CGIAR funding from a variety of sources more difficult.

The former USAID Administrator, Rajiv Shah, underscored the importance of the role that the World Bank plays in his February 18, 2015, letter to the President of the World Bank: "By chairing and funding of the CGIAR, [the World Bank] has helped millions of the world's most vulner-

able people to break a tragic cycle of extreme poverty and disease....Answering the challenge of global hunger requires a sustained effort over time -- the type of support that only stable, long-term grant funding provides." We agree with Administrator Shah: "That is why the proposed elimination of the World Bank's direct, earmarked funding for CGIAR research is of serious concern."

Other donors have also objected to the Bank's proposed phase-out of CGIAR support, but the Bank appears committed to the decision. Proposals for alternative funding approaches are still reportedly under consideration, although no viable alternative for secure funding has been widely agreed upon. With diminution of World Bank funding, we anticipate that there will be a strong -- and negative -- ripple effect on other donors' commitments to CGIAR research.

Significant progress has been made in global food security since the 2007-2008 crisis. Now is not the time to diminish global investment in revitalizing agricultural research and the upgrading of agricultural technology around the world. Agriculture is facing challenges as never before: weather extremes and gradual changes in temperature that affect yields, invasive pests and diseases, consumer demands for more product diversity and improved nutritional qualities, and the need for greater productivity to feed the world's growing population from roughly the same amount of soil and water resources currently being used. World-class research is needed to address these challenges and the CGIAR must continue to generate the public knowledge that will spark global innovation.

Some of the signatories to this letter are producer organizations and questions sometimes arise regarding the funding of crop production research in other parts of the world. The role played by CGIAR is too critical to the future of the world's food supply to ignore. These organizations want to make a particular point as to their support for research funding.

The organizations, companies, professional associations, and individuals listed below hope that you will advocate for the continued commitment of the World Bank to this effort and to its \$50 million in annual support for the CGIAR.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

ACDI/VOCA

ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss

Agriculture for Impact

Alliance to End Hunger

American Farm Bureau Federation

AMVAC Chemical

Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development

Association for Public and Land-grant Universities

Bayer CropScience LP

Bread for the World

CARE

Cargill, Incorporated

Catholic Relief Services

Chemonics International
CNFA Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture
Congressional Hunger Center
Corporate Council on Africa
CropLife America
DAI
Dan Glickman, Cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs; former Secretary of Agriculture; former member, U.S. House of Representatives
Douglas Bereuter, Cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs; President Emeritus, The Asia Foundation; former Member, U.S. House of Representatives
Drexel Chemical Company
Envirofit International
Farm Journal Foundation
Food for the Hungry
Global Harvest Initiative
Gowan Company
GrainPro, Inc.
Heartland Global
IFDC
Land O'Lakes
One Acre Fund
Outreach, Inc.
Overseas Cooperative Development Council
Oxfam America
Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa
PBI-Gordon Corporation
Presidents United to Solve Hunger
Schertz Aerial
Sipcam Agro USA, Inc.
The Lugar Center
Valent U.S.A. Corporation
Winrock International
World Cocoa Foundation
World Concern
World Food Program USA