

GCARD3 Organizing Committee

Meeting #3: Monday 6 July 12.00 GMT/UTC, Virtual

Minutes

Approved on no-objection basis 24 July 2015

Participants:

Frank Rijsberman (co-Chair, CGIAR Consortium Office),
Mark Holderness (co-Chair, GFAR Secretariat),
Tom Randolph (CGIAR Research Program – Livestock and Fish)
Kwesi Atta-Krah (CGIAR Research Program – HumidTropics)
Esther Penunia (Asian Farmers Association)
Irene Annor-Frempong (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa)
Fiona Chandler (GFAR Secretariat, *ex-officio*)
Nadia Manning-Thomas (Consortium Office technical support)

Apologies:

Sigismundo Bialoskorski Neto (International Cooperative Alliance)
Alain Vidal (CGIAR Consortium Office, *ex-officio*)

1. Welcome (and introductions if we have alternate representatives)

With the members present and no alternative representatives, the meeting started at 12.15 (GMT)

2. Matters Arising from Minutes of OC Meeting #2

With no additional comments or input provided on the Minutes of OC Meeting #2, they were adopted.

3. Planning of GCARD3 consultations related to CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs)

Tom Randolph updated the Organizing Committee on the CRPScience Leaders meeting held in 1-5 June in Montpellier that, in part, discussed site integration and GCARD3 consultation. He reported that there had been buy-in for the concept of site integration, although the term itself was still under debate. The discussions at the science leaders meeting echoed the discussions of the Organizing Committee in better understanding what will be objectives and timing of the national consultations.

The outcome of the Science Leaders meeting was clarification on implementing site integration. On one hand there will be *Site Integration+* where efforts for site integration will be focused on those countries where there is significant CGIAR presence in terms of Centers and multiple CRPs being active. It was noted that some of the CRP Science Leaders would like to consider additional criteria (e.g. the strategic value of working in a country). An exercise is being taken by the CRPs and CGIAR Centers to confirm which countries have significant CGIAR presence in terms of investment, staff and infrastructure. Notwithstanding additional criteria and based on earlier information, the *Site Integration+* is expected to involve 15-20 countries. The exercise will confirm which countries will be expected to have site implementation plans and for these countries, the CRPs and the Centers will agree on a country specific, suitable coordination mechanism. In a few – possibly three to five countries where there is particularly intensive involvement of a large number of CRPs and Center, there are plans for *Country Integration ++*. The modalities will be similar to the *Site Integration+*, but with the added direct involvement of the Consortium Office to facilitate higher level engagement with stakeholders and resource mobilization. It is these 3-5 *Site Integration ++* countries that will be target for the GCARD3 national consultations in 2015.

Additional work by the Consortium Office and the CRPs is being done to develop a template for site integration which may also be used in developing an agenda and process for the national consultations.

As noted by the Science Leaders, site integration as a label has raised some concerns. While arriving at an appropriate terminology in the exercise there is common acceptance that consultations are going to be crucial and the intent is real, improved coordination. As noted by the FARA member of the OC, site integration should link to activities/actions outside of the CRPs as well. The Farmer Organizations member on the OC added that site integration would be welcomed by small holder farmers but wonder how this might be extended to neighbouring countries (as an example watershed management where water management practices in a bordering country will have an impact). It was reiterated that to engage meaningfully with farmers and farmer organizations will require face-to-face dialogue.

There was agreement that site integration (or whatever term is used) will come at two scales. One scale will be among sites in a country e.g. CRPs that are working on different sites in the same country to find ways to harmonize their activities. The other scale will be at the national level e.g. improved coordination with partners and better alignment to national level demands.

Results of the CRP exercise should be available during the week of 13-17 July. When the countries are identified a coordination committee for national consultations will be established. It is expected that there will be modest contributions from CRPs and that hopefully this will grow as the CRPs recognize the efficiency gains of doing these collective consultations rather than individual consultations. A final point raised in regards to this, was to ensure that the national consultations are multi-stakeholder.

4. Update on planning of regional GCARD3 consultations

A paper with opportunities (existing regional meetings with regional participants) for GCARD3 regional consultations was discussed. In addition to the list provided, an additional proposal to hold a regional consultation for the Central Asia region in collaboration with GFRAS (annual meeting) was presented. All suggested regional consultation opportunities have minimal cost implications for GCARD3 except for the Central Asia regional consultation where there would be more substantive costs involved.

It was confirmed by the Committee that the *High Level Policy Dialogue on Investment in AR4D and innovations in the Asia-Pacific Region (8-9 December, Bangkok, Thailand)* would be an excellent stage for a GCARD3 Asian regional consultation.

It was further confirmed that the *Mediterranean Dialogue Congress (28-29 September in Milan)* would be a further opportunity for a GCARD3 regional consultation for the region around the Mediterranean.

The Committee noted that more thought is required in regards to a regional consultation in Africa. There are a number of opportunities e.g. AGRA Forum (28 Sept-2 Oct in Zambia), GFIA Africa (1-2 Dec, Durban) that need to be explored. There are no opportunities yet identified for Latin America & Caribbean region.

As pointed out, alignment with CRP consultations will need to be managed. It was noted that a combination of national and regional GCARD3 consultations might serve as alternatives to holding individual, specialized CRP consultations.

ACTION: GFAR (Mark and Fiona) to discuss incorporating objectives and outcome for a GCARD3 regional consultation in the *High Level Policy Dialogue on Investment in AR4D and innovations in the Asia-Pacific Region* meeting and the *Mediterranean Dialogue Congress*.

ACTION: Irene (FARA) to explore and identify possible opportunities for regional consultation in Africa and report back to the Organizing Committee.

ACTION: GFAR and CGIAR to explore and identify possible opportunities for regional consultation in Latin America and Caribbean region.

ACTION: GCARD3 Support Team will compile an overview of all other possible regional consultations funding requirements (Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean) to facilitate decision making on allocation of resources.

ACTION: CGIAR Consortium (Nadia and Alain) to share CRP consultation dates (national and individual CRP consultations) so as to minimize scheduling overlaps

5. Other consultations

In addition to the opportunities identified in Agenda Item 4, the suggestion of the Global Farmers Meeting in early 2016 was raised.

6. Selection of GCARD3 Host Country

It was reported that, in advance of the deadline of 17 July for Expressions of Interest in hosting the GCARD3 global event, there had been strong interest shown by South Africa (ARC in conjunction with their 25th Anniversary) and Senegal.

Rwanda, raised as a possible option at the last Organizing Committee meeting was dropped as it was realized that they would be hosting the FARA Science Meeting in the second quarter of 2016.

Some interest has been expressed by Côte d'Ivoire (African Development Bank) and Ethiopia. Both of these will be followed up.

ACTION: Send invitation letter and Expression of Interest document to Akin Adesina at the African Development Bank (Fiona)

ACTION: Follow up on interest from Ethiopia (Tom) and if positive, send invitation letter and Expression of Interest (Fiona).

7. Communication and Calendar

The concept of a joined up communication online presence for GCARD3 was tabled. Comments received indicated that it looked helpful and that links with social media should also be included.

8. Any Other Business

As some suggestions and proposals for GCARD3 Global Event programming have started to be raised, the Committee agreed that it was time to start framing the GCARD3 Global Event Program. With the Program framed and agreed upon by the Committee, a Program Committee will be established to implement the program.

ACTION: GCARD3 Support Team to prepare a draft program structure (overall outline) for the Organizing Committee's review at OC Meeting #4.

9. Next Meeting

With decisions to be made on the Host County proposals and Regional Consultations, it was decided to have the next Organizing Committee meeting in the first week of August.

ACTION: Doodle poll to be set up to determine appropriate date in early August.