

## International Wheat Yield Partnership (IWYP) Private Sector Membership Agreement



### 1. Overview

This letter (the “Letter”) sets out a membership agreement which governs the rights and obligations of a private sector member (a “Member”) of the International Wheat Yield Partnership (“IWYP”) and the operations of the IWYP. It has been developed by the IWYP Executive Board whose logos are above.

By submitting the acceptance letter annexed to this Letter, you are confirming that you have reviewed and fully understand the following terms and conditions and wish to enter into a membership agreement in connection with the IWYP and be bound by the following terms and conditions as a Private Member of the IWYP.

### 2. Purposes of the IWYP

The IWYP is to be funded with up to \$100 million over the next 5 years by worldwide funders, which currently include commitments from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council of the United Kingdom (BBSRC), Grains Research and Development Corporation of Australia (GRDC), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Biotechnology of India (DBT), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, in Spanish, Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo (CIMMYT), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique of France (INRA), Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA) and Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico (SAGARPA). Significant cash and in-kind funds have been secured to initiate the program. This has enabled a First Call for Research Proposals, the establishment of a breeding platform for the Program at CIMMYT and the posting of the Program Director. Efforts to raise additional funding are continuing.

The IWYP was officially launched at the Norman Borlaug 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Obregon, Mexico on 28 March 2014. The Program director was on staff as of 1 November 2014 and the First Call for Research Proposals was made on 15 January 2015.

The IWYP will be a research program governed by a Science and Impact Executive Board (SIEB) with additional support from a research committee and small executive team that will be led by the senior and experienced Program Director. The program will be an independent wheat genetics research partnership comprising major wheat research organisations worldwide. Its objective is to work in cooperation with the G20 initiated ‘Wheat Initiative’ and its mission to “co-ordinate wheat research and contribute to food security across the globe”, by aiming to raise the genetic yield potential of wheat by 50% over the next 20 years. Under a separate hosting agreement, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) will provide certain services such as the provision of the contracting party who will be responsible to the Science and Impact Executive Board and Program Director for supervising the rights and obligations of a Member of IWYP and the operations of the IWYP.

Public-Private partnership is an important element of the IWYP and is intended to bring a strong focus on delivery and impact and to develop best practice for project and portfolio management of the IWYP. It is also intended to enable opportunities to share know-how and assets in order to develop a break-through in the grain yield of wheat and bring about the rapid and effective deployment of the IWYP outputs.

The IWYP regards the private sector as important partners in developing and delivering this ambitious goal and wishes to engage with companies within the private sector in a manner that is mutually beneficial, both advancing the aims of the IWYP and providing benefits for the companies which engage. These benefits include access to a unique network of wheat research organizations, early insights and access under license to tools and technologies developed within

the IWYP, early information on improved germplasm and the possibility to engage in the research program. There is also the potential to engage at an executive level to contribute to shaping the program.

### **3. Membership**

#### **3.1 Class**

The IWYP will provide two forms of membership to the private sector, a Standard Membership and an Executive Membership. All Members will be able to interact with, learn from and support the IWYP in deploying the outputs of the research program. Executive Members are those Members who will be expected to challenge, guide, assess and assist the research program.

#### **3.2 Qualification**

All companies where wheat is a crop of interest or focus are invited to become Members of the IWYP.

For a company to qualify for Executive Membership, wheat must be a strategic crop and it must have an existing track record of wheat genetics research and breeding capability. Executive Members must be able to provide the time and commitment of a senior R&D leader with appropriate seniority, research management experience and scientific credibility to engage with the IWYP.

#### **3.3 Benefits**

All Members are encouraged to develop opportunities for joint project applications from the IWYP with public sector partners through provision of know-how, cash and/or in-kind contributions thereby leveraging the resources of a large publicly funded program.

Membership will carry free registration to the annual IWYP meeting allowing direct access to a network of public and private contacts plus pre-publication insights into research outputs. A private sector engagement forum will allow all companies to provide input to the program via the Program Director. All members will also have early access to results and insights through a bespoke web portal and by invitation-only visits to the IWYP nurseries.

Executive Members will have a seat at the IWYP SIEB where they will be an equal scientific partner able to advise on the direction of the program and support the public sector competitive grants allocation process. Final decisions on program funding will rest with the funders.

All Members will have early insights into the potential of germplasm and intellectual property developed as part of the public IWYP program and first knowledge of its availability, bringing a time advantage of commercial value compared to private sector companies who are not IWYP members.

#### **3.4 Contribution**

It is the expectation that Members will help with the rapid and effective deployment of the IWYP outputs through their significant investments and capabilities in plant breeding, product development, market access and regulatory know-how.

It is expected that Executive Members will advise on best practice in project and portfolio management processes and business analysis of adoption, cost, regulatory requirements and timelines for delivery of the IWYP outputs.

All Members are encouraged to provide registered and commercially available germplasm for breeding research to complement that provided by the International and National Programs. Technology companies will be able to tender to supply services, on a contract basis, if they can be provided more cost-effectively than is possible in the public sector.

### **3.5 Support for vision**

All Members will be expected to communicate publicly their endorsement and support for the IWYP as a transformational research and development partnership to improve wheat yield potential and contribute to the longer-term need for global food security and alleviation of world hunger.

### **3.6 Dues and term**

The following introductory membership fee package shall be available to those private sector companies that submit an application to become a Member to the IWYP before 1 September 2015, and the Executive Board of the IWYP reserves the right to increase the membership fees after this period:

- a. Standard Membership fee of US \$5,000 per year
- b. Executive Membership fee of US \$10,000 per year

Membership fees will be used solely to maintain the IWYP program management office and to strengthen networking capabilities through a web portal and other communication aids. They will also support cross-sector IWYP training scholarships and links with existing projects that may be aligned with IWYP. The membership fee will include free registration to attend the IWYP annual meetings which will be important networking events and provide early insights on progress of IWYP research. Members will be required to cover their own expenses for attending meetings and events. Benefits of Standard Membership and Executive Membership will extend to affiliates in which that Member owns more than 50% equity.

### **3.7 Use of name**

The IWYP shall have the right to include the Member's name in any lists of Members published by the IWYP and to announce that the Member has joined the IWYP. The Member may publicly disclose that it is a Member of the IWYP. However, the Member may not identify any product or service as being sanctioned by, sponsored by or associated with the IWYP, unless in accordance with policies and procedures which may be established by the SIEB.

## **4. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**

The outputs of the IWYP supported programs will be International Public Goods made available through appropriate material transfer and licensing agreements to the public and private sectors for deployment. To enable this deployment, wheat material under development produced by the IWYP would be available for use as parental breeding material subject to an appropriate Material Transfer Agreement (MTA). Such materials will be available through the IWYP nurseries operated by CIMMYT or other partner organizations.

In the event that wheat varieties appropriate for commercialisation or other products protected by intellectual property are produced, they will be available non-exclusively on a fair and equitable basis through commercial licences to the private sector and on a non-commercial or humanitarian-use basis to the public sector.

Members' background IPR is respected and any foreground IPR will be covered by additional agreement(s) as part of the terms of any further bilateral or multilateral agreement within the IWYP.

## **5. Confidentiality**

Any confidentiality agreement entered into by Members and the IWYP via the chosen contracting party must contain a provision which clearly states that all information and data generated through the IWYP program as a result of accessing a Member's data or information will be made publicly available as an International Public Good.

## **6. Disclaimer & Warranty**

While the IWYP hopes to provide Members with accurate and up-to-date information, it, the chosen contracting party and the parties involved in creating, producing or delivering this Letter make no warranties or representations as to the accuracy of the information contained in this Letter and assumes no liability or responsibility for any error or omission of information. No one shall be entitled to claim that there is a duty to update or correct any such information.

## **7. Limitation of Liability**

To the fullest extent permissible under applicable law any party involved in creating, producing or delivering this Letter shall not be liable for (1) lost profits or any other incidental or consequential damages, regardless of the form of the action whether in contract, tort (including negligence), or otherwise; (2) punitive or special damages; or (3) damages proximately caused by failure or refusal to perform any obligation under this Letter or as required by law.

## **8. Governing Law**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and the parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

Please signify your acceptance of the terms of this Letter by completing and returning the attached acceptance letter to the address set out therein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'R. Flavell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard B. Flavell, FRS, PhD  
Chair, Science and Impact Executive Board  
International Wheat Yield Partnership