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Technical Report to EC

Global Forum on Agricultural Research

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Technical Report to EC

Global Forum on Agricultural Research

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This has been an extremely full and successful year in the work of GFAR, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research. In 2014-2015, the Global Forum has gone through a complete process of renewal, shaped and driven by a wide range of stakeholders. Over 100 different partners from all sectors and regions came together in the GFAR Constituent Assembly, to make the changes they wished to see to make the Forum as effective as possible for their needs.

The Constituent Assembly was the culmination of a process of governance review and change. It has now created a governance structure that is much more open, transparent, legitimately representative and equitable than before and which engages the full spread of actors in agri-food innovation, from farmers and consumers to upstream research. Alongside this, GFAR now works to a clear and agreed Theory of Change and has this year introduced a full M&E system for all funds provided to partner entities.

GFAR has now truly established itself as a unique global mechanism, mobilizing and catalyzing change across all sectors involved in agri-food research and innovation, creating the means by which they can become more effective and impactful in their operation. The ongoing funding received from the EC has been fundamental to this success, giving a core stability to actions and programmes and enabling real change, mobilizing actions across a wide range of actors in the forum.

The actions described in this report show well how GFAR truly addresses the “Missing Middle” between agricultural research and its impact in development. Fostering the transition from academic public research to innovation systems that are multi-actor, smallholder focused and engaged with actual development realities, GFAR is providing a mechanism that is driving change in a wide range of institutions around the world.

GFAR demonstrates the value of ‘soft power’ approaches to institutional change. By catalysing and influencing change in institutional and individual attitudes, thinking and behaviours, GFAR is helping ensure that the views of farmers and consumers and in particular the resource poor, are captured and sustainably taken up into the prioritization, shaping and delivery of agricultural research and innovation processes and that these are made much more relevant to development needs than before. All this is achieved on a very limited funding base and a strong focus on accountability and value for money, yet this itself leverages over twice the same amount again from other sources.

Nonetheless, it is clear that agricultural research and innovation systems remain grossly under-resourced in many countries, both in funding and capacities. GFAR is addressing this as a common voice of advocacy for more and, just as importantly, better, investment and capacity development in the sector. This has led to the development of a concept for an integrated approach to investment in innovation and enterprise, a game changing approach that moves beyond individual projects to bring together the diverse actors and actions required to ensure that research products really do have effective pathways to impact. The approach harnesses the power of the very extensive networks engaged in GFAR in all regions and sectors and links public, private and civil actors in processes that are driven by national demands and respond to the needs of the poor, in particular for women and youth.

On the technical level, through this EC support funding, GFAR Secretariat has been able to play important roles in fostering a wide range of collective actions among the Partners in GFAR, developing capacities and bringing about change, working with relevant institutions of all kinds. These are summarized in the report and span all areas of the GFAR MTP, facilitating and catalysing actions among the spread of partners in agricultural research, extension, education and enterprise.

GFAR actions have catalysed effective multi-stakeholder partnership including, among others, in:

- Participatory foresight
- Climate change
- Human health and nutrition
- Gender and women's economic empowerment
- Advancement of youth
- Open access to information
- Farmers' rights
- Strengthening advisory services
- Reforming agricultural education
- Capacity development in agricultural innovation
- Agricultural sustainability
- Local innovation

Other actions have directly brought the voices of intended beneficiaries of agricultural research and advisory services into the reform of institutions. These inputs, provide public accountability for the roles and behaviours of key institutions and networks, including the CGIAR, Regional Fora and bodies mobilizing advisory services and universities and have led to some very constructive change. This work has entailed considerable supporting inputs from the Secretariat, supported by EC funds, to objectively inspire and trigger the changes desired by the partners concerned.

The report summarizes specific actions in each of these areas and demonstrates that Collective Actions are essential if agricultural research and innovation are to impact in development. GFAR is growing rapidly in both presence and impact and all involved look forward to still greater impacts from the changes now put in place and the wider understanding of the Forum's role that these have generated. Despite very limited financial resources and a Secretariat budget that is well below that of peer organizations, GFAR progress remains well on track in most areas of the GFAR Medium Term Plan. We celebrate all that our Partners in the Global Forum are achieving, the changes they are making in their own operation and purpose in light of these inputs and look forward to demonstrating still greater change in the remainder of the EC-funded programme.

TECHNICAL REPORT

Funding through the new programme of support from the EU commenced in January 2014, one year after the project signature. The programme covers a 4 year period. Through informal agreement with the EC officers responsible and to avoid compressing actions unrealistically, the programme period is thus considered to run to a revised completion date of 1 January 2018.

This report highlights the activities and achievements of the Global Forum through this grant, addressing the six outcomes, as agreed by all partners in GFAR 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.

Accountability for Actions

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

Throughout the year, the GCARD3 process has been the main focus of our work in creating greater accountability for development impact in agricultural research and innovation systems.

GCARD3 is a conversation taking place nationally, regionally and globally, about the future of agri-food research and innovation. Throughout 2015 and 2016, scientists, researchers, farmers, civil society, rural women and youth, policy makers, education, business and investment agencies, are coming together to decide how agri-food research and innovation systems can best meet the world's development needs.

The Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) was created to promote effective, targeted investment and build partnership, capacities and mutual accountabilities at all levels of the agricultural system to meet the needs of resource-poor farmers and their communities. The GCARD process helps refine regional and global agricultural research priorities, as identified by different stakeholder groups and representatives.

GCARD1, in 2010, resulted in the "GCARD Road Map", a six-point plan for transforming agricultural research for development around the world. In 2012, GCARD2 identified pathways to impact, which led to 15 new commitments around partnership, capacity development and foresight in the CGIAR – the international agricultural research system. GCARD3 is a longer-term engagement process that is providing a range of opportunities for stakeholders to positively influence the direction and activities of international research for development over the next 10 years. It is about aligning the needs of resource-poor farmers and their communities with international research priorities, starting from the grass-roots up. It's about setting a new research and innovation agenda and ensuring that national and regional systems have the resources, expertise and capacity to deliver. It is hoped that GCARD3 consultations will also result in a more effective means of investing in national agricultural research and innovation systems, to lift developing countries out of poverty and set them on the path to growth.

GCARD3 is an inclusive, participatory process and an opportunity to shape the future. It's a chance to:

- Explore ways to align regional and national priorities and activities with CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) and to provide CRPs the space to work together on possibilities for future integration
- Strengthen existing and new partnerships and find new ways of working in the future
- Look at how changes in the focus, function and capability of national innovation systems (research, extension, education and enterprise can best be resourced and supported.

GCARD3 National Consultations are now underway. Organized jointly by CGIAR and national partners, meetings are being held in 20 target countries, starting with Nigeria. They will help shape the second generation of CGIAR Research Programs, by bringing the CGIAR Centers and Programs together with national stakeholders, to understand each other's priorities and activities. This will also support the development of site integration plans that show how the CRPs deliver development outcomes with their partners and add value to national systems.

GCARD3 Regional Consultations are being organized by GFAR and regional partners: Middle East and North Africa Region (October); Central Asia and the Caucasus Region (January) and Asia-Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand (December). Regional consultations are also planned in sub-Saharan Africa and the Latin America and Caribbean region.

The GCARD3 Global Event will take place in South Africa in April 2016, organized by GFAR, CGIAR and the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa. South Africa was chosen through an open and competitive tender process among three nations. Based on the theme of 'Ensuring SDG impact from agri-food research and innovation', the Program will broadly cover:

- Investment of financial and other resources, inputs and capacities;
- Integration of actions in particular locations/contexts, mobilizing collective actions for impact at scale;
- Alignment of different programs and actions in the Innovation Webs to achieve common objectives;
- Equitability, ensuring that processes are equitably prioritized and delivered, with direct ownership/involvement from their intended beneficiaries;
- Metrics, ensuring effective measures for demonstrating impacts against different development goals;
- Advances in Science, celebrating progress in delivering on the SDGs

Sessions at the Global Event will reflect upon the outcomes of the national and regional dialogues with a view to bridging the gaps between the generation of new ideas and their impact in development. By the end of this intensive engagement process, the agri-food research and innovation community will have a clear understanding of what's needed for national and regional systems to be effective and accountable, and how international agricultural research can provide its best value-addition as an effective partner in national development outcomes.

Reform of Regional Fora and thematic networks

In line with the GFAR Theory of Change, GFAR Secretariat devotes a considerable amount of time and effort to increasing the multi-stakeholder relevance, effectiveness and accountability of the networks and fora that bring their efforts together through GFAR. This approach is set out clearly in the GFAR Theory of Change. Over the past year this work has involved managerial inputs to help generate and catalyse appropriate programmes and partnerships and support the development of fundable programmes. GFAR has also provided oversight roles in various Steering Committee meetings for the organizations concerned. These have included in particular direct roles in the governance of:

- AARINENA (Near East & North Africa)
- APAARI (Asia and the Pacific)
- CACAARI (Central Asia & Caucasus)
- EFARD (Europe)
- FARA and SROs (SSA)
- GCHERA (higher education)
- GFRAS (advisory services)
- Prolinnova (local innovation)
- SAI Platform (private sector)

In each case, GFAR Secretariat involvement seeks to ensure that each network aligns with the GFAR vision, mission and principles, such that they themselves are becoming the implementers of the reforms set out in the GCARD Roadmap and resultant GFAR MTP, which they have in many cases themselves formulated through their roles in the GFAR Steering Committee.

As a result, the programmes supported through GFAR-EC funds now have a full accompanying rationale and associated commitments for how they contribute to GFAR's purpose and how their outputs and immediate outcomes will be measured and shown. This is a major step forward in increasing the relevance and strength of such networked bodies and their actions.

GFAR support is also enabling Regional Fora to draw up their own strategic plans and M&E systems and the expert consultants 'Firetail' have been retained for this purpose, first through a workshop in Rome and now in direct linkage with their own programmes.

More effective Governance of agricultural research for development through enabling multi-stakeholder participation (Output 6.2)

Reform of GFAR's Governance: The GFAR Constituent Assembly

The GFAR Constituent Assembly brought together over 100 representative stakeholders from all sectors and all regions, to consider and renew the role, purpose and governance of GFAR. The Assembly formed the culmination of a process of governance review, reform and renewal of the Global Forum, responding to the fact that much has changed in the world of agricultural research and innovation since the Forum was first established in 1996.

Participants in the Assembly were specifically identified and selected as being a legitimate and representative cross-section of all stakeholders, including farmers, CSOs, the private sector in various forms, national public research and rural advisory services, education, Regional Fora, multilateral organizations, international agricultural research centres, women's groups, youth groups, development banks and foundations, financing and technical partners.

Outcomes:

Together, these stakeholders explored what is required of agricultural research and innovation systems around the world for them to work better together in advocating for the value of the sector, sharing knowledge, partnering together in GFAR collective actions and in developing the capacities required along value webs in each country to generate, access, transform and make use of agricultural knowledge.

The GFAR Chair, Juan Lucas Restrepo and FAO AG-ADG Ren Wang gave valuable introductory talks setting the frame for the Assembly and highlighting FAO's role in hosting the GFAR Secretariat. Short dynamic talks, by speakers from across the spectrum of participants, were used to introduce and frame each session. These were followed by very active and participatory round table sessions exploring the theme concerned, with a rotation of participants to ensure effective mixing and inspire new ideas. These sessions were able to deliver some really useful outputs in relationship to GFAR's role and purpose, collective action, governance and resourcing.

A meeting of the existing GFAR Steering Committee held during the Assembly obtained very useful inputs in formulating and refining the renewed vision and mission for GFAR and shaping development of the new governance arrangements, in line with the decision of the Assembly.

Using an anonymous electronic voting system, participants were then able to vote on whether they agreed with the change proposed. In all cases, over 90% of participants agreed with the changes and with GFAR's renewed role, a very strong endorsement of the changes proposed and a great recognition of the value and 'ownership' of GFAR among all those involved in agricultural research and innovation.

The only issue on which opinion was divided was of whether to change the Forum's name in line with its evolved role. Given this, it was decided not to change the name at present, but to retain the acronym and find a supporting 'tagline' that would more directly reflect the reformed Forum. "Collective Action in Agricultural Innovation" is proposed.

The Assembly has provided a resounding endorsement of the reform and renewal of GFAR, by a very broad spread of partners, from smallholder farmers to FAO and the CGIAR and from the private sector to NGOs:

The Assembly redefined the role and purpose of the Global Forum through unanimous agreement on a new:

Vision:

"The Global Forum makes agri-food research and innovation systems more effective, responsive and equitable, towards achieving Sustainable Development outcomes"

And Mission:

“Partners in the Global Forum, at national, regional and international levels, advocate for, and catalyse Collective Actions that strengthen and transform agricultural innovation and research”

A new Governance structure is now agreed, that includes a Partners Assembly, meeting in the triennial Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) and annual meetings of a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee, mandated by and reporting to each Partner Assembly.

A formal basis was agreed for **GFAR Collective Actions**. Specifically, it was agreed that:

“A GFAR collective action is a multi-stakeholder programme of work at national, regional or international level, initiated by three or more partners and prioritized by the Global Forum, always including producers and with a particular focus on women and youth.

Partners agree to commit and generate resources together, in actions or advocacy that strengthen and transform agricultural innovation systems towards shared demand-driven development aims and which add value through their joint actions.

The Global Forum’s collective actions and their outcomes must be publicly recognized as contributing to the objectives of the Global Forum and the GCARD Roadmap. Progress must be reported and shared with other partners through the Forum.”

The issue of fee-paying membership of the Forum was discussed, but was considered inappropriate, given the open and inclusive nature of the Forum. Instead, institutions will be encouraged to become Partners in GFAR, which will be open to all stakeholders from national, regional and international institutions who express formally their alignment with GFAR’s Mission and Vision. Through this basis, the Partners in GFAR will be explicitly defined as they formulate and deliver collective actions through equitable and committed partnerships.

Until the new basis comes into operation, the existing Steering Committee will maintain its role and responsibilities. However, the Executive Committee was now seen as an unnecessary layer of governance. The reformed Steering Committee (which will include a seat for FAO) will decide what sub-committees it may, or may not, require to ensure effective operation and accountability in all respects.

GFAR’s role in advocating and promoting greater, and better, investment in transforming and strengthening the capacities required in of national agricultural innovation systems was agreed by all to be a vital function and collective good, well served by the multi-stakeholder Global Forum.

The Constituent Assembly has strongly established the full legitimacy of GFAR. This is seen in feedback from partners, including donors. For example, ACIAR expressed that: “The Assembly was able to deliver some really useful outputs in relationship to role and purpose, collective action, governance and resourcing. There also seemed strong endorsement and willingness for all partners to be engaged in the ongoing process to deliver what we all want to achieve – a world with less poverty and hungry where agriculture plays a central, impactful role.”

Follow-up

- The general mandate of GFAR is now strongly approved, with broader representation and a clear, strong basis for GFAR Collective Actions. A series of follow-up actions will now be put in place to implement these reforms. These include:
 - The functional linkage between FAO and GFAR was well reinforced by the meeting, and through the inputs by FAO-DDNR to the earlier strategic planning process and through the AG-ADG in the Assembly meeting itself. This will be built upon through discussion at high level in FAO and with Member Countries, including on the status and support for GFAR Secretariat in FAO. The reformed GFAR is expected to be a more effective strategic partner in contributing to FAO's Mission and Strategic Framework through its catalytic and advocacy roles for agri-food research and innovation.
- The existing GFAR Steering Committee will meet prior to the GCARD3, specifically to consider and plan the Partner Assembly.
- The Charter now requires revision and the Secretariat will hire a consultant to help draft an updated Charter for consideration by the Partners Assembly.

GFAR support to international policy processes and strengthening coordination of bilateral and multilateral systems (Outcome 6.3)

GFAR Secretariat made a significant contribution to the 4th G20 Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS), hosted by Turkey as G20 President. The GFAR Secretariat had previously provided support to the Government of Turkey (G20 Presidency) in planning this meeting. The 4th G20 MACS meeting focused on 3 themes, Food Loss & Waste, the status of agricultural research in the G20 and strengthening agricultural innovation systems. The Turkish Presidency seeks to incorporate the work of MACS with others into a G20 Action Plan, to be discussed at the Antalya Summit in November 2015. This will form part of the high level deliverable for G20 Ministers.

Outcomes

MACS was seen as important in promoting collaboration among G20 agricultural research agencies, identifying priorities and collaborative areas for public-private partnerships. The meeting was asked to consider ways to enable transition to sustainable food ecosystems. Outcomes from the 3rd MACS in Brisbane Australia were summarized to the meeting. That meeting found considerable scope to connect global systems of innovation, reaffirmed support for global collaborative research partnerships and welcomed the GFAR proposal to establish an integrated investment facility for agricultural innovation and enterprise.

Actions arising from MACS 3 included a study of new metrics for sustainable intensification, led by USDA and building from considerations of total factor productivity. This study aims to address the gap in effective measurement of environmental degradation. While this is welcome, the Reporting Officer (RO) queried why social impacts were not also being measured, a comment that was reinforced by a number of MACS delegates.

Over the last year there has also been a pilot project to map research priorities across the G20 nations, towards coordinated actions in these areas. The methodology was based on where national investments have been most focused. A survey was sent to all G20 countries and research investors were asked to tag scale of expenditure against a range of key themes. From this basis a rapid assessment of current research priorities was undertaken. From presentation on the Investment Facility last year, the MACS has recognized the importance of social issues around innovations and opportunities. The 3rd MACS also resulted in white papers in Australia on agricultural competitiveness and on rural development of Northern Australia.

However, it was also recognized that there was a lack of flow of communication about some of these activities. The 'troika' of past, present and future Presidencies will now take responsibility for continuity. GFAR offered its support to help ensure continuity of knowledge and to post MACS materials also on the GFAR website. It was also noted that there is still a lack of participation by some major emerging economies in the MACS.

Country reports

Country presentations on the status of agricultural research were led by Turkey, which highlighted its impressive growth in investment and capacity over recent years, including the establishment of a number of new research centres. Turkey has a national strategy aiming at 3% of national GDP being reinvested in research by 2023 (100 years of the Republic).

Japan also summarized their research system and its focus on transforming agriculture and food into growth industries, noting also the particular need to focus on attract youth and keeping young farmers in agriculture. JIRCAS emphasized their role in support of international development.

France focused on climate change, with the French Presidency of UNFCCC and the Paris climate summit this year. Particular initiatives are to store annually 4% of atmospheric carbon in soils and development of a national strategy for the bioeconomy.

CAAS China emphasized the scale of their operation, with 67,000 researchers, 530,000 extension staff and 60,000 teachers in state agricultural universities, resulting in an estimated 20 billion yuan benefit to society. China also emphasized the challenge of youth leaving the countryside to seek opportunity in the cities, with 79% of migrants being aged 21-50, the farmers are now the women and old people, unskilled and not well equipped to take on new technologies. China sees the need to move forward through larger scale agriculture, moving away from small plot systems.

AAFC Canada highlighted the need for growth and development of competitive, innovative and sustainable agri-food systems and addressing threats to the value chain. They emphasized new technologies and the potential of science and technologies, the shifting research scene with a greater involvement of universities now in agricultural research, but recognizing also the complexity of the underlying issues involved in these areas. Canada highlighted the increasing need for partnership to address these issues and is forming Agri-science clusters to address this.

USDA-ARS highlighted the need for public private partnerships and that robust investments in agricultural research were required to meet US needs. The private sector were seen as unlikely to

invest in upstream research unless there were parallel streams of government support. However the increasing importance of the private sector was well noted, with a rise in private sector investments from 7 to 8.7 billion US\$ per annum over the last 4 years, while public research is currently 5bn.

In discussion, issues raised included the common challenge of an ageing farming population, the need for links to social issues and the need for improvements in agricultural education. Italy emphasized the need to not just consider the needs of rural areas, but also to better engage farmers in agricultural science and to better link agricultural science and society. Issues of open data were also discussed and concerns raised that there seemed little reciprocity of data being opened from the private sector and the need for IPR regimes that didn't only favour the companies concerned.

The Wheat Initiative was specifically reported, as an initiative begun by the MACS in 2012. This programme now involves collaborative research between 16 countries, 9 private companies and 2 CGIAR Centers. The programme helps define global priorities then delivers research actions towards these.

Investments

GFAR Executive Secretary Chaired and introduced the session on investments, presenting a paper that summarized the current status of agricultural research and innovation investments and the role of the Integrated Facility for Agricultural innovation and Enterprise. This included contributions from the ASTI programme of IFPRI and from the TAP Secretariat.

This was followed by talks from the Turkish investment agency TUBITAK, which highlighted the rapid increase in investments in agricultural research in Turkey, as part of a general national policy which aims to see 3% of GDP invested in research by 2023 (100th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey). This has resulted in an impressive growth in patent applications and scientific publications and an upward trend in project proposals submitted and their quality.

The EC then reported on the Horizon 2020 framework, which has a budget of 70bn euros and operates through funding via challenge-based calls. The budget for agricultural research is almost double that in the previous funding period. The EC DG AGRI is also developing a new European innovation partnership for rural development, fostering a competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry sector in Europe. A new programme is launched this year. The paper was well received and the MACS recognized the scale of the challenge and the need for concerted action.

Discussion emphasized:

- The tremendous potential of the G20 agricultural science base to generate products, innovations and policy recommendations that are of direct value in development and to foster required capacities in developing countries
- The need to integrate and find synergies between different agricultural research and development investments through multi-stakeholder innovation platforms and processes that are nationally-driven and nationally-prioritized
- The need for research investments to be better associated with wider rural development investments and open new avenues of public-private partnership.

- The importance of high level national policy commitments, such as have been seen in the case of TUBITAK and the growth in national research investment in Turkey.
- The need for a more coherent approach to capacity development in agricultural innovation systems as set out through the TAP initiative and in line with the GCARD Roadmap principles.
- The need for national processes of prioritization to be inclusive and engaged with civil society

MACS discussed:

Ways to better map research priorities around the world and identify and bring wider awareness of relevant initiatives being taken by different agencies and their spill-over benefits, encouraging agencies to make use of AgriProfiles (AGRI-VIVO) to share awareness of current research actions and partners.

How to engage in the further development of the Integrated Agricultural Innovation and Enterprise Facility, and its processes articulating national demand, to better align G20 research investments with development needs and where appropriate co-invest through parallel financing.

To make better use of the capabilities of G20 agricultural research systems to help develop capacities required in developing countries and bring cost-efficiency through shared resources and collective actions.

Unfortunately, by nature of their roles as senior public servants, the MACS were not able to make a statement supporting the need for greater investment in agricultural research and innovation, which could be regarded as political. However, the agreed Communiqué did state MACS recognition of the value of research investments in the G20 nations in producing spill-over benefits for other regions. Linking these G20 domestic investments to wider initiatives through the Investment Facility for Agricultural Innovation and Enterprise can open great opportunity for investment synergies and constructive linkages.

Food Loss and Waste

This is the flagship initiative of the MACS for 2015. Presentations were made on the huge economic advantage to be had in reducing waste, including the bread initiative in Turkey and from FAO on the plans for a platform on the theme with IFPRI and others. FAO welcomed the initiative and are planning to roll it out elsewhere. Food loss and waste was chosen as the Turkish theme reflecting the pressure on natural resources NR and extent of losses worldwide. In general, low income countries see most pre-harvest loss, wealthier countries post-harvest. The resources wasted in waste production are also an important factor.

FAO highlighted that this global issue needs global action. It is a complex issue, with many knowledge gaps that need more research and knowledge creation. So far, FAO has done the only global study – this is a major gap to fill. Losses differ in composition as well as scale e.g. Europe loses twice the cereals of Africa but much less milk. The CFS has noted that FLW should not be considered an accident but an integral part of food system. This requires multidisciplinary considerations, making use of knowledge of actors, with more research. FLW is challenging, but also an opportunity.

FAO/IPPRI have been asked to conceptualize a possible platform - around 4 key objectives:

- Strengthen focus on need to reduce FLW
- Support & enhance approaches and metrics for FLW Promote and facilitate reduction of FLW
- Enhance collaboration among international institutions.
- Platform to provide advice on implementation of joint actions.

The need for joint action has been recognized by CGIAR, with the need to fill the data gap. OECD has focused on the consumer side and has also welcomes coordinated action, around an agreed common definition. The EC has designated euros 26 million to this area – and to support moves towards developing real circular economies. A key challenge is of finding the right definition. The definition starts from food and it is important to find generic definitions that can straddle cultural differences on food. FAO & UNEP are charged to address FLW – and will launch a sustainable food systems programme under the UN as a 10 year programme, a major part of which is reducing FLW.

Other actions

Recognizing the facilitation role of the Global Forum, and its long standing collaboration with farmer's organizations and civil society that were highlighted in 2014 during the IYFF, the World Bank which administers the Global Agricultural Food Security Program (GAFSP) asked GFAR Secretariat to technically support the participation of Civil Society / Farmers Organizations in the Program Governance and implementation. Under a contract with GAFSP the GFAR Secretariat has been entrusted to mobilize CSOs/FOs from the two Regions of importance for GAFSP: Asia, and Sub Saharan Africa. This made possible, for Asia, the involvement of the Asian Farmers' Association (AFA) at regional and level as well as in country interventions in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Lao, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, and participation in GAFSP Steering Committee meeting.

In Sub Saharan Africa, the Réseau des Organisations de Producteurs de l'Afrique (ROPPA) has also been mobilized to provide similar impact oriented perspectives into the GAFSP Steering Committee and express the perspectives of family and smallholder farmers into GAFSP Steering Committee and in project evaluation as well as monitoring and evaluating projects undertaken in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal.

GFAR Secretariat also participated in the EC DG AGRI meeting at the Milan EXPO, reviewing agricultural research needs in development of a new regional strategy for agricultural R&D. Inputs were provided to the discussion and in separate session with DG AGRI senior management.

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 outcome is supported by the Global Foresight Hub (GFH), a global multi-stakeholder platform established through GFAR. The GFH links all those concerned about the future of agriculture and its role in development. Its role is to challenge the institutional divides, and break down the walls that prevent effective collaboration and partnership in meeting our future challenges.

Such a divide is currently hindering Farmers and Civil Society organizations, particularly in less developed countries, from shaping the future of agriculture, food and rural development and orienting agricultural research and innovation systems to meet these needs.

Under Outcome 1, the Hub has worked to produce the following outputs:

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

Experts in The Forward Thinking Platform worked together to successfully produce a “Glossary of Terms commonly used in Futures Studies”, an invaluable aid to common understanding in an area renowned for diverse interpretations of terms used. The Glossary is now available in short and long versions. Chinese, French and Spanish versions are currently being prepared. Hundreds of leaflets with the short version have been handed out worldwide during foresight events. Further financial support is being sought to support wider actions of the Forward Thinking Platform. Plans for 2016 target more actions from the Platform.

Regional Foresight capabilities enhanced for greater self-determination (Output 1.2)

Foresight activities were prioritised on developing local capacities to engage in foresight. As a result, six farmers or civil society organisations attended two regional training programmes on co-elaborative scenario building at local level. These training processes were respectively facilitated by AFA in Asia and Pacific and PROPAC in Central Africa, with the technical and financial support of the GFAR Secretariat for each. Twenty-one people from local or regional farmer organisations attended the two five-day training workshops. All involved local organisations are currently implementing grassroots foresight activities on the future of the local communities and farming. Activities are taking place in Boru, Flores Island, Indonesia, in South Palawan in the Philippines; in the northern part of the Himalayan province of India; in the Ntoum district of Gabon, the Nkolmefou district of Cameroun and the Gamboma district in Congo Democratic Republic. The results are being used to engage these organisations with other local stakeholders, developing foresight based local action plans. Authors will share the results in the GCARD3 process as a way to include diverse visions of future challenges in shaping national and international research and policy agendas.

CIFOR (CGIAR Center) signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with GFAR to engage in training local staff for the project Global Comparative Studies on Forest Tenure Security. Fifty-six participants from

Indonesia, Uganda and Peru, including project staff and invited partners, attended training workshops in Bogor, Kampala, and Lima. Over 60% of them were women. They are currently implementing local foresight works in the districts of Tanggamus and Seram Bagian Barat in Indonesia, Kibaale, Lamwo and Masindi in Uganda and in the regions of Loreto and Madre de Dios in Peru. Outputs will be used to engage local stakeholders in more strategic actions related to the issue of forest tenure security and rights.

Through this work, GFAR Secretariat has also produced guidelines for the use of Participatory Prospective Analysis applied to the futures of forest tenure security. Training course material for co-elaborative scenario building, produced in English, French and Spanish is freely available through GFAR website.

Worldfish (CGIAR Center) signed a LoA with GFAR to support exploration of the futures of fish and aquatic agricultural systems, with a focus on Southern Africa hinterlands and coastal Bangladesh. A five-day regional foresight workshop was also conducted in Zambia. Outputs are currently being used for the preparation of the technical content of the Worldfish CRP proposal to CGIAR on Fish Agri-food systems.

Through GFAR support, YPARD has engaged the foresight perspectives of youth on several fronts. The YPARD Foresight Ambassador has attended several GFAR training workshops. As a result he was now able to facilitate alone a foresight session at a 3-day workshop organized by SID in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. This session began a process to catalyse policy engagement around the issues of youth, livelihoods and agricultural transformation in Eastern Africa. He also co-facilitated the foresight workshop with Worldfish. YPARD Asia, with the support of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) included foresight activities in their own future plans as a regional network of young professionals during their first meeting in September 2015.

At the request of CACAARI, a foresight session was organised during a CACAARI-GFRAS meeting, engaging participants in an awareness raising process about forward thinking and its used for the CAC region. As a result CACAARI is willing to promote the emergence and development of foresight as part of its future activities.

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

During the Global Forum on Innovations in Agriculture, held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in March 2015, GFAR initiated and facilitated a Hosted Scientist Program on Agricultural Innovation Platforms. More than 100 scientists engaged in a highly interactive process leading to deep reflection on the futures of Agricultural Innovation Platforms. The results were highly praised by participants and GFIA organizers. Results will be published in an academic journal and presented for discussion in the GCARD3 process.

Among other activities, the Secretariat contributed also to:

- a training on foresight for young professionals in Asia, organised by APEC in Beijing, China, September 2015.

- the 5th World Rural Forum Global Conference “Let’s Build the Future: Family Farming”, moderating a session on “Linking family farmers’ organizations with research centers” and contributing to working group activities, in Derio, Spain, September 2015.
- the OECD IdeaFactory session on “New Solution Spaces: the Pre-2060 Agenda” held during the 2015 OECD Forum in Paris, June 2015
- the OECD Government Foresight meeting on Best Practice Exchange in Paris , November 2014
- the Scientific Advisory Committee of the EU project “Impact of research on EU Agriculture” (IMPRESA)

Two publications were submitted respectively to “Development”, the journal of the Society for International Development” and Futures. The first one will be published in the 2015, volume 2 issue and the second is currently under review. Four more papers are being prepared, two of them in collaboration with Worldfish.

Demand-Driven Partnerships for Impact

Partnership is a key feature of the changes underway in agricultural research for development systems at national, regional and international levels. The Global Forum modus operandi was articulated by its Roadmap around mobilizing and catalyzing multi-stakeholder collective actions to address themes of importance for agricultural innovation systems worldwide. Over the concerned period GFAR has continued to provide a recognized platform to create, support and/or bring to the next level collaborative programmes of global significance, adopting innovative approaches that provides the space for stakeholders to develop strategic and collaborative actions for impact. GFAR works in two key areas: supporting the collective formulation of international agendas and addressing the linkages between international research, regional actions and national impacts.

International research processes aligned to national needs and commitments through equitable processes around CGIAR CRP themes, along innovation pathways to desired impacts (Output 2.1)

CGIAR Reform

GFAR continues to play a key role in the reform and governance of the CGIAR international agricultural research system. GFAR mobilizes, and expresses, the perspectives of national partners from all sectors, and in particular from resource-poor producers and national partners, into the processes of prioritization of research, articulating national and regional needs. GFAR constructively challenges the system, to ensure that CGIAR processes do not just result in research outputs, but are aligned with national systems and commitments and able, through effective linkages and required capacity development, to bridge the missing middle between research outputs and development outcomes.

Over the report period, these processes have included direct representation in each of the CGIAR Fund Council meetings (in Brussels and Bogor), in which GFAR partners perspectives were directly represented. Inputs were based on prior surveys to solicit the perspectives of a wide range of GFAR Partners on the SRF document and subsequently their views on the governance reform options and CRP proposals. Considerable inputs were received on the SRF and governance reform, in particular concerns on the limited focus on capacity development in national research and innovation systems and the limited attention to gender and youth issues (see Annex 2). As a result, while endorsing the overall Strategy and Results Framework, GFAR formally refused to endorse the capacity development elements of the SRF.

Presentations were made subsequent to the Brussels meeting at the one-day event, convened by the EC, on the linkage between European research and the CGIAR. This enabled GFAR to present its role in strengthening and transforming national agricultural research and innovation systems, across the range of sectors involved and to highlight in particular the role of the proposed Investment Facility in creating a step-change in the scale and value of investments in national innovation platforms.

CRP Maize research

The Second Asian Maize Conference was organized by APAARI, FAO and CIMMYT in Bangkok, Thailand, November 2014. GFAR co-sponsorship directly enabled the attendance of farmers and other stakeholders who were unable to support their own participation in this event. This well-attended event addressed all aspects of maize improvement and cultivation in the region. A full report of the conference is available at: <http://www.apaari.org/news/12-amc.html>

Discussion covered a rich range of areas around the practicalities of increasing maize production in the region, in particular to meet growing demand in China and elsewhere for animal and poultry feed. A wide range of scientific themes was covered around maize production and the implications of issues such as anticipated demand (a 6-fold increase in maize consumption in the region is projected by CIMMYT by 2030), the impacts of climate change, breeding for stress tolerance and making seed accessible through public-private seed systems. The quality of papers was high and much useful data was presented in a valuable update on the status and progress of maize research in and beyond the region. Nonetheless, the explicit strong focus on maize-based research meant there was little on possible alternatives to maize to deal with future food and nutritional needs, nor implications of maize and maize products such as refined corn syrup on human nutrition, or impacts of maize production on ecosystems and soil fertility vis-a-vis other possible crop systems.

A lively panel discussion was moderated by GFAR Secretariat among farmers and those directly serving farmers on how maize technologies could best be made available to smallholder farmers. This session covered themes of resilience and risk management, mechanisms to help enable youth to enter production systems, marketing of new niche products such as sweet corn and mechanisms to involve farmers as innovators in their own rights and through measures such as participatory variety selection. It was recognized that the only farmers present in the Conference were those sponsored by GFAR; it appears that conventional research institutions are still reluctant to engage directly with farmer perspectives in practice. The organizers recognized this and offered that there should be 50 farmers present at the next such conference.

Measures required to attract youth were recognized as incorporating post-harvest processing as well as crop production. They also included the need for access to credit, enterprises with value addition and service industries such as through use of GIS systems and knowledge access for advisory services. Such measures to retain youth in the rural economy also require political will and incentive systems, including curriculum reform in schools and universities. The session closed with a strong call for much greater emphasis on public-private-producer partnerships (PPPPs) as the best way forwards.

Dryland ecosystems

GFAR Secretariat has invested in specific dialogue with selected CGIAR Centers and partners involved in CRP Water Land and Environment (WLE), and CRP Dryland Systems (CRP DS). Representatives nominated by GFAR seat in the Steering Committee of these two CRPs, and the GFAR Secretariat is developing a strong collaboration with CRP DS evidenced by the selection in March 2015 of the Secretariat Senior Adviser to Chair this Program Independent Steering Committee. This increased involvement into CRP DS governance and collaborative activities, notably in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Sub Saharan Africa has resulted in greater participation of this CRP into the regional and national dialogues included in the GCARD3 preparation process.

The assumption is that these CRPs which took shared responsibilities beyond their areas of direct control in support of national research and development partners will demonstrate the value added of such collaboration, and convince others to engage similarly in collaborating with national institutions and networks (research, extension, education, NGOs, agribusiness etc.) as full partners.

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

GFAR played an important role in the preparatory processes for the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition. Through the prior preparatory process, GFAR mobilized specific debate on the role of women in nutrition and implications of agricultural innovation. In the discussions subsequent to the meeting, GFAR worked with the EAT Forum in organizing a follow-on event, hosted by the Norwegian Embassy, exploring new metrics for integrating agriculture, nutrition/consumption and human health. This workshop included Directors of 2 CGIAR Centers, the head of the SUN Movement and the head of LCIRAH, London. The meeting led through to a further workshop at the EAT Forum, Stockholm in June 2015, which has established a working group on the issue, including GFAR Secretariat and leading academics including, among others, the Dean of Nutrition at Harvard University.

To bring major actors and agencies to collaborate effectively in addressing nutrition more holistically, GFAR contributed to the framing of/and background document of the Conference “No more Food to Waste: Global action to stop Food losses and Food Waste” at the World Forum Center, The Hague. June 2015, co-organized by the Government of Netherlands, FAO IFAD, WFP, UNEP and Messe Dusseldorf. GFAR Secretariat was involved in the identification of keynote speakers from Latin

America and the Caribbean, particularly from youth, women and farmers organizations, to ensure the international character of the Conference. GFAR Secretariat also participated in an expert panel discussion on 'Perspectives on food loss and waste, opportunities for action' on Day one of the Conference which discussed views from, government, civil society, business, and research for development and deliver a series of key messages and avenues for action, which include the need:

- to look at the whole value chain and have all stakeholders informed/involved (farmers, business, government, research, consumers, etc.)
- to achieve food loss and waste as an imperative coupled with smarter farming for feeding the estimated 9 billion people by 2050
- for FLW Initiatives to benefit from approaches such as Climate Smart Agriculture
- for transformational change across whole supply chains and food systems to address the root causes of food losses and waste by valuing and distributing Food differently
- to move food loss and waste higher up the political agenda
- to make a robust business case for action linked to this SDG target 12.3
- to empower Women to equally participate in value chains where they can play a crucial role in the framing of food losses and waste issues and solutions;
- to define new metrics and measurement as a key step to enable action.

The GFAR representative chaired the final two sessions of the Conference focusing on Teaming up for action – governance & partnerships, and Teaming up for action – finance & investment. Key Messages from the Plenary and Working Groups are encapsulated in the attached Chair's Summary: <http://www.nomorefoodtowaste.nl/documents/reports/2015/06/19/chair-summary-report>

The Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction has resulted in a number of events/initiatives supporting the 5th element of the Zero Hunger Challenge. This included expert support to the organization of the Fourth Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS) by the Turkish Government's under its Presidency of the G20. GFAR Executive Secretary was a keynote speaker at the MACS meeting in Izmir and ensured that it encompassed a discussion on Food Loss and Waste issues with the view of establishing a Platform for assessing and managing FLW in collaboration with FAO and IFPRI. The government of Netherlands is expected to bring FLW as a major theme under its six months EU Presidency starting in January 2016.

GFAR Secretariat will work towards: a) ensuring linkages between the FLW Conference outcomes, GACSA and Climate Change processes leading to the Paris Conference and beyond; and b) consider the eligibility of national initiatives on FLW in the building of the Investment Facility on Agricultural Innovation Systems and Enterprise.

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

GFAR Secretariat has promoted dialogue and networking of relevant stakeholders increasing capacity and public awareness of Farmers' Rights and translating it in policy advocacy and legal frameworks supporting the co-existence of Farmers' Rights and Breeders' Rights. Notable achievements over the course of 2014-2015 have been:

The Global Forum directly fosters partnership programs, building from constituencies upwards, e.g. in agro-biodiversity. GFAR catalyzes and brings 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, The work undertaken during the report period involved the promotion and realization of Farmers' Rights at national and local levels, through participatory and inclusive processes, catalytic actions, influencing institutional agendas, building on the voices of farmer and civil organizations and driving networked actions for change.

The implementation of Farmers' Rights means enabling farmers to maintain and develop crop genetic resources as they have done since the beginning of agriculture, protecting their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, recognizing and rewarding them for their contributions in the conservation and development of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and ensuring their participation in decision making.

Strengthening of partnership to support the promotion of Farmers' Rights in Guatemala, Honduras and Malawi, with farmers' organizations and national stakeholders has been achieved. Other partners have included the Association of smallholder farmers of Los Cuchumatanes, Guatemala, Development Fund of Norway, Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy of Malawi, the Foundation for Participatory Research with Honduran farmers, and the University of Zamorano:

In Guatemala the following activities have been successfully concluded:

- 6 workshops in 8 localities in the zone of Huehuetenango, Guatemala.
- 313 smallholder farmer leaders (186 men and 127 women) provided with knowledge on what Farmers' Rights are and tools for how they can be implemented in practice.
- Capacity building to 546 smallholder farmers (282 men and 264 women) from 11 farmers' organizations in 5 localities of Huehuetenango, Guatemala.
- Capacity building to 40 members of the National Committee on Plant Genetic Resources of Guatemala.
- Development of two radio spots on Farmers' Rights in Maya languages and Spanish on line from 16 September 2014 until 30 October 2014 reaching approximately 300,000 smallholder family farmers in 4 zones of Guatemala.
- 2 capacity building activities to 92 smallholder youth farmers (57 men and 35 women) in La Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, Guatemala.
- Capacity building to 3 local authorities (decision makers): local mayors from San Juan Ixcay, Todos Santos Cuchumatan and Chiantla.
- Distribution of 100 training manuals on the implementation of Farmers' Rights to national stakeholders and decision makers. Design and printing of 5 posters on Farmers' Rights for smallholder farmers.
- Distribution of 25 questionnaires on the capacity building material on Farmers' Rights to users, to improve future publications, with follow-up actions relevant to implementation of Farmers' Rights.

In Malawi, there have been several activities to support capacity building and public awareness of Farmers' Rights in Guatemala. These have included:

- Co-organization of a working meeting on Farmers' Rights with 12 representatives (6 women and 6 men) from farmers' and civil society organizations held in Lilongwe-Malawi (7 August 2014). The meeting resulted in a program of work being agreed upon.

- Co-organization of the First National Meeting on Farmers' Rights, held in Lilongwe-Malawi (June 2015). More than fifty representatives of the public sector; research institutes; farmers' organizations; women farmers' organizations; academia; media; international organizations; nongovernmental organizations and civil society participated in this meeting. Specific recommendations were made on how to promote Farmers' Rights in Malawi.
- Development, design and printing of approximately 350 copies of the capacity building material for the implementation of Farmers' Rights in Malawi.
- Distribution plan currently under discussion with partners in Malawi (FAO-Malawi, the Development Fund of Norway and the Centre for Environmental Policy Advocacy) for distribution of the capacity building material for the implementation of Farmers' Rights.
- Legal support for a new seed policy in Malawi recognizing Farmers' Rights and Breeders' Rights.

In Honduras the activities have been:

- Capacity building workshop with the participation of 120 smallholder farmers held from 4-5 September 2014 in Siguatepeque, Honduras on Farmers' Rights and its implementation at national and local levels.
- Delivery of recommendations from smallholder farmers to Minister of Agriculture of Honduras, Mr. Jacobo Paz Borden to promote Farmers' Rights and improve their implementation in Honduras.
- Support the development and design of capacity building material for the implementation of Farmers' Rights in Honduras.

The partnership with the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for supporting the sustainable use of plant genetic resources and Farmers' Rights has further developed. Under this partnership, the Joint Capacity Building Programme on the Implementation of Farmers' Rights was adopted by the 136 Contracting Parties of the Treaty and should be implemented during 2015-2017. GFAR also participated actively in the second meeting of the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee on Sustainable Use held in Rome 2 and 3 March 2015 and in the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in Rome from 5 to 9 October 2015.

Discussions for a possible partnership with the Small Grant Programme of GEF/UNDP are being explored to support capacity building and public awareness on Farmers' Rights in approximately 113 developing countries.

Collective action, through partnership with Oxfam, the Development Fund of Norway, Oikos- Organic Norway and GFAR Secretariat, resulted in positive outputs from the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty and the co-organization of a side event on Farmers' Rights with approximately 100 participants, including national delegates, farmers and civil society organizations.

GFAR co-organized an E-discussion on the rights of farmers to data, information and knowledge (October to November 2014). Opinions were received from approximately 100 contributors. A document was drafted compiling the opinions and discussions on different questions, aiming to cover several dimensions to get a clear understanding of issues, possible solutions and actions

regarding rights of farmers to data, information and knowledge. The document was distributed among participants and made available through GFAR website.

The partnership with Bioversity International has strengthened in relation to facilitating farmers to access plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. GFAR Secretariat contributed considerably to in a meeting held in Bioversity in June 2015, discussing draft guidelines to support facilitated access of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The guidelines aim to provide practical tools for decision makers to implement the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, now also including consideration of issues relevant to Farmers' Rights.

Partnership with other bodies and programmes of FAO has been strengthened. GFAR Secretariat participated at the Fifteen Regular Session of the Commission of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in Rome from 19 to 23 January 2015 and formalized a partnership with the Commission.

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

GFAR continued its collaboration with the CGIAR (CCAFS), FAO, the World Bank, ICRAF, FARA, CIAT and other members and supporters of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA). The GACSA was launched at the UN Summit in New York in September 2014, after a long process in which GFAR was instrumental in ensuring the participation of CSOs, NGOs, FOs 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. In the interests of truly equitable partnerships, it is essential that all perspectives are included in considering these vital development issues.

In 2015 GFAR continued to enable the participation of civil society in dialogues after ensuring their participation in the Climate Summit in New York. GFAR was also able to mobilize some additional funding to ensure farmers participation in GACSA first meetings of the Strategic Committee and in major international meeting like the Science Conference on CSA organized in Montpellier in March 2015 with French Research institutions, the CGIAR and a number of international research centers and universities; and in the ongoing discussions on the implementation of GACSA .

Following GFAR's submission at the launch of GACSA at the UN Climate Summit in September 2014, Foresight activities prioritized on developing local communities and producers capacities [reported under Output 1.2.] were conceived to serve also as the foundation for a "Food for Sight" initiative which was reported to the Steering Group in July. Preliminary activities carried out with limited amount of funding available under the EC contract to support this initiative are included in the UN report that will be publicized at the High Level meeting at COP 21 in December 2015 in Paris. Moving this initiative to the next level, Farmers Organizations and local communities involved in Indonesia; the Philippines; the northern part of the Himalayan provinces of India; Cameroon; the Congo Democratic Republic; Gabon; as well as new farmers groups and local communities in Vietnam, Malawi and Tanzania, are expected to be equipped and empowered through this new initiative. It is

being developed with GACSA partners anticipated to take the lead in discussing climate change models and formulate climate change scenarios, building on the training and capacities they have acquired in conducting foresight exercises themselves.

Six (6) farmers or civil society organisations attended two regional training on co-elaborative scenario building at local level facilitated by AFA in Asia and Pacific and PROPAC in Central Africa with the support of the GFAR Secretariat. Twenty-one (21) people from local or regional farmer organisations engaged in two (2) five-day training workshops. All involved local organisations are currently implementing grassroots foresight activities on the future of the local communities and farming. Activities are taking place. The results are being used to engage these organisations with other local stakeholders, developing foresight based local action plans. Authors will share the results in the GCARD3 process as a way to include diverse visions of future challenges in shaping national and international research and policy agendas.

Transformative investments

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

The global fragmentation and under-resourcing of public innovation, education and advisory processes, and weak linkages with wider development processes and with farmers, NGOS and the private sector, are major bottlenecks constraining the value and impact of agricultural innovation on the lives and livelihoods of the poor.

The World Bank estimates that in order to feed 9 billion people by 2050, agricultural production will need to increase by 70%. However, chronic public underinvestment in agricultural research for development in low-income countries has resulted in weak national agricultural research and innovation systems that are not able to cope with the massive challenges that lie ahead:

- In recent years, global public spending on agricultural R&D has increased – but it's the fast growing economies driving that growth and who are reaping the benefits in food productivity.
- IFPRI estimate that national investments in the sector need to triple by 2025 to meet future food and nutrition security needs, alongside a similar increase in support to international research. CGIAR funding has doubled since 2008, but national investments have grown 20% in a decade.
- On average, agricultural research spending in low-income countries grew by just 2 percent per year from 2000 to 2008, with spending in many countries stagnating or declining and many re-investing well below the UN recommended 1% of agricultural GDP.

The Agricultural Innovation and Enterprise Facility, now being developed through the many GFAR Partners from all sectors involved in the Global Forum, provides a multi-stakeholder convening mechanism to directly create effective and integrated innovation systems, enabling effective scale-

out of appropriate innovations and turning innovation into enterprise opportunity for rural women and youth. The Facility will coherently integrate the resources, education and capacity development, technical assistance, equitable partnerships and enabling environment required to transform the lives and livelihoods of rural women and youth across a range of countries, and at a significant scale.

In so doing, the Facility will fill the '**Missing Middle**' between agricultural research, innovation and their impacts at scale in ending poverty and hunger, promoting gender equality and economic empowerment for women, girls and rural youth and fostering more resilient and sustainable systems, to transform the lives of the rural poor and poor consumers.

Driven by the needs of national systems and in programmes managed and delivered by national partners, the Facility will mobilize the resources and identify appropriate capacity development support to strengthen and transform local and national agricultural innovation systems, in line with the GCARD Roadmap.

The proposed Facility has 3 strategic goals:

1: Establish a multi-donor trust fund to provide and leverage sustainable and long term integrated investment in the strengthening of national agricultural research and innovation systems, enabling the integration of rural women and youth into these systems

2: Technically and financially support coordinated national delivery of research for development programs, pertinent policy development, and capacity and enterprise development targeting the resource poor agricultural women and youth and filling the missing middle putting innovation into use.

3: Provide integrated technical support drawing on GFAR networks and pulling together and strengthening pertinent partnerships that support the exchange and adoption of knowledge, the widening of impact and the scaling out of the targeted change

The Facility concept has gained much traction over the reporting period and is now being developed into practical actions in a range of countries, beginning with Egypt, where the work is addressing the development of enterprise from agricultural innovation, in women's groups in the poor areas of Upper Egypt.

GFAR is not a fund managing agency, but through its multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms and the extensive networks of Partners in the Forum will catalyse, engage and mobilize the delivery partnerships required and subsequently provide effective multi-stakeholder oversight of programme activities with the financing agencies concerned, to ensure the equitable inclusion of public, private, producer and civil partners – particularly smallholder farmers.

Funds will be managed through established multilateral financial institutions such as IFAD, GAFSP and the World Bank, usually in association with other development investments, and subject to the same rigorous quality control and supervision as other funds. The programme will, for example, be integrated directly with the new Public-Private-Producer-Partnership initiative of IFAD, address the linkages and partnerships required of the public-private financing mechanisms being developed in the EC 'Agrifi' programme, the new investments of the African Development Bank and to address the

public-private 'Missing Middle' identified in the World Bank GAFSP programme and its national investments.

Next steps are the integration of the concept of integrated action into the programmes and actions of major funding agencies. The Facility proposal has been discussed with the agencies above, but also aired in a number of international meetings. These have included the Third international Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, at which very positive response were received from among others the Irish Minister for ODA, Trade and North-South Cooperation, the Kenyan Ambassador to the UN, and the Directors general of UNIDO, UNESCO and ITC. Input was made to sessions including that of the EC. These links are now being built upon.

The Concept has also been presented in meetings with the G20 Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS) in Turkey, and in North America with IFAD, IDRC, AAFC, USAID and USDA, in each case leading to useful discussions on how it might fit with funding priorities and systems. Although national science funding agencies obviously do not directly fund international development, the G20 MACS clearly recognized the value of spill-over benefits from their own national research investments into development applications and support, realizing the value of this integrated approach to doing so.

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

Global reporting has been less of a focus this year, but the IFPRI-ASTI tools on research investment are now directly linked into the new GFAR website.

A study was specifically commissioned by GFAR from Uruguay, on the value of investments in agricultural innovation in that country and the value addition of involving producers and the private sector in the shaping and delivery of agricultural research and innovation processes. The study report is complete and shows among other conclusions that if there had been no innovation process, the agriculture sector would be producing 45% less. The original investment in the creation of INIA is fully justified, with a benefit/cost ratio estimated at 16: 1, when evaluating a hypothesis of no INIA, and 20: 1 when the marginal impact is assessed on INIA increased spending at the time of its founding. These relations depend on the evaluation period used. If a period of 30 years is taken (including prior research spending) the marginal impact would give a Benefit/Cost ratio equal to 24: 1, with an 11% specific gain attributable to the multi-stakeholder inclusion of INIA.

Foster and share experiences from funding mechanisms directly empowering farmers (Output 3.3)

In continuation of long term support from GFAR to the CSO Prolinnova network (Promoting Local Innovation) Prolinnova-Ethiopia, coordinated by PANE (Poverty Action Network Ethiopia), hosted the Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW) in April in Axum, Ethiopia.

The IPW 2015 provided a good platform for the Country Platforms (CPs) in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to share some of their lessons learnt from the ongoing 'Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research' project with other Prolinnova CPs in Africa and Asia, as well as with

members of the ProInnova International Secretariat in the Netherlands and guests from the USA and from the GFAR Secretariat. It was also a good opportunity for the country platforms in Africa and Asia to reflect on the findings of the detailed stocktaking of ProInnova's achievements over the past more than 10 years, a review activity directly supported by the Global forum on Agricultural Research. In addition, the participants discussed plans and progress on several initiatives, as follow-up to current projects, that are being developed, e.g. on Up-scaling Participatory Innovation Development at district level, in-depth studies on CSO approaches to farmer-led research and development in selected countries and a study on grassroots perspectives on what enhances local capacity to innovate. During the Open Space sessions for participant-driven spontaneous exchange and planning, plans were made to do multinational documentation of innovation and experimentation in finger-millet transplanting, to develop a better framework for documenting institutional innovation, and to set up a "Friends of ProInnova" group, among other topics.

Capacities for Change

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

GFAR has continued to help support the establishment of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), a multi partner Collective Action to strengthen capacities in eight national agricultural innovation systems. The TAP has begun to develop significant substance now and GFAR funds were pivotal in enabling TAP actions to continue pending the start of funding for the EC Agrinatura/FAO/EC project "Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS)" and specific capacity development interventions in the countries concerned. Since April 2014, the members of the TAP Global Task Force, nearly all of whom are partners in, and co-financed by, GFAR (AARINENA, APAARI, CABI, CACAARI, CATAS, CGIAR, EFARD, FAO, FARA, FORAGRO, GCHERA, GFAR) have been providing guidance for the development of the Common Framework on capacity development for agricultural innovation systems.

From October 2014 to February 2015, GFAR financed three consultants (\$50,000) as part of the CD Expert Group to perform a review of existing resources on capacity development for agricultural innovation systems. This review will form the basis for the formulation of the Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems.

TAP also helps fulfil one dimension of the proposed Agricultural Innovation and Enterprise Facility described under the Investments section of this report.

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

GFAR has sponsored GCHERA across a range of actions to strengthen and reform curricula in agricultural universities:

A Delphi study to capture the drivers for change in Agricultural Higher Education in the 21st Century is currently under discussion with colleagues at the University of Georgia, USA. The basis for the study will be developed after the meeting in Nanjing (below).

The GCHERA Conference in the Lebanon: The GCHERA 8th World Conference “Universities’ Global Challenge: nutritional security and environmental sustainability for human health” was held in June, at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon. This 8th World Conference brought together over 300 participants, including eminent personalities from 17 countries: university presidents, deans of faculties of agriculture, policymakers, NGO staff members, CEOs of agri-food industries, government representatives, academics, researchers and students. Led by thirty-six presenters, the group engaged in collaborative discussions to find solutions for emerging challenges. Conference participants urged universities to work hand in hand with the public and private sectors as well as NGOs to improve curricula, research, projects and policies. The outcomes of the conference are being reviewed with consideration of the implications for curriculum and institutional reform.

Drafting of GCHERA Action Plan 2016 – 2020 31 August 2015: The first consultation phase in the development of the GCHERA Action Plan 2016 – 20 was held at the GCHERA meetings in Nanjing Agricultural University in September 2015 (see Activity 4 below), based on a consultation paper entitled ‘Framework for Development of the GCHERA Action Plan 2016 – 20, Higher Education in Agricultural and Life sciences - Shaping the future together’. The focus is to address the GFAR Mid Term plan Outcome 4.2: Transformative changes facilitated in function, relevance and curricula quality of formal agricultural education and informal learning. Following discussion in Nanjing, the GCHERA Action Plan 2016-20 will be drafted and circulated to members for review and adoption as a vehicle for GCHERA to support GCHERA’s member associations, and their university members educate the future leaders to address the challenges of the 21st Century.

Organizing GCHERA General Assembly 19 September and the GCHERA World Dialogue, September 2015, Nanjing Agricultural University, Nanjing, China: The 3rd GCHERA World Dialogue was held in conjunction with the 15th China Agriculture and Forestry University Presidents Forum (CAFUPF). The theme this year was ‘Global Leadership to meet the Challenges of the 21st Century’, with the objective of supporting universities to develop curricula that will provide the future leaders who have the skills and the ethical foundation to address the global challenges of 21st C, such as nutritional security, environmental sustainability and climate change. The GCHERA General Assembly (GA) was held in Nanjing before these meetings and set the boundaries for the GCHERA Action Plan 2016 – 20. The GCHERA GA discussion was followed by GCHERA World Dialogue programme, with contributions from all the GCHERA Association members addressing the current trends in curriculum reform and innovation among their member institutions. In particular, interesting examples of innovation in curricula were provided that have demonstrated success in attracting students as well as preparing them for their future careers in production agriculture and forestry, and the food and non-food values chains – the bioeconomy.

ICTs for Sustainable Smallholder Agriculture (Output 4.3)

GFAR collaborated with the Global Forum on Agricultural Innovation in organizing a two day Conference “ICT for sustainable agriculture” during the forum at Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 9-11 March. This two day conference focused on how ICT can promote sustainable, climate resilient agriculture and promises exciting solutions for food producers in terms of increasing productivity, improving market access, financing and training. About 200 participants from several International and Local Organizations including CGIAR, FAO, Club of Ossiach, farmer representatives and several private sector companies participated in the Conference and associated workshops as also exhibition within the ICT Pavilion.

GFAR along with the Club of Ossiach, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and National Engineering and Research Centre of Information Technology (NERCITA) organized the International Conference on Intelligent Agriculture at Beijing 28-30 September 2015. GFAR was invited to present a keynote on “ICTs for Sustainable Smallholder Farming” and organized two Workshops on ICTs and Information Management for Smallholder Farming and on ICTs for Sustainable Agriculture: Enabling Extension.

GFAR participated in 1st International Conference on Agrifood Supply Chain Management & Green Logistics and contributed a keynote presentation on “Emerging Issues in Information and Communications Technology Use by Smallholder Farmers for participating in Agri-food Supply Chains”. More than 150 participants attended the Conference.

GFAR organized an E-Discussion and two Workshops on “Forward Thinking for ICT use in Asian Agri-Food Chains” during the Agri-future Days International Conference at Villach, Austria and Asian Federation of Information Technologies in Agriculture, AFITA at Perth Australia in 2014. GFAR has continued following up on identifying the new roles of ICT in Agriculture through interventions in public discussions at various events.

Evaluating ICTs Projects, Products and Services in Agriculture

GFAR along with APAARI, MARDI and ACIAR organized an International Workshop on evaluating information programs, services and products at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7 August 2015. 50 participants from 26 Asia-Pacific Countries participated in the Workshop.

Open Access

GFAR had organized in collaboration with the Indian Council on Agricultural Research (ICAR) a National Workshop on Open Access to Agricultural Knowledge for Inclusive growth and Development at the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management in October 2015. The final report was prepared and published in February 2015 and sent to more than 160 participants in the Workshop.

GFAR participated together with FAO in the agINFRA project of the European Commission (EC 7th framework program INFRA-2011-1.2.2), which aimed at developing a shared infrastructure and computationally empowered services for agricultural research data, with a strong focus on achieving a higher level of interoperability. agINFRA came to an end in February 2015 and the project received

an extremely positive evaluation by the EC, which ranked it as “Excellent”, indicating that the project had fully achieved its objectives and technical goals and had even exceeded expectations.

In 2013 agINFRA had been included in the G-8 European Commission Action Plan as part of the EC's commitment to deliver open access to publicly funded agriculturally relevant data for users in Africa and around the world.

GFAR is a member of the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative and supports GODAN through staff time. It is also a member of the Steering Committee. GFAR. In May 2015 GFAR also became part of the GODAN Secretariat. GFAR participated in the first GODAN meeting in January 2015 in Wageningen and in the workshop “Creating Impact with Open Data in Agriculture and Nutrition” organized by the Open Data Institute and Alterra in the framework of the GODAN initiative in January 2015.

GFAR contributes to GODAN especially by advocating open data in countries like China and India and by coordinating information management on the GODAN website.

Global directories: the CIARD RING and AgriProfiles

In March 2015, GFAR, together with key partners in CIARD, drafted a discussion paper on considerations for future direction, to be used as the basis for an e-consultation among the CIARD partners to make decisions on the future of CIARD, its areas of activity and its governance. The e-consultation took place from 30th of March to 15th April 2015 and brought to a final survey. The survey results highlighted among other things that all participants wanted CIARD to continue, 80% wanted a common technical infrastructure, 95 % wanted some type of formal governance, 85% were willing to participate in the CIARD champions group and 40% wanted CIARD as a legal entity immediately while other 50% wanted this for the future. A follow-up discussion in the champions group is still in progress.

The CIARD RING directory of data services and data sets in agriculture had reached 1,085 registrations. The RING now has a stronger endorsement from CIARD partners and CTA offered hosting support. The RING is also going to be used as the basis for the mapping exercise that GODAN is planning for taking stock of who is doing what with open data.

The former AgriVIVO global directory of profiles of experts and organizations has been re-engineered and in coordination and agreement with key partners (FAO, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, CTA and Cornell University) has been renamed AgriProfiles and it now contains the aggregated profiles of 1,777 experts and 4,870 organizations.

Rights to data

Within CIARD and GODAN, GFAR is especially looking into issues related to rights to data.

After the e-discussion on “Rights of Farmers for Data, Information and Knowledge” organized for CIARD in November 2014, GFAR brought the issue of rights to data in GODAN discussions, providing input in this direction to the first GODAN discussion paper ‘How can we improve agriculture, food and nutrition with open data?’ and contributing heavily to the follow-up GODAN article on “Taking

stock of challenges for global open data in agriculture and nutrition”. GFAR also brought these issues to the roundtable session on open data in agriculture held during the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA) 2015, held in Abu Dhabi in March 2015.

GFAR has participated in plenaries of the Research Data Alliance (RDA) in 2014 and 2015. RDA is an international initiative started in 2013 by the European Commission, the US National Science Foundation and National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Australian Government’s Department of Innovation.

Within RDA, GFAR is part of the Agricultural Data Interest Group (ADIG) and at the last plenary in September 2015 the ADIG had a special pre-meeting gathering more than 50 participants, during which GFAR led discussions on interoperability and helped participants to define areas of priority and higher interest for agricultural data interoperability.

Strengthening rural advisory services (Output 4.4)

By informal agreement with EC, through this funding agreement GFAR continues to provide core support to the strengthening of rural advisory services by supporting development of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS). GFAR was a co-founder of GFRAS and supported the initial meeting that led to its creation. Partners in GFAR remain committed to strengthening advisory services as a key component of the overall research and innovation continuum addressed by GFAR. This work supports and strengthens GFRAS core operation and its engagement with other regional AR4D stakeholders.

GFRAS contributed toward the following GFAR MTP outcome(s)

1. Farmers and national stakeholders empowered and informed to better negotiate their own agricultural futures
4. Collective initiatives fostered to improve capacity in AR4D

GFRAS contributed to the outcomes above of the GFAR MTP through the following outputs:

1. Producer organization position paper
2. Compendium of policy documents and resources
3. Document on how identify capacity gaps and strengthen competencies
4. New extensionist diagrams
5. Report of the Consortium on Extension, Education and Training meeting
6. Assessment of RAS systems in Central Asia
7. Recommendations made on how to strengthen RAS in Central Asia and the Caucasus

Intermediate Outcome 1: Key future agriculture questions addressed, leading to national and regional options for research and policy priorities

- I. Regional dialogues on the role of producer organizations in RAS (co-funded)
GFRAS invited affiliates from producer organizations in the regional networks to initiate dialogues on the paper “Demanding and Supplying Effective RAS – The Role of Producer

Organizations in Rural Advisory Services” and on possible collaboration between GFRAS and producer organizations. These dialogues were partially supported by other sources. These dialogues led to reflections, exchange, and a wider engagement of producer organizations in RAS and GFRAS. Regional dialogues were held in three regions. In India, the Caribbean and Indonesia. These regional inputs, together with a literature review and inputs from the GFRAS Annual Meeting in Berlin in 2013 on the role of producer organizations in RAS, were inputs for the final position paper.

- II. Enriching GFRAS position paper on the role of producer organizations in RAS
This related activity helped to enrich the position paper (output 1) with more information on “how to” do things, with cases, evidence, experiences, and pictures. The regional discussions on the role of producer organizations in RAS were summarized and included in the position paper. The position paper was finalized based on the feedback from the regional meetings and GFRAS working committee on producer organizations.
- III. Coordinating and editing policy compendium on RAS
The compendium of articles was elaborated by the GFRAS policy working group with the partial support of the Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services project (MEAS). The compendium of articles, will: Collate existing knowledge, experience and evidence on influencing, developing and implementing RAS policies; Initiate reflections on evidence-based RAS policies; support RAS stakeholders with an interest and commitment to convince policy makers of the need and type of best-fit RAS policies; and contribute to a participatory development and implementation of RAS policies.

Intermediate Outcome 2: Transformative changes are facilitated in function, relevance and curricula quality of formal agricultural education and informal learning

- IV. Developing and validating methodology for gap identification and competency development.
With the support of the GFRAS consortium, a methodology was developed and validated for identifying RAS capacity gaps at country level and proposed training programs to address these gaps in at least one country case study. This included a literature review and validation activities resulting in guidelines. It was discussed by the consortium at the face-to-face meeting.
- V. Face-to-face meeting of key stakeholders to discuss extension curricula
The GFRAS Consortium on Extension Education and Training met face-to-face to discuss the collection and collation of curricula on RAS that has been taking place and development of materials on the New Extensionist. The consortium identified core competencies for RAS and started to work on a learning kit of the “New Extensionist.” Inputs were made by the Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture (GCHERA), CTA, ANAFE and GFRAS regional networks. Contribute to new extensionist with graphics. The GFRAS Consortium developed support materials for the new extensionist concept with a diagram and interactive graphics

Intermediate Outcome 3: Advocate and facilitate processes for opening of access to information systems for sharing, transforming and using agricultural knowledge among national systems

- VI. Dialoguing on RAS assessments with policymakers and developing recommendations
GFAR has continued to be directly involved in and a co-sponsor, through use of EC funds, of the Global Forum on Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) with a staff member of the Secretariat sitting on GFRAS Steering Committee, which held two meetings over this period. With GFAR support and other sources of funding, the Central Asia and Caucasus region forum for rural

advisory services (CAC-FRAS), together with CACAARI, MEAS and an alliance of partners came together to work to improve rural advisory services in Central Asia and the Caucasus. GFRAS coordinated the assessment of RAS in the area using co-funding from other supporters, and to bring the eight CAC countries together face-to-face to dialogue on the results and engage with policymakers. For this purpose, the alliance conducted assessments of the current status, challenges and opportunities of the RAS systems in the countries of the region using a variety of funding sources. The results of the assessment were presented and discussed at the Regional Conference on Rural Advisory Services, jointly organized by CACAARI and GFRAS with the support of GFAR, GIZ, ICARDA, IFPRI, and MEAS in Central Asia in November 2014 in Kyrgyzstan.

The GFRAS Chair and Executive Secretary participated in the session of GFAR Strategic Governance Working Group in Johannesburg after FARA@15 (November 2015) where a number of changes/amendments to the draft report of the SGWG were agreed and guidelines for regional constituent selection and a matrix of constituent sectors endorsed on a no-objection basis.

GFAR Secretariat participated in the SDC Workshop on Rural Advisory Services “Reaching the Millions”, March 2015 in Hanoi, Vietnam and contributed to the drafting of the meeting statement that will serve as a basis for the development of a SDC RAS policy paper and as a check-list for operational purpose. [“Rural21” (<http://www.rural21.com/>) and <https://f2f2015.wordpress.com/documents/>].

GFAR inputs were essential in the formulation and adoption of a new Strategic Framework 2016-2020 for Advocacy and Leadership in Rural Advisory Services for Sustainable Development at the last GFRAS SC meeting hold alongside the 6th GFRAS Annual Meeting on “ Global Good Practices in Rural Advisory Services” 14 - 17 September 2015, in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan ,as well as in the revisiting of the GFRAS policy working group Terms of Reference and the required strategy for conducting policy dialogues illustrated by the FANRPAN experience, during a side meeting on 18 September. It was recommended that GFRAS play a larger role in policy advocacy and promoting the creation and institutionalization of RAS/extension policies, either through the working group, regional networks, or individual members. GFRAS should use its collective voice to prompt action in the policy realm.

GFAR contributed to the drafting of a Draft Grant Proposal 2016-2017 to be submitted by GFRAS in line with the GIZ programme Green innovation centres for the agriculture and food sector, which aims to improve incomes of small farmers, employment, and regional food supplies in selected rural regions in 13 countries through innovations in the agri-food sector; and in consistence with GFRAS ultimate objective to strengthen agricultural extension in the countries represented through its member networks. This is expected to increase the innovation capacity of these countries’ agricultural sector resulting in better adaptation and adoption of the innovations promoted through agricultural extension services, as well as in higher incomes and increased food security of the smallholder farmers.

GFRAS works within the framework of GFAR, to strengthen rural advisory services and represents the sector in GFAR governance. A new Letter of Agreement between GFAR and GFRAS was signed in October 2015, which is fully aligned with the revised GFAR Vision and Mission adopted by the Constituent Assembly in Bangkok 24-26 August, 2015. It specifies, in particular, that the catalytic funds provided through GFAR are in support to agreed GFAR Collective Actions in line with GFRAS commitment to achieving the outcomes foreseen and agreed by all partners in the GFAR MTP; and that these actions should reflect the farmer-

centered and multi-stakeholder principles of the Global Forum. The support provided to GFRAS by GFAR includes both technical and financial support to development of:

1. Compendium of policy articles refined with articles based on gap analysis
2. Policy dialogue model, including RAS policy assessment tool, tested in other regions
3. Core competency modules for New Extensionist
4. New Extensionist learning kit testing feedback in new regions
5. Development of a strategy for GFRAS learning materials

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

Fostering the economic empowerment of women in agricultural innovation (Output 5.1)

The Gender in Agriculture Partnership continued to grow and promote the economic empowerment of rural women. Work in the past year has included the innovative development of gender and youth strategies for the CRP Dryland Systems. Presentations were made in Jordan at the workshop to develop a gender action plan and at the first science and implementation meeting and at gender implications of the AARINENA meeting on water in the NENA region and AARINENA Executive Committee meeting and in the Alexandria meeting of the Mediterranean Dialogues.

A report on forests, tree-based systems and food security was co-authored with IUFRO, International Union of Forest Research Organizations, including attendance at task force meetings in Cambridge UK and New Delhi, India.

GAP contributed also to the CGIAR discussion formulating the gender components of the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework and consistently advocated for greater attention to gender issues in the work of the CGIAR.

Under GAP, GFAR co-organized a side-event in the UN, together with the World Farmers Organization, FAO, IFAD and the World Bank on women's empowerment and land rights at the UN Committee on the Status of Women (UNCSW 59). This event was Chaired by GAP Co-Patron Prof Catherine Bertini (former President WFP and Chicago Council Special Adviser). The event outcome provided direct input into the UNCSW Beijing+20 Declaration.

In wider terms, GAP partners have been developing a range of actions directly converting agricultural innovation processes into enterprise opportunities in a range of countries. Working with private sector platforms in Kenya, Ghana and with AGRA, GAP is developing an integrated programme (SAWA) for African women's economic empowerment and training of young women entrepreneurs. Similarly in Egypt, GAP has created a multi-stakeholder platform for women's economic empowerment in the Luxor region of Upper Egypt, engaging public and private sector, universities, women's groups and social development funds.

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 5.2)

The top ten highlights for the reporting period coming out of the YPARD platform are:

1. Mentoring pilot kicks off in Kenya with 150 applications for positions, partnership with AWARD and a strong focus on soft skill development for youth in agriculture;
2. A webinar series begins in September 2015, focusing on key skills for young professionals such as crowdfunding, principles of fundraising and more;
3. YPARD and CIFOR collaborated at the Global Landscapes Forum 2014 to make youth central to discussions while building cross-cutting skills and knowledge for youth leadership.
4. 15 new YPARD national representatives from MENA, Latin America, Europe and Asia with at least 5 national face to face working group meetings organised.
5. Strong youth input into the GFAR Mediterranean dialogues
6. YPARD Asia regional meeting strengthens regional approach with context specific national plans that feed into a regional strategy for engaging and supporting youth in Asia, with strong foresight components.
7. YPARD is working with the Drylands CRP on conducting research into youth in agriculture in drylands areas for better targeting and planning programmes for phase two of the CRP.
8. YPARD was Supporting Partner of the World Forestry Congress' youth program. From input to the program design for meaningful youth engagement, to the coaching on the participants, and the communications around the program, YPARD's collaboration made a difference and enabled stronger cross-sectoral discussions for sustainable futures.
9. YPARD engaged in discussions with GCHERA, during their board meeting, to define the way forward to involve young professionals better in curricula development discussions
10. The beginning of the implementation of country pages on the YPARD website

Monitoring and evaluation have demonstrated that YPARD is a powerful means for professional networking for young professionals. The Platform is exceeding expectations with more partners, policy and education institutions seeking out YPARD and Young Professionals' input activity development. YPARD is increasingly being seen as a valuable and reliable collaborator for collective actions. In addition there is increasing commitment from regional and country chapters, who believe strongly in the mission of YPARD and are providing in-kind support. Some figures to support this are:

- A survey of users indicated that the website is considered as very useful to quite useful (82%). The newsletter is considered very useful to quite useful (80%). 67% find YPARD social media activities useful and quite useful. E-discussions and blogs are considered very useful and quite useful (64%).
- The most valuable online services to members are: Capacity development information 27% and Funding opportunities 25%
- 59% said that they increased their network thanks to YPARD and 38% people increased their networking experience with senior people through YPARD. The online networking is considered as very useful to quite useful (74%).
- 56% people say that YPARD contributes a lot to a positive image of agriculture, and 29% say it does so moderately.

- 25% increase in YPARD membership over the period;

YPARD publicizes the services have been supported through the Global Forum (and hence the EC). YPARD activities which are part of GFAR MTP are shared with the GFAR Secretariat to be reposted on EGFAR, if the GFAR secretariat deems them relevant. Any YPARD activity in the framework of GAP is reported on GAP website.

YPARD has solicited its network to contribute to several GFAR initiatives. This includes the call for inputs into the GFAR Theory of Change as well by GFAR constituents into the CGIAR capacity development framework and strategic results framework. YPARD was also the first constituent to submit a blog post ahead of the GFAR Constituent Assembly and participated fully in the event.

Knowledge management and innovation in growing out of protracted crises (Output 5.3)

The rural populations South and North of the Mediterranean face immense challenges: economic turbulence, rural exodus, social and political upheavals, pressure on agricultural lands, lack of access to services and infrastructure, weak public and private investment, competition for natural resources and in particular water, increasing environmental stress from factors including severe climatic events. These challenges have particularly negative impacts on women and youth. The results have become all too evident over the last year.

To seek to understand and address the root causes of many of these problems, in October 2015, GFAR Co-organized the Mediterranean Dialogues Conference: **“Rural Communities, No Longer Left Behind; Rural and Regional Development in the South and North Mediterranean and the New Neighbourhood Policy”**, together with the Foundation for South-North Mediterranean Dialogue (FSNMD) an NGO developed between the European Movement International, Bibliotheca Alexandrina and civil society networks in the countries South and North of the Mediterranean Sea. This followed from four previous sub-regional dialogues, sponsored through EC DG-DEV and delivered by GFAR with the FSNMD over the last year in Greece, Egypt, France and Morocco. The conference was additionally sponsored by EC DG Neighbourhoods and the European Investment Bank.

The Milan Congress brought together actors for development, farmers, policy and decision makers and entrepreneurs as equals to incite open dialogue, build on mutual respect and mutual appreciation. The goal was to find opportunities and identify collectively the innovations and solutions promising for rural communities.

The conference enabled full discussion, in the context of GCARD3, of the needs expressed by civil society in the countries of the region and reflection from the CGIAR representatives present of how the new CRPs might best add value in meeting these needs. The facilitated roundtable discussion format used provided very good opportunity for all to have their say and be heard in the summary. From this a programme of collective actions was mapped out in order to achieve change.

Other sessions addressed the issues of investment, gender and youth. The youth session was particularly inspiring, enabling young professionals from a range of backgrounds across the region to set out their own vision for the future of rural communities.

The organizers then drew together the four sessions into a single declaration that was presented by the RO to a plenary session at the Milan EXPO 2015. Here responses were received from the EC DG Neighbourhoods, the Italian Foreign Ministry, the farmer's organization Confagricoltura and the CGIAR. The EC has agreed to take the Conference outcomes into account in developing their new strategy for investment in the region.

The Conference has set out a clear range of issues that need to be addressed to renew rural communities across the Mediterranean Region. GFAR will now be working with the bodies and partners concerned, including with FAO-RNE and IFAD, to facilitate the establishment of multi-stakeholder collective actions to address these challenges in each interested country and ensure that the rural poor are truly no longer the left behind.

This process has already begun with a process of innovation platform development in Upper Egypt (Luxor) that brings together many partners to create enterprise opportunity for rural women and youth. Links with the EC European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development will be actively pursued to enable financial support for these actions.

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 2014-15, GFAR invested in building its communication efforts through establishing a communication community of practice from across the spectrum of GFAR stakeholders. Building on the momentum of a GFAR monitoring/evaluation and communication workshop (October 2014), the GFAR Secretariat reached out to a wide array of communication professionals within the GFAR network with an invitation to work together on social media (training and knowledge sharing), story production and sharing, and website revamping. [A video explaining the background and plans of this initiative was developed](#), which has led to the establishment of a google group membership of 34. The group is quite active and have shared experiences through on-line chats, have selected skills-building webinars (with the first webinar held in September with more to follow) and engaged in an on-line competition to support communication efforts for the GFAR Constituent Assembly.

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 information and news source. In the reporting period, 46 GFAR and partner publications have been made available, with information circulated on these publications and the 247 news stories and blogs through the 20 "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 a total of 145,500 pages viewed by 47,600 different users from 212 countries. On average the user views are 2.3 pages per visit. The recently revamped blog has had 5,960 pages viewed by 3,980 visitors.

A user survey, conducted early in 2015 resulted in important feedback that has been fed into a project to revamp the GFAR website. During the course of 2015, the navigation and architecture of the GFAR website was reviewed and based on the results of this review a new design for the website has been developed along with updating of content that meets the expectations of the users (as noted in the User Survey). The revamped GFAR website has been 'soft launched' to capture further feedback for improvement and will be formally launched in November 2015.

Ancillary websites active in 2014-2015 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 the GFAR Twitter following growing with an average of 250-500 new followers per month. We are now at almost 8,968 followers. Per month, we have an average of 200 to 400 interactions from our followers (retweets, faves, questions, etc.). The GFAR following on Facebook grew from 2,778 to 7,059 followers. Since our boost in interacting with our users, we typically have 200-400 likes/comments/questions monthly on our Facebook page, and our posts are viewed 10,000-30,000 times per month. The LinkedIn group following grew to 350 users.

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](#)), in videos produced by GFAR and banners for GFAR meetings. 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.

Challenges encountered and how these have been addressed

GFAR operates through 'soft power', i.e. as a social movement influencing change in institutions of all kinds by inspiring their self-reflection and changed value systems and facilitating processes to create new ways of working that better meet development needs. This means that communication and engagement with processes and strengthening/transforming of partner networks via collective actions are vital. Most of the networks that bring together partners in GFAR are not well resourced in themselves. This presents considerable challenges in their acting in isolation, but GFAR investments have enabled considerable leveraging of other resources to enable each to play their role in delivering towards GFAR's collective objectives.

In 2014-2015, GFAR Steering Committee has agreed and enacted the implementation of the GFAR Theory of Change and associated monitoring and evaluation processes. This has enabled the tracking of investments generated by partners as a result of having access to the EC support through GFAR, within which partners are asked to document associated contributions to the actions concerned. Data from our Partners show that EC funds provided through GFAR in support of collective actions, have additionally leveraged around twice as much as the EC funds provided. Expressed another way, EC funds have comprised around 1/3 of the funds that have been generated and used in delivering these actions, providing a vital contribution in catalyzing the success of collective actions across a range of stakeholders and one that has clearly stimulated other providers to invest in these areas.

| Implementing Partner | Funding provided through GFAR from EC contribution (USD) | Associated funding leveraged by implementing GFAR Partner (USD) | Estimated value of in-kind resources provided by partner (USD) | Total other resources leveraged by EC investment through GFAR (USD) | EC-GFAR Funds as % of overall total |
|----------------------|--|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| AARINENA | 70,000 | 50,000 | 35,000 | 85,000 | 45.2% |
| APAARI (i) | 35,000 | 180,000 | 20,000 | 200,000 | 14.9% |
| APAARI (ii) | 56,000 | 141,208 | 45,000 | 192,508 | 22.5% |
| CACAARI | 70,000 | 49,740 | 7,000 | 56,740 | 55.2% |
| GCHERA | 69,962.34 | 36,000 | 48,500 | 84,500 | 45.3% |
| Prolinnova – ETC | 70,000 | 70,350 | 0 | 70,350 | 49.9% |
| GFRAS - AGRIDEA | 110,000 | 215,000 | 47,000 | 262,000 | 29.6% |
| Total | 480,962.34 | 742,298 | 202,500 | 951,098 | 33.6% |

GFAR Work Plan 2016

The plan reflects the GFAR Medium Term Plan, the basis for funds received from the EC. At present, this is a provisional Plan of Work, subject to discussion and agreement by the GFAR Steering Committee in early 2016

The Plan of Work has been determined by the expressed commitments of the Partners in GFAR, with actions that they deliver themselves. Collective Actions among Partners in GFAR are catalyzed through technical support from the GFAR Secretariat and in some cases catalytic actions are co-financed through use of the EC funds, as determined by the GFAR Steering Committee.

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

Participatory foresight work will take on a number of new dimensions in 2016. Specifically, these will include:

- i. Direct involvement with future scoping of the work of the CGIAR, in partnership with IFPRI/PIM, CRP DS/DCLAS and ISPC.
- ii. Establish & implement multi-stakeholder community of practice within the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP) to develop methods, approaches and activities to incorporate gender considerations in foresight and scenario building for the future in agriculture.
- iii. Revamping of the website for the Forward Thinking Platform of the global agricultural foresight community
- iv. Skills development in regional fora and stakeholder groups, leading to the launch of foresight initiatives on major themes concerning the future of agriculture in Africa (2015-2016) and Central Asia and the Caucasus (2016-2017), including the strengthening of CSOs and Farmers Organizations capacity to cope with Climate Change through foresight.
- v. Consideration and discussion in GCARD3 on the future of innovation platforms as an interface between science and society.
- vi. Forward Thinking ICT role in Smart, Sustainable Agriculture (including Animal and Fisheries production).

2. Equitable and effective demand driven partnerships enabled to transform agricultural research and innovation into impacts at scale.

- vii. Work to support the full development of the second generation of CGIAR CRPs will continue, through the GCARD3 processes and inputs to the CGIAR Fund Council as well as its Governance Committee and recently established Transition Team. GFAR will continue to provide opportunity for the resource-poor to have direct voice into shaping these programmes and policies, through national dialogues in up to 20 CGIAR-focused countries and regional dialogues in Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia/Caucasus and Africa.

- viii. Support to the integrated nutrition agenda and its metrics will be implemented through participation in the EAT Forum and its working groups, and relevant partners in a multi-institutional network on nutrition and production metrics.
- ix. Address system-based needs for partnership between rural communities and other sectors in addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation and discussion of the needs of climate smart agriculture, through the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture and other collective actions. Foster collaboration and networked actions among the disparate partners concerned at international level.
- x. Use international experiences and instruments to develop community capacities and inform national farmers' rights policies in selected countries and in international research, in partnership with ITPGRFA, UNDP and other relevant bodies. Based on lessons learned, develop multi-stakeholder strategy for management balancing farmer and breeder rights
- xi. Foster collective actions to address other key agendas, in particular reducing food loss and waste and agricultural sustainability, including through promoting the sharing of local innovation

3. Transformative investments in AR4D systems stimulated to better meet the needs and opportunities of the resource poor

- xii. Develop integrated investment and capacity development processes that directly engage producers, in association with key funding agencies in context of the integrated agricultural innovation and enterprise facility.
- xiii. Initiate partnerships and convene actions in at least 3 national systems to foster integrated innovation platforms providing enterprise opportunity from agricultural innovation for women and youth
- xiv. Actions mobilized through GCARD3 to better capture investments and returns from agricultural research and innovation across a range of countries and provide evidence for the FAO Committee on Agriculture and G20 MACS processes.

4. Collective actions fostered to generate new capacities in transforming AR4D systems

- i. Tropical Agriculture Platform strengthened as a collective action by multistakeholder engagement with GFAR Partners and initial implementation of field evaluation of capacity development tools for agricultural innovation systems, cross-connected to 3 above also.
- ii. 'New extensionist' approach tested in the field through support to the Global Forum on Rural Advisory Services as a collective action.
- iii. Global Confederation of Higher Education and Research in Agriculture continues stakeholder dialogues and reports into GCARD3 on processes of curriculum change and learning.
- iv. CIARD and GODAN collective actions promoted and actions developed to take forward effective sharing and use of agricultural information and explore the implications for the resource-poor of open access to agricultural information – the opportunities and threats involved.

5. Agricultural research and knowledge embedded into rural development agendas and better meeting societal needs

- i. Gender in Agriculture Partnership supports new collective actions in women's economic empowerment from agricultural innovation (see 3 ii) and builds collective action and learning on gender-related dimensions into international research programmes.
- ii. YPARD supported to express needs of youth into national and regional dialogues on future needs and research and innovation programmes addressing these needs.
- iii. Mediterranean dialogues on regenerating rural communities taken forward as collective action among relevant centers and national systems to address root causes of disruption and out-migration.

6. Accountability, transformational change and development impacts in AR4D systems increased through greater strategic coherence and more transparent stakeholder involvement

- i. GCARD3 event organized successfully in South Africa, with active involvement of a diverse range of stakeholders and to the satisfaction of both GFAR and CGIAR stakeholders.
- ii. New CGIAR CRPs tested by open dialogue with GFAR Partners through the GCARD dialogue processes and global event, shaped and approved in their final form by end 2016
- iii. Regional Fora take forward own processes of change and multi-stakeholder engagement and inclusion, in line with GCARD Road Map
- iv. GFAR website and communication activities/social media continue to expand connection and usage with Partners, becoming a recognized advocacy and learning environment with increased content submissions from Partners.
- v. M&E processes reported on from all GFAR Secretariat investments and resultant changes and outcomes documented by Partners concerned, recognizing role of GFAR and EC funds.
- vi. GFAR Partner Assembly agrees revision of GFAR Charter, representation required and Members of Steering Committee and process for developing next strategic medium term plan.
- vii. GFAR External Review undertaken and reported

Annex 1: 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 ProInnova 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

Annex 2: GFAR stakeholder responses to the CGIAR Governance Options

1. General comments and overview of key issues

The Options team are congratulated for getting to grips with some major challenges within a short period. However, while the report does much to explore pros and cons of the functional relationship between different entities within the system, it leaves untouched some of the underlying causes of the governance problems encountered in implementing the reform and by nature of the system.

In choosing any future form of governance, key needs from the perspective of GFAR stakeholders are that the further reform should:

1. Bring greater clarity of purpose, management and decision
2. Be responsive to the legitimate voices of its clients - the intended partners and users of research
3. Avoid conflicts of interests and conflicts of roles between entities in the system.
4. Establish more transparent and efficient funding behaviour

We consider the drivers for change in the original reform, as set out by Kathy Sierra and noted by the Options team, still remain valid. Do the options proposed meet these four key tests? From their responses, GFAR stakeholders would contend that they address need 1 and to some extent 3 & 4 (depending on the options) , but fall short on 2.

There is a widespread feeling among GFAR stakeholders that much of the current internal challenge in the systems governance seems to relate to behaviours and perceptions of authority/power, rather than to the new structures themselves:

As the Options Team report: 11. Based on the most recent evaluations of the CGIAR system, it is clear that the reforms were not successful in improving efficiency and effectiveness. There are a number of perceived ambiguities regarding the responsibilities, accountabilities, and decision-making processes by the various CGIAR entities. The system suffers from the lack of a clear long-term strategy as well as a shorter-term business plan. The lack of both continues to plague the decision-making processes. These problems are not a result of lack of clarity in the CGIAR agreement structure. They are primarily due to concerns about the broader governance arrangements of the CGIAR ,in particular the unbalanced representation of key stakeholders, tension between the dual roles of the Consortium as facilitator and regulator, lack of trust and transparency in current decision-making processes and weak leadership in promoting a partnership culture. A fundamental problem is that centers do not consider themselves adequately represented in key strategic decisions and decision-making. At the same time, the centers are not adequately unified on issues confronting them to expect them to come together on their own as a group and take overall responsibility for the functions that the Consortium has been assigned.

Moreover: GFRAS find similar problems in the way each CRP is managed and its relationships with the constituents of each CRP including national research system, NGOs, Rural Advisory Services, Private sector etc. Lack of trust and transparency in decision making process and weak leadership in promoting partnership culture are also issues within CRPs. Some of these issues are discussed in the recent evaluation of CRPs by IEA. We need to address issues at both levels (above CRP level and within CRPs) together if the reforms have to achieve its stated objectives.

APAARI commented that the lack of predictability of funding (page vi item 13) is a huge challenge for the donor run system as a whole (not just in the CGIAR) and their lack of discipline and disagreement amongst themselves is the major factor contributing to system inefficiency. They feel strongly that the current woes of the CGIAR system are caused more today, and even yesterday, by donor indiscipline and internal argument amongst funding agencies etc., rather than lack of efficiency in the centers themselves. The report hints at this issue on page ix no. 27.

The changes required go to the heart of the system, which is not a self-contained entity, but exists in a complex world of multiple partners and is supported by donors who may themselves be using multiple funding streams, including a very significant amount of direct investment in Centers and projects, outside the Fund's governance.

Moreover, relations with partners require effective governance in a public goods-based and essentially core-funded system:

The document itself emphasizes the need for enhanced trust between centers and contributors and more robust partnerships between the centers and outside stake holders. As APAARI states: This we believe to be absolutely key to the success of the system and to good morale amongst the scientists which is now badly affected by the current 'administrative constipation'.

The document on page iv also claims that the Centers have substantially improved collaboration and broadened partnerships with key non-CGIAR research organizations. APAARI consider this is not true in most cases of such partners. As the university network GCHERA highlights: The challenge in achieving effective collaborations across the 15 CGIAR Centers is highlighted. Of equal concern is the failure of CGIAR to effectively partner with other research and education providers. CGIAR funding should be directly linked to the effectiveness of these partnerships. For example, the global university sector has huge capacity in terms of both research and training in the priority areas identified by CGIAR. However, the extent of engagement by CGIAR with the university sector (based on funding) is marginal at best. It can be argued that a closer working relationship between individual CGIAR Centers and the university sector would have even greater impact than increased collaboration across CGIAR centers, even though the latter is obviously desirable. Researchers in Europe felt: There are some emerging themes appearing in the discussions both high level and low level. One theme is the inaccessibility of the CG projects and funding by the European research and education institutions. There is a growing disillusionment about CG work among the European research stakeholders, since they feel that it is a fortress.

EFARD recognize a second theme appearing is the growing frustration among especially African policy makers and regional organizations about the lack of scaling type of work. They argue that there is too many trials in Africa and there needs to be much more emphasizing the scaling work. In scaling work CGIAR centers have a huge capacity gap. By being a global body of different stakeholder groups GFAR has a rare position to support scaling research and research buy in.

APAARI strongly supports the idea of better strategic science-prioritization advice and even perhaps more funding prioritization coming from the ISPC, but in turn they should not be allocated the role of impact assessment and result checking policemen which they had in the previous MTP era which led to deep resentment amongst Center scientists.

The need for clarity of role and purpose to drive governance

The absence to date of a working SRF creates significant problems for clarity of purpose and expected role of the CGIAR, in particular in regard to its role with regard to national systems and the need to effectively mobilize a wide range partners and their commitments alongside the system and its programmes, so that it clearly adds value to national capabilities and roles. CACAARI questioned the lack of attention paid in the report to the recognition and governance of partnerships for uptake: The theory of change and Impact pathway that SRF refers to, is too theoretical and linkages between SIDOs, IDOs and SLOs are highly hypothetical. Especially, my concern is that is not obvious how integrated research linked / is contributing to the SLOs. CGIAR Research Programs seems to be implemented autonomously from each other. It is not clear whether CGIAR alone is going to achieve SLOs or together with Farmers associations, development programs, local governments, NGOs, National Development programs, Health, Industry and Services sector. I could not see the mechanism of addressing these issues in any governance options.

Stakeholders again asked "Where is the longer term vision of the CGIAR"?

The report identifies: (14) "Another critical issue that has been raised is the lack of a robust, science-based process for identifying research priorities for funding. Relating to this is the importance of having a long-term view,...It is not clear whether the reform resulted in a CGIAR that is well equipped to undertake research programs that will address both immediate and longer term needs" GFRAS' response was: "Yes, both are important. But the most important aspect is how far the CRPs are going to address the capacity development needs of NARS and others in the region, so that there is a significant impact at a scale. Need to have more thinking on the capacity development dimension." This was a view also strongly articulated by many partners into the SRF process – what is the vision of the CGIAR itself in relation to its evolving national partners of different forms and what kind of governance is required to achieve that? This is not simply a matter of investing in the CGIAR institution, but enabling its wider role and purpose in developing capacities and empowering its partners to take on leading roles themselves. Governance that considers only the use of funds within an internalized system would thus be regarded with great concern by a range of partners in both developed and developing countries.

Accountability to the taxpayers providing funds is obviously the key driver for governance in the Fund Council. However, what is incomprehensible to many partners is why the options proposed

apparently reduce the voice of stakeholders and system clients in decision making, let alone accountability to its clients, while stating a strong need for greater inclusion and representation.

2. The Options proposed

GFAR stakeholders contend that much of the confusion and internal conflict apparent in the system results from the funding systems being used – whereby only a few agencies have bought into the idea of a centrally managed fund, while most funds, for logistical and institutional reasons, are still flowing to specific activities - via window 3 or in many cases a somewhat opaque “window 4” of direct project funds outside the CRP frame. Projecting budgets without assured funds has led to great year-to-year instability and management challenges for the CRPs and the options provided do not seem to address that core concern.

The Report states: While the level of funding has doubled since the reform process started there are also critical issues relating to the way that funds are raised, who has responsibility for resource mobilization, and how funds are managed and committed. The reform process did not achieve its objective of harmonizing the approach to funding from donors through the CGIAR Fund or improving the way cash flows from donors are managed. The lack of predictability of funding is a key concern. Projected flows based on informal communications with contributors are used to plan CRP funding even though such funding is not guaranteed.

Stakeholders also commented: as long as the bilateral funding remains dominant, the situation is unlikely to improve. I am not sure how far the donors are fully committed to the reform process, wherein the large scale funding directly flows into the common CGIAR pot.

Considerable concern is also expressed informally among partners that the enormous cost in time and money that was entailed in establishing the present structure may now be thrown away after only 5 years of operation, with a significant new time and financial cost entailed in more radical change. This at a time when the new phase of programmes needs to be built on solid and stable foundations.

GFAR stakeholders have articulated a range of opinions as to the best option among those proposed:

While option 4 may appear on the surface, and is presented as, a simpler and clearer structure, and therefore intrinsically appealing, both 4 and 3 entail considerable risk of disruption (time and cost to review and change all contractual arrangements), while everything should be done to preserve a conducive environment for the formulation of the SRF and formulation of the new CRPs and implementation within forthcoming months.

The reason for the two pillar structure was explicitly to separate the responsibilities of 'funders' and 'doers'. Option 4 seems deeply compromised and conflicted in this regard. Selected centers are proposed to make decisions on the work and fund allocation to others, while the funders involved take on elements of direct management accountability for the work done. Option 4 goes back to something close to the pre-reform structure, without resolving the issues that led to the need for reform. It is not at all clear how conflicts of interest would be resolved within this structure.

Option 1 may appear more like 'business as usual' with the inherent problems identified, but the question here is to what extent can the behaviours and relationships between these entities be modified to build better working relationships between the parts?

In regard to Options 2 and 3, the original intention of the Consortium was to act as a 'modern cooperative', such as the example of Rabobank, whereby the Consortium level strategic decisions are made on behalf of the 'mother' centers and in support of their work. This has evolved rather differently with the Consortium Board being separated from the Centers in practice. Bringing greater Center representation into the Consortium Board would certainly help address this and bring greater integration and reduce perceptions of the Consortium Board dictating to the Centers.

We note great uncertainty regarding the role of the Bank and what is said under para 244, which is particularly convoluted and does not give any sense of the Bank's willingness to continue to strategically engage and play a leadership role.

3. Role of the stakeholders

Irrespective of the governance structures proposed, our greatest concern as representative of the partners and stakeholders in the CGIAR is the evident drive to reduce the right to contribute freely and take decisions to funders only in an organization which has always adopted a different *modus operandi*; to make decision by consensus.

We submit that there has been no evidence whatsoever presented in the report that the involvement of GFAR and the RF and constituencies they represent has made the FC processes less efficient or effective, but in fact the contrary applies in terms of creating greater legitimacy and public accountability. The intended replacement mode of only 'speak when you are spoken to' as an 'active observer' and of individual representatives replacing legitimate and accountable bodies in the systems governance is rejected across the cross-spectrum of GFAR stakeholders, whose opinions have been directly solicited and provided.

If the CGIAR goes down a path of sidelining its stakeholders and assuming it exists in an isolated bubble, then it cannot also expect to have the confidence, support and aligned commitments of partners that are essential to achieving development impacts based on its work.

There is a very strong feeling expressed by the wide range of stakeholders consulted that GFAR – and through GFAR its constituencies - is the only legitimate mechanism by which they wish their interests and perspectives to be represented in the funding deliberations and decisions of the CGIAR.

GFAR stakeholders agree that GFAR should retain a full seat in the Fund Council, able to participate fully in debate and decisions of the Fund Council on behalf of partners from all constituencies. This should be backed by observers from the sectors described. The collective view is that by bringing the voices of stakeholders and intended end-users directly into the decision-making processes via a unified global (or Global and regional) focal point, such decisions become markedly more legitimate and enable the views of customers/clients of the system to be heard in these decisions. If it is determined that the Council voting decisions will be restricted to funders only then the minimum acceptable for GFAR is as a non-voting member.

We note also that the measures to “address inadequate participation of key stakeholders” (Page 121), make no mention of GFAR, nor its constituent entities as measures to improve on this participation. Stakeholders all found this a major and unacceptable omission from the report and the options presented:

- “This is an outright error that NEEDS to be corrected. The CGIAR seem to have a different understanding of GFAR’s role and responsibilities.
- GFAR needs to be flagged very specifically as the principal mechanism for achieving participation of stakeholders.
- Why is GFAR absent here? This is not acceptable. GFAR was created by the World Bank and other agencies in part to play this role. As the prime network bringing together SMEs across Africa, PANAAC regards GFAR as the means by which our interests are directly represented into shaping of the CGIAR’s work.
- I believe that GFAR should be explicitly mentioned here.”

There is universal agreement among the extensive GFAR stakeholder networks that agreement among the constituents of GFAR should be the basis by which the proposed national/regional research (and other) and private sector seats should be determined. It was also recognized that civil society organizations should usefully have a specific observer seat. APAARI supported strongly the idea that other key stakeholders might have a greater share in deliberations on strategy and priorities (the role of the active observers) but commented on the need to one be well aware that the private sector’s specific agenda and much shorter time horizon than that of the public sector might also result in counter-productive advice.

Inclusion of independent and unaccountable members is firmly rejected by GFAR stakeholders, who commented that it would be:

- “a perfect set-up for rigging the game and completely losing the trust of non-CGIAR stakeholders”. If independent members are still determined there was strong consensus that the GFAR platform should be the objective basis by which these are identified and selected.
- To quote the private sector view: “One must question the legitimacy by which individuals are appointed on their own. By what means can these individuals be seen to be representing a particular perspective, other than their own views? Why is this considered more legitimate than those appointed by the particular sector itself? In my view individuals would be much less legitimate and would have no accountability for their opinions. Also, who would choose them and how?”

The GCARD is strongly felt to be the legitimate mechanism for public dialogue with the CGIAR.

- “GCARD is contributing and playing very significant role in stakeholder consultation on the CG work, rather this should be fully recognized, appreciated and supported by CGIAR” (APAARI)
- To quote the civil society organizations network: “GCARD is an inclusive platform which not only consults but also gets stakeholders to commit to decisions made and expects participation in implementation. There is always scope for improvement though as in everything. More inputs from various stakeholders at national and regional levels would improve the process.”

Stakeholders were asked: does the basis for selection of 'donors' entitled to seats (and the associated “equitable system for voting that takes into account financial contributions to the CGIAR Fund”) take adequate account of 'southern' donor countries?

- While many felt this was a matter for the countries themselves to resolve, there were concerns expressed some concerns that smaller economies such as for example Kenya would be given less weight in these decisions than the larger G20 nations, yet Kenya is itself both a donor and determinant of the work of the CGIAR.
- Others also felt that the magnitude of funds and partnership contributions must go hand-in-hand under whatever option is agreed to. Therefore, there is a need to maintain an equitable system of voting without taking into account financial contributions only. Partnership contribution should also be accounted in.