



Celebrating Collective Success: Creating a directory of GFAR Partners' activities and learning database of stories

*A Collective Action within Key Focus Area (KFA) 4: Demonstrating Impact
and Improving Investments*



As a unique and open multi-partner forum, GFAR is strongly placed to foster linkage between diverse partners and enable rapid learning about what really determines success in pro-poor agricultural research innovation. New information technologies and social media enable the voluntary creation by GFAR Partners of an online directory of capabilities and activities in different sectors and around the world.

Effective partnership requires that organizations in different sectors and regions can be aware of what each other is doing so that they can readily build innovative partnerships with other organizations, demonstrate their success and be able to learn from others on their experiences and how they have gained from working together to address complex challenges.

Building a common directory requires identification of useful search terms and key elements that can be readily harnessed to build a picture of activities and capabilities in different organizations, and contact and mobilize these into collective actions in the context concerned. This can be developed and maintained at multiple levels, from local use to international contexts.

Activities that help others learn or demonstrate success are not necessarily formalized projects, they're normally a more fluid series of activities and actions, something that needs to be narrated more than described: this is why we use the term "story".

Currently, there is no comprehensive source of information on what organizations working in agri-

Why would Partners wish to share their capabilities and success stories?

- ✓ A common directory will enable ready partnership formulation, avoid duplication of previous work and celebrate achievements and complementarity of different partners
- ✓ Partners will be supported in creating their stories. Focal points from among the Partners will share ideas with each other on how to best communicate their successes, including via multi-media formats
- ✓ Awards can go to the most inspiring stories. For example, annual competitions can be held, with awards presented to the authors at important GFAR events

food Collective Actions are doing. Even Partners in GFAR don't always know what other Partners are doing. While information is available here and there on Partners' websites, it is not systematized, categorized, or findable.

Collecting, systematizing and publicizing Partners' stories of how they are together achieving impact would help to:

- ✓ Facilitate effective partnership development
- ✓ Inspire thinking on new ways of resolving challenges
- ✓ Increase recognition, demonstrate success
- ✓ Inspire others
- ✓ Reduce duplication, identify gaps & increase efficiency
- ✓ Determine impacts
- ✓ Attract better investments and support investment decision making
- ✓ Increase transparency
- ✓ Foster collaboration and synergies; short-circuit innovation cycles

[Read more →](#)

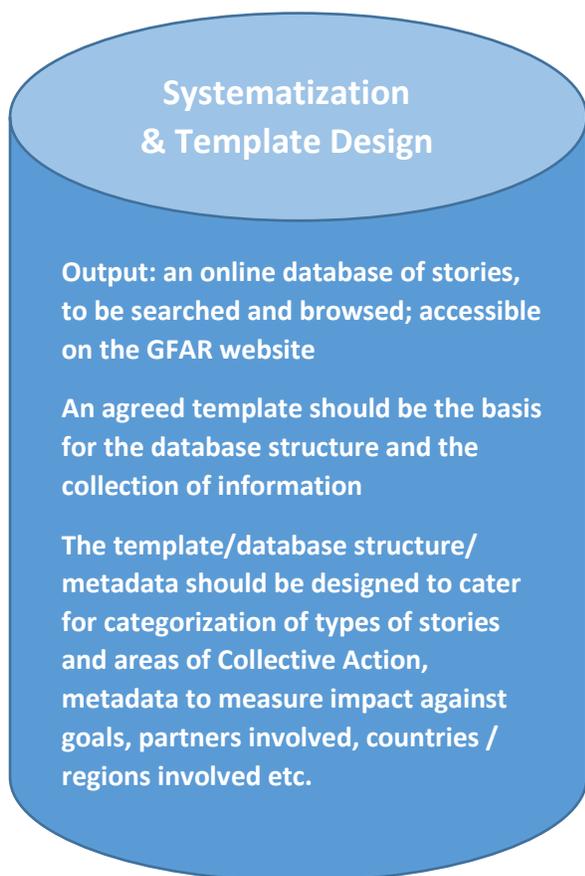


How will it work?

The creation of a GFAR Directory of Partner capabilities and collation of GFAR Partners' stories of Collective Actions and learning derived from these is itself proposed as a Collective Action, involving all Partners, from all constituencies, in the creation of products from which all will benefit. It creates an open international resource and iterative learning process about Collective Actions in agricultural research and innovation. The main requirements on which the proposing Partners have agreed are:

- The Directory has to be able to be constructed through voluntary inputs, in a ready format and with minimal transaction cost in time and effort
- It has to be openly accessible and readily searchable by other Partners, using terms that are relevant to each relevant theme of collaboration
- It has to conform to data sharing norms and permissions as these have now evolved and make use of standard software accessible to all
- The final story product has to mainly be a readily accessible web-based platform for sharing and demonstrating success
- Stories need to be gathered in a systematic way (and made readily searchable), so need to be collected using an agreed and straightforward template
- The tool has to be integrated/linked with incentives for sharing, i.e. enhancing reach of Partners work and positive competition to excite interest

Partners have also provided some practical recommendations:



All Partners in GFAR are invited to join the endeavor to create a Database of GFAR Partners' Stories

For more information, contact GFAR Secretariat at GFAR-Secretariat@fao.org