



Achieving win-win partnerships between Member Countries and CABI

Dr Qiaoqiao Zhang, Director, Memberships

Session 3: Working Together – Achieving more through Partnership

CABI's Regional Consultation Meeting of Asia-Pacific Member Countries, 18-20 February 2025, Malaysia

CABI membership

working together to solve
agricultural and environmental
problems worldwide



www.cabi.org
KNOWLEDGE FOR LIFE

What do Member Countries mean to CABI?

- Owners
- Key stakeholders
- Partners
- Customers/users
- Family members
- Funders

*“Promoting CABI’s membership as a unique **two-way strategic partnership** for the mutual benefit of Member Countries and CABI”*



Collaboration on projects and programme development

(around 100 projects each year)



Agreeing and delivering joint action plans to meet Member needs

(up to 37 in total)



Contribution of Member fees to support CABI's mission

(overall payments improved steadily)



Hosting and working with CABI Centres and project offices

(significant support received from host Member Countries)



Participation in governance and strategy setting

(Regional Consultations and Review Conference)

Major support as donors

(continued and generous funding provided)

Member-member collaborations involving CABI

(there is an increased number of success stories)

Receipt of tailored Member Country benefits

(Such as training and knowledge products)

Hosting delegations, visits and meetings; sharing insights and contacts

(much more active since the pandemic)

Publishing in CABI journals and contributing to CABI knowledge tools

(increased contributions received)

Who are our Member Countries

Africa (17)	Asia-Pacific (14)	Americas (14)	Europe (3)
Botswana	Afghanistan	Anguilla*	Switzerland
Burundi	Australia	Bahamas	Netherlands**
Cote d'Ivoire	Bangladesh	Barbados	United Kingdom
Ethiopia	China	Bermuda*	
Gambia	India	British Virgin Islands*	
Ghana	DPR Korea	Guyana	
Kenya	Malaysia	Canada	
Malawi	Myanmar	Chile	
Mauritius	Papua New Guinea	Colombia	
Nigeria	Pakistan	Grenada	
South Africa	Philippines	Jamaica	
Sierra Leone	Solomon Islands	Montserrat*	
Rwanda	Sri Lanka	St Helena*	
Tanzania	Vietnam	Trinidad & Tobago	
Uganda			
Zambia			
Zimbabwe		*UK overseas territories	** Associate member country



Member country (MC) relationships

Key contacts

- Liaison Officer (LO) based in the National Implementing Agency (NIA) – key in country contact co-ordinating joint work towards Member Country priorities
- Executive Council member (ExCo member), usually based in diplomatic mission in London – votes on behalf of MC on CABI governance matters

→ Regular interactions between LO and ExCo member very important

Key stakeholders

- NIA & relevant national/subnational government ministries/agencies – widening range
- Academic/research/teaching/training institutions, civil society, private sector
- Smallholder farmers and rural communities
- Customers/consumers/users of knowledge resources and products, and microbial services



Action plans – aiming to address MC priorities

Developed with 37 countries since 2021

- Overview of the partnerships
- Priorities of the Member Country
- Focus – strategic areas for working together
- Tailored delivery of Membership benefits
- Joint actions (including timeline)



Need to be:

- SMART
- Up-to-date
- Jointly owned
- Broadly inclusive of MC stakeholders
- Appropriately resourced, and timely implemented





Challenges

Diversity of membership – range of demands

Varying levels of engagement – benefits not always taken up

Frequent changes of Liaison Officers and Executive Council members

Difficulties in delivering projects to Member Countries that are not priority countries for donors

Funding from traditional donors is shrinking /changing in focus



Opportunities

Member ownership of CABI promotes responsive approach and opportunities to work closely with national institutions

Pooled influence in areas like pesticide risk reduction and forums like G20-MACS – Members cover around 60% of the world's population

Platform for equitable interactions and knowledge exchange between Global North and Global South countries, for more triangular collaboration/south-south co-operation, with CABI acting as a bridge – e.g. successful technology transfers

Joint development of programmes and projects to address MC priorities and joint efforts to gain funding support for these





Triangular collaboration/south-south co-operations

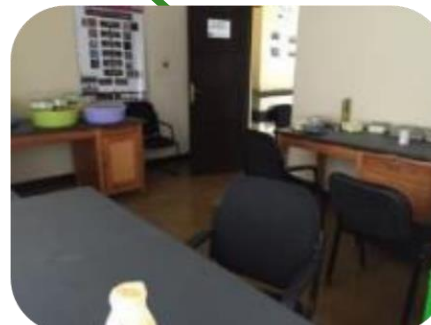
A success story: a collaboration among CABI, China, Rwanda, Switzerland, and the UK to build local capacity in Rwanda for the mass production and use of beneficial nematodes

- Funded by the **UK's FCDO**, this project transferred technologies from **China**, with CABI leading project management and capacity building between 2014 and 2016
- Thanks to **Rwandan governmental funds**, the project has lived on at a facility in Rwanda, producing biological control agents to kill crop pests including the devastating fall armyworm



Today, Rwanda is celebrating 10+ years of biocontrol success with the facility producing over 100 billion insect-killing nematodes per batch, enough to treat more than 100 hectares of field crops or seed beds that can later be transplanted to over 800 hectares

This milestone has positioned Rwanda as a leader in biological pest control in Africa





Feedback sought from Liaison Officers and NIAs

Between Sept. and Nov. 2024, CABI sought feedback from Liaison Officers in the Asia-Pacific region received substantial and useful feedback, which will guide the revisions of our Member Country Engagement strategy

The questions for the feedback focused on the **Interaction with CABI (with example questions below)**

- Which area of CABI work is most valued?
- What is the preferred route of engagement?
- What should CABI do to understand the needs of Member Countries better?
- How can CABI involve other departments and agencies with the support of Liaison Officers/NIAs?
- What can CABI learn from other membership/intergovernmental organizations on how to engage with and bring benefits to its Member Countries?
- Would you suggest any changes to CABI's governance arrangements?



Working together: Achieving more through Partnership ***Break-out discussion session (1)***

Designed to build on the feedback received, dive deep into some aspects, and add new questions

Objectives:

- a. Optimise our ways of working together to ensure MC priorities are addressed
- b. Ensure that a broad range of MC stakeholders experience the benefits of CABI membership
- c. Explore new models for MC-CABI collaborations and joint mobilisation of supporting resources
- d. Agree ways to increase triangular collaborations between MCs involving CABI



Working together: Achieving more through Partnership *Break-out discussion session (2)*

Themes and questions:

- Engaging a broad range of stakeholders for action at the country level (a and b above)
 - Government
 - National planning processes
 - Private sector and national institutions
 - Action Plans
- Joint Project Development and Project Resourcing Strategies (c and d above)
 - Project development
 - Funding opportunities
 - Role of Liaison Officers
 - Triangular co-operation

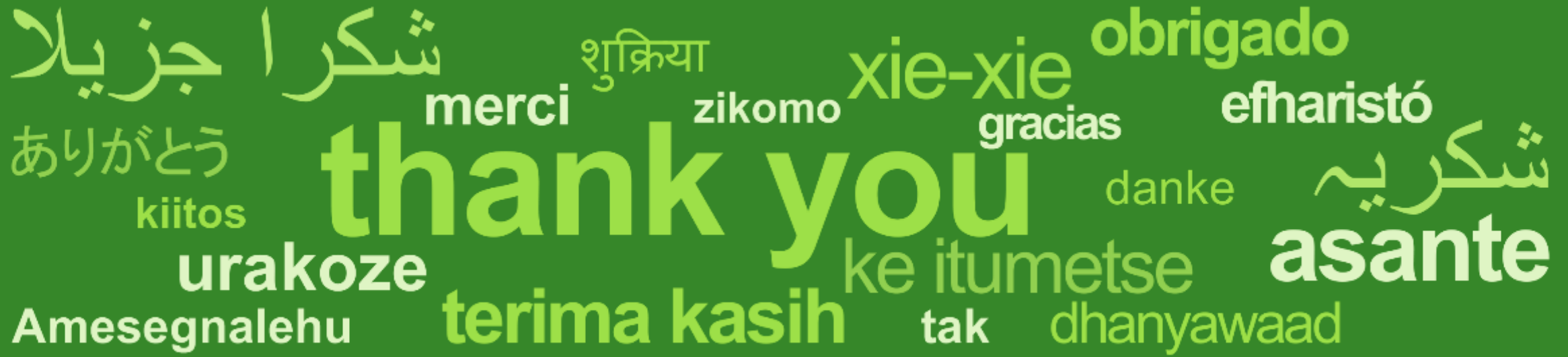


Discussion among mixed types of delegates at each table (assigned different priority questions)

Two CABI colleagues to act as a facilitator and scribe, respectively for each table

A Liaison Officer or partner to be nominated to report back on key outcomes from each table (2 mins)

Plenary recap and discussion



CABI as an international intergovernmental not-for-profit organization, gratefully acknowledges the generous support received from our many donors, sponsors and partners. In particular we thank our Member Countries for their vital financial and strategic contributions.