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Interim Progress Report to the European Commission

GFAR Secretariat

Executive Summary

GFAR, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation, takes the opportunity of sending this technical report on 2015-16 activities, to thank the EU for their continuous support to the Global Forum's actions. Over the past year, this contribution has again been central and essential to GFAR's delivering on the six outcomes of its Medium Term Plan.

The Global Forum has gone through major and very positive changes over the last year. Through a Constituent Assembly and then Partners' Assembly, the governance and Charter of GFAR have been extensively revised, to create a truly equitable and multi-stakeholder forum on agri-food research and innovation, bringing together all actors in agriculture and food research, education, innovation and enterprise, from consumers, smallholder farmers and food industries to upstream research. A key dimension here is that GFAR Partners have now agreed 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 agri-food research and innovation systems"

These were agreed by all sectors through the GFAR Constituent Assembly and make clear that GFAR's role and mandate encompasses the continuum of agri-food research and innovation, resolving a long standing concern of definition for some who chose to consider from the name that the Forum's focus was only research.

The governance reform of GFAR, by its very multi-stakeholder nature, has been a complex process, but immensely rewarding. The diverse stakeholders brought together for the GFAR Constituent Assembly and then the GFAR Partners' Assembly resoundingly endorsed the changes made and the new GFAR Charter, with near unanimous agreement on all, as demonstrated by anonymous voting.

With the shift to Partners now directly self-declaring their involvement, there has already been a rapidly growing engagement of Partners in GFAR, with over 300 institutions or networks already registered. These include a valuable spread of perspectives from community NGOs to social movements comprising millions of people, from small enterprises to major international food and technology companies and from national advisory services to international research centres.

Thanks to EU support, GFAR is now widely recognized as the unique open and inclusive forum for collective advocacy and for facilitating collective actions in agri-food research and innovation. Partners in are coming to see themselves as the Forum, a shift from past perceptions and one in which they now realize that GFAR's role is to facilitate rather than fund or directly manage, their collective actions.

This year also saw actions towards the third GCARD process, a composite of national and regional actions leading to the global event in 2016, an event with major impact:

- 83% of survey respondents reported that they left the conference with specific actions for either themselves or their organization
- 84% of respondents stated that they would recommend the conference to friends or colleagues
- 89% of evaluation-form respondents, 93% of conference survey respondents and 62% of interview respondents stated that they made connections at the conference that could become partners in their work. In most cases respondents also stated that they would not have made these connections if they had not attended the conference

GFAR plays a very active role in facilitating collective actions among the Partners in the Forum, working across the spread of areas prioritized by different sectors in the GFAR Medium Term Plan – which forms the framework for this Agreement. In some cases, such as action networks on gender and youth, this is by direct support to networks mobilizing the constituencies concerned. In most cases, however, this is through GFAR facilitating, co-supporting or co-sponsoring collective actions among partners, themselves driving forward the changes required. This catalytic role of GFAR is seen in actions across each of the key themes identified for transforming agri-food research and innovation systems.

A considerable number of successes can now be shown over the period of this agreement in GFAR's role in facilitating and co-supporting the development of networked actions. EC funds in support of meetings have been used specifically to enable the involvement of farmers and civil society participants, with balanced gender, a means itself of creating change in other institutions.

Together, the Partners in GFAR are working to make agri-food research and innovation more effective, responsive and equitable, towards achieving Sustainable Development outcomes.

Successful outcomes of GFAR activities over the reporting period include (by theme):

Foresight

- Establishment of networked actions in community foresight and the establishment of a new multi-stakeholder Alliance for the re-appropriation of rural futures.
- Regional Fora in Near East/North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa enabled to take on foresight work for themselves

Partnership

- Partner perspectives provided into CGIAR governance and throughout the development of the SRF and CRPs
- 20 country dialogues/site integration meetings supported and stakeholder engagement mobilized
- Governance and stakeholder perspectives into Dryland Systems programme facilitated
- Network action co-catalysed for nutrition metrics

- Action on Farmers Rights established in partnership with CSOs through UNDP-GEF support. GFAR's work with International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources recognized as a significant contribution by the Treaty Governing Body
- Establishment of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture facilitated, strengthening civil society engagement in its development

Improved Investment

- Transformation of research into enterprise fostered through support to African networks and competitive development of the innovative Young Agri-Preneur (YAP) business start-up mentoring scheme
- Major policy dialogue on investment in agricultural research and innovation enabled and co-financed in Asia-Pacific region.
- Funding of innovation processes leveraged with IFAD rural development loans in India and now considered into the formulation of IFAD loan development processes in Egypt.
- Farmer and civil society involvement directly enabled into the GAFSP funding scheme, leading to a new initiative on the 'Missing Middle'

Capacity development

- Tropical Agriculture Platform common framework supported and key documents made available in different languages through GFAR financial support
- New Alliance established for the reform of agricultural curricula and student leadership, engaging over 900 agricultural universities and a range of stakeholders
- ICT platforms – CIARD-RING and Agri-Profiles now established into open public use and as important dimensions of the GODAN movement.
- GFAR input to GODAN key policies and papers helps ensure the equity of open access to help ensure benefits for resource-poor smallholders, recognized in UN ECOSOC
- Continuous advice provided to GODANs development and programmes.
- Substantive ICT management capacities developed in China and India
- Public-private networks mobilized for N-S and S-S ICT applications
- New strategic framework for GFRAS developed and progress on M&E systems, new strategic framework developed and adopted, policy dialogue sponsored and production of four key policy papers for the GFRAS compendium.

Research and innovation in development

- The Gender in Agriculture Partnership now involves nearly 1000 institutions and has launched a new series of Webinars and mobilized participation in key UN events
- YPARD Young professionals network now has 13,000 members registered, 200,000 visits to the website and has provided training to 1200 young professionals
- Youth actively engaged throughout GCARD3 process and in Young Agripreneurs scheme, with 428 proposals received. Each proposal was published on the GFAR blog, encouraging the online public to comment and vote for the best proposals. The proposals were read by over 120,000 people and received over 60,000 comments
- Milan Conference at EXPO 2015 mobilized partners from south and north of the Mediterranean and agreed a common framework for action to bring a new future for rural communities in the region, now being taken forward by lead agencies in the region

Policy and stakeholder accountability

- The innovative GCARD3 developed 5 new alliances for networked action to take forward key agendas as determined by the conference participants. these will help form the frame for the next GFAR MTP
- 93% of GCARD3 participants stated they made connections with potential partners at GCARD3 and 81% said they would not have done so without the event. 90% of survey respondents said they came across ideas at the conference that would be useful in their work and 75% of these would not have done so without the GCARD3 event
- After the conference, 85% of survey respondents were positive about the conference and 21% had made significant changes in the way they worked as a result of the conference, with a further 61% making some changes in their work
- GFAR Constituent Assembly and Partners Assembly outcomes very strongly endorsed and confirmed by a highly diverse group of participants from all relevant sectors
- New Charter established and agreed for GFAR by Partners
- New governance basis agreed for GFAR by Partners
- Over 300 organizations and networks, from across all sectors, already now self-declared as Partners in the Global Forum
- Regional fora strengthened through GFAR-supported actions in lead up to GCARD3, with farmer/CSO participation directly sponsored by GFAR
- Direct inputs at high level into international policy processes: G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists and European Agricultural Innovation Policy

Communication & outreach

- 35 fold increase in blog, 418,000 pages viewed by 169,500 visitors, leaving 64,100 comments
- Our Facebook following increased by 65%, Twitter and LinkedIn by 25%
- In 2016, GFAR provided training on online media/social media to 152 trainees through four different 'boot-camps'
- 428 proposals for agripreneurs projects, read by over 120,000 people and received over 60,000 comments

Communication for GCARD3:

- **Training:** 114 people were trained (*versus 26 at GCARD2*)
- **Twitter:** 13,099 #GCARD3 tweets were sent by 1,675 contributors, delivered to 3.4 million Twitter accounts
- **Blog:** We published 585 blogposts (including 428 YAP proposals), which got a total of 372,000 views by 136,000 different visitors. These got a total of 63,595 comments.
- **Website:** During this period, www.gfar.net got 81,500 page-views, from 65,600 different visitors. The GCARD3 pages were viewed 24,650 times by 19,000 different people. This excludes the traffic statistics from the ARC conference page.

This report is organized by theme, according to the EU agreement and in line with the GFAR Medium Term Plan, which the agreement reflects.

Report on activities and outputs

Output 1.1: Operational Forward Thinking Platform addressing key challenges for the future and related research priorities

The Global Foresight Hub has been successfully established at the outset of the MTP and in 2012 the Hub was established among a wide range of interested institutions and experts in foresight assessment. The Foresight glossary developed by the Hub has been produced and translated into different languages and made publicly available. A significant foresight analysis was produced for GDPRD, which explored the basis for future research prioritization by a different paradigm, not from that of anticipated yield, but rather by the social impacts of agricultural innovation. Key challenges for food, agriculture and rural development were identified through the processes of GCARD2, with over 50 Articles published or under publication.

GFAR Secretariat contributed significantly to developing forward thinking as a basis for the paper “Role of ICTs in Agriculture, Agricultural Research and Development” for the EC DG Connect and Horizon 2020 Program.

Output 1.2: Regional foresight capabilities enhanced for greater self-determination

The Secretariat also facilitated and organized the meeting: “Forward Thinking for Agricultural Development in Western India: A National Workshop to Consider New Capacities Needed in Agricultural Research, Innovation, Extension, Education and Management” at Dantewada, India. The follow up of the Workshop is development of a proposal for capacity development for research and education in agricultural value chains development in Western India through a collaboration of 5 Agricultural Universities in Western India.

GFAR Secretariat also contributed significantly to the shaping and delivery of the FARA side-event Session II on Foresight and Agriculture at the 7th Africa Agriculture Science Week & FARA General Assembly. The idea of a Africa foresight Academy (AFA) was welcome given the current trend were are seeing in food, agriculture and rural development e.g. the prospect of more than 300 million young people who will decent livelihoods in the next 20 years and huge and growing food imports expected to rise to \$110 billion by 2025. Foresight capability will help address this challenge and other challenges. Therefore, the Academy is seen as critical as it will help build foresight capability and foresight culture. The Mission and Vision were accepted as adequate to capture this mandate.

GFAR Secretariat also trained a group of participants from the NENA region in co-elaborative scenario-building method. This is an activity undertaken under Outcome 1, Output 1.2 of the GFAR MTP at the request of AARINENA (see workshop concept note in Annex 1). The training had two objectives. The first objective was to train participants in co-elaborative scenario building as a foresight approach; the second one was to train the participants as facilitators and trainers in co-elaborative scenario building, acquiring the specific facilitation skills and know-how needed to implement this approach properly. Twenty participants were successfully trained.

Specific country assessments were pursued through the Asian Farmers Association, a regional organization trained previously in foresight techniques. GFAR Secretariat provided (EU) funds and technical support to enable the training and subsequent field work with farmers.

Major Activities Undertaken were:

a. *Identification of Volunteer Organizations*– Three organizations were tapped to implement local grassroots foresight activities.

- In India, implementation of the grassroots foresight initiative was managed by a local NGO called Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE), based in District Almora, Uttarakhand, India.
- In Indonesia, Aliansi Petani Indonesia (API) a national farmer organization that is a member of AFA managed implementation of the grassroots foresight initiative. The areas selected for the grassroots foresight was East Nusa Tenggara Province (NTT).
- In Philippines, the implementation of the grassroots foresight initiative was managed by PAKISAMA, a national farmer organization that is a member of AFA. The areas selected for the grassroots foresight initiative were the towns of Balabac and Bataraza in the southern part of Palawan Island.

b. *Management of a Foresight Training Workshop*–AFA conducted a “Regional Training Workshop to Implement a Grassroots Foresight Initiative” last February 1-8, 2015 at Oracle Hotel and Residences, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. A USB containing all the session guides and methodological notes, as well as a binder containing all the hard copies of these materials.

Link to video on grassroots foresight training workshop:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Tg1WhX9cIM&feature=youtu.be>

c. *Provision of Logistical Support to Grassroots Foresight*- AFA entered into partnership agreements with the three implementing partners INHERE, API and PAKISAMA. Fund releases were made according to the provisions in these partnership agreements. These funds were used in the conduct of the local grassroots foresights in the three countries.

d. *Monitoring and Reporting on Progress* – AFA and implementing partners regularly exchanged communications to share updates and progress of the implementation of local grassroots foresight initiative in the three countries. AFA secretariat also attended in part the local grassroots foresight initiative conducted by Pakisama, being in the same country.

e. *Support to the design of an Action Plan* –With still some funds left after the workshop on identifying possible scenarios, INHERE conducted another workshop entitled “ a meeting on deciding the desirable scenario and activities for sustainable agriculture”. This was in fact beyond the expected activities of the Project; and was a well-appreciated initiative from INHERE. Further details on the results of this workshop are discussed below.

Both API and Pakisama went on to implement actions in the pursuit of their desirable scenario. API continued dialogues with district agriculture and forestry officials, resulting in the re classification of their area from state forest into community forest. Sambilog was able to recruit a farmers’ group from the municipality of El Nido, whose leader was one of those who attended the grassroots foresight workshop. It has likewise set up a cooperative as its economic arm, and is starting to upgrade its seaweed production and trading with technical support from the local Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Key Outputs

Through this Project, logistics support was given to local Farmers Organizations to develop their capacities in identifying future challenges affecting their livelihoods to develop locally produced scenarios. Local FOs who underwent local grassroots foresight processes were:

- Like in many parts of the country, farmers in the Central Himalayan region of Uttarakhand are highly demoralized. The smallholder farmers are not happy with their lot and mass diversion from agriculture to other occupations is taking place leaving agriculture land barren in the villages.
- Boru Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in East Flores district, Nusa Tenggara Province in Indonesia: The Boru IPs has a unique language and customs but are not beginning to disappear. The leaders are anxious that their culture will disappear in the very near future with the onslaught of science and technology
- SAMBILOG: with around 500 farming families from the southernmost provinces of Palawan island (Bataraza and Balabac). The primary aim of the organization is to reclaim around 50,000 hectares of ancestral lands and waters grabbed from them in 1974, by Danding Cojuangco, a powerful crony. The organization has been struggling to obtain agrarian reform and recognition of their ancestral territories.

In India, all the participants found the workshop very engaging and involving with a new interesting technique. As Ms Sonali Bisht wrote: “It was truly a great experience to see diverse people come together and think about their likely common future. Many of the participants said they had not experienced anything like this ever.”

In the Philippines, most participants were happy with the results of the scenarios for reasons that it coincides with their dream about the future of the ancestral land and waters of the Pala’wan and Molbog tribes; however, there is also a fear on the different plausible futures made during the Scenario building.

According to the main points raised during the meeting 1) there is a lack of recognition of other SAMBILOG members on the undesirable and rupture futures. For them, before doing the foresight workshop, there is no recognition and/or preparation on the undesirable plausible futures. The desirable future always coincides with the goal of the organization and thus translating action plans that are only gearing towards the most desirable future.

However, doing Foresight work also opened everyone to the reality that “plans do not always go your way”, thus, immersing themselves in the undesirable futures and thinking of ways to move away from it. 2) By doing the Foresight process, all were able to systematize their focus their planning on factors and drivers that can greatly impact the whole system; 3) Integrating Foresight in the planning process lets the organization save time, effort and resources by focusing on things that needs to be focused on as it gives everyone a “*clear view of the system*” and lastly, 4) It empowers them on the *crafting* the future that they want to see and *acting on that future built by every player on the workshop*.

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

During the year, GFAR Secretariat participated in shaping and refining the post-2015 agenda in Chatham House meetings in England, the Economist conference and in the EC's own technical networks on foresight.

In early 2015, GFAR led the foresight innovation session at the Global Forum on Agricultural Innovation, a major agricultural innovation marketplace held in Abu Dhabi. Here, around 120 international participants were enabled and facilitated to explore the implications and requirements of multi-stakeholder innovation platforms and how these can bring change in practice. Foresight was also a key theme in the Year of Family farming meeting in Montpellier, 2014. GFAR here set out a challenging agenda for change so that agricultural innovation might better benefit resource-poor smallholder farmers. This was followed through in late 2015 through a roundtable process with the World Rural Forum and research partners, moderated by GFAR Secretariat.

In GCARD3 2016, Foresight was one of the key themes explored in depth by participants. During the Conference, the Partners in GFAR, in particular farmer's organizations and regional fora from around the world, together developed the frame for a new Alliance for the re-appropriation of rural futures. The Alliance will bring together local innovation with that from science and work to bring smallholder farmers directly into the process of exploring their own desired futures, by which to inform and participate in current research and innovation processes, in order to achieve those desired futures. This Alliance has now been established into practice among a range of partners from across all sectors.



GFAR Secretariat & YPARD session facilitators set out the aims of the new Alliance at GCARD3

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

Strengthening the CGIAR: GFAR has continued to contribute extensively to the governance and reform of the CGIAR. When the CGIAR resolved to go through a further reform process from 2015-6, GFAR has continued to provide the perspectives of external national partners on the programmes and strategy of the CGIAR system. With these changes and the abolition of the Fund Council, GFAR is now classed as an active observer to the system, in many ways a more appropriate and objective position to inform decisions from the perspectives of partners, rather than being directly part of the funders own decision processes. The importance of GFAR's role here was recognized by the System Council Chair, who considered that the perspectives of the intended beneficiaries of the CGIAR's work were essential elements for success and recognized GFAR's unique role in this regard.

Throughout 2015-2016, GFAR worked directly with the CGIAR Consortium (now System Office) on a series of dialogues in CGIAR focus countries, led by the CRPs most involved, to determine how best they could integrate their actions on the ground and respond to national needs. GFAR provided invaluable connection to a range of national partners in many of the countries concerned. GFAR also solicited and provided specific inputs to external reviews of CGIAR's work on gender, on capacity development and on partnerships and on monitoring of attention to farmers' rights. These are all central themes for GFAR and ones that have always been strongly advocated by GFAR into the CGIAR's strategic management processes. In addition to direct inputs from the GFAR Secretariat, surveys were supported through GFAR on gender and previous surveys on capacity development and partnership in the CGIAR were made fully available to the review teams concerned.

Fund Council Governance Committee (FCGC) meetings – CGIAR New Research Portfolio

GFAR contributed actively to the meetings¹ of the Fund Council Governance Committee (FCGC) in the context of the decision taken by the CGIAR Fund Council at its FC 13 meeting in Bogor to abandon the dual Fund Council and Consortium of Centers organization and bring the CGIAR System under a unified governance. The FCGC provided oversight to the Transition Team established in September 2015 to help designing the architecture of a new System Organization and preparing a new framework for the CGIAR.

GFAR also supported the formulation of partnership and gender strategies of selected CRP pre-proposals in the building of the new CGIAR Research Portfolio. GFAR participated in two meetings hosted by ISPC, the CGIAR Consortium, and the Fund Council on 29 September 2015, in Paris and in November 2015, in Rome, to reach mutual understanding of perceived gaps in the portfolio in relation to delivery of the SRF and CGIAR comparative advantage, and to discuss the CRP pre-proposals integration into a coherent research Portfolio for 2017-2022.

CGIAR Transition Team and meetings of CGIAR Centers and Contributors

GFAR participated in virtual preparatory meetings and attended the three meetings (3 November 2015; 8-9 February 2016 and 3-8 June, 2016, at the World Bank, Washington DC) organized by the Transition Team (TT) between representatives of CGIAR Centers and Contributors to design a new governance and framework document for the CGIAR System Organization, and [submitted written comments](#). It also contributed to the Science Working Group assisting the Transition Team.

GFAR reminded the Transition Team of the value of its "contribution" to the CGIAR bringing mutual accountability *vis a vis* stakeholders, mobilizing partners from outside the system along the

¹ From October 2015, two in person meetings and weekly virtual meetings between April and July 2016.

innovation pathways concerned and doing so not as a CGIAR entity, but as a forum that is objective and independent of the System. GFAR strongly presented the argument that the highest decision-making body in the new CGIAR should not be composed only of donors; that FAO, IFAD and GFAR networks bring a crucial development orientation and other stakeholders' perspectives into the CGIAR. Building on the communique of the G20 Agriculture Ministers and MACS meetings in Xi'an, China (30-31 May 2016) which reaffirms the value of the GCARD process² and with support from major donors and the recognition of GFAR's role and value in partner mobilization by the Chair³ GFAR eventually retained a status of "Active Observer" in the new System Council, like ISPC and IEA. This status explicitly allows full participation into the deliberations of the Council. FAO and IFAD were eventually recognized as ex-Officio members.

CGIAR Fund Council and System Council meetings

GFAR contributed to two (2) CGIAR Fund Council meeting (FC14 & FC15) and two (2) CGIAR System Council meetings (SC1 & SC2). At FC 14 & FC 15 it engages in the discussion of relevant items of the agenda bringing the perspectives of partners in GFAR, and tried to clarify the functions of a proposed CGIAR Partnership Forum in relation to the GCARD Process of strategic engagement with stakeholders.

GFAR was fully involved in SC1 in Paris (July 12-13, 2016) which selected the World Bank nominee as new Chair of the System Council, approved the new CGIAR System Framework, Charter and legal documents (Financial Framework document, Outlines of Contribution agreement between the CGIAR System Organization and Funders, Trustee and CGIAR system organization, and the Transitional arrangements for current CRPs and 2016 system costs. SC 2 consisted in two days (25-26 September, 2016) preceded by a one day pre workshop of Funders (24 September) organized by the Fund Effectiveness Working Group (FEWG). SC 2 discussed in details comments and recommendations made by ISPC and the FEWG, and approved, in principle, six CRPs [CCAFS, Wheat, RTB, Rice, A4NH and PIM] and three Platforms. It was agreed to decide simultaneously on fund allocation for all approved CRPs and Platforms at the next System Council meeting (SC3, scheduled in November, 2016).

GFAR heading the Steering Committee of CRP Dryland Systems (CRP-DS).

CRP-DS is a coalition of partners and 4 CGIAR Centers led by ICARDA including national research systems from 28 countries, universities, extension agents, civil society organizations, development partners, CORAF /WECARD, American universities, ARIs (including French research Institutions). It engages in action research to develop and validate 'best-bet' intervention packages, and promote scaling-up in five target Regions: (i) West Asia and North Africa, (ii) Western Africa and the Dry Savannas, (iii) Eastern and Southern Africa, (iv) Central Asia and (v) South Asia. CRP-DS adopted a research-for-development approach for continual development of technologies (crops, livestock, agroforestry) integrating the reality of smallholder farming communities. It focuses on two agro-ecologies: low-potential dry areas for improving resilience of production systems where farmers are faced with climate unpredictability; and more favourable dry areas for sustainable intensification to provide farmers with opportunities for crop diversification and increased income.

² The G20 MACS communique makes three explicit references to GFAR deliverables including the GCARD: "We call upon G20 members to strengthen cooperation and capitalize on relevant mechanisms of Global Forum of Leaders for Agricultural Science and Technology (GLAST) and the Global Conferences on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD), so as to increase exchanges in the innovation of agricultural practices, technologies, policies and mechanisms, and to share relevant policy experiences and successful practices."

³ Including Australia, Belgium, Canada, FAO, France, IFAD, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Switzerland, The World Bank.

GFAR's Senior Partnership Adviser was appointed Independent Chair of the Steering Committee of the CRP Dryland System (CRP-DS) in April 2015. He provided guidance to the Steering Committee at one in person and two virtual meetings, and participated in the CRP reporting to ICARDA Board. The SC agreed on integrating CRP-DS heritage at the end of the Program into an appropriate new Agri-Food System CRP as decided by the CGIAR Consortium. An attempt to merge CRP-DS best performing activities with those of CRP Dryland Cereals and CRP Grain Legumes into a Dryland Cereals and Legumes Agri-Food System pre-proposal (DCLAS), then a Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals (GLDC) proposal was unsuccessful. The CGIAR System Management Board is expected to guide the formulation of a new proposal. Having identified that the final proposal may focus only on SSA and South Asia, GFAR initiated a process with ICARDA, CIHEAM, AARINENA, Agropolis and French Research Institutions at a meeting in Montpellier in March 2016 to explore the possibility of a new multi stakeholder Initiative for the MENA region.

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

GFAR has from the outset been a direct partner in establishment of the [EAT Stockholm Food Forum](#), a multi-stakeholder platform linking agricultural production, sustainability (including through climate change) and nutrition. EAT has brought very high profile attention to these themes, particularly in northern Europe and North America, with the 2015 meeting being attended by the Prime Ministers of both Norway and Sweden. In addition to active participation in the annual meetings of the Forum, GFAR has been building linkage with EAT Forum on metrics and investments around nutrition, as part of the leverage brought to change production and consumption habits.

Partnering with organizations such as WHO, GAIN, LCIRAH, CGIAR, FAO and SUN, GFAR is now a key actor in developing collective efforts to improve the metrics around agriculture and nutrition. These included a GFAR-EAT organized workshop, hosted by the Norwegian Embassy in Rome as a follow-on from ICN2, which explored the many challenges in finding acceptable and simple measures to link agricultural production and sustainability values with nutritional qualities of foods. This workshop and the EAT dialogues has also laid the ground for a specific working group on impact metrics at the GCARD3 conference, which has now established a new alliance to change the sustainable development impact metrics used around agricultural innovation.

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

Partnership with International Treaties

For many years, GFAR has continued to promote biodiverse systems and the importance of agrobiodiversity and under-utilized species, particularly for smallholder farmers. This area suffers from policy and investment attention to major staple crops, without recognizing the richness and multiple values of diverse systems. GFAR has established formal partnership arrangements with three major organizations active in this sector: [the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture \(ITPGRFA\)](#), the FAO [Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#) and the CGIAR Center [Bioversity International](#). These partnerships are designed to facilitate ready linkage between the collective actions of GFAR's extensive networks of partners and the key policy and technical bodies involved.

GFAR Secretariat also, in 2015-6, Chaired the Programme Committee of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites programme of FAO. This programme seeks to conserve *in situ*, at the landscape scale the biodiversity of specific cultures that have made a significant contribution to crop development and maintenance of important and unique local farming systems, animal breeds, crop types and cultivars.

Farmers' Rights

GFAR has been pursuing the agenda of Farmers' Rights since the inception of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (ITPGRFA), when the then GFAR Triennial Assembly discussed the issues and helped the shaping of the Treaty. GFAR Secretariat supports the promotion and realization of Farmers' Rights at national and local level in developing countries through participatory and inclusive processes, partnerships and collective actions to increase awareness and build capacity to influence institutional agendas, promote and strengthen dialogue and trust among stakeholders, driving networked actions for change.

Over the last year, a joint programme for capacity development in Farmers Rights has been developed with the Treaty Secretariat. This partnership programme was launched at the 2015 Governing Body of the Treaty at their meeting in Rome and was endorsed by this inter-governmental body. The Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental, the MS Swaminathan Foundation and the Economic Research Services of Pakistan became partners of the Joint Capacity Building Programme in 2016.

National capacity development programmes on Farmers' Rights to Plant Genetic Resources have been supported in Malawi, Honduras and Costa Rica. Earlier work in Guatemala led to production of a series of training materials on farmers' rights, including principles, experiences, exercises and learning materials and which has now been taken up into practice by NGOs and farmers groups across the country. This in turn led to extension of the work to Honduras and then, in partnership with the Development Fund of Norway, to introduction of these principles into Malawi, where the capacity materials developed for Malawi are presently informing development of national seed policy. Through our role in the CGIAR System Council, GFAR has continued to press for Farmers' rights to be considered alongside breeders' rights in the work of the CGIAR, itself recognized in CGIAR implementation as being the result of earlier actions by GFAR.

Direct partnership with UNDP-GEF has established a very effective basis for this work, where farmers' rights advice and training has been introduced into the small grant portfolio managed UNDP-GEF, supporting actions determined and delivered by civil society groups around the

world. As a result, the programme is already now being extended to Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru, with further GEF small grant requests for farmers rights support in the funding pipeline from Egypt, Indonesia, Bolivia, Pakistan, Mexico, Kazakhstan, India, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

GFAR's work on Farmers' Rights, in partnership with the ITPGRFA, was recognized in 2015 by the Governing Body of the Treaty as the key action by which Farmers Rights are being realized in practice.

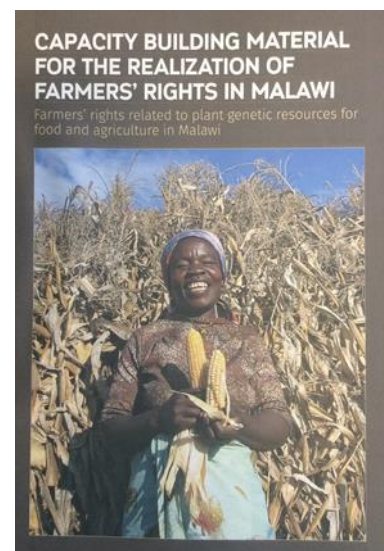
Specific country support to the realization of Farmers' Rights has comprised:

Honduras

Capacity Building Materials on Farmers' Rights for Honduras were developed via a participatory and inclusive process, involving the Development Fund of Norway, the National Commission of Plant Genetic Resources of Honduras, Zamorano International University, the Collaborative Programme on Participatory Plant Breeding for Mesoamerica, the Association for Participatory Plant Breeding with Farmers of Honduras, smallholder farmers, the Rural Reconstruction Programme and the Honduras Association for Local Agricultural Research and Innovation. A national meeting of Farmers' organizations, decision-makers, civil society organizations and international organizations was held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in 2016 to launch the Capacity Building Materials on Farmers' Rights. Copies of the capacity building material were provided to the Department on Agri-food for Science and Technology of Honduras, as the National Focal Point of the ITPGRFA in Honduras, who are now disseminating them to smallholder farmers. A review of the National Seed Law has now started, with the participation of civil society organizations trained in Farmers' Rights

Malawi

Publication and dissemination of translated capacity building material on Farmers' Rights, with the support of the Centre of Environmental and Policy Advocacy and the national office of FAO in Malawi. Translation in two local languages (Chichewa and Tumbuka) of the capacity building material on Farmers' Rights for Malawi. Chichewa is the most widely used language in Malawi, spoken by 60% of the population (11.3 million people), mostly in the Central and Southern Regions of the country most of them are smallholder farmers. Around 1.7 million people speak Tumbuka. The translated capacity building materials on Farmers' Rights were disseminated at a Seed and Food Fair in Mkombezi in September 2016 and during an event organized by the Feed the Future Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies Project, 4-5 October 2016 with participation of high level representation of donors, government and other relevant stakeholders. Legal advisory inputs have been provided to the Government of Malawi in support of a new seed policy in Malawi to encourage recognition of Farmers' Rights and Breeders' Rights.



A similar event has also been planned in Costa Rica in late 2016.

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

GFAR has fostered collective actions pursuing the agenda of agriculture and climate change since holding the first agriculture and climate change event at UNFCCC Poznan in 2008. Through GCARD2 and related actions such as the Agriculture and Rural Development Days, GFAR mobilized civil society involvement into the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and organized the regional consultation in Vietnam that built towards the formation of the GACSA and its launch at the UN, in which farmers and civil society participants were sponsored by GFAR, through EU support, to attend and speak at the launch at the UN General Assembly. GFAR provides inputs to the governance of the GACSA through its Steering Committee.

GFAR participated in the third meeting of the GACSA Strategic Committee in Rotterdam at the occasion of the Adaptation Futures 2016 international conference organized by the government of Netherlands (May, 2016) and a virtual meeting of the Committee in June 2016. GFAR volunteered as a member of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee (AHFC) established to review the GACSA Work Plan and budget 2016-2017. The AHFC reported to the Strategic Committee in Rome October 20-21, 2016 and made recommendations to overcome the current difficult financial situation of the Alliance

Nonetheless over the last year, there have been a number of issues arising with other parties in the Alliance not responding effectively to civil society concerns, nor engaging with community-centred perspectives and as a result the GACSA is now facing an uncertain future. GFAR continues its efforts to ensure that such collective actions provide a broad base for the involvement of farmers and rural populations, despite the inertia and unresponsiveness of some institutionalized interests. Collective action requires real commitment by all.

GFAR Secretariat continues to build links with other climate change related actions and has particularly worked with the CGIAR CCAFS programme in addressing the gender equity dimensions of climate change adaptation. GFAR Secretariat has also provided input to the meetings and actions of the World Meteorological Organization and is now developing further links with the Global Research Alliance on Greenhouse Gases.

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

The Young Agripreneurs (YAP) programme (see under communications) was developed in association with the GCARD3 conference. This proved a very successful process, attracting many entries for competitive funding and with a huge extent of interest in social media. The programme also attracted a range of funding supporters, including some high net worth individuals. The winners were invited to GCARD3 to present their ideas in front of the assembly and are now being mentored in the development of their business ideas. A second phase is now being planned for the YAP programme, with particular attention to the scaling and sustainability of the approach and how it might be leveraged with other investment programmes.

GFAR co-organized, with PIM/IFPRI, FARA and IFAD, a pre-GCARD 3 side event (4 April, 2016) on S&T for Africa "Agricultural R&D indicators, monitoring investments and capacity development at the sub regional and national levels", and moderated a session on mobilizing partnerships to move forward a Virtual Information Platform (VIP) on S&T for Africa.

The GCARD Theme 1 sessions on scaling up research to impact chaired by EFARD and CIRAD resulted in the identification (or confirmation) of three Collective Actions to be convened by lead partner institutions:

- Develop a culture of impact with a focus on coordination of partners' actions, embedded in national research and innovation systems with a common methodology for measuring impact at scale. Lead Partner - CIRAD.
- Lobby for increased investment in research and innovation for achieving impact at scale, building capacity of young scientists and women, farmers and entrepreneurs with a Pilot in Asia Pacific. Lead partner – APAARI.
- Embed research into innovation systems with building an interactive model focusing on brokerage to support prioritization in research and extension, with links to markets and industrialization. Lead partner – CIRAD.

Collaboration with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

As an African led and managed network of 17 policy research networks throughout SSA, FANRPAN is a Partner in GFAR. It has been working successfully on different streams of the GFAR Mid Term Plan 2011-2016, particularly on environmental sustainability and climate change policies, and nutrition. GFAR Secretariat contributed to the yearlong process for the formulation of FANRPAN new strategic plan (2016-2022) which included a survey and different meetings of national and international partners facilitated by Deloitte. GFAR Secretariat was among the forty participants from government, policy research institutions, universities; farmers' organisations; private sector, media and civil society attending the final workshop organized in Johannesburg (March 3-5, 2016) for finalizing the Strategic Plan. GFAR suggested a collaboration between FANRPAN and IFPRI for the formulation of the new CRP on Policy, Institutions and Markets (PIM) considering PIM has identified Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, and Tanzania as focus countries, in which FANRPAN is very active.

Further discussions have been pursued with Global Affairs Canada over the Supporting African Women in Agriculture (SAWA) proposal on developing women's enterprise from agri-food innovation in 4 African countries. Government changes in Canada have meant delays here, but the proposal is now being updated and resubmitted in line with new donor priorities. GFAR Secretariat has also provided technical supporting inputs to the African Agricultural Innovation Network now launched by FARA.

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

Through EU support, GFAR Secretariat helped developed the agenda, facilitated and co-sponsored the Asia-Pacific High Level Policy Dialogue on Investment in Agricultural Research for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 8-9 December 2015, Bangkok, Thailand, a meeting led by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI). This meeting in Bangkok, which formed part of the processes leading up to the GCARD3 conference in Johannesburg, provided a strong overview of the challenges and opportunities in generating greater, and better targeted investment in the sector. Participants came from all sectors and ACIAR was also a lead sponsor. The meeting highlighted the need not just for greater investment by countries, but also for greater involvement of farmers and beneficiaries in determining and shaping processes of agricultural research and innovation.

Key messages from the Policy Dialogue:

1. **Innovation needs to be central to a new paradigm** – Innovation needs to look past the products of the Green Revolution into research that supports a nutritious diet, but also innovations in partnership – with the private sector, not for profits, regional, South-South, but importantly partnerships with women and youth. However, innovation comes with risks, which requires the freedom to operate in this risky environment, where a small number of successes, are the successes of the whole system.
2. **Data, information and knowledge is power** – Without the right understanding of baseline issues, such as research intensity, decision making is difficult. However, data, information and knowledge are not enough. Trusted partnerships and recognition that we are part of the knowledge continuum are needed to use this to support economic growth and have impact on poverty reduction.
3. **Impact is the end game and capacity building is the legacy**– Research leads to productivity gain and reduces poverty as long as we understand impact pathways where performance and delivery of these pathways can be achieved in the most effective way and can build long-term capacity.
4. **Greater investment in agricultural research and innovation can feed more people** – By 2050, more than 9 billion people will need to be fed. This calls for greater investment to ensure food and well-being of future generations. The massive under-investment that exists must be addressed to improve the agricultural research intensity that can address key hunger and poverty concerns in the Asia-Pacific region.
5. **The nature of agricultural research must change to address sustainability more effectively** – Rather than only seeking additional funding, agricultural researchers have to demonstrate effectiveness in implementing programmes and activities – the focus should be on both quantity and quality of research investment, not on funding alone.
6. **Agriculture needs to focus on smallholder farmers, women and youth especially** – Women and youth have become even more critical in agriculture today than ever. Greater efforts need to be made to address their under-representation as agricultural researchers and enhance their engagement in the innovation process to address the issues of sustainability
7. **Reducing hunger and poverty in the Asia-Pacific region requires different partnerships** – As agricultural research changes to address the issues of sustainability more effectively, innovation is becoming central to the agenda with new ways of doing things and in different partnerships than before.
8. **Agricultural research has an impact on agricultural productivity** – While enhancing productivity might not be the right approach and the focus may need to change to be on farming system sustainability, clear evidence demonstrates that agricultural research has a positive impact on agricultural productivity.

These messages were then taken forward into discussion at the GCARD3, leading to the development of a new Alliance for new measures of Sustainable Development impacts. This Alliance, mobilized through the GFAR Secretariat and led by Partners including IFPRI, ACIAR, APAARI and FAO, is setting out to determine new measures for impact from agricultural innovation, that go well beyond conventional agricultural productivity and consider the many other impacts of agriculture and rural development in sustainable development, including the synergies and trade-offs between these. Formation of this Alliance is one of the key outcomes of GCARD3. The Alliance is also engaging with new cross-cutting measures for nutrition, health and agricultural sustainability, as described above under 2.2.

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

Work in Egypt has continued to develop a multi-actor framework for turning agricultural innovation into enterprise for rural women in the poorest Governorates. The Government and Governorates of Egypt have expressed strong demand for such an approach, which is now being linked with IFAD loan investments in the country, in the frame of the Investment Facility developed earlier and agreed by the G20 MACS.

IFAD has also invited GFAR to join in the country programme formulation processes of IFAD (COSOP) to determine where innovation can best add value to rural development initiatives across a wide range of contexts. After conducting a national workshop to identify country development needs in February 2016, GFAR negotiated with IFAD Country Program Manager for India the inclusion in IFAD COSOP of a Joint capacity development program between GFAR partners (NAARM, APAARI) in collaboration with five agricultural universities in Gujarat State (Junagadh, Navsari, Sardar Krushinagar Dantewada, Anand and Kamdhenu). The Program which builds on forward thinking agricultural development with focus on agri-food value addition chains in Western India is under consideration by IFAD.

In line with its strategy to put the needs of resource poor farmers at the core of agriculture innovations and involve farmers' organizations effectively in the design, implementation and monitoring of GAFSP Projects and Strategies at country level GFAR developed a collaboration with the Global Agricultural Food Security Program (GAFSP). A contract signed with the World Bank in October 2015 entrusted the Global Forum to mobilize and provide technical support to the Asian Farmers Association (AFA) and the Reseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'ouest (ROPPA) for their participation in GAFSP governance and projects implementation. This concerned eight countries in Asia Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, Laos, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and four in Sub Saharan Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi and Zambia) with a regional focus for west and central Africa. The two regional farmers organizations were able to participate in national, regional and global dialogue on GAFSP, the GAFSP Steering Committee and in preparation and supervision missions of GAFSP supported Projects.

Discussion is now underway with FAO as to how best to link processes of national demand expressed by country representatives to FAO with a multi-stakeholder response and the capacity development required.

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

The Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) is the key mechanism by which FAO is now working to support the development of national agricultural innovation capacities in various countries of the world, through the EU-supported CDAIS programme. Over the last year, and using EU programme support, GFAR has directly contributed financing and technical support to ensuring that the capacity development framework developed by TAP could be completed through an expert workshop and then published and made available in several different languages. This will considerably increase the reach and value of these important materials. GFAR is also hosting the programme's TAPIPEDIA database and repository of agricultural innovations and learning materials, on the GFAR server, to ensure it can be maintained as an independent and non-institutional database of agricultural innovations and learning around the development of national agricultural innovation systems. Many Partner networks and fora sustained by GFAR over the years are now mobilized into the TAP-CDAIS programme and are helping to deliver the national capacity development actions of the programme.

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

One of the key actions determined by participants in GCARD3 was the formation of a new alliance for curriculum reform and student leadership, in order to address the chronic problem of young people turning away from agricultural careers and their perceptions that agriculture does not offer the rewards to be found elsewhere. The focus of the Alliance was set out during the GCARD3 and the GFAR Secretariat then built upon these ideas in partnership with the Global Confederation on Higher Education and Research in Agriculture, GCHERA, the global network of national agricultural university associations, itself supported in its development by GFAR. This partnership led to a Global Dialogue at the RUFORUM Conference in South Africa, in September 2016, in which GFAR used EU support to enable the participation of a range of non-university stakeholders, to express their concerns and needs to the university sector and avoid the discussion being internal to the university sector. The Alliance resulting will combine curriculum reform with actions to create the agricultural leaders of tomorrow, equipped with skills and a sense of self and the importance of their calling that go well beyond technical skills alone. Actions will draw learning from the successful experiences of universities such as Earth University and Wageningen, that have opened themselves out to new partnerships and new ways of working, as well as student development programmes such as the successful LEAD programme previously run in Egypt by Iman El-Kaffass, who now manages this activity for GFAR.

Activities have also included direct meetings with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) around the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS). Here China has requested direct interaction with other partners through GFAR, to create S-S training linkages with other countries.

Output 4.3 Processes delivered for opening of access to information systems for sharing, transforming and using data access among national systems, with self-sustaining network established for sharing information on research organizations, expertise, research programmes and their outputs.

Open data and ICTs show tremendous promise as the next revolution that can transform agriculture and food systems around the world.

Since 2007, GFAR has been a key actor in the Coherence on Information in agricultural research and development (CIARD), along with FAO, CTA, CIRAD, the Regional Fora and many more. In the last year, GFAR has contributed to the strengthening of the CIARD RING by redesigning the user interface and inclusion of open access to agricultural research and development datasets.

Contributed to the establishment of new CIARD Governance considering the fast changing environment of open access to data and information and the emergence of CIARD RING, a platform managed by GFAR Secretariat, as a major directory of agricultural research and development data and information. CIARD had been established in 2007 by GFAR Secretariat and FAO. This was the second major review and redirection of vision and strategy of CIARD.

Contributed to the redesign and testing of Agriprofiles, a platform managed by GFAR Secretariat previously known as AgriVIVO, which manages information on Institutions/Organizations, Experts, Projects and Project Outputs. This information is essential for developing collaboration and partnerships between agricultural research stakeholders and GFAR partners.

GFAR Secretariat participated in several online e-discussions on aspects of ICTs use in agriculture organized by E-Agriculture Platform. GFAR Secretariat organized the “National Workshop on Information and Communication Technologies for Sustainable Agricultural Development” at Dantewada, India. The workshop was attended by more than 185 participants.

GFAR’s long standing work (primarily in establishing systems and national capacities for the underlying standards and system inter-operability required) fostering collective actions to open the use of agricultural data to benefit smallholder producers has contributed directly to the formation of the multi-stakeholder GODAN (Global Open Data Network for Agriculture & Nutrition) initiative. The GODAN initiative was fostered through engagement in the G20 MACS processes and in partnership with USDA, DFID and a wide range of information organizations, including CABI, FAO and many others.

Through EU finance, GFAR Secretariat now provide direct technical support as part of the GODAN Secretariat itself. This has addressed two main areas: i. System interoperability and the programming needs of enabling data to be accessed and re-purposed for different applications and ii. The importance of equity in agricultural data access and use. The latter is particularly vital, to help ensure that opening out access does not just benefit those best able to make use of data and therefore likely disadvantage the small producers who were themselves the source of much of the data, yet may be further left behind or directly disadvantaged by applications, which industry may focus on larger farms with more immediate returns.

GFAR Secretariat contributed significantly to the development of 4 cornerstone GODAN documents: i. “Responsible Data in Agriculture”, ii. Ownership of Open Data: Governance Options for Agriculture and Nutrition” and iii. “A global data ecosystem for agriculture and food” and the CTA paper iv “ Open data and Smallholder Food and Nutritional Security”, which have

been extensively quoted and has evoked much interest around issues in opening agricultural data.

Through extensive input from GFAR Secretariat, the GODAN principles for equitable systems now provide a good basis from which to develop voluntary guidelines for equitable systems, to avoid repeating the problems previously seen with biotechnologies. GFAR's contributions and through the management of CIARD.RING were well recognized in the GODAN Summit in New York in September 2016.

The importance of developing equitable systems from the outset was emphasized by the GFAR Executive Secretary to the GODAN meeting at the UN ECOSOC in September 2016, a key point that was well received by all and subsequently echoed by many national representatives.

GFAR, also provided considerable support to the development of the G20 MACS meeting and further development of national capacities in China, support that was personally welcomed by the President of CAAS and helped set the frame for the G20 MACS meeting. CAAS has now become a Partner in GFAR, a major step of formal linkage that was previously missing. It is anticipated that Chinese secondees will join the GFAR Secretariat next year as part of the new CAAS agreement with FAO and GFAR. Provided continued guidance and support in developing various strategies in agricultural information and data management as also other areas including post graduate education for continuing GFAR close relationships with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). During the year, two senior scientists/managers from CAAS were mentored in gaining international experience and developing and implementing new vision and strategy for managing agricultural research and development data and information. GFAR also contributed significantly to the development of the CAAS Roadmap for Agricultural Knowledge Management.

GFAR supported the APAARI Workshop on Capacity Development on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Towards Measuring Outcomes and Impacts. GFAR Secretariat organised and facilitated several Workshop sessions on evaluating Information programs, services and products in this 5 Day International Workshop on Capacity Development on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Towards Measuring Outcomes and Impacts, organized by APAARI in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. There were 74 International participants in the Workshop. This was the first time most of them were exposed to evaluating Information programs, services and products. Participants were provided during the Workshop with written notes and guides on evaluating Information programs, services and products.

The Club of Ossiach, a public-private network for collective action among a wide range of organizations active in GIS data management and agricultural applications, has been further developed and strengthened. The network, which includes some of the most advanced European companies specializing in areas such as modelling agricultural systems, yield forecasts and climate impacts, with ground truthing of data at the micro-scale is now conceptualizing how best to work together in programmes in support of developing country agriculture.

GFAR Secretariat organized and participated in the International Conference on Intelligent Agriculture in Beijing, China, in which GFAR and Club of Ossiach were organizing partners. A Keynote paper was presented on "ICTs for Sustainable Smallholder Farming" and a workshop organized at the Conference on "ICTs and Information Management for Smallholder Farming". A blog on "ICTs for Smallholder Farming" for publication on GFAR Website. GFAR Secretariat was given the Seat of Chair of the Club of Ossiach during this meeting.

GFAR Secretariat also organised and participated in Agrifutures Days International Conference organized by Club of Ossiach at Villach, Austria, including a Keynote Address on Role of ICTs in Developing Rural-Urban Continuums and Chairing the Conference session on “Role of ICTs in Sustainable Development of Rural-Urban Continuums. The Club of Ossiach is now developing proposals for E-Learning Modern Agriculture for Refugees and Migrants from Africa who have entered Europe, and also an Integrated Platform for Agricultural Information using GIS, for use in West Africa, East Africa and India.



Pictorial summary of GODAN Summit discussions

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

The Partners in GFAR cover the continuum of actors in agri-food knowledge and innovation from farmers and consumers to upstream research. The Global Forum on Rural Advisory Services was jointly established by GFAR, FAO and the Neuchatel Initiative, to fill the perceived absence of a mechanism for greater cross-learning and strengthening among rural advisory services, vital actors within this overall continuum. GFAR has since provided direct funding support to GFRAS from the outset, dedicating a budget proportion each year to direct financing of GFRAS in delivery of its mission, with an agreed basis of work as set out in the GFAR MTP.

In 2015-6, GFRAS has continued to grow in its role and recognition, engaging rural advisers around the world, operating through regional networks and a range of capacity development materials for development of effective pluralistic advisory services. This year, GFRAS has also begin to focus on agricultural entrepreneurship, in common with many other Partners in GFAR. GFRAS's work helps deliver the overall framework of the GCARD Roadmap, to strengthen rural advisory services and GFRAS represents the sector in GFAR governance. Cross representation in the Steering Committee of GFAR and of GFRAS was decided at the establishment of GFRAS to ensure operational alignment with GFAR.

A new Letter of Agreement between GFAR and GFRAS was signed on October 5, 2015, aligned with the revised GFAR Vision and Mission adopted by GFAR Constituent Assembly (Bangkok 24-26 August, 2015). Catalytic funds from the EU were provided to GFRAS through GFAR support agreed GFAR Collective Actions. They should reflect the farmer-centered and multi-stakeholder principles of the Global Forum.

GFAR provided inputs in the formulation of GFRAS new Strategic Framework 2016-2020 for Advocacy and Leadership in Rural Advisory Services for Sustainable Development adopted at the GFRAS SC meeting in September 2015 (Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan), and in the GFRAS policy working group, to increase collaboration with FANRPAN policy dialogues. This support has enabled the production of four key policy papers for the GFRAS Compendium:

- Strengthening the capacity of RAS Actors for advocacy and dialogue on policy reform and action
- Building an effective RAS/EAS model for smallholders: emerging issues and the four cornerstones of sustainability
- Framework to improve the coordination of agricultural support services, a case study from Namibia
- Innovative approaches to co-creating equitable policy environments, from collective to co-creative: experiences implementing gender-responsive local policies

GFAR participated in the GFRAS Steering Committee (8-12 March 2016, Lindau, Switzerland) which adopted the operational plan 2016-2020, and decided to formulate a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) strategy to evidence GFRAS impact on the ground. IFAD and GFAR led a core group of the SC to draft a Strategic Note on Transforming delivery of Rural Advisory Services and mobilizing resources for RAS. The document should help reframing GFRAS/GFAR collaboration in congruence with GFAR Roadmap Principles. The meeting selected the new Executive Secretary of GFRAS who took his function at GFRAS Steering Committee and Annual Forum in Cameroun (October 2016) and confirmed the hosting of GFRAS by AGRIDEA but moving the Secretariat to Lausanne. It was agreed that GFRAS should better use the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP) network facilitated by GFAR in promoting women's empowerment in rural advisory services.

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

GFAR has continued to build and support the Gender in Agriculture Partnership, a multi-stakeholder network now involving gender specialists and advocates from over 900 institutions around the world. GAP operates as a virtual platform (www.gender-gap.net) and network through social media, and has become widely recognized for the value of its facilitating functions and as a common platform for all those who are concerned with rural women's economic empowerment. GAP provides the agriculture interface for UN Women's economic empowerment website resource and the GAP website and LinkedIn groups are now recognized as valuable and comprehensive resources for all. Since its inception, the GAP website has already accumulated over 1000 highly searchable papers and published articles from GAP Partners on rural women's empowerment.

GAP activities during this period have also included specific events to mark key dates such as International Womens Day, for which an event on rural women was organized in 2015 at UN ECOSOC, together with the World Farmers Organization, for World Rural Women's Day and the finalization of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as a strong continuous social media campaign celebrating many actions of Partners in addressing rural women's economic empowerment. This year, GAP has also begun a more intensive outreach action, with the first in a planned series of Webinars, here focusing on metrics for women's empowerment, with presentations by FAO, the CGIAR and the Word Bank. The Webinar proved extremely popular, with 100 participants present and with a further 200 having to be turned away on this occasion as the internet-based webinar system could only accommodate 100. The GAP Secretariat, organized and resourced through GFAR Secretariat, has continued to provide and mobilize expert technical advice to a range of programmes and events, including to the CGIAR and FAO.

GFAR has itself carried forward the commitment of the GFAR Steering Committee to deliver to FAO gender principles. Gender balance was established among those sponsored to attend GCARD3 and the same approach has been followed in all sponsorships of the meetings of others.

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

Key achievements

- Youth sitting in agricultural development management committees all over the world;
- Meaningful inclusion of youth at key development conferences with over 250 active youth participants onsite as key speakers and innovators, and hundreds of followers online;
- Continuing development of the YPARD face to face, online and blended mentoring programs;
- Actively engaged youth through the GCARD3 process from national, regional and global discussions as organizing committee members, panellists and communicators;
- Conducted research on rural youth aspirations in drylands with the CGIAR Dryland Systems research program;
- Strengthened the capacity development of approximately 1,200 YPARD representatives and members through targeted webinars and trainings;
- More opportunities, information, networking and value for members with 196,434 visits on the website, over 13,000 members registered on ypard.net and nearly 1,500 items posted;
- New hosting organization established for YPARD Europe;
- Stronger national and regional representation with dozens of activities implemented at the national level and some exciting regional initiatives taking shape.
- Celebrations for YPARD 10 years through side events, online celebrations and dozens of people 'baking a cake' for YPARD 10 years and sharing through social media.

Way forward:

- More effective inclusion of youth with real participation and decision-making power in agricultural development throughout the world.
- Scale up the mentoring programme as a proven means to support rural and urban youth in agriculture.
- Stronger support of national YPARD initiatives to support local youth develop contextually relevant solutions.

YPARD members were surveyed to ascertain their reasons for joining⁴:

- To increase professional network (85%)
- To support the idea of promoting youth engagement in agricultural development (81%)
- To find capacity development opportunities (75%)

YPARD is considered most valuable for:

- Promoting agriculture among the youth
- Funding opportunities
- Capacity development information

What they say about YPARD:

"YPARD stands out among youth networks in the agricultural space, for both the breadth of their network globally and sector wise, but also in the quality of the people who are involved. By engaging with the YPARD network, you have access to learn from and collaborate with true leaders and inspiring individuals engaged in addressing agriculture and food systems more holistically." Elizabeth Beall, Committee on World Food Security

"I have been involved in many initiatives and youth projects but I can feel that there is something special about YPARD. You have a sense of belonging that you can't find anywhere else." Assem Abu Hatab, YPARD Egypt representative

⁴ data based on YPARD annual members survey

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

Protracted crises are one of the most challenging contexts in which to fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty. They are driven by a combination of recurring causes – human-made factors, natural hazards (often occurring simultaneously), lengthy food crises, breakdown of livelihoods and food systems, and insufficient governance and institutional capacity to deal with the resulting crisis. GFAR has provided considerable linkage and mobilized Partners input to the development of the FAO Committee on World Food Security's Agenda for Action (CFS-A4A), a framework to guide more comprehensive and effective policies and actions to address food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crises.

More specifically, GFAR efforts have this year been strongly focused on the Mediterranean region and giving new emphasis on the need for strengthening and resourcing rural communities to provide new opportunity, particularly for youth and women, to find viable livelihoods in the rural environment and reduce the pressure on rural exodus and outmigration, with their enormous attendant problems as seen in the crises across the region.

Through participatory foresight processes and GFAR Collective Actions, the Global Forum seeks to explore and establish with rural communities what they desire of their own futures and then help them to define and understand what innovations are required to help achieve those aims. This means going well beyond agricultural technologies, to determine and address the underlying drivers of change in rural communities and societies themselves. To these ends, GFAR and the Foundation for South-North Mediterranean Dialogue, with support from the EU, have over the last year and a half, catalyzed and funded four sub-regional dialogues. One has been organized in each of the four sub-regions of the Mediterranean Basin. These dialogues have examined the rural development challenges, and possible solutions, in each sub region. What has emerged has shown both the expected differences between cultures in each country, but also a remarkable degree of similarity in some of challenges faced. We know also that there is much cross-learning to be had between societies and institutions South and North of the Mediterranean Sea, who face common challenges and have much to gain by learning from each other's experiences and knowledge.

This is a time of particular conflict and crisis in the Mediterranean region, making it all the more important to address the root causes of rural poverty that underlie so many problems in the region. The "Arab Spring" has shown the urgency to act on these issues, itself being sparked by, among other factors, the knock-on effects from rural poverty, crop failure through drought and high food prices as key catalysts that triggered mass movements for major societal change. Both South and North of the Mediterranean Sea, rural poverty is leading large numbers of rural people, particularly the youth, into mass migration from rural areas to urban, in search of new opportunity. In the absence of urban economic opportunity, the result is often displaced, unemployed youth, disillusionment, urban poverty and despair and resultant societal breakdown. It is thus critically important that rural communities see a future that can sustain their value and provide new opportunity, particularly for youth and women.

These led to a major Conference held under the auspices of the Milan EXPO 2015. Specific additional funding was obtained from the DG Neighbourhoods/DG DEV to support this meeting and bring together participants from across the region and from all sectors. The Conference proved very successful and brought much common thinking as to how to tackle these challenges, including mobilizing the CGIARs Research Programmes in support of the actions

identified. The Conference set out four main areas of action required to build a new future for rural communities across the region: natural resources and productivity, gender, youth and enabling environment, recognizing that actions were required in all of these to achieve change.

The Milan Conference helped shape the GCARD3 event as the Near East-North Africa regional contribution to the agenda and led to the session on Foresight and development of the New Alliance on Re-appropriating rural futures.

These themes were then taken up into a further discussion in Montpellier, France, towards building a collective response to these needs, which will need to bring together the efforts of all the major regional stakeholders. A further meeting in Rome in October 2016 has reviewed progress and changing needs, shared ideas and identified some specific initiatives to be mobilized.

GFAR Secretariat has also directly provided significant input to the governance of the CRP Dryland Systems programme, as reported under 2.1



Closing plenary of the Milan Conference at EXPO 2015

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

As summarized above, the GCARD3 Global Conference, as in previous GCARD's, built on from preparatory regional and national processes, each addressing particular dimensions of the issues addressed in the global conference. These comprised regional events in Asia-Pacific, Central Asia/Caucasus, Near East North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, together with the national dialogues organized in 20 focus countries of the CGIAR. As part of the learning cycle around the GCARD process, an external review was also undertaken (final report pending) and a report commissioned on the implications of the GCARD process for Uruguay (host of GCARD2) and its agricultural innovation system.

GFAR teamed up with CACAARI, the Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS), IFPRI, ICARDA, the World Bank, FAO and the Global Soil Partnership to combine the [GCARD3 regional consultation for the Central Asia and the Caucasus](#) region with the International Conference co-organized in Bishkek (28 February-2 March, 2016). The [Conference](#) was adapted to serve also GCARD 3 objectives.

Originally conceived to discuss priorities and ongoing initiatives on Food Security supported by the ECFS, and the future of the Soil Partnership Initiative with policy makers and professionals from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, it was broadened to other countries from the region and representatives from IFAD and civil society, Farmers Organizations, NGOs, youth and women organizations, extension services and agro-business selected by CACAARI, GFAR and YPARD. This offers a more inclusive opportunity to analyse current trends in food security management in the Eurasian region; and debate on most effective practices to promote and mechanisms to expand multi- and cross-sectoral collaboration at country, regional and global level.

The [GCARD3 regional consultation for sub-Saharan Africa](#) was organized by FARA in collaboration with GFAR and CGIAR from 28-29 April 2016. GFAR moderated the [Theme 3. Increasing the impact of the CGIAR and other international agriculture research organizations in Africa](#).

[GCARD1 \(2010\)](#) resulted in the "[Road Map for Change](#)", a global strategy paving the way for more responsive and relevant agricultural research. [GCARD2 \(2012\)](#) focused on the partnerships, foresight and capacity development needed to deliver change, and resulted in the reform of the CGIAR.

Through national and regional consultations, [GCARD3 \(2015/16\)](#) has focused on re-aligning research needs and priorities with countries' own development needs and national processes and with the Sustainable Development Goals. The [CGIAR's Strategic Results Framework](#) has been directly influenced by these processes of consultation.

The GCARD3 Global Event, organized by the Global Forum and CGIAR and co-hosted by the [Agricultural Research Council \(ARC\) of South Africa](#) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa 5-8 April 2016. The Global Event marked a milestone in the GCARD3 process.

The GCARD3 Global Event was an opportunity for all stakeholders to come together to confirm their commitment to the new sustainable development agenda and to tackle some of the more topical issues emerging in agri-food research and innovation. Through generous support from the South African hosts, the cost of GCARD3 to other donors was less than half that of GCARD2. [GCARD3 GLOBAL EVENT PROGRAM](#)

GCARD3 kicked off on Tuesday 5 April with [opening presentations](#) from Shadrack Moephuli, President and CEO, ARC; Mortimer Manny, Deputy Director General, Agriculture Production, Health and Food, [Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, South Africa](#); and key note speeches from Hamady Diop, Head of Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme, [NEPAD Agency](#) and Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, CEO, [Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network](#) (FANRPAN).

The first day's plenary on Wednesday 6 April featured a report from the, Executive Secretary of GFAR, [reporting on the commitments from GCARD1 and GCARD2](#), followed by a [panel session](#), chaired by Kwesi Atta-Krah (CGIAR) reflecting on the [GCARD3 engagement processes at the regional and national level](#). The keynote speeches on the day were from young agriculturists [Jim Cano](#) (YPARD) on strategic inclusion of youth in national, regional and global agricultural systems and [Dimakasto Sekhoto \(Nono\)](#) on her experience as a young, emerging, black, female farmer. [ALL GCARD3 SESSION PLAYLISTS](#)

Building on the preparatory GCARD3 national and regional dialogues, main GCARD3 program was organized around five key themes, with clear outcomes outlined for each, as well as a set of lenses related to the Sustainable Development Goals:

- Scaling up: from research to impact
- Showcasing results and demonstrating impact
- Keeping science relevant and future focused
- Sustaining the business of farming
- Ensuring better rural futures

[PRESENTATIONS DURING THEMATIC SESSIONS](#)

The final day of GCARD3 opened with two more keynote speeches from young agriculturalists: Maria Letizia (Coldiretti) on [Innovation in a Sustainable Manner: Young farmers reinventing farming in Europe](#); and Tshepiso Marumo (Zone of Live Pty. Ltd.) on [Beekeeping as an Emerging Business in Botswana](#).

[DAILY SUMMARIES OF GCARD3 GLOBAL EVENT](#) >

[GCARD3 GLOBAL EVENT SUMMARY REPORT](#) >

Outcome of GCARD3 Global Event

The GCARD3 Outcomes Statement is a direct product of the dialogue and discussions at the GCARD 3 Global Event. Through the joint development of the GCARD3 Outcomes Statement the GCARD3 participants have pledged to work together through the a set of Collective Actions over the next three years to GCARD4, to address common challenges in agricultural and rural development.

[GCARD3 OUTCOMES STATEMENT PRESENTATION](#)

Help communities improve their preparedness, and envision desired future scenarios for their comprehensive rural development, through grass-root foresight mechanisms, centered on sustainable smallholder family farms and farm-based enterprises and which leave no one behind. This will be done by:

- Establishing foresight platforms that bring together farmers (via farmer organizations in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia/Caucasus, Latin America, Europe, the Mediterranean basin and the NENA regions) with research and innovation actors from around the world to develop and select preferred future scenarios
- Collectively plan, design and implement initiatives to change the present to shape/achieve the desired future

Identify, prioritize and develop the research and innovation capacities and actions required at all levels to meet future needs. This will be accomplished through:

- Creating one thousand additional Ph Ds per year in next-generation, future-relevant agricultural research,
- Undertaking higher-educational reform across a 100 universities over five continents that combines multi-disciplinary training in agriculture-related sciences, with skills in leadership, entrepreneurship, interpersonal relations and team-building, and
- Continuing professional development in agriculture for innovation and entrepreneurship in agricultural practices, products and services

Advocate together for increased, sustained and more effective financial and human investments and capacities in multi-stakeholder demand-driven processes of agri-food research and innovation, to achieve greater development impact at scale through:

- Developing a culture of impact with a focus on alignment/ coordination of partners' actions, embedded in the national system and owned by national governments and with a common methodology and tool (accountability framework) for measuring impact at scale.
- Lobbying for increased investment in research and impact at scale with a focus on building capacity of young scientists (and women), farmers and entrepreneurs and undertaking policy research on investments in research and innovation.
- Embedding research into innovation systems thereby moving towards an interactive innovation model with a focus on brokerage to support research prioritization including research on extension, with links to markets and industrialization.

Develop a common public evidence base and the new mechanisms required for demonstrating diverse impacts and returns on investment in national and international agri-food research and innovation.

- Build on the lessons learned from past successes and failures, on analytical and conceptual frameworks, and implementation at different spatial and temporal scales to contribute to measuring progress towards the SDGs.
- Contribute to national measurements of progress towards SDGs, and build national capacity for integrated measurements, engaging with diverse stakeholder groups including farmers, youth and women.
- Create a platform to harmonize agriculture related indicators linked to the SDGs, in order to improve collective action for impact.

Embed agri-food research and innovation in national development processes, and foster equitable partnership between farming/food value chains, research, extension, education and business development, drawing on agri-food based research and innovation. The collective actions will:

- Cluster small farmers for greater participation in R&D and stronger links to finance and markets
- Build value chain partnerships for success while recognizing traditional farming methods and practices
- Develop evidence-based and demand driven data to enrich policy and attract finance
- Protect small farmers' access to resources and build their business skills
- Open up innovation platforms for farmers to provide access to new technologies: make farming a business
- Address public health and nutrition in agricultural research and innovation program

From the external review of GCARD3 (full report pending finalization), the conference was recognized as being extremely successful at deepening existing connections and facilitating the formation of new ones.

- 89% of evaluation-form respondents, 93% of conference survey respondents and 62% of interview respondents stated that they made connections at the conference that could become partners in their work.
- In most cases respondents also stated that they would not have made these connections if they had not attended the conference (81% of evaluation form respondents) or that they may have made such connections eventually, but this would have taken a long time (63% of survey respondents).
- Finally, following on from the conference, most survey respondents also reported staying in touch with their new connections. Only 10.5% stated that they had maintained communication with none of their new contacts.
- 59% of interview respondents and 90% of conference survey respondents stated that they came across ideas at the conference that will be useful in their work.

Once again it was expressed that it would have been difficult for attendees to access this information if they had not been at the conference.

- 75% of survey respondents agreed that it would have taken much longer for them to access these ideas if they had not attended and 74% of interview respondents agreed that they would not have come across these new ideas if they had not attended the conference (interview respondents were not given the option to respond that they may have encountered the idea but that it would have taken much longer).

In addition to these significant achievements, there are initial indications that attendees are actually integrating these new ideas into their work.

- 29% of survey respondents stated that since the conference they have “made steps to incorporate the idea(s) into their work”
- A further 65% stated that since the conference they have “partially integrated” the new ideas they encountered into their work (in this case partially integrated was specified to mean “sharing the idea with some others and discussing possibilities”)
- Only 6% stated that they had not discussed their new ideas since the conference
- Even more promisingly, 21% of respondents stated that they had made “significant changes” to the way they have been working as a result of the ideas/people they encountered at the conference. 60% had made some small changes and 19% no change at all.
- 83% of survey respondents reported that they left the conference with specific actions for either themselves or their organization
- 84% of respondents stated that they would recommend the conference to friends or colleagues
- 49% of respondents stated that when they left the conference, they felt “very positive” about their experience and 36% felt “positive”

“I learnt a lot and I was exposed to a lot of information that I didn’t have before. I felt inspired to make an impactful contribution to the agricultural sector in Botswana.”

Private sector representative

“It was very inspiring to meet and interact with key players in the international agricultural committee, as well as to see how far the international agricultural sector has come and the plans for the future of sustainability, food security and longevity of GFAR and GCARD.”

National extension organisation

From the external review summary:

“The GCARD3 was undoubtedly a phenomenal success on many counts articulated and perceived by those who attended it. Purely in terms of a logistical achievement, it overcame many challenges to deliver an experience that overwhelmingly satisfied the demands of the 350-plus international delegates that attended. In addition, it fulfilled the ambitions of the majority of these attendees who came to network, establish and solidify relationships and build partnerships. Providing attendees with a wealth of opportunity to meet and share knowledge with others from across the ARD community and across the world has most certainly served to deepen integration within this community. Arguably the most significant achievement of the conference however, is the legacy it leaves behind. An astonishing number of attendees departed the conference, not only with a deep feeling of positivity about their experience, but also with concrete actions that we can see already being implemented through new partnerships and actual changes to working practices. These actions have the potential to produce real and widespread changes within the ARD landscape”.

Notwithstanding these important achievements, there are several areas where improvements can clearly be made. These were noted by the external review as being in timing and allowing sufficient lead up, in strengthening coherence of the themes and content and in the style of the conference, which, by dint of being mainly sponsored by the Government of South Africa as a showpiece for 25 years of ARC, was seen by some as too luxurious in its style. A particular issue was that the change in the timing of the development cycle for the CGIAR CRPs, such that they were formally submitted for approval one week before the Conference, did not allow for effective open discussion of these plans during the conference itself, as was originally intended. The Organizing Committee was naturally reluctant to present a fait accompli for public discussion.

While clearly very much valued, the GCARD process will also need to learn from these lessons as it continues to pursue its key objectives:

- Promote effective, targeted investment into agriculture
- Build partnerships, capacities and mutual accountabilities at all levels of the agricultural system
- Meet the needs of resource-poor farmers and their communities
- Help to refine regional and global agricultural research priorities, as identified by different stakeholder groups and representatives, in an inclusive way

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

This has been a very important year for the reform of GFAR and its constituent Partners. Major processes of reform have been successfully developed by multi-stakeholder discussion and implemented through first a Constituent Assembly and then the first GFAR Partners' Assembly. These have resulted in a new Charter being developed and adopted and a new basis for governance being instituted that equitably involves all sectors and regions concerned.

GFAR Constituent Assembly

Background

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. This landmark Assembly formed a key step in 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 selected from each region by Regional Fora and networks, and globally, as involving a legitimate and representative cross-section of organizations and networks, as identified by the multi-stakeholder Strategic Governance Working Group. They included farmers' organizations, consumer associations, NGOs/CSOs, the private sector in various forms, national public research and rural advisory services, higher education, Regional Fora for agricultural research and innovation, FAO and other multilateral organizations, international agricultural research centres, women's groups, youth groups, development banks and foundations, and financing and technical partners. Participants included those long familiar with the Global Forum and those new to the forum and its partners. The GFAR Constituent Assembly was particularly made possible through financial support from the European Commission and support from FAO as host of the GFAR Secretariat.

The Assembly was structured around four Discussion Papers:

[*Renewing GFAR's Role and Purpose*](#)

[*Redefining Collective Action*](#)

[*Reframing Governance*](#)

[*Resourcing the Global Forum*](#)

The Discussion papers were prepared by a multi-stakeholder Strategic Governance Working Group, drawn from the GFAR Steering Committee. The Discussion Papers were made publicly available and discussed in webinars in advance of the Assembly and provided the background and context for the issues to be discussed and decisions requested of the participants.

The Assembly Process

Together, these participants explored and considered the strategic role and direction, mechanisms, and future governance and resources, required of the Global Forum, so that all stakeholders can work more effectively together to address the needs set out in the GCARD Road Map. The Global Forum uses mechanisms of collective advocacy, partnership, capacity building and knowledge sharing, to ensure that agricultural research and innovation processes serve the desired futures of

local communities and are responsive to the development needs of producers and consumers, in particular among the resource-poor.

Short dynamic talks, by speakers covering the spectrum of participants, introduced and framed each of the working sessions, based around the four Discussion Papers. These were followed by very active and participatory round table sessions, exploring and brainstorming each segment, with participants rotating around to inspire new ideas. These sessions delivered really useful outputs in relation to GFAR's role and purpose, collective action, governance and resourcing, that then formed the re-shaping of GFAR.

A meeting of the existing GFAR Steering Committee and others, held during the Assembly, was also very helpful 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 able to vote on whether they agreed with the changes proposed by the Assembly. In the final votes, over 90% of votes cast by participants, from very diverse sectors, 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. For full transparency, any opinions that did not concur with a particular decision were expressed in plenary. One issue discussed was whether to change the Global Forum's name to better reflect the revised Vision and Mission. It was decided not to change the Global Forum's name at present, but rather to retain the acronym and find a supporting 'tagline' that would more accurately reflect the reformed Forum.

Conclusions

This landmark Assembly has provided a resounding endorsement of the reform and renewal of GFAR:

1. The Assembly redefined the role and purpose of the Global Forum through strong agreement (94% agreement⁵) 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 agri-food research and innovation systems"
2. A formal basis was agreed (91% agreement) for the definition and basis of **GFAR Collective Actions**⁶, a key operational mechanism for the Global Forum. 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."

⁵ Of those who voted

⁶These are a group's steps or actions taken while working toward a common goal. When individuals engage in collective action, the strength of the group's resources, knowledge and efforts combines all parties to more readily achieve the shared goal.

Partners agree to commit and generate resources together, in actions or advocacy that strengthen and transform agri-food research and 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 Road Map. Progress must be reported and shared with other partners through the Forum."

3. Composition of the Global Forum: The issue of membership of the Forum, including the possibility of paying fees was discussed, but a fee payment basis was ultimately considered inappropriate, given the need to retain the open and inclusive nature of the Forum and the transaction cost of operating such a scheme.

Instead, institutions will be encouraged to become Partners in GFAR. Stakeholders from national, regional and global organizations will identify themselves as national, regional and global partners of the Global Forum by expressing formally their alignment with GFAR's Mission and Vision.

4. A new Governance structure is now agreed (96% agreement) that includes:
The GFAR Partner Assembly, meeting every three years as part of the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD). Constituencies of Partners coming from the regions will nominate participants to the Partner Assembly. The Partner Assembly is composed of Global Partners, Regional Fora Partners and Partners nominated by regional constituencies. All Partners are accountable to their constituencies.
5. **A multi-stakeholder Steering Committee will meet every year between meetings of the Partner Assembly.** The Steering Committee is composed of global partners, Regional Fora and Partners from other constituencies, selected by the Partner Assembly. **The Steering Committee will organize itself as a body and through standing committees.** The reformed Steering Committee will decide what sub-committees it may, or may not, require to ensure effective operation and accountability in all respects. Until the new governance comes into place, the existing Steering Committee will maintain its role and responsibilities.
6. GFAR's role in regard to resourcing the transformation and strengthening of national research and innovation capacities was discussed and agreed upon (92% agreement). ***Participants in the Assembly recognized the need for additional and new forms of investment in national agri-food research and innovation systems and consider this a priority for advocacy through and by the Global Forum.*** Possible mechanisms for this will now be explored with a range of funding partners.

The Assembly has strongly established the legitimacy, governance, role and purpose of the Global Forum. As expressed by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) following the meeting: ***"(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. So, an excellent step forward on the path to reform – a path ACIAR will remain interested in staying involved."***

Follow-up

The 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:

- All participants are encouraged to sign up as GFAR Partners and encourage others to do so. A web-based system for signing up as a GFAR Partner will be implemented.
- Systematic follow-up with invitees to the Constituent Assembly, and with other Partners in GFAR, will mobilise constituencies at global and regional levels for the Partners' Assembly.
- The functional linkage between FAO and GFAR, reinforced through the Assembly, will be further elaborated through discussion and action at high level in FAO and with Member Nations.
- GFAR's agreed role in advocating and promoting greater and better investment in national research and innovation systems will be pursued as a collective action in demand-driven national contexts, with a range of funding and implementing partners.
- The existing Steering Committee will meet prior to the GCARD3 (probably in Rome, in early December), to agree plans for the Partner Assembly
- The Partner Assembly will be planned as an intrinsic part of the GCARD3 event in early 2016.
- The GFAR Charter is to be revised and presented for consideration by the Partner Assembly.

GFAR Partners' Assembly

The GFAR Partners' Assembly, held in Johannesburg, South Africa on the 5th April, 2016, was attended by around 80 participants from all over the world. The participants represented different constituencies: Private sector, farmers, NGOs, consumers, advisory services, researchers, education, women and youth organizations, donors and investors, and the GFAR Secretariat.

The objectives of the GFAR Partners' Assembly were:

1. To understand and agree on the charter.
2. To understand challenges in collective action and GFAR's role.
3. To agree on governance arrangements of the global forum.
4. To endorse the way forward.

The majority of the participants had not been part of the development of the GFAR charter and did not previously study the documents. Therefore, a presentation of the draft 2016 charter was made in two parts to take them on board. The first part focused on collective action and the second section of the charter dealt with governance.

Following the presentation of the draft 2016 charter, participants analysed questions for clarity on collective action and explored what it meant to their constituencies in practice. Their inputs were clustered as follows:

- How does GFAR prioritise collective action?
- How does GFAR operationalize and implement collective action?
- How to legitimize governance and ensure inclusive action and impact on the ground?
- How to measure progress based on defined outcomes?

To provide some examples of collective action, a panel discussion was organized, with some selected resource people sharing their practical experiences and exploring further what it implied to GFAR collective action. The panel members described their case studies, and gave their opinions on several question that were asked by the participants: How do we institutionalize collective action in the national systems; how farmer organizations were organized; what are the contributions of research organizations; and what is GFAR's role in catalyzing collective action.

To wrap up the discussion on collective action, participants went into some group work and extracted the challenges that their constituencies are facing in doing collective action and how they would go about addressing them with the support of GFAR.

The second part of the draft 2016 charter, which focused on governance was also presented to the participants. As with collective action, constituencies reflected on the “pros” and “cons” of this new governance arrangement, gave ideas on how they will ensure that they are genuinely and legitimately represented in the steering committee and partner assembly, and suggested the process of nomination and accountability to their constituency. The product of the group work is summarised below.

To map out immediate future actions, the Secretariat summarised what would be done. The next steps (not in order of priority) shared with the participants were:

- A bigger size of the steering committee is needed to manage the transitional period
- There is a need to ensure the continuity of GFAR governance for the coming three years - so the steering committee needs to be revised.
- In terms of the secretariat, there is a need to make sure that there is legitimate governance above the steering committee. This could be done by having an advisory board, whose role will be strategic decision making.

At the end of the assembly, a voting technology was used and the results showed that over 90% of this diverse group of participants fully endorsed the new Charter. New governance arrangements are more complex as different constituencies have different perspective and challenges in identifying representatives, but nonetheless around 80% of the participants gave a full mandate for the Secretariat to go ahead with the implementation of the new governance arrangement.

Issues raised by those who had remaining concerns were that the Steering Committee should now really govern and not just talk, that it should include national agricultural research system representatives and queries on whether the size (to ensure full representation) was now too large.

The GFAR Secretariat has since been reaching out to a range of Partners in all sectors to request their self-commitment to GFAR and collective actions facilitated through the Global Forum. To date, over 300 organizations, have declared themselves as partners in GFAR.

Table: Composition of current Partners in GFAR:

Civil Society organizations	83
Consumers	2
Farmers and Agricultural Workers	32
Finance and investment agencies	5
GFAR Facilitating Agencies	2
Higher Education	41
International public research	33
National agricultural research systems	30
Private sector	36
Regional fora and regional organizations	14
Rural Advisory Services	9
Women’s organizations	7
Youth networks	16

The breakdown of current partners already shows an encouraging spread of active participation across all sectors. The number of self-declared Partners continues to grow rapidly. In some cases where there are strong networks, individual organizations may have so far preferred to be represented through their network organization. The term civil society organizations covers many rural development organizations at scales ranging from the community to global networks. All of the CGIAR and AIRCA Centres have expressed themselves as Partners in GFAR. Representation of the private sector is now also strong, with all the main international agriculture and food industry networks now involved, as well as many smaller companies.



Plenary Panel Session of GCARD3, senior representatives of EC, CGIAR, IFAD, Farmers, and CSOs

Output 6.3 GFAR support 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

In 2015-2016, GFAR Secretariat staff were directly requested to take part in a wide range of meetings, as highlighted above. At the policy level, the value of the GCARD process was recognized in the Ministerial Communique from the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting in China as an important mechanism for increasing exchanges in agricultural innovations and sharing relevant policy experience and successful practices. The work of GFAR was featured in the G20 magazine distributed to all national delegations at the G20 Summit. GFAR has been asked to host a session at the Global Leaders in Agricultural Science and Technology (GLAST) meeting in China later this year.

GFAR Secretariat also took part in the UN Addis Ababa development investment summit that led to the subsequent Agenda for Action. In this meeting, GFAR inputs ensured that innovation in agriculture became recognized alongside that in other disciplines.

GFAR Secretariat has provided much direct support behind the scenes to the G20 Presidencies in the formulation and conceptualization of the G20 Meetings of Agriculture Chief Scientists (MACS) in both 2015 (Turkey) and 2016 (China). In both cases, these included visits to the country concerned in advance of the meeting and extensive discussion and advice around the themes that each wished to pursue.

European Agricultural Innovation Policy

Last but not least, GFAR has directly contributed to the European agricultural innovation policy development of the European Commission through the 'Designing the path' Conference on EU Agricultural Research and Innovation in Brussels, January 2016. This involvement followed an earlier planning meeting in Milan EXPO, also attended by the Reporting Officer.

The full report of the Conference is now available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/horizon2020/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=15588

The meeting strongly reinforced the GFAR focus on greater and better investment and capacities among all sectors required in agricultural research and innovation at national level.

GFAR Executive Secretary Chaired the Conference Session 4: *The Global Dimension, fostering the contribution of EU research and innovation towards global challenges through multi-lateral cooperation*. Participants to this session were invited to discuss how the dimensions of the agriculture research and innovation strategy external to Europe can be implemented, for instance how to foster efficiency at global level based on examples of approaches which could be used in future programming, or how to integrate global frameworks on development, food security or climate.

The EU Strategy on agricultural research and innovation has many inextricable links to the global agricultural research and innovation community.

The main questions addressed were:

- We face many common global challenges that go beyond production. Opportunity for rural youth is a major global challenge. What can Europe offer and learn in using agri-food innovation to create opportunities?
- What are the requirements and responsibilities of good partnerships in international actions in tackling mutual challenges? How to ensure networked actions are equitable, efficient and adding value?

- How do you see the role of EU research funding in engaging with international networks and initiatives?
- A number of international initiatives encompass research, implementation and policy making. What is needed in practice to make these linkages work?
- How would this strategy benefit from African experiences?

Presentations by FARA/CAADP, SCAR-ARCH, FACCE JPI and STAR-IDAZ provided contributions to these questions.

Participants reaffirmed the enormous potential of global collaborative research and innovation partnerships, such as the ones discussed above. Collaborative partnerships, as fostered through GFAR, were recognized as indispensable to leveraging the global agricultural research, knowledge and innovation community to solve some of the most compelling challenges that stand in the way of attaining global food and nutritional security. Nonetheless, participants also recognized that such partnerships could not and should not supplant all bilateral relationships.

Participants also expressed the view that a stronger alliance among European Commission's Directorate Generals for Agriculture, Research and Development could help to strengthen such global collaborative alliances, by increasing the resources available and maximizing political and policy leverage at the community and global levels. Participants considered that global collective actions, such as are being catalyzed through GFAR, should be built in such a way as to create real national and regional ownership of the work being done, pay attention to subsidiarity principles and to sustainability of the work being done.

Communications and advocacy/outreach

Through support from the EU, GFAR has become a very effective tool of networking among the Partners who make up the Forum, enabling their interaction at national, regional and global levels. Increased attention to communications and outreach has seen a significant growth in communications reach, both directly and through the rapidly growing GFAR Communications group, organized itself as a collective action network among the Partners in GFAR.

Since we overhauled GFAR's communications projects in mid-2015, we have used our tools, skills and staffing for four main purposes:

1. Advocacy: increase the online media footprint from GFAR and all its partners to promote our common causes.
2. Capacity building: through workshops, trainings and webinars, improve and support the communications skill set from our partners and youth
3. Support: provide a common participative Community of Practice for the communications staff from our partners, and actively support them in their projects.
4. Vehicle for longer term impact projects: Use communications as an entry point for on-the-ground projects.

1. Communications for Advocacy:

2016 was definitively the year in which the GFAR online communications went through a major expansion in both reach and use. Our blog went from, in **2015**, 12,000 pages viewed by 7,200 visitors, leaving 46 comments to in **2016** (to date) 418,000 pages viewed by 169,500 visitors, leaving 64,100 comments.

Some of this increase was due to the growth in our other social media channels: Our Facebook following increased by 65%, Twitter and LinkedIn by 25%, but a lot was also due to the new way we managed our online media channels: being much more focused on interactions and responses with our audience.

The biggest part of our increased online footprint, however, was mainly due to the positive response of our audience on our other projects (see further below) and the active engagement of our partner organizations and in particular of the YPARD young professionals. We also actively used our increased footprint to promote the collective actions of the partners in GFAR themselves: we published around 40 blogposts celebrating their collective actions and how they contribute to GFAR's aims and continuously promote their news updates, vacancies/opportunities and campaigns via our website and social media channels.

2. Communications for Capacity Building

- Webinars: In 2016, we gave 9 online webinars about media, communications and social media management, each with 80-100 registered participants. This interactive and participatory way to engage with our partners is now extended to areas beyond "communications-only": by the end of 2016, we provided support for three more topics in the working areas of GFAR (Gender in Agricultural Research, the Tropical Agricultural Platform and the "Action for Nutrition" project).

- Training and workshops: In 2016, GFAR provided training on online media/social media to 152 trainees through four different 'bootcamps' (in Bishkek, Johannesburg, Kigali and Rome), linked with events organized by GFAR or its partners.
- Beyond these, we also provide one-on-one advice and guidance to communications projects from our partners.

3. Communications for Support

The core of our communications support work is coordinated via an online discussion forum, assembling over 130 professional communications staff from the GFAR partners and affiliated organizations. This discussion group was set up in mid-2015, but truly came to bloom in 2016.

Just as GFAR is a catalyst between agricultural research and practitioners, our GFAR communications Community of Practice is a practical catalyst between the communications staff of all our partner organizations, enabling discussions and providing a platform for common support.

GFAR Secretariat also provided hands-on communications support for some of the events and conferences organized by Partners in GFAR: The regional GCARD3 consultation for Central Asia and the Caucasus (organized by CACAARI in Bishkek), The 7th African Agricultural Science week (by FARA in Kigali) and CFS43 (by the FAO Committee on World Food Security in Rome). For each of these projects, GFAR provided the social reporters' trainer, the onsite social media coordinator, and several online editors who coached the onsite trainees.

For most of these events, as well as the GFAR-organized GCARD3 Global Consultation, we provided financial support to involve YPARD-selected young professionals, covering their travel and accommodation costs.

Beyond these, Secretariat staff also provided *pro-bono* training for YPARD Trinidad (35 trainees in 2 days' session) and for IAAS at the University of Leuven (30 trainees' evening workshop).

4. Communications for longer term impact projects

In 2016, GFAR – in collaboration with YPARD - used our communications platforms and projects to pilot-test "YAP", the Youth Agripreneurs Project.

"YAP" is a showcase for an innovative approach to stimulate youth's agricultural activities and projects, and to use that momentum to showcase the "potential of agripreneurship": The basic concept is to select a number of young agripreneurs, seed-fund their project and provide tailor-made coaching during one year. Within a two month period, GFAR rallied the donors to provide funding for 6 pilot projects, and collected 428 proposals for agripreneurs projects. Each proposal was published on our blog, encouraging the online public to comment and vote for the best proposals. The proposals were read by over 120,000 people and received over 60,000 comments. An expert jury selected the 6 finalists, who are now provided with seed funding for their project and are actively mentored and coached by YPARD.

It is our intention to further expand YAP in 2017.

In the meantime, we are providing active and practical support to other organizations who want to design their own YAP-like agripreneurs support projects.

5. The GCARD3 online media project

The GCARD3 was an unprecedented success for GFAR in terms of communication and social media. For the full period of the GCARD3 online media project (Nov 1 2015 – April 30 2016), we come to these total figures (compared here also with GCARD2 in 2012):

- **Training:** 114 people were trained (*versus 26 at GCARD2*)
- **Twitter:** 13,099 #GCARD3 tweets were sent by 1,675 contributors, delivered to 3.4 million Twitter accounts (*versus 7,500 tweets, reaching about 0.5 million Twitter accounts for GCARD2*)
- **Blog:** We published 585 blogposts (including 428 YAP proposals), which got a total of 372,000 views by 136,000 different visitors. These got a total of 63,595 comments. (*For GCARD2, we published 152 blogposts, viewed 16,000 times, with 99 comments*)
- **Website:** During this period, www.gfar.net got 81,500 page-views, from 65,600 different visitors. The GCARD3 pages were viewed 24,650 times by 19,000 different people. This excludes the traffic statistics from the ARC conference page. (*For GCARD2, the conference pages were viewed 20,200 times by 15,000 people*).

Difficulties encountered and measures taken to overcome problems

This Forum is truly a multi-stakeholder Body. GFAR involves everyone from farmers to upstream science, public, private and civil society all working together in dealing with issues of the complex, 'wicked' problems of agriculture, food and rural development. These are issues that require multiple actors, who may often hold fundamentally opposed views, to work together in order to achieve success. Networked actions are vital in the realities of rural development, where decisions and actions take place in complex interaction processes, among a plurality of interdependent actors with complex interactions and power relationships and can only be achieved on the basis of working together beyond institutional bounds. This actually challenges many preconceptions. It challenges the way the institutions traditionally work, the way they think about power relationships, about who is actually setting the agenda and "who it's for"?

GFAR is working to break away from traditional linearity in research thinking, the sort of 'pipeline' view of the scientist as the 'expert', who does the exploration work and then transfers it to an extensionist, who takes it through to the farmer. These pathways are full of barriers and blockages in reality. We are turning that on his head, and, to achieve real development, we are putting the resource poor farmer and consumer at the centre of these processes, so that they are active drivers and participants of the innovation process themselves.

GFAR operates through networked actions, with network management mobilized and facilitated through the GFAR Secretariat, but field actions prioritized and implemented by Partner organizations themselves. The core of networked action is negotiation, trust and mutual obligations, enhanced by communication technologies and diverse specializations & backgrounds. Networks are open, transparent and inclusive and based on democratic processes. They have a great value in bringing all concerned parties together into governance, and in taking different actors interests into account. Moreover, networked actions work through 'soft power', in which impacts are developed through persuasion, new and common ownership of ideas and influencing change in behaviours, attitudes and actions, rather than by direct line management that halts when project funds stop.

In any such network, a recognized person or a group of people needs to function as a facilitator/coordinator, the network manager. These individuals have less direct power than the traditional manager, they don't set the agenda or take decisions but coordinate and facilitate decision making and implementation by the network members. Instead of traditional goal setting, monitoring and steering, the network manager is concerned with goal identification, perception accommodation, organizational arrangements, ensuring interaction among network members, facilitation and coordination to get the network to work. Such is the case for GFAR.

Although essential in sustainable development, networked actions also pose a number of challenges, notably in:

- Timely decision making,
- Efficient processes and governance
- Alignment of parties around the conviction that together is more effective, in spite of their different individual goals and self-interests
- Infiltrating the barriers, past legacies and introspection of individual institutions
- Establishing accountability

Given these challenges we need to always maintain a balance between consultation and action and ensure that Partner organizations involved themselves own and drive the agenda concerned in their own work and their *raison d'être*. To that extent, GFAR's work is always dependent on the capacities and commitment of partners of all forms.

Hence, none of this can work through direct confrontation between institutions. Institutions have walls, they have boundaries that they define for themselves and by which they see themselves. So GFAR is working to break down those walls, to challenge those boundaries, to enable different sectors to work together much more effectively and really achieve development together, because if it is not delivered by everybody, then it will not be sustained; we need that collective ownership of these ideas and these principles. What we are dealing with all the time is the essential 'tribalism' of people. It's a human instinct to tend always to converge around those that we know best, that share our value system, who we feel we can most easily work with because they think or behave 'like us'.

What makes GFAR work is primarily having a common vision, having a common belief at the core of it that actually what we are doing is working together, *in order to make agri-food innovation more effective in sustainable development*. Any networked action has to start with a common belief, to avoid going our different ways.

GFAR works essentially by holding a collective mirror up to institutions of all kinds. That mirror is formed by the multiple perspectives of others, each reflecting on their roles and how they can work better together as partners. Collective action is a very powerful tool to help us all reflect on - Who really we are actually benefitting? Who we are working for? When we start from those principles, then we can really start to make some big impacts. A lot of our work at the core of this extensive 'network of networks' is not to set the agenda or what should be done. It's about catalyzing change. It's about helping people to work differently.

One key challenge remains the resourcing of each of the networks and institutions involved as Partners in GFAR, in order to play their desired roles. These are all independent entities, driven by their own members, but it is clear that many, particularly from civil society, lack fundamental resources and capacities to play the role required. GFAR does what it can to provide resources for their involvement in collective actions, but is not resourced to provide such support at scale. We are exploring new funding mechanisms with funding agencies, in order to address those needs through action-based resourcing multi-stakeholder actions in specific development contexts. Partners in GFAR have though stated their desire for the Forum to provide a collective voice on investment needs. Within the scale of resources available, priority is always given to farmers, civil society, women and youth, to help ensure active involvement by each.

So, some of the key operational principles of GFAR come down to issues like helping people to understand things in a different way. They come down to communication, to coordination, to inspiring change rather than dictating change. GFAR as a Forum, has little direct financial power, very little direct management authority in the traditional sense of hierarchical institutions. What we do have is the ability to help people to challenge each other constructively, and to think positively and differently about what they doing it and why they are doing it – and so create an enormous social movement for transforming agricultural innovation for development, working through institutions of all kinds.

GFAR's role lies in the middle of the long standing challenge of the gulf between science and society and the different value and belief systems that drive each. GFAR is working to bridge those gaps, and

help people to understand issues in agriculture, food and rural development through a fresh perspective, such as is seen in our community foresight work.

Through our work we have seen two key elements for success in network management:

1. Engagement and ownership by key individuals and leaders who can inspire others. Coupled with this, it also takes a great deal of underpinning work to facilitate the transactions and communications required to keep people allied with the same principles, even though they will always have their different perspectives, different attitudes and their different power structures.
2. Another core element of GFAR's work is "equity". Equity in the system is absolutely fundamental to work in development and making sure that the advances that we make in agriculture, in research or innovations, are actually going to benefit the poor and that they are going to be given equal access and opportunities through these. By working together, by being open, transparent and inclusive in the dialogues, GFAR is helping people to feel an accountability to each other, an informal accountability. As issues come on the table, GFAR encourages people to reflect on themselves and how they can change and how they can change their institutions.

Fundamentally, in GFAR's collective actions, we are working to bring collective change, to inspire change, to change attitudes, behaviors, beliefs, to break down existing systems where they are not working, to help create new formulations that can work more effectively. In the process, we sometimes run up against institutional walls, but that is inevitable and together we break those down by helping people to change for themselves, to listen to others and to take advantage of the value of other perspectives. Through GFAR's work over the course of delivering this EU-supported programme, we are seeing marked changes in the language and approach of many of the actors involved in GFAR processes, as evidenced through the GCARD and the many other dialogues and collective actions mobilized and supported through GFAR.

Changes introduced in implementation

Throughout this year, major changes have been introduced in GFAR, through the finalization of the governance review, the Constituent Assembly and the Partners' Assembly and through the technical discussions and new Alliances established through the GCARD3 processes. These changes have made GFAR a very dynamic and well-recognized forum for change, inclusively 'owned' by all concerned.

EU support has been central to being able to make these changes and create a new kind of Forum, ready and equipped to meet future needs. The Contribution Agreement was originally established to begin 1 January 2013, yet was not actually signed until December 2013 and the first funds were not received in FAO until the end of that year. This presented a challenge for GFAR's operation, which is not core-funded, as the FAO accounting system does not permit pre-financing of activities and requires receipt of funds before expenditure can commence. The programme hence risked being compressed to an unrealistic 3 years from 4.

By informal agreement with the EU programme managers concerned at the time, it was thus agreed that the activities set out would actually be considered to commence in January 2014 and run for four years as anticipated, with a one year no-extra-cost extension to be sought at the end of the formal contract period, to enable carry over of the last year of projected activities for a further year (thus maintaining the proposed four year cycle of the project agreement).

Hence, with this report comes our formal request for a one year no-extra-cost extension to the agreement, to enable completion of this exciting and highly productive programme of collective action.

EU support is critical to GFAR's action and is now beginning to leverage significant other funding alongside the EU support, for example the Government of South Africa provided around USD 1 million in associated costs for the GCARD3 event and the CGIAR Fund Council (now System Council) provided USD 350,000 in support of those processes.

Demand for GFAR's work is growing very fast, in particular in taking forward actions via multi-stakeholder demand identification and through catalyzing innovation and enterprise platforms to meet the needs of women and youth, in countries of focus. This need, and the need for GFAR to act as catalyst and collective voice for the value and development of agri-food research and innovation, has also been strongly endorsed by the G20. We look forward to deeper discussion with the EU about a possible further phase of direct financing of those actions over the years to come.