



# Reform & Renewal

## Constituent Assembly 24-26 August 2015

### Key issues and responses arising from the Webinar for Europe & Sub-Saharan Africa

#### Context

The need was emphasized for clear linkage of GFAR actions to international policies and the resulting national development commitments and processes; SDGs, Malabo consensus etc. *This will be addressed through processes such as CAADP and the African Agricultural Science Agenda, though these links are less established in other regions*

The lack of specific gender discussion was raised. Gender is not specifically addressed in the documents as these relate to generic governance structures and modes of action rather than specific themes to be addressed – gender is a central theme for GFAR’s operation, working through the multi-stakeholder Gender In Agriculture Partnership, which is a truly open and inclusive movement for women’s economic empowerment.

There was considerable convergence in discussion on the importance of gender, women in agriculture and youth employment, all central themes in the renewed GFAR and its focus. The transformation of innovation into enterprise for women and youth is a central thrust of the work of the Forum and of the proposed Investment Facility (in Paper 4).

*Please see <http://www.gender-gap.net/> and the related LinkedIn site – you are all very welcome to become GAP Catalysts – just sign into the site to share materials, discussions, initiatives etc as you may wish. GAP website is also the agriculture portal for the UN Women economic empowerment site.)*

*In regard to opportunity for young people, please see also the collective youth movement YPARD <http://www.ypard.net> , which brings together over 8,000 members across all regions and undertakes a range of actions including mentoring of young professionals. (The YPARD Secretariat is hosted and supported by GFAR Secretariat).*

*For a general summary of GFAR areas of action please see the GFAR Medium Term Plan [http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//311378/MTP\\_final.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//311378/MTP_final.pdf) , GFAR website and annual reports.*

#### Discussion Paper 1

- The move from a research agenda to an innovation agenda was welcomed as aligning with wider processes. Discussion at the CA could usefully consider how innovation systems contribute to the overarching SDGs.
- A list of the participants & contacts should be shared among participants in advance of the CA so that those from particular sectors and regions can start to connect.

- GFAR should create the right conditions for innovation as part of rural transformation and resource entitlement.
- The GFAR Theory of Change was requested. This was endorsed by the Steering Committee in 2014. This is not included in the discussion papers but can be found attached here.
- Participants noted that research should be seen as a means to an end, not an end in itself and that research often fails to reach its intended users.
- They highlighted GFAR's role in an agriculture transformation process, which should be recognized in the mission, role and purpose of GFAR and reflect the evolved focus of the Forum. The true inclusion of all actors was felt important, in particular direct grassroots involvement, not bureaucratic representation.
- The CA discussion should go into more details of how regional bodies are incorporated in GFAR's work

### **Discussion Paper 2**

- There is a need for all actors to contribute around GFAR collective actions, with a need to identify who should be involved at each different level, recognizing that global issues are built from a composite of very different national agricultural contexts and needs and affected by regional politics.
- GFAR was seen as enshrining a set of principles to drive change, share learning and bring accountability.
- The discussion needs to clarify the message, especially on who sets the agenda between different levels.
- The move to a clear spread of diverse constituencies was welcomed and the CA should identify what is common among members of a particular constituency
- It is considered important not just to look at the resource poor, but also at value chains and post-harvest and off-farm employment opportunities.

### **Discussion Paper 3**

- The approach of looking at the pros and cons of the realities of different options was welcomed.
- It was felt useful to also add a Communications Committee from across the partners in GFAR, to ensure effective communication of the work of all actors in the forum and reach a mass audience

### **Discussion paper 4**

- Although time was brief, participants were keen to see what can be done through the partners in GFAR in Africa.