**Climate Change and Social Learning (CCSL):**

**Supporting local decision making for climate change, agriculture and food security**

**A meeting for CCAFS donors, partners and interested individuals**

**4 March 2013**

**International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED), London**

**(co-hosted by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS))**

CGIAR’s research program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS - http://ccafs.cgiar.org/) is joining with key partners to catalyse new thinking and action around participatory ‘social’ research and learning approaches to enhance food security in the context of climate change

Our **Climate Change and Social Learning (CCSL) initiative**, launched in early 2012, is examining how such learning can improve development outcomes from our research programs. Social learning is a way to ensure community involvement throughout a research program, but especially during its design — something that is crucial for producing demand-oriented, cost-effective research.

CCSL goes beyond the usual use of participatory methods to increase stakeholder engagement. It explicitly adopts social learning approaches with the intention of changing the way we do research and improving how that research affects community decision making — ultimately increasing research uptake and improving development outcomes. The Initiative is bringing together different knowledge and perspectives in a rich cycle of shared learning and co-construction – involving not only scientists and communities, but also policy-makers, donors, private sector actors and other stakeholders.

**Join the discussion**

Please join CCAFS and partners for a focused conversation on how social learning and related approaches can improve development outcomes from of climate change, food security and agricultural research. Successfully integrating social learning into research will require further rigorous testing of different approaches, as well as new partnerships that catalyse change. We hope the discussion will help forge these innovative partnerships and collaborations, leading to more-connected research, linking knowledge with action.

The meeting, hosted by IIED and IDS, will be chaired by Camilla Toulmin, Director of IIED. The discussion will cover:

* a brief explanation of social learning approaches and positive impacts within the context of climate change and food security;
* ways to more widely incorporate these approaches into research and development;
* how these approaches can help us scale up, accelerate impact and improve delivery of outcomes, and
* opportunities to develop new programs, consortia or innovative funding partnerships and alliances to further these aims. The intention is to explore how the CCSL initiative may leverage financial support for its non-CGIAR partners rather than looking to support CGIAR directly.

**This is an opportunity to join, influence and learn from an important area of work for the new outcome-oriented CGIAR and its partners. We promise lively interactive discussions and the meeting will be particularly relevant for those funding and innovating climate change and agricultural research that engages with, and learns from, rural communities.**