Capacity Building Needs of CORRA

Preliminary results of short survey of CORRA members’ country priorities in capacity building
The Survey

• Purposive – all CORRA member countries (including those not attending)
• Objective – get overview information of priority areas in capacity building and appetite for collaboration with IRRI Education
• Ten (10) Questions – mostly open-ended, qualitative
• Return Rate – 88%, 14 out of 16 member countries
Results (Preliminary)

• Estimated number of scientists working on rice range from 10 to 20,000;
• Estimated number of extension agents working on rice range from 39 to 100,000;
Preferred Venue of Training

Preferred Venue of Training (%, n=14)

- IRRI HQ: 29%
- In Country: 7%
- Depends on Type of Training: 43%
- NA: 21%
Interest in Leadership and Policy

• Interest on Leadership and Research Management Courses:
  • 71% expressed interest in collaborating with IRRI
  • 21% no answer

• Interest on Courses on Policy:
  • 57% consider Policy courses a Priority
  • 43% No Answer or not clear
Training Needs Assessment

• Available in-country?
  • 50% has no TNA done at the National level
  • 29% has country TNA available
  • 21% no answer

• Interested to Collaborate with IRRI on TNA?
  • 64% expressed interest to collaborate
  • 14% says TNA is not necessary
  • 21% has no answer
Priorities for Training

• Analysis is in progress.
• Discussions from this meeting will be taken into account.
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Transforming Lives through the Global Rice Sector

IRRI
Education at IRRI

Dr Peter Brothers
Head of IRRI Education

Presentation to the 2017 CORRA Meeting

20 September 2017
What is IRRI Education?

• The educational arm of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

• Provides educational offerings of value to all in the agricultural sector

• Based on
  • the knowledge and activities of IRRI’s researchers
  • experience training farmers around the world
Who pays?

• Old model ("IRRI donor funded"):  
  • IRRI’s donors provide full cost of training  
  • IRRI provides education at no charge to students

• Additional new model ("student funded"):  
  • IRRI provides full portfolio of offerings  
  • Students pay individual costs for a desired course  
    (funding from their government or their donor network)  
  • Organizations (government agencies, private sector firms) can also commission courses for their staff
What does IRRI Education offer?

**Short courses**

- 1-3 weeks long
- Has 3 parts: pre-reading, instruction + hands-on field or lab work

**Digital tools**

- Rice Knowledge Bank
- Rice Crop Manager, Rice Doctor
- Distance learning (“blended learning”) to come

**Scholars programme**

- PhD/ MS
- Enrolled at home institution, research at IRRI
- Also internships, on-the-job-training (OJT)
Course Types

• Three course types:
  - Science
  - Technology Transfer
  - Leadership

• Full prospectus, to address all needs
  - Over 50 courses scheduled for next year
  - Others to be offered on demand
• Training in research tools and techniques for early-career scientists.

• Research basics:
  • Experimental Design and Analysis
  • Research Data Management

• Specialty areas:
  • Plant Breeding
  • Crop Management
  • Social Sciences
• **Context:** real-world hands-on experiences

• **Participants include**
  - Extension service agents
  - Private-sector agri-business employees
  - Researchers and university students

• **Courses include**
  - Training-of-Trainers
  - Rice Production, Seed Production, Post-Harvest Management
  - Mechanization
  - Climate Change Responses
• “First-line leadership” in an agricultural context
  • Skills that enable people to work well in groups

• Top-level courses in policy development / implementation
  • Principles, up-to-date information, current trends, and experience sharing (case studies)
How, Where, When, What

• Self-study, classroom, workplace

• At Los Baños or in home countries
  • Creating a satellite location in Varanasi

• Scheduled courses and on-demand

• Regular offerings and customer-created

• We are flexible
Example: Scholars Programme

• IRRI hosts a large number of graduate and postgraduate students undertaking research in cooperation with IRRI scientists

• In partnership with academic institutions

• Scholars take IRRI courses as well as doing research

• 2016: Over 300 scholars at IRRI
Example: Training-of-Trainers

• Extension Services: Capacity Building and Teaching Material Generation
  • Week 1: Specific course
  • Week 2: Farmer-Centred Learning Basics ("Training-of-Trainers")
  • Week 3: Translate course to local conditions

• Based on IRRI farmer-training experiences in multiple locations and topics
Example: Policymaking Course

- **Senior Leaders / Policy Issues focus**
- **Experienced international speakers such as**
  - Ministers of Agriculture
  - WTO leaders
  - Agribusiness CEOs
- **Current technical opportunities briefing**
- **Sharing of participant issues in a “safe” environment**
- **Public / private sector interaction strategy discussions**
- **Creation of networks**
Summary

• IRRI Education has broad capacity-building offerings
  • Prospectus: Science, Technology Transfer, Leadership

• Courses available to individual students

• Also partnering with major entities (Departments of Agriculture, NARES, private sector companies) to assess needs and create focused training programmes

• In particular: emerging scientists, “train-the-trainer”, policy developers
Questions for CORRA Members

1) Are there capacity development needs common to CORRA members where an integrated approach might be of value?

2) Are there capacity development needs where an approach to donors driven by country needs, but with IRRI as a partner, might be of value?

3) Are there opportunities for IRRI to partner with member countries’ own capacity development activities (local or international) to jointly develop and deliver learning?

4) Specific to IRRI’s development in Varanasi: what educational elements might be set up there that would be of value to CORRA members?
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Thank you for your thoughts!
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