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Technical Report to EC

Global Forum on Agricultural Research

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GFAR takes the opportunity of sending this technical report on 2014 activities to thank the EC for their continuous support to the Global Forum's actions. Over the past 10 months, this contribution has been essential in GFAR delivering on the six outcomes of its Medium Term Plan.

The Global Forum directly addresses issues involved in putting research to use – the many and complex links between the generation, access and use of agricultural knowledge and innovation. This addresses key themes for the EC DG DEVCO – agriculture as an engine of economic growth, measures towards sustainable intensification, reducing malnutrition and child stunting and enhancing system resilience to climate change and shocks. As a unique and inclusive network of all relevant sectors, GFAR now brings together and mobilizes actions in agricultural research, extension, education and enterprise, and along value chains from farmer to consumer. GFAR's role in coherently bringing together diverse public, private and civil perspectives to shape the future of agriculture is increasingly recognized in international policy processes and commitments of the G8, G20 and a range of UN agencies.

Towards the end of 2013, the funding situation for GFAR was less robust, due to the knock-on effect of investment problems in a centre of the CGIAR (both GFAR and CGIAR funds from the EU at the time came through the same mechanism, so both were affected). The first tranche of the EU funding received under the new Agreement was, therefore, instrumental in assuring programmatic integrity and management for actions undertaken beginning in January 2014.

The GFAR Steering Committee continues to grow in strength and common purpose and through its governance reform and has agreed to practical, time-bound steps for improving the transparency, accountability and efficiency of the governance of the Global Forum, and in turn, that of the Regional Fora and other stakeholder groups represented in GFAR Steering Committee. The Steering Committee has agreed a Plan of action for 2014-5, involving co-funding support via GFAR to help catalyse the actions of specific networks and fora, in delivering outcomes and sharing knowledge towards the objectives in the MTP. The next tranche of support requested from the EU will be largely committed towards these objectives, through commissioning of the organizations concerned, through a new outcome-based contractual approach with associated Monitoring and Evaluation system, and through commitments leveraged from other sources at least matching those received from the EU. Greatly enhanced Communication and Visibility actions include recruitment of a team of specialized communications consultants, updating of the GFAR website and development of Communication Strategy and establishment of partnership with the Foodtank group that means that GFAR messages are now directly reaching over 110,000 subscribers to the Foodtank site.

With EU funding, GFAR has been able to catalyse dialogues that have resulted in significant outcomes for the stakeholders and diverse constituencies of the Global Forum. One of these has been the Forward Thinking Platform (FTP) initiated by GFAR to empower farmers and national stakeholders to better negotiate their own future. The Platform is now fully operational, with 50 members worldwide. This year the Platform, at the request of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, delivered a study: "Prospects - Agriculture and rural development in the post-2015 development framework". To reduce the frequent confusion of terms in futures studies, FTP

members are now collectively producing a common corpus of definitions for studies on food, agriculture and rural development. GFAR is also building capacities enabling countries to explore their own future agricultural systems. For example, the scenario-building training course for African participants at the Africa Agriculture Science Week on “The futures of sustainable rural areas in Africa” led to a report, co-authored with FARA and incorporation of the concept of foresight-based challenges for AR4D in FARA’s Medium Term Operational Plan.

GFAR brings together all those working to strengthen and transform agricultural research for development around the world. Creating and catalysing multi-stakeholder programmes to address themes of worldwide importance is a key part of the Global Forum’s work. These processes address agendas of global significance, mobilizing innovative approaches that directly link science and society in new thinking and strategic actions.

In one such action, GFAR joined forces with the CGIAR (CCAFS), FAO, the World Bank, ICRAF, FARA, CIAT and other members and supporters of the Global Forum to bring together the right knowledge, finances and policies to address climate change issues in agriculture. Funding from donors, such as the EU, allows GFAR the ability to support a range of civil society, farmer and youth participants in national, sub-regional, regional and even international dialogues. These are voices and perspectives that aren’t often heard. This was particularly important in the launch of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture in New York in September as many NGOs had previously expressed strong misgivings that the process could be dominated by specific government interests.

Similarly, GFAR is now a strategic partner with EAT (the Stockholm Food Forum) addressing the links between nutrition, health and agricultural sustainability, an arena where science, politics and business are able to share insight and ideas towards the common goal of sustainably feeding a healthy world population. The Global Forum is now exploring these areas further with key partners in agriculture and health, fostering new measures of nutritious consumption as a driver of agricultural production.

Capacity development is a key element of GFAR’s work. This includes reshaping international institutions to better meet development needs. GFAR’s responses on the draft CGIAR Strategic Results Framework resulted in the GFAR Secretariat being formally invited to attend a Working Group of the CGIAR Fund Council and Consortium to revise the draft in light of these and other comments received on the draft. GFAR also surveyed a wide range of participants to gain their perspectives on capacity development in the CGIAR, which has itself helped shape CGIAR policy and the new strategic results framework, as have GFAR inputs on the crosscutting issues of gender and climate change. Similarly, GFAR has been instrumental in highlighting ways in which innovation can play a key role in supporting family farming and co-organized a major international meeting on this subject in Montpellier. GFAR is also directly involved in and a co-sponsor, through use of EC funds, of the Global Forum on Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS). GFRAS works to specifically strengthen rural advisory services and now represents the sector in the support framework of GFAR. In addition, GFAR continues to support the active engagement of young people in the sector through the Young Professions in Agricultural Development (YPARD) network. YPARD now has 8,300 members around the world and is providing the voice of youth to many international agricultural events. GFRAS and YPARD are now directly represented as constituencies in GFAR.

GFAR has done much to embed research and innovation in wider societal development. Facilitating the recognition and understanding by farmers of their rights under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Guatemala has been particularly effective. As well as practical measures such as community seed banks being taken up into local systems, this work has resulted in a draft Policy of Seeds, now at the country’s Cabinet Council for approval. At the World Farmers’ Organization

Assembly in Buenos Aires, GFAR supported a workshop on “Farmers intellectual capital: innovation in practice”, co-organized with UPOV and the WFO, and involving around 50 international representatives of different Farmer Confederations and International Organizations. GFAR has developed capacity building material for local and indigenous agriculture communities as part of the Collaborative Programme of Participatory Plant Breeding in Mesoamerica. The success of this material has led to more capacity-building materials being developed for smallholder farmers in other countries of Latin America and requests now being received from Asia, Africa and Near East for similar support.

Another achievement has been a contribution (through the GFAR-sponsored Gender in Agriculture Partnership), supporting the integration of a gender and youth focus in the CGIAR Research Program on Drylands’ Systems. The GAP website, launched at the end of 2013, is now actively bringing together the work of over 200 institutions from all sectors, working together to enable the economic empowerment of women in agriculture and to provide the agriculture portal for UN Women’s own website.

On another front, the work of GFAR in rebuilding resilience in areas of protracted crises has resulted in GFAR being asked by the Government of Palestine to help bring together actions through ICARDA, AARINENA, FAO, and expertise from outside the region, to rebuild and reshape the Palestine National Agricultural Research System. At policy level, GFAR is building on this momentum with FAO to contribute to the CFS Agenda for Action for addressing food insecurity in protracted crises.

Responding to the chronic underinvestment in National Agricultural Innovation Systems, GFAR has this year developed an innovative concept for radically increasing the funding available for new forms of agricultural innovation systems: the Integrated Investment Facility for Agricultural Innovation and Growth. The Facility concept has been formally approved by the senior management of IFAD and has been welcomed by the G20 Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS). In addition, the concept has been well received at the G8 Food Security Working Group during its Moscow meeting, and recommended for a follow through with the intended B8 meeting (unfortunately, this did not take place due to current political events). The concept has also recently been strongly supported by the heads of 22 National Agricultural Research Systems in the Near East and North Africa.

TECHNICAL REPORT

Funding through the new programme of support from the EU commenced in January 2014. This report highlights the activities and achievements of the Global Forum through this grant, addressing the six outcomes in the GFAR Medium Term Plan through international advocacy, catalyzing innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships and programmes, sharing knowledge and engaging science with society in exploring future needs.

As funding reserves were depleted through the knock-on from the financial problems at IITA in 2013, much of the first tranche has been used for assuring the year's funding of existing staff and GFAR technical inputs, as well as for supporting a range of highly relevant dialogues and actions, which are highlighted below.

Accountability for Actions

The GFAR Steering Committee meeting in Montpellier: agreement on dynamic new ways forward (Outcome 6.2)

At the kind invitation of the CGIAR Consortium Chief Executive Officer, Dr Frank Rijsberman, the Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) met at Agropolis International, Montpellier, France, 7-9 April 2014. The meeting was highly successful and the GFAR Steering Committee agreed a Plan of Action for 2014-5, involving funding support via GFAR to help catalyze the actions of specific networks and fora, for delivery of outcomes towards the objectives in the Medium Term Plan (MTP). The next tranche of support requested will be largely committed towards these objectives, through commissioning of the organizations concerned, through a new outcome-based approach with associated Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system.

Key Outcomes of the GFAR Steering Committee:

1. GFAR and CGIAR renewed their commitment to working in close partnership across programmes and to ensuring a shared vision and implementation for a successful GCARD3 process. To this end, the GFAR Steering Committee and CGIAR Consortium, in consultation with their constituencies, will prepare and submit a revised GCARD3 concept note for consideration by the CGIAR Fund Council meeting in May.
2. The Committee agreed to practical, time-bound steps for improving the transparency, accountability and efficiency of the governance of the Global Forum, and in turn, that of the regional fora and other stakeholder groups represented in GFAR Steering Committee.
3. The Committee fully endorsed the establishment, through GFAR, of an Integrated Agricultural Innovation Investment Facility to promote and increase investment and capacities in national agricultural research and innovation systems. The Facility will integrate national demands and innovation platforms, IFAD and funding partners, and international supporting mechanisms.
4. Members reported on the actions they had taken to implement the GFAR Medium Term Plan and their plans for future work in their particular areas of responsibility.

5. The Committee determined financial and technical support to catalyze partners' actions and agreed to new working principles for implementing the GFAR Medium Term Plan (2014-2017).
6. The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference for the upcoming External Evaluation of GFAR and agreed to build on previous external evaluations of GFAR Governance and GCARD2. The External Evaluation will take place after the Constituent Assembly tentatively scheduled in November 2014, and be completed before mid-2015.
7. The Committee adopted a gender strategy based on that of FAO.
8. The Committee noted progress in developing a robust and layered Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the Forum and agreed that it must be fully implemented by the end of 2014. Members agreed to fully document and share progress in their work, including through contributions to the GFAR website and communications.

GFAR Vice-Chair, Hon. Prof. Ruth Oniang'o, who Chaired the meeting, welcomed the strong unity of purpose shown and positive outcomes of the meeting *"GFAR is renewed and re-energized; we have shown that together we can realize our joint purpose and meet the expectations of those we work to serve. It has been a great meeting and I thank us all for the enthusiasm and renewal of purpose"*.

The GFAR Steering Committee agreed a range of actions, proposed by each constituency, each addressing different parts of the GFAR Medium Term Plan, according to local or sectoral priorities and needs.

Following the meeting, a new format of funding agreement was developed and taken forward with all partners co-sponsored through GFAR. This sets out a new basis for partnership, with co-financing/in kind commitments required of all partners, together with a clear logic model for the work and specific measures by which to track the outputs and immediate outcomes of the work in delivering towards the collectively-agreed GFARMTPObjectives. This goes beyond the expectations of the standard FAO Letter of Agreement and builds wider action to determine and measure the impacts of activities supported through the Global Forum, as seen in changed behaviours, attitudes and practices. The SC also agreed a new set of funding principles for the type of actions to be supported. While some constituencies have found this easier to implement than others, this is an important further step in being able to not just catalyze a range of relevant actions, but also demonstrate their impact, in line with the GFAR Theory of Change.

Funding agreements have now been established with:

- AARINENA
- Agridea/GFRAS
- APAARI
- CACAARI
- EAT Forum/Stockholm Food Forum
- EFARD
- ETC/Prolinnova
- The [Foundation for South-North Mediterranean Dialogue](#)

Further agreements are under development with FARA and FORAGRO.

Other actions (Outcome 6.3)

GFAR Secretariat provided support to The [Asian Farmers' Association \(AFA\)](#) 6th General Assembly in Bali, Indonesia, 5-7 May 2014. AFA represents farmers in the Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and is participating in preparations for the GFAR Constituent Assembly later this year as a major voice for family and smallholder farmers. Special sessions were closely aligned with the themes of the [GCARD Roadmap](#) and ongoing [GFAR Medium-Term Plan](#)

AFA members called for continued engagement with other Partners in the Global Forum, to deliver change towards greater agricultural innovation in Asia, home to over 60% of farmers and the majority of the world's population.

In addition, extensive support has been provided to directly enable farmer and civil society participation in major international processes, as outlined in this report.

Foresight for Better Futures

An important agenda for the Global Forum on Agricultural Research is to bring the perspectives of rural communities into agricultural foresight and priority setting and to explore how agricultural innovation of all forms can better address the root causes of rural poverty and its consequent effects in urban poverty and crises. The Medium Term Plan of Action of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research entails a specific outcome: "Farmers and national stakeholders empowered and informed to better negotiate their own agricultural futures". This has 3 elements, operating through the GFAR-facilitated Global Foresight Hub:

Operational forward thinking platform addressing key challenges for the future and related research and development opportunities (Output 1.1)

The Forward Thinking Platform (FTP) addressing key challenges for the future and related research priorities is now fully operational with 50 members worldwide from national and international research organizations, universities, and CSOs. The FTP is working on key challenges for the future and related research and development priorities.

The FTP was commissioned by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) to produce a study "Prospects_ Agriculture and rural development in the post-2015 development framework" which is now released by GDPRD.

The 3rd Foresight Exchange Workshop (FEW3) took place in Montpellier from June 3 to 5, 2014. It gave the members of the [Forward Thinking Platform](#), facilitated by GFAR, a chance to meet personally, exchange and work on collective products. The [Forward Thinking Platform](#) discussed:

1. With farmer organizations, how the Platform can facilitate the [farmer-led, farmer-managed grassroots foresight initiatives](#) which emerged from the 2nd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD2).
2. FTP members collective engagement in the production of a common corpus of definition in futures studies on food, agriculture and rural development as requested by participants at GCARD2.

The GFAR Secretariat is working with the CGIAR Consortium Office on a consultation of CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) to update the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) with a stronger foresight component. Links with foresight in the CGIARCRPs are also growing rapidly:

1. Agreement between Climate Change and Food Security Programme (CCAFS) and GFAR on joint foresight actions in 2014.
2. Agreements to train CIFOR trainers in Participatory Prospective Analysis.
3. Agreements to help the Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS) CRP to engage in foresight with FARA in Africa, with a capacity building component.

Foresight capacities developed (Output 1.2)

GFAR Secretariat and Kenyan members of the FTP organized a scenario-building training course for African participants at the Africa Agriculture Science Week on “The futures of sustainable rural areas in Africa” and co-authored a report with FARA, who funded this initiative. FARA has incorporated the concept of foresight-based challenges for AR4D in its Medium Term Operational Plan and is working to develop endogenous African foresight capacities.

Key future agriculture questions addressed (Output 1.3)

The GFAR Secretariat has provided invited expert contributions to:

1. **The EC/JRC Global Food Security Foresight study** for shaping the 2020-2030 EU development policy framework.
2. **The EC/ DG-SANCO foresight** on ‘Delivering on EU food safety and nutrition in 2050 - Scenarios of future change and policy responses’.
3. **Internal strategic seminar of IIED** on future priorities: presentation of a paper on food security and sustainable intensification.
4. **World Agriculture Watch** consultation and agreement to link it to GFAR for enabling diffusion of results and strategic conversation on the futures of agriculture.
5. **Governmental Foresight Organization Network** strategic priorities and action plan. Includes linking the FTP to GFN on the elaboration of a corpus on common definitions, to facilitate exchange with policy makers and a forthcoming event on the future of food and agriculture
6. **FAO Forestry Foresight working group** - linking high level forestry directors from Brazil, India, Nicaragua, Kenya and Peru. Expected outcome is engagement of Ministries in forestry foresight.
7. **International Seminar of the European Foresight Academy**. Paper selected for publication, and cross-links established with FTP.
8. **Chatham House discussions of Food Futures: Towards Sustainable Production and Consumption**. Presentation of future challenges and participation to the discussions.

The Agrifuture Days 2014 Conference (Output 1.3)

This [conference](#) held at Villach, Austria 16-18 June 2014 and organized by the Club of Ossiach directly with GFAR Secretariat, discussed how ICTs can contribute to improve family farming to make it more sustainable, resilient and profitable. A system-based thinking and system-mapping approach was tested at the meeting to enhance coherence in ICT-based approaches for improving family farming

and change the relationship between ICT providers and ICT users to a co-construction process with a strong endogenous dimension.

Dialogues on the Future for South & North Mediterranean rural communities (Outputs 1.3 and 6.2)



Included in the Foresight outcome of the MTP, GFAR has been working with the multi-partner [Foundation for South-North Mediterranean Dialogue](#), a broad-based civil society movement, addressing a range of challenges common to the Mediterranean region to bring greater understanding and create a shared vision of the future between the Southern European and North African regions. GFAR support enables a range of civil society, farmer and youth participants from neighboring countries to take part in a series of sub-regional face-to face dialogues, the first of which took place very successfully in Volos, Greece on 15 June, 2014. These sub-regional dialogues will lead towards a Mediterranean Regional Congress, in Italy in 2015, at the [Milan Expo and linked with the Italian Government](#).

Demand-Driven Partnerships for Impact

Partnership has become a key mantra of the changes underway in agricultural research for development systems. Creating and catalyzing multi-stakeholder actions to address themes of worldwide importance is a key part of the Global Forum's work. These processes address agendas of global significance, mobilizing innovative approaches that directly link science and society in new thinking and strategic actions.

Strengthening international research actions on climate change and agriculture (Outputs 2.4 and 6.3)

GFAR has joined forces with the CGIAR (CCAFS), FAO, the World Bank, ICRAF, FARACIAT and other members and supporters of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research to bring together the right knowledge, finances and policies to address climate change issues in agriculture (climate smart agriculture – CSA). This CSA Alliance involves governments, businesses, civil society groups, producer groups and research organizations.

With support from GFAR and other agencies (FAO, CCAFS, World Bank etc) Governments of Viet Nam, South Africa and The Netherlands co-organized from June 18 to 20, 2014 an Asian Consultative meeting, in preparation of the Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (ACSA). The consultation, in Hanoi, involved over 140 representatives from governments, international and regional Institutions and bilateral donors, as well as national and regional research organizations. Farmers Organizations and Civil Society Organizations were represented by a substantive number of women, mobilized by GFAR and the Asian Development Bank. The Co-Chairs Summary and Proceedings of the meeting are accessible [here](#).

The Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture was launched during the UN Climate Summit in New York in September, under the patronage of the World Bank President and UN Secretary General. In a meeting Chaired by the Prime Minister of the Netherlands and the President of Benin, GFAR

Chair Juan Lucas Restrepo spoke on behalf of the world's agricultural research community, including the CGIAR and the Global Research Alliance on Greenhouse Gases.

GFAR directly enabled and sponsored the attendance of farmer and NGO representatives to the launch of the Global Alliance, who gave the perspectives of farmers and NGOs to this intergovernmental process. This was particularly important as many NGOs had previously expressed strong misgivings that the process could be dominated by specific government interests. The GFAR Chair, Executive Secretary and Farmer and NGO representatives also advocated for collective, development-centred action in the subsequent inaugural meetings of the Alliance and in the CGIAR Development Dialogues and in meetings linking climate change, agriculture, nutrition and health.

Collective advocacy and concerted partnership actions addressing global nutrition (Outputs 2.2 and 6.3)

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) is a Strategic Partner and co-sponsor of the EAT Forum. EAT – the Stockholm Food Forum is an arena where science, politics and business are able to share insight and ideas around nutrition, health and agricultural sustainability, towards our common goal of sustainably feeding a healthy world population. The EAT Forum brought together a wide range of world leaders and experts from the worlds of food, climate and health, and discussed challenges and opportunities linking food, health and sustainability exploring crossovers of these themes and of the science, business and politics concerned. EAT aims to spearhead a holistic approach to today's food related challenges. Through this co-sponsorship, GFAR directly supported the participation of civil society organizations and participants from developing countries in the discussions.

The programme emphasized the inter-connection of food, health and ecosystems in this 'anthropocene' age and the enormous and urgent challenges faced by humanity in reshaping food systems over the next 5-10 years, to meet future needs in truly sustainable ways. Key speakers, including HRH The Prince of Wales, and former US President Bill Clinton, spelt out very clearly the enormous health burden being created globally not just by malnutrition among the poor, but also by poor diet in the wealthier and emerging economies and the need for urgent change in global consumption patterns.

Many called for more integrated metrics that counted the true cost of poor nutrition and unsustainable agricultural practices. Effective metrics must incorporate future scenarios for health. The Global Forum is now exploring these areas further with key partners in agriculture and health.

The basis is laid for an active multidisciplinary movement working across these areas, in which GFAR and its multi-stakeholder constituencies are well placed to play very valuable roles, particularly in broadening the scope of discussion to other regions of the world and bringing more direct involvement from experts, communities and policy makers from developing countries.

Farmers Rights: National policy of seeds recognizing farmers' rights: Guatemala, an example to be followed (Output 2.3)

Guatemala, a rich country in cultural diversity and center of domestication of important crops for food security, such as maize, has advanced the development of legal and policy frameworks relevant for the implementation of Farmers' Rights. In 2013, a committee, led by the Ministry of Agriculture

and including representatives of the formal and informal agricultural sector, started discussing the rights of farmers to achieve food security and livelihood security. GFAR Secretariat reviewed the first draft of a new government policy of seeds for Guatemala and realized the absence of the recognition of rights of small-holder farmers derived from their contributions to the conservation, improving and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The GFAR Secretariat provided comments and suggestions to the Drafting Committee, based on work with farmer organizations in Guatemala. Subsequently the final draft of the Policy of Seeds included the following elements, within its action strategies, relevant to the implementation of Farmers' Rights:

1. Conservation of plant genetic resources
2. Research and technological development
3. Seed production
4. Commercialization of seeds
5. Upgrading the legal framework related to seeds

The draft Policy of Seeds has now been presented by the Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala to the cabinet council for its approval.

Transformative investments

Integrated Investment Facility (Output 3.3)

Responding to the chronic underinvestment in national agricultural innovation systems, GFAR has this year developed an innovative concept for radically increasing the funding available for new forms of agricultural innovation systems: the Integrated Investment Facility for Agricultural Innovation and Growth.

This concept (attached) was developed through the GFAR Secretariat and presented to IFAD, GAFSP and FAO in early 2014. It was warmly welcomed by IFAD and GAFSP as addressing key agendas now largely absent in their existing funding portfolios to client countries - the role of agricultural research, extension, education and enterprise in development.

- The Facility concept has now been formally approved by the senior management of IFAD.
- It has been welcomed by the G20 Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS)
- Strongly supported also by the heads of 22 national agricultural research systems in the Near East and North Africa.

Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA) (Output 3.2)

[GFIA](#) held its first of a series of meetings around new innovations in agriculture and the role they play in meeting agriculture needs in Abu Dhabi, 3-5 February 2014. GFIA is a major international exhibition, trade fair and conference, focused on how technology is employed to produce more food, sustainably, whilst using fewer resources. In the concluding sessions, GFAR Executive Secretary Mark Holderness moderated plenary discussion of the role of non-governmental organizations in channeling investment and driving the uptake of innovations.

GFAR has now been invited to become a founding partner in the GFIA process. The link will be extended in 2014 to create future links i) using the GFIA event to reach large numbers of private sector and innovation participants as a contribution to the dialogue processes of GCARD3 and ii) to

secure further investment in the proposed IFAD-GFAR-FAO international Facility for agricultural innovation and its capacity development processes.

Global and regional advocacy (Outputs 3.2 and 6.3)

Dr Holderness represented GFAR at the **G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS)** in Brisbane, Australia. The events brought together science and business leaders from G20 participant nations (including the DG for Agriculture and Rural Development for the EC), to examine global links between agricultural productivity, food security, sustainability and economic growth. The Chief Scientists of the G20 Nations explicitly recognized GFAR's role and actions in a number of ways and the final MACS communiqué.

1. It reinforced the need for increased collaboration between countries and the critical work of international organisations in collaborative international research, including FAO, CGIAR, GFAR and OECD, and initiatives including the GEOGLAM, Global Foresight Hub, Open Data Partnership, Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) and the Wheat Initiative.
2. The meeting welcomed the proposed integrated international investment facility for agricultural innovation and growth, as put forward by IFAD, GFAR and FAO in response to request from the second MACS meeting and the opportunity it provides for greater involvement of G20 scientific capabilities in supporting capacity development in agricultural innovation around the world
3. It was agreed that a higher level of formalised information sharing and cooperation between national agricultural research systems could benefit national agricultural research, CGIAR and knowledge exchange systems, with consequent productivity increases and improvements in agricultural sustainability
4. The communiqué encouraged G20 members to consider the opportunities associated with open data networks such as Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) and the Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD)

The meeting reinforced the direct linkage between the MACS and GFAR, the value of GFAR and the GCARD as a venue for the MACS to articulate their work to a wider community.

Under the presidency of the Russian Federation, the **G8 Food Security Working Group**, meeting in Moscow in February (G8 1st Food Security Working Group Meeting: Healthy Soil for Future Generations) recognized the underlying importance of healthy soils for food security - and the threat posed to humanity by their loss. Mark Holderness, GFAR Executive Secretary, was invited to take part in this technical session alongside representatives from international soil health initiatives in FAO, EC, the World Bank, national soil experts from the Russian Federation and senior technical representatives from the G8 Nations. GFAR outlined the integrated agricultural innovation investment facility now proposed with [IFAD](#). The concept was well received and recommended for follow through with the intended B8 meeting. Sadly, this did not come to pass due to political events. It is to be hoped that these measures and actions will be picked up in measures towards the International Year of Soils and in continued Global Soil Partnership actions and those towards an Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture.

GFAR brings together all those working to strengthen and transform agricultural research for development around the world. During 2014 and the **International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)**,

GFAR has commissioned Food Tank to showcase and raise awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders and help identify efficient ways to support family farmers, especially women farmers. GFAR co-organized and actively supported the International Encounters meeting on research and Family Farming. The conference included keynote presentations by Robin Bourgeois and Mark Holderness of GFAR Secretariat.

GFAR participated at the [Fourth Edition of the General Assembly of the World Farmers Organization \(WFO\)](#) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 26-28 March 2014. The [WFO](#) brought together agricultural confederations from 80 different countries and international organizations to discuss critical issues and challenges faced by farmers around the world, including climate change, food security, innovation, youth, value chain and women. A GFAR sponsored [workshop on Farmers intellectual capital](#): innovation in practice, co-organized with UPOV and the WFO, involved around 50 representatives of different farmer confederations and international organizations.

Capacities for Change

CGIAR Strategic Results Framework (Output 4.2)

GFAR organized an online consultation across all stakeholders to solicit input towards the draft Strategic Results Framework (SRF) of the CGIAR. Following this, GFAR Secretariat then provided a direct response to the revised draft SRF document (annexed here). While this was not a public process, the GFAR Secretariat was formally invited to attend a Working Group of the CGIAR Fund Council and Consortium to revise the draft in light of these and other comments.

This led in turn to GFAR involvement in the Consortium reference group providing further input to the SRF, which as yet requires considerable further work.

The Draft CGIAR Capacity Development strategy was circulated for comment among all GFAR stakeholders. An informative series of responses were received, summarized and referred direct to the CGIAR Capacity Development Group and to those organizing the strategic results Framework of the CGIAR. GFAR also then supported the cross-cutting themes working group in examining how gender, climate change and capacity development could be established effectively into the new SRF as key elements. This report is attached as Annex 3.

Open Agricultural Knowledge for Development (Output 4.3)

GFAR organized and funded a meeting of the CIARD (www.ciard.net) partners and the GODAN (www.godan.info) partners as a joint GODAN-CIARD Consultation on Open Agricultural Knowledge for Development, in Rome 22-24 April. <http://www.ciard.net/1st-godan-ciard-consultation>. The meeting reviewed progress, achievements and future prospects of all international initiatives related to open data and knowledge in agriculture, including especially CIARD and GODAN. Participants:

1. considered experiences of selected national systems and international/regional agencies in development of effective policies and practices in opening agricultural knowledge and data,
2. discussed and agreed structure and governance for CIARD and GODAN
3. defined a programme of action for the next 2 years in relation to strengthening advocacy, policy frameworks and mandates, and institutional/human capacities

Strengthening Advisory Services (Output 4.4)

GFAR is also directly involved in and a co-sponsor, through use of EC funds, of the Global Forum on Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS). GFRAS works to specifically strengthen rural advisory services and now represents the sector in the support framework of GFAR.

Mobilizing youth (Output 5.2)

In addition, GFAR continues to support the active engagement of young people in the sector through the Young Professions in Agricultural Development (YPARD) network. YPARD now has 8,300 members around the world and is providing the voice of youth into many international agricultural events. GFRAS and YPARD are now directly represented as constituencies in GFAR.

Research In Development:

Farmers Rights and Plant Genetic Resources: Capacity-building material for local and indigenous agricultural communities (Outputs 2.3 and 4.2)

For more than a decade, organizations have provided support to family farmers in Guatemala to: conserve and use agro-biodiversity; improve local varieties according to their specific needs and preferences through participatory plant breeding; access quality seeds to ensure food security; and exchange and sell food crops in local markets to improve family farmers' livelihoods. The Development Fund of Norway, for example, supports such activities through the Programme of Participatory Plant Breeding in Mesoamerica, improving food and nutrition security of family farmers, the conservation of local varieties and their further improvement through participatory plant breeding mechanisms.

Recognizing the important contribution the Fund and other organizations have made to improve food security and livelihoods of family farmers in Guatemala, GFAR jointly developed capacity-building materials on Farmers' Rights for smallholder farmers and decision makers with local partners. The goal has been to build awareness, share experience, develop practical instruments for exercising rights and scale out at national level and beyond in order to improve and increase the understanding of the rights smallholder farmers have over their traditional knowledge and plant genetic resources and how to implement them at the local and national level. With the Fund's financial support, GFAR together with the Collaborative Programme of Participatory Plant Breeding in Mesoamerica, and with the support of local communities of the Sierra de los Cuchumatanes by the Farmer Organization Asociación de Organizaciones de los Cuchumatanes (ASOCUCH) and the Foundation for Agricultural Technological and Forestry Innovation (FUNDIT), prepared, discussed and disseminated capacity-building materials for local and indigenous agricultural communities on the need and importance of recognizing and implementing farmers' rights in plant genetic resources. Smallholder farmer leaders and participants noted how important these capacity-building materials were to them in understanding their rights and being able to work towards their implementation. Given the overall endorsement by the farmers' groups, the materials will be further developed for smallholder farmers in other countries of Latin America and other regions, such as Asia, Africa and Near East.

Embedding Agricultural Research and Knowledge in Rural Development Agendas to Better Meet Societal Needs

Protracted Crises in West Asia and North Africa: rebuilding resilience (Output 5.3)

Partners in GFAR identified [re-launching agricultural innovation and rehabilitating agricultural research for development](#) during and after such crises as fundamental to enduring solutions to hunger and malnutrition. This is reflected as an outcome area in the [GFARMTP](#) coming out of GCARD2. GFAR has recently been asked by the Government of Palestine to help bring together actions through ICARDA, AARINENA, FAO, and expertise from outside the region, in rebuilding and reshaping the national agricultural research system. At policy level, GFAR is building on this momentum with FAO to contribute to the [CFS Agenda for Action for addressing food insecurity in protracted crises](#). Endorsing the Agenda and initiating a set of immediate actions will be the focus for governments and their partners in 2014.

Gender in Agriculture Partnership (Output 5.1)

The [Gender in Agriculture Partnership](#) (GAP) is an open and inclusive GFAR initiative, that aims to contribute to closing the gender gap by making agricultural innovation better serve the economic empowerment needs of women farmers.

Throughout 2013 GFAR provided technical input to the Drylands Systems CRP by supporting the integration of a gender and youth focus informed by gender experts of the Gender in Agriculture Partnership and with direct support of two GFAR Secretariat staff - one of them tasked to drafting the Strategy, as well as inputs from YPARD Secretariat. This study was completed in 2014 and has been fully accepted by the Steering Committee of the CRP Dryland Systems.

The GAP website, launched at the end of 2013, has grown rapidly and is now a major open resource for information on gender-linked actions in agriculture around the world. The GAP website now provides the agricultural portal for the women's economic empowerment website of UN Women. The website is now also providing an external link point for the Gender Technical Network of FAO and in due course for that of other major institutions.

The GAP now benefits from the co-patronage of Prof MS Swaminathan and Prof Catherine Bertini, both world-renowned figures in this arena. There are now over 200 institutions directly committed to the GAP, ranging from farmer organizations and civil society organizations to UN agencies and CGIAR centres. Together they are providing and sharing materials and building practical partnerships. The GAP LinkedIn group was established in 2014 and now has nearly 500 members actively contributing to dialogues on these issues.

A side event on women's empowerment was organized with the World Farmers Organization at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in NYC last March and a joint position paper on gender for developed with FAO for the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

GAP Partners are also developing practical collective programmes to turn agricultural innovation into enterprise opportunity for women. A major programme is being developed with institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and this is also being picked up into demand from Asia-Pacific for a similar approach. GFAR, through GAP, is also supporting the development of the Multi-agency Rural Women's Economic Empowerment initiative as it rolls out in different countries. One particular response is to

a request from the National Agricultural Research Council in Nepal to help reshape their programmes to better address the innovation needs of rural women and GFAR is now addressing these needs directly by mobilizing collective actions in support of this request and a similar request has now been received from Ethiopia.

Communication and Visibility

GFAR's role to facilitate and foster dialogue on critical issues related to global agricultural research and innovation and build partnerships for collective action requires robust communication strategy. To this end, the Forum acknowledges the significance of communication that encompasses all media and is dedicated to ensuring that the information it shares (whether generated by the Forum or provided by its stakeholders) meets the required standards. Throughout this report, there are numerous examples of various communication activities associated with direct Medium Term Plan interventions.

In 2014, GFAR invested in building its communication efforts through recruiting a team of specialized communication consultants. This has led to increased outreach and quality of communication outputs.

A key communication partner in 2014 in the promotion of the Year of Family Farming has been [Food Tank](#). Food Tank and GFAR have showcased and raised awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders as well as helped to identify ways to support family farmers. Over 100 messages have directly reached the 110,000 subscribers to the Food Tank site. A short video [Funding Female Farmers for a Less Hungry World](#), a joint production by Food Tank and GFAR, has had 17,000 views since its publication in July 2014.

The GFAR website is a key communication tool for the Forum. It includes required institutional information and a description of the Forum's work (as described in the Medium Term Plan). The website functions as a repository and as an online Forum and news source. So far in 2014, 30 GFAR and partner publications have been made available, with information circulated on these publications and the 111 news stories and blogs through the 16 "GFAR Updates" which were distributed to a mailing list of over 9000 directly targeted persons globally and a further 2000 reached via LinkedIn. The outcomes of this increased outreach are demonstrated in the increased number of page views and a steadily increasing number of users especially (in the most visited pages) the news stories, the home page and "About Us". Ancillary websites active in 2014 and supported by GFAR have been the [GAP website](#) and the [YPARD website](#).

Another active communication tool GFAR has used in 2014 has been social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, SlideShare, YouTube). The focus on using these tools to amplify the messaging has resulted in an 80% increase in followers on Twitter and 55% increase in "likes" on Facebook (measured from February to September 2014).

As outlined in the Communication and Visibility Manual the GFAR website duly acknowledges the European Union as a donor with a link to their website. The EU visibility is extended through the GFAR Annual Report ([online](#)) and in videos produced by GFAR. All of the Letters of Agreement with Service Providers include the standard wording agreed between FAO and the EC that the implementing partners concerned will take all appropriate measures to publicise the fact that the

Services have received funding from the European Union. This recognition will be monitored as part of the new M&E framework now implemented by GFAR.

Appendix 1: Concept for an Integrated Innovation Investment and Support Facility for Agricultural Growth

The context

Agricultural research and innovation has been repeatedly shown to give some of the highest rates of return among all rural development investments. However, most countries are still giving very little attention to the sector and as a result the complex and interlinked challenges of food and nutrition security, resilient systems and enabling the poor to grow out of poverty risk being ineffectively addressed.

Agricultural and food systems face huge challenges around the world. The 2009 G8L'Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security recognized that strengthening global and local governance for food security is vital in defeating hunger and malnutrition and to promote rural development. The Statement directly supported the fundamental reform processes underway in the global agricultural research system through the multi-stakeholder Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).

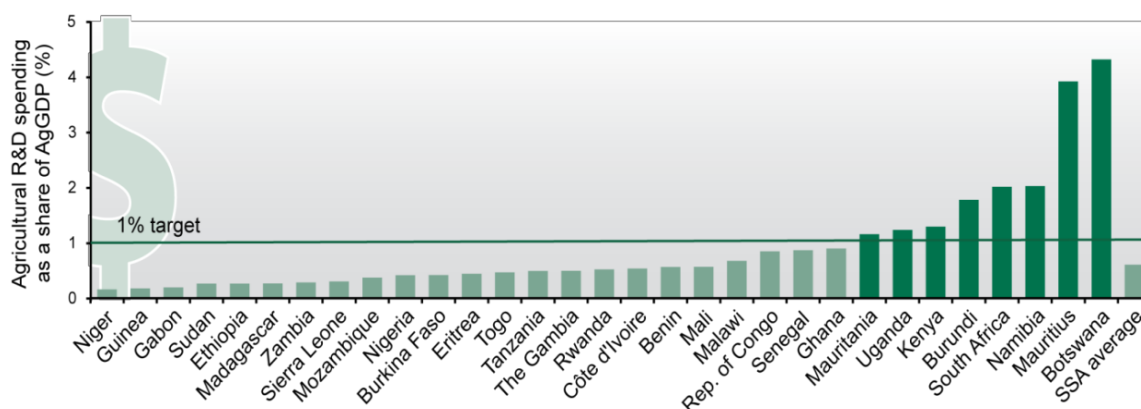
In 2011, G20 Ministers of Agriculture agreed to strengthen agricultural research and innovation and support results-based agricultural research for development through their national agricultural research systems, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research. The Declaration emphasized the need to enhance the transfer of research results and technologies to farmers, to ensure that research activities respond to their needs and concerns and to involve farmers in that process.

The Ministers also recognized that a more coherent approach to capacity development was required and supported the establishment of a Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) to provide greater efficiency in capacity development for agricultural innovation systems. TAP was officially launched at the 2012 G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS).

The TAP, with its Secretariat hosted in FAO, is co-sponsored by GFAR, and provides delivery of a key component of the GFAR Medium Term Plan. Its work in strengthening capacity development draws directly on expertise from across the wide spectrum of partners and coordinated networks mobilized in the Global Forum.

The scale of the challenge

Three quarters of the world's investment in agricultural research and innovation occurs in G20 nations. However, only 2.2 percent of Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments in the agricultural sector go to national agricultural research systems. The ASTI-IFPRI-GFAR 2012 global analysis of agricultural research investments showed that, for much of SSA, national investments are still very low, and coming from a low base, in some cases even going backwards (see figure below). Similar problems occur elsewhere, such as in Central Asia and countries in conflict.



Some countries, particularly emerging economies, are showing rapid growth of agricultural innovation investment and capabilities to enable their future food security. However in most countries, inadequate national investment and international assistance, coupled with limited public and policy awareness of the importance of the sector, mean that many nations have very limited, or even declining, capacities for agricultural innovation.

EIARD (2011) analyses showed that CGIAR funding accounts for at least 2/3 of total aid to the AR4D sector in Africa, but only 17 percent of the CGIAR total goes to partner organizations of all kinds. The 2013 Nairobi CGIAR Fund Council meeting also recognized the chronic need for capacity development and investment in national systems, to realize the required pathways to impact alongside the now \$1 billion p.a. of international investments in CGIAR. Successful CGIAR Research Programme outcomes will depend on increased capabilities and actions at national level.

Capacity needs assessment in tropical regions conducted during the inception phase of TAP suggests that interventions from internal and external actors are not sufficiently targeted to meet the capacity needs of Agricultural Innovation Systems of these countries. Capacity development interventions are too often implemented independently from each other, and are too small in scale and individual in scope, neglecting institutional and organizational capacity dimensions. This is confirmed by research to be presented in the 2014 FAO State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) Report ("Innovation in Family Farming for Sustainable Productivity Growth") on the value of capacity development for agricultural innovation. There is an urgent need for coherent mechanisms to invest, implement, support and coordinate institutional capacity development in national agricultural innovation systems.

2014 is a highly appropriate time to address this issue, with both the International Year of Family Farming with its focus on viable livelihoods for family farms and the African Union's commitment to the Year of Agriculture and Food Security for Africa..

Responding to these needs, the 2013 G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) formally requested GFAR to explore the feasibility of better linking national agricultural research systems and financing of international networked actions.

The Required Response:

Responding to direct requests from the G8 and G20 over the last year, GFAR Secretariat and Stakeholders: IFAD, FAO, Regional Fora and public, private, producer and civil stakeholder networks, G20 Chief Scientists, international research and bilateral agencies, together with TAP, have been developing options for a new Facility, **integrating financial and technical support to development and change in national agricultural innovation systems (i.e. research, extension, education, training and enterprise) around the world.** There is a clear need to establish effective and connected systems that go well beyond the public sector, incorporating private sector roles and real accountability to farmers as clients, with direct involvement of public, private and civil sectors in innovation processes and pathways, working together towards desired development outcomes.

Our aim is to create a well-resourced and integrated international mechanism to ensure that the essential changes in institutional focus, function and capability, demanded by thousands of stakeholders and clearly expressed in the GCARD Process, are delivered and resourced in practice. The Facility will mobilize and bring together financial and technical support from leading and emerging economies to all the key dimensions of agricultural research and innovation, through processes directly driven and demanded by national development agenda. It will also connect the processes required for millions of smallholders to make use of agricultural innovation for sustainable economic and agricultural growth, provide essential support to these changes and remove the barriers presently preventing impacts from innovations.

Existing linkages have been largely single project-based or from multilateral support to international research. IFAD, the World Bank and Regional Development Banks are providing considerable loan investment in national institutions and systems, though less than in earlier years. FAO offers technical assistance to member countries to strengthen their Agricultural Innovation Systems, also through South-South collaboration, but the scale of intervention is often limited by scarce resource availability. Actions at national level too often remain fragmented and under-resourced, as recognized in IFAD's championing of initiatives to scale-out agricultural innovation. One of the needs identified in creating the TAP platform was to improve donor coordination and efficiency on the ground by linking capacity development interventions in support of national agricultural innovation systems.

To address this 'missing middle' in investment and necessary changes in national innovation capacities, the concept is for a new large-scale Integrated International Investment and Support Facility for Agricultural Innovation and Growth. Such a Facility is critical to ensuring that national research and innovation systems are able to deliver the changes required to benefit smallholder farmers at scale, and create systems that are more open, more accountable and markedly better resourced than at present. It will also be a natural complement, and essential parallel, to the increased investment now achieved through the reform of international research. In funding terms, the Facility should ideally draw on both existing commitments and new resources.

Mobilizing large-scale financial support

The Post-2015 rural transformation agenda crafted by IFAD with joint work with FAO and WFP in the area of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture has identified four Key Target areas for action related to issues of universal resonance:

- Promoting an empowerment agenda for rural livelihoods

- Investing in smallholder family agriculture for global food security and nutrition
- Promoting the resilience of poor rural households
- Leveraging the rural-urban nexus for development

Addressing these four key targets areas requires that rural people have access to knowledge, technology, markets, finance, and services for productive and diverse livelihoods, on a gender-equitable basis. The Investment Facility will also be tailored to deliver on these four key areas by supporting the strengthening of national Agricultural Innovations Systems. IFAD Senior Management has confirmed they will go ahead with developing this Investment Facility managed by IFAD in partnership with the Global Forum and its stakeholders as a central element of the wider effort to invest in national innovation systems. The Investment Facility will support national capacity development processes, where required drawing coherently on technical support from external partners via the TAP platform and its framework for action. We are now exploring the specific arrangements and modalities required.

A multi-donor Investment Facility is proposed, drawing on experience from existing programmes and measures to incorporate focused agenda into IFAD programmes, to be administered through IFAD's mechanisms and with multi-stakeholder accountability and oversight mechanisms through the networks, fora and multilateral institutions brought together in GFAR. This would build on IFAD's long standing support for the GFAR mechanism and for national agricultural and rural development and much more closely engage GFAR actions with those of IFAD itself.

The multi-stakeholder nature of the Investment Facility's governance will ensure accountability, equity among partners from different sectors and connection to real contexts. In particular it will entail a focus on the poorest, on multi-stakeholder approaches and on key issues in improving resilience and profitability of smallholder farming systems and ensuring access to food and nutrition for the poor.

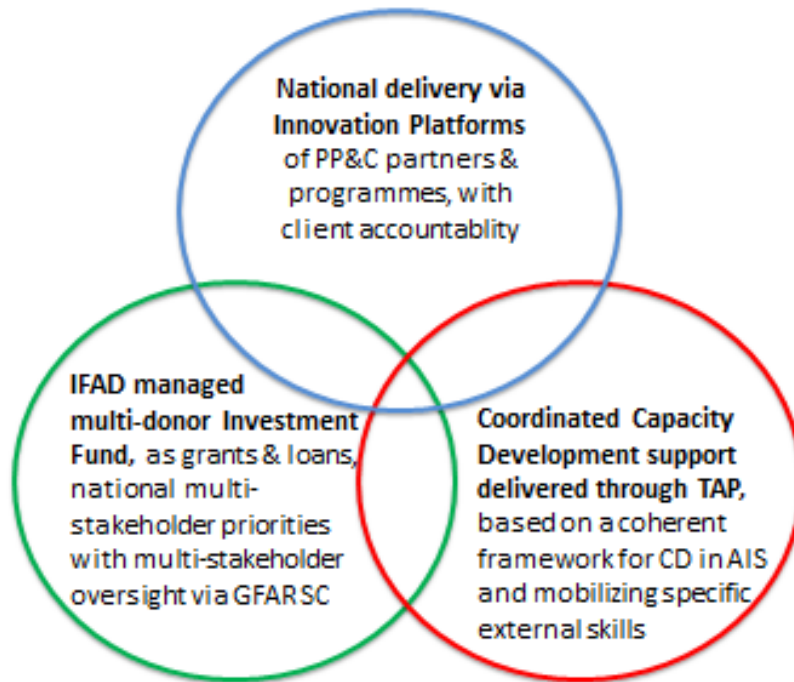
Early exploration has shown investment interest from development partners in a number of important funding agencies. The Facility needs to be sufficiently capitalized to provide realistic investment in processes of change and see these through the long term and so should operate at a large scale of resourcing (with an initial target for co-mingled funds of >\$100mn) and with appropriate cross-links with actions of related mechanisms such as the CGIAR Fund, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) and other multilateral and bilateral investments.

Who will be involved?

As the Global Forum, GFAR mobilizes actions across many partners and the GFAR Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 (MTP), which derives directly from the GCARD Roadmap for transforming and strengthening agricultural research for development systems (itself agreed by representatives from all sectors), includes strong multi-partner commitment to increasing capability and investment in national research and innovation systems. GFAR is established among all constituencies in agricultural research and innovation and by legal agreement between IFAD and FAO. A range of international implementing mechanisms is already brought together through the GFAR MTP (itself derived from the GCARD Roadmap) and catalysed/supported by funding and technical inputs. These include:

- The Tropical Agriculture Platform (over 40 partner organizations including Global and Regional Research, Extension and Education Fora, international and national research institutions of G20 countries, FAO and other intergovernmental organizations)
- 6 Regional Fora of national research and extension institutions (each with many national partner institutions), which also help coordinate TAP regional activities
- The Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research in Agriculture (GCHERA) (>600 agricultural universities around the world)
- The Global Forum of Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) (with networks developing in all regions)
- Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD), the youth platform with 6,000 individual young members
- Farmer associations and civil society networks around the world
- GAP, Gender in Agriculture Partnership (with over 150 institutional partners)
- The Global Foresight Hub platform of leading foresight practitioners, a G20 initiative
- National Academies of the BRICS nations
- Capabilities of UN agencies – FAO, IFAD, UN Women, etc.
- CGIARCRPs, their thousands of 'boundary' partners and the CGIAR Capacity Development Community of Practice
- Private sector and public-private networks – SAI Platform, Grow Africa, PanAAC, Farming First, AATF, AGRA etc
- CIARD/GODAN networks establishing Open Access to information.

Together these add to a massive capability, but need to be linked with, and driven by, explicit national demands and commitments to enable impact on the ground.



The concept of an Integrated Innovation Investment Facility aims to integrate 3 key elements:

1. An **Investment Facility**, as a multi-year and multi-donor trust fund managed via IFAD's mechanisms. The Facility provides a new source of financing, providing additions to loans and grants in support of specific capacity development actions to strengthen all required components of national agricultural research and innovation systems (public, private and civil). It will directly incorporate innovation and knowledge-based approaches into IFAD's approximately 1 billion dollar per year of new loan schemes for agricultural development around the world. The programme will link with IFAD's regular investment processes [INCLUDE one or two Country examples from IFAD current portfolio and/or projects under formulation for SSA, LAC and Asia] etc...and benefit from rigorous quality control and supervision.

Agricultural innovation systems approaches bring a need for equitable inclusion of public, private and civil partners, particularly farmers. GFAR's global and regional constituencies will provide multi-stakeholder oversight for the fund on i) programme governance and accountability to users, ii) articulation of the demand for change and support (including governmental, smallholder and private enterprise priorities), and iii) foresight and feedback (via the Global Foresight Hub and grassroots foresight with farming communities) on future needs to help shape national multi-stakeholder

prioritization. Needs and themes addressed will go beyond agricultural production technologies, e.g. to include innovation in measures to increase resilience and to manage risk in changing practices and for enterprise opportunities in the input sector and processing and marketing of agricultural produce.

The investment facility will fund national research and innovation actions to meet smallholder producer demand and is proposed to work through two complementary mechanisms:

- a) A demand-driven Window to finance/co-finance national research and innovation systems in the field (e.g. around value chains or, climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices) as a multi-donor trust fund, working to leverage additional resources for the existing loan portfolios and relevant new initiatives. Ongoing or under formulation national programs/initiatives geared to strengthening national agricultural research systems in the context of Agricultural Innovations Systems, in Laos, Colombia, Palestine, Senegal, Rwanda could be good candidates for consideration.

This will entail specific measures to directly empower smallholder farmers by giving them direct roles in the control of funds and commissioning of research.

- b) A second Window, to contract external service providers, as may be requested by national programmes and articulated by public, private and civil national stakeholders in relation to the common framework agreed for capacity development (see below), to improve their research and innovation capacities to deliver developmental outcomes. Such inputs will help develop specific individual, organizational/institutional and system capacities in the innovation pathways and rural development contexts concerned and address both production/post-production systems and their enabling environment (e.g. micro-insurance, producer companies). Support will be solicited from capable service providers at national, regional and international level through the TAP, drawing on relevant capacity building expertise from the various sectors (public, private and civil) and fora, including from the CGIAR and AIRCA, as well as N-S and S-S provision.

To help foster collective investments and private sector involvement, the Facility may also include an agricultural innovation 'Pull' mechanism, focused on specific value chains and stimulating public-private partnerships that draw on the extensive networks of private sector providers linked to GFAR in the input sector, SMEs and agricultural/food supply chain and markets. Support to innovative PPPs forged between private companies (agribusinesses, SMEs...) and small-scale producers groups [like IFAD interventions in the Northern Rural Growth Programme *in Ghana*; the Smallholder Livelihood Development Project *in Eastern Indonesia* (SOLID); the Rural Markets Promotion Programme (PROMER) *in Mozambique*; the Adapting to Changing Markets and the Effects of Climate Change (NICADAPTA) *in Nicaragua*; the Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (PPAP) *in Papua New Guinea*; the Project for Rural

Income through Exports (PRICE) *in Rwanda* etc....] could also be considered. This will be linked with the Agriculture Pull Mechanism Initiative (AGPM).

All these mechanisms will provide resources in response to, and be driven by, national processes of demand and multi-stakeholder mechanisms. They will directly fund national delivery systems.

2. **National delivery** via local public, private and civil research and innovation institutions working together in community or value-chain based **Innovation Platforms**. These will often themselves need to be created and developed among the national stakeholders concerned, including necessary strengthening and transformation of national institutions. Some examples already exist, such as those established and validated by GFAR constituents including FARA, CORAF, PanAAC, CGIAR-CRPs and CIRAD, integrating Public, Private, Civil and Farmer partners and programmes. These platforms, bringing together national research and innovation actors from public, private and civil sectors, will incorporate local demand identification, innovation capacity development and accountability mechanisms and link to specific communities or specific value chains. These will draw from experiences of FARA, PanAAC, CGIAR and others in delivering innovation platforms on the ground

Measures will be focused on income growth of smallholder farmers in resilient systems and their contribution to food and nutrition security. Implementation of outcome-focused national programmes and their associated support needs will be financed through the Facility and cross-linked/supported where required through coherent regional and international actions mobilized regionally in TAP by Regional Fora and internationally through TAP platform partners. They will identify and commission specific support needs via coordinated technical support.

3. **Coordinated mobilization of international technical support** will be commissioned, as required by national platforms, from supporting institutions. In response to national requests, TAP will mobilize and integrate inputs from regional or international service providers, regionally via the Regional Fora and internationally via partner networks and institutions. These will be identified objectively across a wide range of service providers, involving G20 and other scientific capabilities in supporting capacity development in agricultural innovation around the world and helping to identify best placed capacity development support providers from all sectors.

Coordinated delivery will be structured drawing on a coherent framework for capacity development for agricultural innovation systems and mobilizing specific external skills support as required. Concepts would be brought together through the partners in TAP to:

- i. develop a common language and principles and common methodologies
- ii. evaluate present capacities and needs in selected countries to validate the common methodologies for capacity needs assessment

- iii. support capacity development interventions in pilot countries,
- iv. evaluate outcomes to validate methodologies for impact assessment

Adoption of the common framework developed under TAP will lead to better coordination and coherence of capacity development interventions. Service providers will be mobilized through the extensive partner networks in the Global Forum such as the Regional Fora, GCHERA, GFRAS, BRICS institutions, CGIAR etc. The TAP Platform will also build cross-learning, knowledge sharing and best practices, through the interactions and learning of implementing partners.

Next steps:

In funding terms, the Facility will ideally draw on both existing commitments and new resources. IFAD is presently considering the form such a mechanism might best take within its systems and a Multi-donor trust fund is preferred. National and regional demands are already being expressed to GFAR and through the TAP inception process. IFAD's existing and planned investments can be brought together with other GFAR stakeholder networks and programmes and the FAO's relations with governments at country level in such a Facility. Other resources are now beginning to be mobilized alongside intended IFAD investments. This will also be linked to other key development partners and mechanisms from the donor community (e.g. GAFSP) with similar ideas and commitment to enhancing national agricultural research and innovation.

The Facility will provide financing for transformative change, including cross-links with IFAD grants and loan schemes. Actions financed by the Facility will be delivered on the ground by implementing partners, drawing on international development agencies, national innovation platforms, universities and regional institutions and networks as required. The Facility will work through the collective of agricultural innovation institutions in countries in greatest need of re-establishing or, in some cases, creating effective research for development systems. The conceptual framework being developed by TAP partners is anticipated to be available by mid-2015.

Next steps are to develop an **implementation strategy** for the Facility, with action plan, timelines, milestones and SMART outcomes. This will be developed in conjunction with interested funders and case study countries as outlined above, to explore the practical implications of the Facility's operation in relation to existing funding mechanisms and national strategies and processes.

Alongside this, as part of the processes of GCARD3, GFAR in partnership with the CGIAR is conducting a participatory dialogue on national innovation needs across 21 countries in SSA, Asia and Latin America. These will be accompanied by regional studies in 4 regions and will build on earlier GCARD processes to set out clear national agenda to which international research action can best add value. **This will also directly cross-link investment in the CGIAR with that in the Facility.**

GFAR is also an active partner in the Global Forum on Innovations in Agriculture (March 2015), and is mobilizing an international research forum within this frame to directly create linkages between public and private sectors.

Annex: Some specific country case examples

In Senegal, the Minister of Agriculture expressed his willingness to discuss the proposal to set up the International Facility, and the role of ISRA in implementation linked with the Fonds National de Developpement Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral (FNDASP), which was launched on February 11, 2014 with a government contribution of 500 million CFA and an expected contribution from the World Bank through the WAAPP. FNDASP is responsible for broadening the valorization of research results, and offering appropriate technologies and technical services in response to producers, and private actors demand with a value chain approach. FNDASP also mobilizes funds for the existing Fonds National de Recherches Agricoles et Agro-Alimentaires (FNRAA) established in November 2008 out of an ongoing national Program supported by the World Bank. FNRAA is financed by contributions from the Government, External Donors, the Private Sector, donations etc.. It funds projects for (i) Strategic Research and Applied Research (ii) Research for Development, (iii) development and Diffusion of Technology and (iv) Accelerated Adoption of Technologies, either through unsolicited bid, restricted call for proposals, or joint submission of proposals.

In Palestine, GFAR has received a direct request from Dr. Mohammed Abu Eid, Director General of the National Agricultural Research Council, to support the rebuilding of the Palestinian research and extension system. This will be in conjunction with ICARDA and AARINENA in the region. The plan is for an initial scoping study followed by a multi-year programme of support. Palestine is anticipated to shortly receive 500 million USD for rebuilding, in which agriculture will be a major beneficiary. GFAR programmes to address protracted crises are implemented through national and regional actions, linked also to the CFS Agenda for Action and the work for FAO in the region. They engage humanitarian support and link with a different group of funding agencies/individuals from those addressing conventional agricultural support.

Rwanda has worked closely with GFAR on this agenda and GFAR, with FARA and others led the formation of the Kigali Movement to provide relevant agricultural knowledge, experiences and networked support for countries in protracted crises.

Through the Challenge program on Sub-Saharan Africa, FARA has also mobilized intensive learning on the role of innovation platforms in Africa, now published as http://www.fara-africa.org/media/uploads/library/docs/fara_publications/maximising_impact_from_agr_res_vero7.pdf, jointly released with GFAR earlier this year. This work lays very useful background confirming the value of the innovation platforms concepts addressed in the Facility.

The GFAR Chair, Juan Lucas Restrepo Ibiza, is president of the Colombian national agricultural innovation system: Corpoica and is deeply involved in practical experiences of change and driving the move for a research and extension system to an innovation system based approach that is also cognizant of the needs of resource-poor farmers. These approaches have led to a recent marked increase in government investment in Corpoica.

Appendix 2: GFAR Comments on the draft CGIAR Strategic Results Framework

Review of the Draft CGIAR Consortium Strategy and Results Framework (SRF) facilitated by the Secretariat of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research

As requested by the Fund Office, the first draft document has not yet been circulated for wide input. These comments draw from earlier feedback from partners across all sectors on the role and their expectations of the CGIAR.

The draft SRF seems a very mixed bag. It provides a good analysis of the role of scientific research in addressing major development needs and the potential value of new knowledge and technologies in different dimensions. We know well how challenging it is to generate a coherent SRF for the entire CGIAR system. Earlier versions have drawn on IFPRI models and on analysis of current contexts, both of which have had flaws. The document is well written and the continued emphasis on development-outcome based work is very welcome and, if made fully effective, can be an inspiration to others.

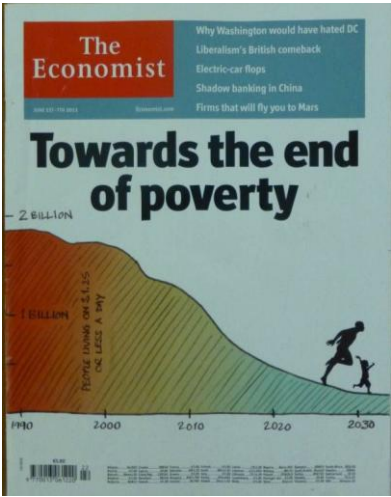
Suggestions for improvement

However, the strategy is less visionary than expected and seems somewhat self-centred. Rather than establishing the role of the reformed CGIAR clearly within the gamut of actors in agricultural research for development, it takes little account of the changing realities, actors and wider development of the countries in which the CGIAR works. It is focused on the donor-funded business model for the CGIAR and hence comes across largely as a business case for continuing as a competitive, effective core-funded scientific institution, but not as a true partner in development with an opening out of the system. It lacks a vision for the handover of skills to national partners to equip and empower their own development – i.e. true research-development processes beyond the delivery of specific technologists.

Foresight is alluded to, but the criteria applied are largely on agronomic foresighting: production and consumption models, with a heavy productivity focus. While increasing overall productivity is undoubtedly required as a central pillar, development success also requires that other less easily measured criteria – social, economic, environmental, nutritional, get more attention as these have

great bearing on development success. Where is the specific focus on meeting the needs of the poor? What is the future niche of the CGIAR in regard to the changing landscape of AR4D? What is the CGIAR aiming to do to develop and use better metrics for nutrition, resilience, social change and environmental practices? Moreover, there is need for greater clarity in what is the actual approach to determining attribution and contribution to the relevant outcomes between the CGIAR and its partners. How user-feedback loops and accountability can be brought into the research processes themselves is also required.

Research in development: The lack of inclusion of the wider enabling environment and changes in the development context seem missing here. There is no mention of the growth of



economies and the implications this has for the service model of the CGIAR. E.g. Ethiopia aims to be a middle income country by 2025. What will be the model for the CGIAR's offer there by then? As economies grow, (SSA at >5% p.a., with countries such as Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya now experiencing rapid increases in modern service industries) the expectation will become more of reaching and creating opportunity for those left behind within societies - the rural poor. This means more capacity building across all relevant sectors and direct engagement with country governments to enable actions to reach the poor through relevant measures.

A focus on reducing poverty: the greatest numbers of poor are in South Asia, yet e.g. India is on paper food secure in carbohydrates and yet has 20-40% child stunting. This is not an externalized research issue alone, it is a question also of national politics and cultures and yet there is nothing in the SRF of how the CGIAR will address such partnerships in relation to a) sovereign governments and b) the poor within a country. The nutritional change is being addressed by largely fragmented actions, rather than a coherent CGIAR policy for change.

The approach still seems very linear – productive technology through a pipeline to users. What of the systems –based research of e.g. AAS or CCAFS that is working very well with community-based approaches, drawing from their innovation and meeting their wider needs? The yield gaps referred to are more than a constraint of technologies, but also a question of perceived inputs vs returns and of risk management by farmers.

An emphasis on measures that specifically address high risk/high stress systems would bring greater direct support to smallholder farmers in areas less addressed by other actors.

The Framework continually refers to 'the poor' as the focus, yet the great majority of the world's poor are small farmers or rural householders - how they will be engaged as innovators and drivers of demand? There is little here on how this sector will be specifically reached in growing out of poverty and the Vision Statement omits the reduction/eradication of poverty, focusing instead on food security and resilience. The Mission mentions "prosperous and more equitable opportunities, but not in clear language.

Stimulating livelihood opportunities is great, but how will equitability be assured when the poorest are also the least able to take up scientific advances? No consideration is given as to how to ensure that the poorest can benefit from innovations – and that they are not unduly disadvantaged in the market by gains for those better-resourced.

The influence of consumers in shaping demand receives scant attention, nor is there mention of the potential advocacy function and value of the CGIAR in reshaping that demand. Is the expectation simply to keep growing production of resource-demanding industries to meet the demands of growing consumer expectations? For example, livestock require around six kilograms of plant protein to produce one kilogram of meat for human consumption. About 30 percent of global maize crops and 80 percent of global soybean crops are used for livestock feed. The obesity epidemic is influenced by dietary patterns and elements such as refined corn syrup. What of competition from biofuels? Is the productivity mantra feeding a commodified agriculture approach, assuming a model of ever expanding consumption, to the detriment of others? There is also scant mention of the value of biodiversity, underutilized species and landscape management approaches?

Is the donor-funded model itself a viable long term proposition? The emergence of new economic actors brings different criteria for aid success, usually with stronger self-determination and moves away from aid dependence. How will this reshape the CGIAR and its role? As countries themselves increasingly purchase CGIAR inputs the model changes to one of being driven by the developing country agenda, rather than the conventional donor, yet this is not picked up in the framework. On structural issues, there is little here on the advantages and disadvantages, and approaches to, the different funding windows in use.

Capacity development: Capacity development for the partners involved in value chains and pathways to impacts seems much downplayed. Under this SRF the bottlenecks faced by international research outputs still exist in lack of capacities of all forms within developing country national systems. Self determination and self-delivery of AR4D by countries should also be a key feature of the second generation SRF.

The impacts of disrupted systems are not mentioned, yet long term protracted crises now affect 17 countries in SSA and much of the Middle East is also food insecure. What is the role of international agricultural research in addressing these challenges?

Missing elements include emphasis on ICTs and their impacts, the need for strengthening both national research and national advisory services and the value of truly multi-stakeholder innovation platforms, with associated accountability to intended users as championed through work in the SSA-Challenge Program.

Demand identification: It is not clear what basis will be used for demand identification here. National policies and priorities are talked of, but these are now major drivers to which international research should certainly be listening and responding. There is also need to involve voices of stakeholders, in particular the communities the research seeks to benefit. What mechanisms will be used to reach and engage with their views? Why no mention of the GCARD process?

Partnership realities: The term partnership is widely used here, but without clarity on what this will mean in practice. CGIAR's partnership survey in 2013 found that while CGIAR is generally regarded as a very good technical partner": *"When it comes to what was widely perceived as the strongest drivers of quality partnerships, the overall verdict was that there is room for improvement. Areas where we need to improve the most include transparency, collaboration, accessibility, and capacity building."* However, at present the document is greatly lacking in these dimensions.

There is no mention of the proposed business model for partnership. The distribution of resources is still a subject of much contention among partners. Discussion through GFAR between a wide range of stakeholders and the Consortium Office has highlighted that the target for CGIAR funds disbursed to partners should be around one third of the total (as was the case in the Challenge Programmes) rather than the 17% presently disbursed to partners of all kinds outside the immediate system.

Without greatly increased resources among partners the CGIAR model tends to become one of acting as a default local implementer to ensure delivery to farmers. This cannot be a sustainable long term position and brings no local ownership of the agenda concerned. It is not the CGIAR's role to itself be a funding agency, but a capacity development and financing role in helping ensure that partners are able to take up CGIAR outputs more effectively and deliver shared responsibility for outcomes makes

good sense – otherwise business as usual continues. The support by CGIAR of the proposed facility in support of national innovation systems is valuable and adds to the available funds for these relationships.

The private sector linkage is described, but nothing is set out as to what is meant by the private sector and the forms of relationships entailed and proposed. The FAO report referred to includes farmers own investments as private sector investment. It is good to have a more holistic approach but how does the CGIAR actually propose to ensure equitable relationships and agendas that benefit the poor? The document is silent on rights issues and in particular on farmers' rights.

Annex 3: Comments received from GFAR stakeholders on the CGIAR Draft Capacity Development Guidelines (Version 3 June 2014)

The comments below are extracted from submissions received and highlighted to reflect the major areas of concern expressed. Full comments are publicly available on the GFAR website.

Purpose for Capacity Development: context for partnering and Theory of Change

Development of the strategy was widely welcomed, but with reservations that it was not apparent how this would reflect the wider strategic role of the CGIAR in relation to its partners and the overall purpose, and extent, of capacity development actions of the CGIAR:

- As guidelines, the document is presumably based on a broader CGIAR CD strategy - although such a strategy is not specifically referred to in the text. Has the CG produced such a strategy? (it is my understanding that a draft was due to be released for consultation earlier in the year, but I have not been able to find any reference to such a document). Presumably the (written or unwritten) strategy would clarify some of the remaining uncertainties underlying these guidelines.
- The document uses an unclear mix of terminology drawn from different paradigms (or Theories of Change in the doc's terminology) regarding the way science and research products are developed and used by society. In many places, it uses terminology derived from the linear, pipeline paradigm where "development outcomes" are seen as the result of a "journey [that starts] from research products" and where "boundary partners adapt research results for the next level of users", just to cite a few examples. In other places, the document draws on terminology derived from a paradigm that sees development as a complex process driven by many factors other than research and in which science and research results are used in largely unpredictable ways. The development and use of medical drugs in industrialized societies perhaps comes closest to illustrating the first, linear paradigm. The development of ICT may illustrate the more complex relationship of research products to their use by society and to "development outcomes". Some early internet users believed ICT would help to build a global, more just world, based on grass-roots democracy; after Snowden's disclosures and Facebook's recent experiments we can also think that the outcome of ICT research products is that invisible political and commercial powers get more influence over people's behavior. While this dichotomy of paradigms is useful for illustration purposes, the real world is still more complex and there probably exists a range of situations that either tend more to one end or the other of this dichotomy.
- The point I want to make here is that, while – as illustrated by the examples – each of these paradigms has its validity depending on specific contexts, the implications for capacity development are very different from one paradigm to the other. Designing a capacity strengthening strategy needs to start from defining in which paradigm(s) the CRP in question or each subsection of a CRP is operating and then applying the appropriate unambiguous capacity development concepts for each paradigm and situation. By not making this distinction and mixing different paradigms and related notions of capacity development, the document risks confusing the CRP leadership for whom these guidelines are intended and who are most likely not specialists in this field.
- A repositioning of CGIAR and CRPs with regard to capacity development and a review and modification of the traditional role of CGIAR in capacity development is needed to adapt to the changing realities of the partnering development institutions and developing countries. What is the

role of CGIAR and the CRPs in capacity development of countries that are receiving capacity development from equivalent organizations such as the UNDP, the FAO, the CBD etc.? Is CGIAR a competitor to these international, regional or local capacity development providers? Is CGIAR a Coordinator of regional partnerships in CD? Or a Partner? Or an equal player/actor? Is CGIAR focused on certain regions/disciplines/niches that are not covered by other international players? Also what is the role of CGIAR/CRPs in countries that experience violence, instability, wars etc., and where the massive poor populations are getting poorer and marginalized? Capacity development strategies need to be developed to reach out to the rural poor in these countries, and also to their governments and systems to enable ways out of their crises towards the realization of CGIAR goals.

- The paper should not be addressing “How should the CGIAR do capacity Development?” – rather, it should be considering “What are the most effective ways to promote uptake and sustainable adoption of research outputs and how can the CGIAR best support and interface with those?”

The Partners and Partnering

Partners do not see themselves as subsidiary to the CGIAR- the linear thinking apparent in the draft could create many misapprehensions on the role of the CGIAR. Terms such as boundary partners, while becoming commonplace inside the CGIAR, do not reflect the perceptions and perceived roles of partner institutions, who are likely to be alienated by this perspective as it does not recognize their own roles and value. The issues around partnership have been addressed extensively earlier in the reform process and the strategy could usefully cross refer to those analyses:

<http://www.cgiar.org/www->

[archive/www.cgiar.org/changemanagement/pdf/WG2_FutureofPartnerships_FINAL_Sept16_2008.pdf](http://www.cgiar.org/changemanagement/pdf/WG2_FutureofPartnerships_FINAL_Sept16_2008.pdf)

http://www.cgiar-ilac.org/files/inclusive_partnerships_report_final.pdf

- It needs to recognise the context in which CRPs operate, considering the interface between the capacity of beneficiaries and the research programmes. One might expect a reference to beneficiaries in the '9 elements of capacity building'. There is a lot of emphasis on capacity building of partners but there should be a conceptual understanding of how the capacity of beneficiaries should be addressed. Are the so called boundary partners at the limit of CRP responsibilities? If so who is addressing the capacity of the smallholder farmers (which may need to be improved for the research to realise its full potential impact). It might be helpful to embrace the agricultural innovation systems concept to better understand the big picture.
- The third element - “Develop CRPs and Center’s capacity to partner” is especially welcome, given the criticism of the Centres in the past to form effective and equitable partnerships. In this regard, some of the other elements (e.g. innovative learning materials and approaches) could emphasise the inclusion of this aspect, rather than focusing (mainly?, just?) on “to make research outputs more suitable, accessible and appealing to a wider range of users” (which seems to emphasise a ToT, rather than innovation systems, model).
- Better and more inclusive description of the beneficiaries of CGIAR CD is needed in the guidelines. The beneficiaries are not only the NARS researchers/young scientists but are also all stakeholders on the impact pathway that are involved with or impacted by what CGIAR is

attempting to achieve. These include, together with many, the small-farmers and the underprivileged agricultural women and youth. Suggested mechanisms for ensuring the inclusion of small-farmers are also needed in the guidelines to inspire implementers. In addition, and even when it comes to young researchers/scientists, the focus should not only be on enabling them to use the knowledge transferred to them but -more importantly- to produce research themselves.

- Partnership is mentioned as one of the 9 elements needed for a capacity development strategy. Still the focus is on developing internal capacity to develop partnerships. While this is a crucial element in partnerships, it needs to be complemented by a systematic identification of key partners, description of their profiles and the development of mechanisms to start, maintain and strengthen partnership with each group of them including criteria and guidelines. As stated partnerships are crucial to performing the capacity development role of CGIAR and that is why they should receive more attention and should be done systematically.
- My major observation is that the paper remains substantially inward looking to the CGIAR whereas I feel that capacity building has much more generic outcomes and thus opportunities for real collaboration are perhaps then being missed. The use of the term “Boundary Partners” which I presume means Centers like those of AIRCA, national programs, regional organizations, Universities and the like is thus a bit of a give-away. Time for CGIAR Capacity Building to come out of the bunker I believe and for the CGIAR to recognize that many organizations are central to the answers to world agricultural problems and they are already addressing the capacity building issue which remains trenchantly deficient in most of the developing world (for example CATIE’s excellent work in Latin America and The University of Nottingham though Crops for the Future in Asia). The number of PhD level plant breeders for vegetables in Africa can still be counted on the fingers of both hands! I suspect it is not much different either for small millets, small fishes and other largely-ignored but vital species for improved human nutrition which remain in the funding shadow of Maize and Rice. Little mention of simple things like English language capacity training...yet for AVRDC....this is one of the major stumbling blocks in helping us to help our partners. The Mekong Basin countries being highly typical of this problem in the APAARI region and so I believe it to be crucial also for CRP HumidTropics. Likewise, all of the CACAARI countries are handicapped in their contacts with the CGIARCRPs I am sure much more by language than by scientific abilities.
- There are many organisations around the globe – national, regional and international – that are better placed to deliver capacity development and to put research into use, as well as having more experience in doing so. In responding to donor pressures to improve the impact of its excellent research, it would be a travesty if the CGIAR sought to re-invent the wheel by trying to replicate this capability through hiring its own staff to do so. Such an action would only exacerbate the problem by drawing good staff out of the national systems, driving up the costs of employing such individuals to CGIAR international salary levels and/or bringing in Northern hemisphere “experts” who will try to impose well-meaning but theoretical approaches that will often be unsuitable due to local conditions, customs or practices.
- The document does not define what is meant by "boundary partners", but these might cover NGOs, private sector, producer organizations, policy and regulatory bodies, etc. The guidelines again could be more specific as to when and how the CRP should seek to have major impact on capacity development in such agencies. Likewise, what does a CRP do when a key partner or set

of partners is extremely weak, but the CRP does not have the resources or mandate to address the lack of capacity in the system? What are some "work around strategies" for such situations?

Capacities needed, in particular national capacities

The draft sets out many issues, but leaves hanging the question of how it would be implemented in relation to the CRPs. It does not recognize well the challenge of many states to invest in their own capacities nor the role that the CGIAR can play in directly supporting and advocating for this investment:

- The document states that it "does not describe a prescriptive "how-to" process, but is rather aimed to foster dialogue which enables centres and CRPs to incorporate CD into their planning" While it may well at least achieve the first part of this objective (stimulate the initiation of a dialogue), one wonders if these rather brief "guidelines" are sufficient to achieve the second part (incorporating CD into CRP planning) in practice, and hence give adequate orientation to the next round of CRPs. There is an extensive literature on CD and AIS in general that could have been utilised or referred to provide more practical guidance to CRPs (e.g. the recent FAO learning modules on Capacity Development would be a good place to start).
- Though capacity development of systems and institutions is mentioned in the guidelines, the focus still is on the traditional capacity development of individuals and not much content is put under organizational and institutional development. Research on capacity development has proven that developing the capacity of individuals and sending them back to systems and organizations that do not accommodate their undergone development could have negative rather than positive effect on the achievement of goals.
- I am working mainly at the meso level and with state organisations (irrigation departments and universities – Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Ethiopia). Recently, one of our partners shared this capacity gap assessment in a project presentation. I was actually – **amazed** – that the partner openly stated these are our problems.
- My feeling is – that your current guide – although making use of "system thinking" does not show the difficulties of our partner organisations.
- Addressing the needs of our partner organisations (public services), there has to be some more engagement with the partners in addressing their real problems – not just their capacity and not only by "involving them in the beginning". Looking at your definition on organizational capacity – does it really fit to our partners – meaning – even if they would have the skills – could they implement it –since they are public organisations?
- Capacity need assessment should be elaborated more, because as we understood that the capacity building programme covers the need assessment for individuals, organizations and institutions, also the capacity assessment should cover the exist[ing] infrastructure for the centers and partners, also the proposals to improve the skills of individuals according to the needed equipment mostly for those who in need to equipment with the high quality.
- Really it is an important issue and we know that how it is important for national institutions capacity development. Actually I have been working with ICARDA, CYMMYT, IRRI, ICRICAT. Thanks to them for their effort on Capdev. Only due of their input we were able to develop

capacity of the staff of Soil Institute in Tajikistan and now 15 former staff of the institute working for the implementation of development projects. All of them well known in the country. But as the government support to the national research institutions is very limited most of these staff left NARS. I think this problem is anywhere, not only in Tajikistan. May be I wrong but all project where I was engaged during 2002-2007 were designed and implemented according the provided guidelines on CapDev.

- Need assessment is high priority, but in many cases our research in NARS is not linked with development agenda of the country. We do what we can, which has no link with development agenda, but according available resources. May be first step should be research need assessment and advise for the country to change the system and only after implementation of the recommendation for the improving research system CGIAR can do need assessment for CapDev. Without is all the investment for Capdev will be useless for NARS.
- It would also be well to start with recognition that CRPs (and donor programs in general) can have negative impacts on local capacity. CGIAR programs have been accused of this in the past, both by hiring well-qualified individuals away for local institutions and by introducing CGIAR programs (and funding) that shifts researcher efforts and attention away from national programs and priorities. Whatever the truth of such accusations, it certainly is possible for donor programs to disrupt local institutions and undermine capacity. An initial guideline might be "First, do no harm!" And some examples of questionable practices and approaches might be useful.
- One should also emphasize the financial limitations of the host government to support research programs and related support services. I think one of the common denominators that define developing countries is a Suppressed Economy by which I mean that while consumer prices may be only 1/3rd to 1/5th that of developed countries, wages are only 1/12th that of developed economies. This results in up to 80% of income having to be spent just to meet basic dietary needs and with a marginal diet at that often less then needed to meet labor requirements. However, more important for a capacity development perspective is the very limited tax base, which can only come from the 20% marginally discretionary funds. Thus with no taxes there can be no services, and most host countries are financially stalled barely able to meet contract obligations to their civil officers with virtually no operating funds. Thus perhaps the most critical concern in capacity development is not to exceed the financial capacity of the host government to support the research and support services. As it is I think most of the actual effective research now being done in host countries is concentrated on variety improvement and done in collaboration with CGIARCenters, with donor assistance to the collaborating center. This is really where the CGIARCenters are making their greatest contributions to NARS and host country smallholder farmers.
- The problem is that when there is capacity development excesses what the government can financially support, the civil officers get overwhelmed and the results become compromised with some informal gratuities being received for paper services performed. This then become a disservice to the intended smallholder beneficiaries, and possible alienating the civil officers from their beneficiaries.

Annex 4: Outline of the GFAR Medium Term Plan Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome 1: Farmers and national stakeholders empowered and informed to better negotiate their own agricultural futures

Rationale: The Global Foresight Hub, which already includes over 40 different foresight approaches, focuses many lenses on our agricultural futures, combining projections & scenarios. This collective foresight approach recognizes that different assumptions underlie different projections and scenarios, the diversity of rationales together bringing new thinking for deciding what kind of world we would like to see in future, in particular to better understand the future for smallholder farming under different scenarios, recognizing that Smallholders must have a say in envisioning their own futures.

This Global Foresight Hub has now been endorsed by the G20 Agriculture Ministers and collectively asks some key questions on the future of smallholder farming, of the how to achieve sustainable production via sustainable consumption and the implications of land use changes for small farmers. Together they seek to envision the agricultural futures we wish to see, and the implications of alternative possible futures, so that research works towards delivering desired aims and informs policy choices at any level.

Intended Outputs:

Output 1.1: Operational forward thinking platform addressing key challenges for the future and related research priorities.

Output 1.2: Regional Foresight capabilities enhanced for greater self-determination.

Output 1.3: Key future agriculture questions addressed, leading to national and regional options for research and policy priorities

Outcome 2: Equitable and effective demand-driven partnerships to transform agricultural research and innovation into meaningful impacts at scale

Rationale: Partnership has become a key mantra of the changes underway in agricultural research for development systems, a core area promoted by GFAR since its formation. GFAR works in two key areas here: supporting the collective formulation of international agendas and addressing the linkages between international research and national impacts. By its nature and inclusion of research systems of all countries and stakeholders from across all constituencies, GFAR provides a direct bridge between processes of demand identification, whether from advanced science or from

government policies, and fostering the implementation of collective actions among multiple partners.

Research towards development outcomes involves complex innovation pathways and interactions among many stakeholders to identify needs and enable collective actions towards the desired impacts. GFAR works to create and foster these enabling environments, bringing diverse partners together through equitable mechanisms, catalyzing their connection and coordination through multi-stakeholder global partnership programmes: open and inclusive innovation platforms enabling collective actions on key themes such as gender or agro-biodiversity.

In each case, GFAR, either directly or regionally via Regional Fora, provides the open and inclusive space for open and effective dialogue among diverse partners along intended innovation pathways, to enable the underlying political economies of these relationships to be understood and help overcome blockages and barriers (access, investments, policies, etc) to progress and achieving impacts for the poor.

GFAR also directly fosters partnership programmes, building from constituencies upwards, e.g. in agro-biodiversity, where GFAR has catalyzed and brought together a wide range of practical actions around the issues of sustainable use of plant genetic resources and associated issues of reconciling farmers rights and plant variety rights. This Diversity for Development initiative has involved cross linkages with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture, the CGRFA, CGIAR, Regional Fora and many other bodies from civil society, public and private institutions involved in these issues.

GCARD2 also brought together food security and nutritional needs- including the diverse approaches to meeting nutritional needs taken in supplement feeding, bio-fortification and diet diversity, each of these has advocates, but for the first time GCARD brought together those aims towards developing a common research agenda with room for all dimensions involved.

The international research systems' new focus on contributing to development outcomes requires effective partnership and complementary actions from partners of all kinds, if research outputs are to be transformed into innovation products and impacts relevant to resource-poor smallholders. The CGIAR Research Programmes bring new forms of integrated research between the Centers, and with their partners. The underlying assumption is that the CGIAR is responsible for its international research outputs, but has a shared responsibility in supporting national partners to ensure these are translated into development impacts.

Intended Outputs:

Output 2.1 International research processes aligned to national needs and commitments through creation of equitable processes and dialogue around CGIAR CRP themes that link actors, funding commitments and sectoral aims along innovation pathways to desired impacts

Output 2.2 Collective advocacy and concerted global partnership actions mobilized among key sectors addressing global nutrition agenda in agriculture & health sectors and new metrics explored for promoting nutritive production & access

Output 2.3 Foster global partnerships for sustainable intensification of agriculture that build on and enhance agro-biodiversity and recognize its value to communities.

Output 2.4 International research actions on climate change and agriculture strengthened and made more coherent and apparent

Outcome 3: Transformative AR4D investments stimulated to provide tangible opportunities for the world's poor

Rationale: Strengthening agricultural research and development requires increased investment – IFPRI estimate **a tripling of investment** is required by 2025. Over the last decade, some countries such as China and India have increased their national investments considerably. However, the poorest countries, such as those in much of francophone West Africa, have failed to match this growth and in some cases have reduced their investments, resulting in their falling further behind in the development and use of agricultural innovations. A more integrated system for understanding the scale and value of investments and basis for investment approaches in the sector was demanded in GCARD1 and actions below are already beginning to deliver towards these aims.

In real terms, investment growth is driven by a few countries, such as China, while others such as sub-Saharan Africa have shown little change over the last 20 years. It is important to increase advocacy and national demand in this regard. GCARD 2 showed that national investments can be extremely effective: Uruguayan research has given a return on investment of \$17-20 per dollar invested. The reform of the CGIAR has progressively increased donor confidence and investment in the system and funding has doubled over the last 6 years. Matched increases in investments in national AR4D constituencies are now required if international research products are to be carried through to impacts

From the demand side, financial empowerment of communities to demand research relevant to their needs has been explored by GFAR and others through programmes such as DURAS and Prolinnova and alternative approaches will be further developed and evaluated in partnership with innovative fund providers.

A further key dimension in investments to improve the livelihoods of smallholder producers is their ability to access markets and grow their incomes. GFAR has been actively working through programmes led by farmer organizations to mobilize actions around a range of farmer-driven models and new funding systems - cooperatives, producer companies, large-small enterprise partnerships, innovation platforms etc that can enable innovation products to generate new value-added products, open out market chains and enable more equitable access. Both this and local innovation offer great potential for new forms of funding to be explored via GFAR through funds with multi-stakeholder governance systems

Intended Outputs:

Output 3.1 Smallholder producer entrepreneurship stimulated and new forms of public-private investments explored to enable new income and market opportunities from agricultural innovation products.

Output 3.2 Investments and returns in national AR4D systems better determined through new global monitoring system among key actors

Output 3.3 New funding mechanisms fostered in national systems to directly empower end-users in shaping and determining agricultural research & advisory processes

Outcome 4: Collective initiatives fostered to improve capacity in AR4D

Rationale: It is not enough just to strengthen and create new forms of partnerships, the scale of the challenges we face also require the development of capacities throughout the AR4D system, from farmers to research, recognizing that we are combining two forms of knowledge and innovation – that from science which is reductionist, trusted and validated by its method and that of farmers own innovation and take up of new ideas, which is holistic and trusted and validated by experience. To succeed in reaching the poor, we need to value both approaches; linking and reconciling these knowledge and trust bases.

One major challenge is the many barriers constraining information from becoming transformed into innovation. It is clear that research itself is highly fragmented, with very little cross referencing in practice between agricultural researchers and social science.

There is now a wealth of information available, yet farmers are starved of knowledge. There are many new forms of advisory services yet the sector is grossly under-resourced. However, the use of ICTs is opening out entirely new ways of sharing knowledge to reach through to farmers in usable forms. To do so also requires new ways of making data inter-operable between different forms and accessible through to farm level. To this end, GFAR has been central to initiating and fostering a number of global actions each addressing a key part of the AR4D capacity development need:

Intended Outputs:

Output 4.1: Contribute to delivery of more coherent global action to strengthen capacities to support innovation system development in line with GCARD Roadmap

Output 4.2: Transformative changes are facilitated in function, relevance and curricula quality of formal agricultural education and informal learning

Output 4.3: Advocate and facilitate processes for opening of access to information systems for sharing, transforming and using agricultural knowledge among national systems, with self-sustaining network established for sharing information on research organizations, expertise, research programs/projects and their outputs.

Output 4.4: Fostering of GFRAS mechanism to reform processes in the advisory service & extension sector through capacity development & collective learning

Outcome 5: Agricultural research and knowledge is embedded into rural development agendas

Rationale: There is a major need to rethink the central premise of agricultural research in terms of the actual farmers of today and address the realities of farmer livelihoods and the wider external factors that affect them.

Smallholder farmers now include a high proportion of women farmers; in some countries they are the majority. Yet despite this, research is still focused on needs articulated by men, such as input provision and productivity, rather than those voiced by women, such as labour saving measures, post-harvest value addition or child nutrition. This has led to a major collective action fostered through GFAR, the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP). The GAP now brings together all the major agencies involved in agricultural development and is developing as a collective voice across institutions to address the pressing need for gender equity in agriculture.

Actions have included the Global Conference on Women in Agriculture, organized by ICAR and APAARI with GFAR support, which brought together a major collective voice for women and leveraged further commitments from a number of governments including that of India. In research terms, the GAP is reframing agricultural research and innovation needs to address issues that women farmers care most about – a transformative approach that creates a very different view of needs from those put forward by men.

Viable career opportunities in agriculture are also vital for the future. In many countries, young people are struggling to obtain a living in rural areas and are moving to cities to find a viable livelihood. An ageing farmer population and lack of skilled support services create major concerns for the future. Attention must be paid to career opportunity related to value chains and the need to draw young people back into agricultural professions. To these ends, attention is also being strongly focused now on curriculum reform and creating attractive opportunities for young people in agriculture.

It is also vital to consider agricultural knowledge and innovation in the realities of major development disruptions. There are now 22 States in protracted crises worldwide, of which 17 are in Africa. Agriculture provides an invaluable means of resilience for such communities and for enabling growth out of crises. To this end, GFAR in 2012 fostered the Kigali Movement, joint actions setting out lessons learned from previous crises, towards a more collective ability to avoid earlier mistakes and support farmers in need.

Intended Outputs:

Output 5.1: Coordination and management support to establishment of the Gender in Agriculture global Partnership (GAP) as a collective, self-driven global movement, delivering, through the actions of its partners and supported by GFAR, greater gender equity across many institutional and functional contexts

Output 5.2: Self-reliant YPARD platform enabled to increase in size and scope, further enabling young people to participate in and contribute to global AR4D reforms

Output 5.3: GFAR fosters action network on roles of knowledge management and innovation in growing out of protracted crises to create practical multi-stakeholder support mechanisms and country to country transfer of expertise for use in current and future crises

Outcome 6: Accountability, transformational change and development impacts in AR4D systems increased through more effective governance and greater and more transparent stakeholder involvement

Rationale: GFAR plays a key role in helping to develop effective mechanisms for dialogue and common approaches that deliver towards national commitments and link policy with practice, among the many stakeholders brought together through the Forum and its constituent entities.

It is essential to link research priorities with wider development commitments of governments, so that research is embedded within a wider enabling environment of policies, credit access, advisory support etc. This is particularly seen in Africa, where a series of steps initially catalyzed through the GCARD discussions have now led to the CGIAR aligning its work with the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan and the country compacts developed through CAADP, the research elements of which are mobilized through FARA. Other Fora are now seeking to follow suit.

GFAR Steering Committee recently commissioned an external governance review to explore how best to strengthen the Forum's governance to be more transparently inclusive of all stakeholders. As well as a series of measures proposed for direct reflection on this representation and sectoral responsibilities, this review has also highlighted the need for similar discussions at regional level, towards creating truly multi-stakeholder fora.

The subsidiarity principle requires stronger and more inclusive and self-sustained Regional Fora . AT present the Regional Fora are of highly varied composition and operational scale. GFAR will be undertaking a series of measures , carried out through programmatic partnerships, to help support and strengthen the operation and inclusivity of the Regional Fora, so that each becomes a more effective agent of national change and regional collective actions. This will be carried out by supporting and co-financing specific actions of the Fora that directly strengthen multi-stakeholder participation in AR4D issues and in particular those that lead progressively towards transformational change and strengthening of national systems in the region concerned.

This also include the need to directly strengthen stakeholder groups themselves – farmers, civil society, SME networks, advisory services, youth, women producers etc, in order that they may better mobilize and participate in collective actions and more transparently mobilize and scale-out measures and successes from elsewhere.

The transformational changes underway also require effective metrics and GFAR Secretariat is promoting the active monitoring and evaluation of transformative change through a range of innovative measures, including changes in attitude and behaviour as a result of supported interventions. This goes well beyond the quantification of participation to include progressive measurement of changes resulting from what people have learnt and taken on as a result of their participation in supported activities. Similarly, new metrics need to be piloted to understand impact beyond yields alone and include new measures of social impact, empowerment etc.

The GCARD process itself creates a mechanism of mutual accountability, feedback and learning among the many partners involved in AR4D systems. The GCARD each 2 years provides a core reference point for the CGIAR CRPs and their partnership with national actors of different forms as to whether they are addressing the right issues, with sufficient value add for national systems.

Collective agendas are determined through a range of processes and networks but at the political level intergovernmental actions of FAO and the CFS are particularly relevant as are the interactions of advanced capabilities with those of less developed countries such as those fostered via the G20, via Europe-Africa links or via S-S partnerships involving the fast-growing economies (China, India, Brazil etc). Strengthening linkages and mutual commitments between FAO and the CGIAR are a particular focus where GFAR, as the inclusive forum for both, has a key role to play in helping to forge effective linkages.

Intended Outputs:

Output 6.1: Mutual public accountability and learning on transformative processes fostered & tracked among AR4D stakeholders via GCARD processes.

Output 6.2: More effective governance of agricultural research for development priority setting and implementation through enabling multi-stakeholder participation in fora in each region and at Global level, with demonstrable changes in institutional behaviour

Output 6.3: GFAR roles in supporting to international policy processes and strengthening coordination of bilateral and multilateral systems leads to greater inter-regional connection and improved governance of global agricultural research towards development goals