



GCARD3 Organizing Committee

Meeting #5: Friday 11 September, 12.00 UTC, Virtual

Minutes

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)
Shadrack Moephuli (Agriculture Research Council, South Africa)
Fiona Chandler (GFAR Secretariat, ex-officio)
Alain Vidal (CGIAR Consortium Office, ex-officio)

Apologies:

Sigismundo Bialoskorski Neto (International Cooperative Alliance)
Irene Annor-Frempong (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa)
Esther Penunia (Asian Farmers Association)
Nadia Manning-Thomas (Consortium Office technical support)

1. Welcome

The Chair and Committee welcomed the new member to the Organizing Committee, Dr Shadrack Moephuli, as the representative from South Africa, which will be the host country for the GCARD3 Global Event.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes of OC Meeting #4

No points were raised and so the minutes were accepted as written.

3. Way forward for planning GCARD3 Global Event

The Committee was advised that the Minister had been informed on the success of the South Africa bid although formal approval is still going through Cabinet processes. There was a request from ARC for more information on VIPs that might be expected to attend as this will have an effect on security arrangements and will influence the choice of venue. The Chair and Vice-Chair of ARC have requested further information from the Organizing Committee on the expected number of participants and if additional sponsors will be sought (e.g. possibility of raising funds through selling space and/or side events).

The Organizing Committee Co-Chair noted that, although it is a bit early to know which Ministers and how many of them will attend; it can be safely presumed that there will be some attending the GCARD3 global event.

The GCARD3 global event is part of the overall GCARD process, so it can be expected that a number of participants of national and regional consultations will be attending the global event. The original estimate (November 2014) was for 350 participants, but this was largely based on the available budget at that time. It might be expected that with increased funding and good national/regional consultations the number of participants could rise. This falls in line with the expectations of South Africa (300-500).

South Africa is in the process of setting up a local organizing committee and will keep the Organizing Committee advised on the progress.

Date and venue

After discussion on the various meetings/conference being held during the first quarter of 2016, and noting that Easter in 2016 falls on 27 March, the Committee decided that an appropriate date should be found in the first or second week of April 2016. This date seems appropriate for the CRPs as they will have finished their final proposal submission. It was advised that this is also a comparatively good time in the South African calendar (beginning of the financial year and a relatively low season for international events)

The Committee agreed that live streaming of the event would be important and that a venue should be identified that can facilitate the required technology. Discussions on expanding to include an exhibition will be dependent on the venue identified.

Johannesburg may be the more appropriate city to find a venue as the facilities for technologies (live streaming) are more readily available and it has direct international flights (reducing any required domestic travel within South Africa).

Duration

The Committee agreed that the GCARD3 Global event would total about 4 days. There should be two full days for GCARD core deliberations with an additional day for ARC celebrations and another day for the GFAR Partner Assembly.

Primary purpose of the event

The Committee discussed and agreed that the GCARD3 Global event should showcase the significance of agriculture research that leads to development impacts.

Taking advantage of the GCARD3 national and regional consultations towards site integration and the strengthening of national research and innovation systems, the GCARD3 Global event should emphasize innovation and partnerships on a bigger scale, with the CGIAR and other research actors as part of that bigger picture.

For the CGIAR, the GCARD Global event will not focus specifically on CRPs, nor be for the purpose of informing decision on the final CRP proposals (as these will have already been submitted), but will lead towards the integration of these with other actors and actions towards impact in each area.

As the CGIAR is in the middle of its strategic renewal, and there are other large processes going on (e.g. CAADP, NEPAD) the Committee felt that the focus should be on the contribution of agri-food systems research and innovation to development (as done by different stakeholders (e.g. ARC, CGIAR, other research for development institutions and systems) working together). The outcomes of the GCARD3 Global event should provide give an injection to larger processes and articulate clearly and boldly how agricultural research and innovation respond to the Sustainable Development Goals.

ACTION: the GCARD3 support team should take note of the discussions of the meeting and build a draft program for discussion at the next Organizing Committee meeting

ACTION: All Committee members are to revert to their constituencies to see how the proposed dates work and what other meetings might be included in the GCARD3 Global event. The results of these discussions¹ should be shared with the GCARD3 Support Team as soon as possible.

ACTION: A public announcement on the host country will be made once there is firmer confirmation on the venue and date (resulting from the discussions OC members have with their constituencies and from ARC on venue). This can be done prior to the next meeting if information is at hand.

¹ NB – subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that the CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council Science Forum is scheduled for 12-14 April in Addis Ababa and overlap should be avoided. Holding GCARD3 in the week before this could work well and enable attendance at both.

4. Update on planning of regional GCARD3 consultations

It was confirmed that having the CRPs/Centers designate a lead to coordinate their engagement in the GCARD3 regional consultations would be an effective way of working. A list of the regional consultations and dates will be prepared and circulated to Kwesi and Tom to facilitate planning and the CRP/Center coordination.

It was confirmed that the logistics for the regional consultations will be done in partnership with their respective host events (as per the decision that the regional consultations are aligned with existing events and are not stand alone meetings). The programs of these events will be tailored to provide an opportunity for CRPs to engage in consultations/discussions with stakeholders from different sectors.

5. Planning of GCARD3 national consultations

It was confirmed that the level of GFAR involvement in the organization of national/country consultations will be done largely through the Regional Fora and other partners in GFAR from the specific countries. The role of the GFAR Secretariat will be to help direct inquiries to the appropriate contacts in the Fora and the countries. In the first instance these inquiries should be directed to Mark Holderness (with a copy to Fiona Chandler)

ACTION: Kwesi and Tom (with Nadia) to provide an overview document of national consultations, and Fiona on the regional consultations, for the next OC meeting.

ACTION: Set up the national and regional consultation pages on the CGIAR and GFAR websites

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for mid-October. The GCARD3 Support Team will prepare a doodle poll to solicit a mutually convenient date. At the meeting there will be more in-depth discussion on the GCGARD3 Global event.