

CIFOR 'Shared learning to enhance research priority assessment practices' KSinR Pilot Project ~ *Mid-Project Update* ~

The CIFOR project, lead by David Raitzer, is working on facilitating knowledge sharing on research priority assessment methodology within the CGIAR and also some partners through online collaboration as well as the development of a compendium of experiences using various methodologies.

CIFOR Pilot project update, highlights and plans:

- **Drafts of all chapters** have been received
- **Review commentaries** have been prepared and provided to each author to guide their revisions
- **Currently receiving second drafts** of chapters.
- The **synthesis chapter** is in its second draft form, prepared by consultant George W. Norton.
- George Norton has agreed to co-edit the book
- **Publication options** have been explored; preference for CABI option has led to submission of a book **proposal to CABI**.
- Intend to utilise a **web workgroup tool** to facilitate necessary review, revisions and discussions for completion of the book-amongst authors
- Plan to **publicly post the chapters for optional comment by partner agencies**.
- Aim is to have the compendium completed (editing and layout) by September 2008.

Interesting lessons from the work so far include:

- That many centers have made impressive attempts to identify and compare the prospective impacts of research alternatives, but they have encountered similar constraints in actually shifting research practice
- That common basic principles can help to enhance priority setting for many kinds of research
- That many center impact specialists find knowledge sharing on this topic to be of sufficient value to make substantial contributions to the volume on an in-kind basis
- Although CGIAR scientists are keen to share knowledge, there are often organisational disincentives and distractions for doing so
- Access to CGIAR supported tools for virtual collaboration could be improved to foster their broader adoption

For more information: <http://ks-cgiar.org/>