



# Charter of the Global Cassava Partnership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Purpose of this Document

The Global Cassava Partnership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (GCP21) pre-dates the CGIAR Research Program on Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB) by nearly a decade. The creation of RTB fundamentally expands and changes the opportunities for GCP21 to act as a support and a catalyst for research on cassava. GCP21 and RTB are both partnership-based, and share many common goals and modalities. As RTB has a comprehensive approach to research on tropical starchy crops, including cassava, it is essential to optimize the working relationship of these two organizations. This document is the Charter for GCP21, taking special account of its relationship to RTB and to the CGIAR centers that work on cassava (International Center for Tropical Agriculture: CIAT and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture: IITA).

## 2. Synthesis Description<sup>2</sup>

GCP21 advocates for cassava research in key areas, through convening of partners for targeted action, fundraising and communication.

GCP21 is:

- A partnership platform for RTB.
- Hosted by CIAT.
- Led by a Director who reports administratively to the Director of the Agrobiodiversity Research Area (ARA) at CIAT.
- Governed by a Secretariat that is:
  - Composed of the Director of GCP21, the CIAT and IITA representatives on the RTB Management Committee, and the RTB Director (or their designees).
  - Chaired by the CIAT representative.
- Guided scientifically by a 5-7 member Advisory Group, whose members are appointed by the Secretariat.
- Funded through fundraising by the Secretariat, GCP21 partners, and through donor initiatives.

## 3. GCP21 Vision and Mission<sup>3</sup>

GCP21 was created in 2002 in Bellagio, Italy with the objective of improving cassava productivity toward the goal of alleviating hunger and poverty. Since then, it has sponsored triennial international meetings to review and advance cassava research, along with expert convenings to focus attention and resources on critical issues in cassava production and use.

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<sup>1</sup> Version 9 December 2013

<sup>2</sup> Annex I indicates integration and complementarity of RTB and GCP21.

<sup>3</sup> Annex II illustrates some potential future initiatives of GCP21.



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### Vision:

*Improving cassava productivity to contribute to alleviating hunger and poverty for hundreds of millions of people worldwide by:*

- Investing in cassava science and technology.
- Promoting cassava products to stimulate productivity and support the cassava value chain.
- Developing communication around the crop to raise its visibility.

### Mission:

*Strengthening and supporting cassava research through strategic action such as:*

- Lobbying for public and private investment that capitalizes on cassava's comparative advantages as a vehicle for development.
- Fundraising for cassava research to be carried out through partners.
- Organization of strategic meetings on high priority topics such as the threat of cassava viruses, the urgent need to conserve cassava landraces and the opportunities to turn cassava by-products into livestock feed.
- Organization of scientific conferences, to gather the research and development community at regular intervals.
- Contributing to strategic planning with stakeholders through publication of cassava roadmaps on specific topics.
- Promoting the development of large multi-organizational research projects such as the Cassava Genome Sequencing project, landrace preservation, DNA fingerprinting, and global databases about the crop, its genome and its pests and pathogens.

## 4. Partners and Stakeholders

GCP21 acts on the basis of mutual interest among its partner members and stakeholders, and has a fundamental role as a convening body rather than an implementing one. It brings partners together, to stimulate interest and efforts, to identify and develop strategies for resolving fundamental constraints and exploiting new opportunities that cassava offers to alleviate poverty and hunger.

GCP21 partners include individuals, National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), CGIAR centers, Agricultural Research Institutes (ARI), Donors, Development Banks, United Nations, and the private sector. There is no formal membership structure; individuals and organizations who wish to collaborate under the GCP21 umbrella are considered *partners*. Strong relationships with other existing initiatives for cassava are a key operational principal.



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## 5. Management and Governance<sup>4</sup>

GCP21 will be:

- Led on a day to day basis by (1) the Director.
- Guided by (2) a Secretariat.
- Provided with scientific guidance by (3) an Advisory Group.
- Hosted by (4) the Agrobiodiversity Research Area of CIAT.
- Supported by (5) ad hoc committees, task forces or working groups.

### 5.1. The Director

#### Description:

The Director of GCP21 will be a prominent and motivated scientist, capable of leading the partnership in its mission. The Director will be recruited in an internationally competitive process, selected by the Secretariat, and hired under the CIAT terms and conditions for employment of Internationally Recruited Staff. The Director of GCP21 reports to the Director of the CIAT Agrobiodiversity Research Area for administrative matters.

#### Roles and responsibilities:

- Intellectual leadership of GCP21.
- Planning and programmatic leadership on a daily basis.
- Fundraising.
- Leadership to organize meetings, consultations, and working groups.
- Identification and development of partnering opportunities.
- Assuring optimum linkage and coordination with RTB.
- Public awareness leadership.
- Reporting of events and activities at the scientific and non-scientific levels.
- Fiscal management and financial reporting.

### 5.2. The Secretariat

#### Description:

The Secretariat will consist of the Director of GCP21, the CIAT and IITA representatives on the RTB Management Committee, and the RTB Director (or their designees), and will be chaired by the CIAT representative.

#### Roles and responsibilities:

- Appoint members of the Advisory Group.
- Assure optimum linkage and coordination with RTB.
- Develop and approve program and budget for GCP21; fiscal oversight.
- Coordinate and oversee execution of the GCP21 work plan.

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<sup>4</sup> Management and Governance Group as of 1 January 2014 listed in Annex III.



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- Assure partner engagement and communication.
- Communicate results and activities.
- Fundraise.
- Periodically review and update the Charter for GCP21, as needed.
- Convene virtually or face to face at least once every two months.

### 5.3. The Advisory Group

#### Description:

- GCP21 will be scientifically guided by an Advisory Group of 5-7 prominent cassava scientists or other persons with strong interest and science leadership capacity.
- The Advisory Group will be named by the Secretariat, and will include at least one member each from CIAT and IITA. At least three members will be from non-CGIAR institutions.
- The Advisory Group will program annual face-to-face meetings. When possible, these should be in parallel with other meetings where a majority of the members will be attending. Virtual meetings should be held as necessary to carry out the duties of the Group, but should not be less than twice a year.

#### Roles and responsibilities:

- Advice on long-term goals and planning for GCP21.
- Guidance on scientific value, relevance and synergy with RTB activities and initiatives.
- Advice on partnership opportunities.
- Advice on opportunities and priorities for convening of the scientific and donor communities.

### 5.4. The CIAT Agrobiodiversity Research Area

#### Description:

CIAT's Agrobiodiversity Research Area oversees the Center's work on genetic resources and crop improvement, including cassava.

#### Roles and responsibilities:

- Manage the employment contract of the Director, including annual evaluation, taking account of input from the Secretariat.
- Fiscal management.
- Fundraising.

### 5.5. Ad hoc Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups

#### Description:

Most GCP21 initiatives (e.g. international meetings or activities) will typically include ad hoc committees, task forces or working groups. These groups will be proposed by the GCP21 Director and approved by the Secretariat. They will be selected from across a range of partners, as appropriate to the event or activity.



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### Roles and responsibilities:

These groups will:

- Normally function under informal Terms of Reference, agreed to by consensus in planning meetings and approved by the Director of GCP21.
- Be responsible for planning, execution and follow up as agreed with the GCP21 Director.
- Report to the GCP21 Director.

## **6. Relationships and Interactions between GCP21 and RTB<sup>5</sup>**

- GCP21 activities generally will constitute a subset of RTB interests and will focus on cassava-related aspects within RTB product portfolio. As such, GCP21 will link up with some of the cassava activities of RTB.
- Most partners of GCP21 are a subset of partners of RTB. There should be a minimum focus on partnership building exclusively for GCP21 (outside of RTB), in order to avoid operational inefficiencies and conflicts of interest for partners.
- RTB will formally recognize GCP21 as a partnership platform for cassava in planning and reporting documents that are a result of joint efforts. Likewise GCP21 will formally recognize and acknowledge RTB in planning and reporting documents that are a result of joint efforts. The respective websites will recognize and promote the complementary nature of GCP21 and RTB.

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<sup>5</sup> For detailed future options for joint GCP21-RTB interaction see Annex II.



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## Annex I. Integration and complementarity of GCP21 and RTB

Criteria	RTB	GCP21
Partners	Primarily CGIAR centers (CIP, CIAT, IITA, Bioversity), CIRAD, IRD and other French partners, CGIAR, NARs, ARIs, Universities, NGOs, national public bodies, private corporations	Individuals, NARs, CGIAR, ARIs, Donors, development banks, UN, private corporations
Crop scope	Cassava, sweet potato, potato, yam, banana, minor R&Ts	Cassava
Geographic scope	Global	Global, strong Africa emphasis
Funding	Through Fund Council of CGIAR Consortium, as well as, W3 and bilateral funded projects	Specific to each initiative: bilateral funds, e.g. BMGF, USAID, World Bank; RTB funds
Host or lead organization	CIP	CIAT
Governance	Director, Management Committee, Steering Committee, Program Advisory Committee	Director, Secretariat, Advisory Group. The latter two are linked to RTB through CIAT and IITA representatives
Principal roles in research for development	For RTB crops: Convening and implementation; priority-setting, impact assessment, communications and facilitating partnership engagement and networking	For Cassava: Convening, communications and facilitating partnership engagement and networking
Principal research focus	Integrated research on production, processing and linkage to markets, with a strong effort to capitalize on synergies across crops and across research centers	Improving level and stability of productivity, especially through the application of modern tools to crop research





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## Annex II. Future Options for Joint GCP21-RTB Interaction

- Maintain a strong GCP21 website with links to cassava-specific information on the RTB website and vice versa.
- Create a special GCP21 branch in Africa and Asia when funds permit.
- Create portfolios of important topics and technological bottlenecks.
- Create a portfolio of Cassava Champions from different parts of the world.
- Create a portfolio of cassava experts and cassava projects.
- Create a small number of key working groups of experts.
- Organize triennial global scientific conferences.
- Provide information about cassava statistics and about the impact of climate change relative on cassava and its diseases.
- Provide a centralized source of information about the crop, at genetic, phenotypic and biological levels.
- Provide a centralized source of information for viruses, whiteflies and bacterial blight at genetic, phenotypic and biological levels.
- Establish a competitive granting system (mid to long term).
- Contribute to the establishment of a Cassava Academy.
- Establish a fellowship program for young cassava scientists.

## Annex III. Governance Structure of GCP21 as of 1 January 2014

Title	Name
Director, GCP21	Claude Fauquet ( <a href="mailto:c.fauquet@cgiar.org">c.fauquet@cgiar.org</a> )
Director, Agrobiodiversity Research Area, CIAT	Joe Tohme ( <a href="mailto:j.tohme@cgiar.org">j.tohme@cgiar.org</a> )
GCP21 Secretariat	GCP21: Claude Fauquet ( <a href="mailto:c.fauquet@cgiar.org">c.fauquet@cgiar.org</a> ) CIAT: Joe Tohme ( <a href="mailto:j.tohme@cgiar.org">j.tohme@cgiar.org</a> ) (chair) IITA: Robert Asiedu ( <a href="mailto:r.asiedu@cgiar.org">r.asiedu@cgiar.org</a> ) RTB : Graham Thiele ( <a href="mailto:g.thiele@cgiar.org">g.thiele@cgiar.org</a> )
Advisory Group (5-7 persons)	CIAT: NN IITA: NN Non-CGIAR organization: NN Non-CGIAR organization: NN Non-CGIAR organization: NN NN
Ad hoc Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups	NN