



GCARD3 Organizing Committee

Meeting #10: 15 January 2016, 1:00p.m UTC

Via Blue Jeans Meeting ID: 101020304

Minutes

Minutes approved at OC Meeting#11 (29 January 2016)

Participants:

Frank Rijsberman (co-Chair, CGIAR Consortium Office),
Mark Holderness (co-Chair, GFAR Secretariat),
Alain Vidal (CGIAR Consortium Office, *acting co-Chair*)
Kwesi Atta-Krah (CGIAR Research Program – HumidTropics)
Bridget Takalani Murovhi (Agriculture Research Council, South Africa)
Arturo Piedra-Santa (alternative representative from International Cooperative Alliance (ICA))
Sigismundo Bialoskorski Neto (International Cooperative Alliance)
Fiona Chandler (GFAR Secretariat, *ex-officio*)
Nadia Manning-Thomas (CGIAR Consortium Office)
Guest: Yvonne Pinto, Firetail (for Monitoring and Evaluation agenda item)

Apologies:

Tom Randolph (CGIAR Research Program – Livestock and Fish)
Shadrack Moephuli (Agriculture Research Council, South Africa)
Esther Penunia (Asian Farmers Association)
Aggrey Agumya (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa)

1. Welcome (and introductions)

The Committee welcomed Arturo Piedra-Santa who has just joined from the ICA (Americas). Arturo gave a brief introduction of himself and his work with ICA.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes of OC Meeting #9

One comment was received on the minutes (item 3) regarding when the remaining national consultations will take place. It was clarified that these will largely focus on Quarter 1 of 2016. The minutes will be amended to reflect this clarification.

Outstanding actions that will be addressed in Meeting #10 include:

- Representation for national consultations
- GCARD3 regional consultation for SSA

3. GCARD3 Monitoring and Evaluation

Mark Holderness gave an update on the progress on developing the GCARD3 M&E framework and outlined the various aspects of the draft GCARD Theory of Change and Framework. Yvonne Pinto (Firetail) joined the meeting to add further clarification. In the discussion, she highlighted to the OC members key issues to consider.

1. Are the levels of measurement between process/operational indicators of performance valid and adequate?
Following this are there additional indicators they feel should be included, if so, are these being collected already

and if so by whom and can they be contributed to the secretariats for consolidation as part of the dashboard of achievements for GCARD3?

2. Is the hierarchy of outcomes, from early outcomes resulting from the country, regional and global event recorded accurately? Are any key pieces missing? The themes for the GCARD3 Global Event are still to be integrated. The surveys that will be distributed will ascertain whether these were the right content streams, were understood, whether people said they would change their mindsets in taking them on board, and if they can be independently verified. Are the themes of the Global Event supportive of the three key outcomes, site integration, partnerships etc and logical? What are all the other metrics required - in the form of indicators? Are the correctly articulated, included, any missing, and where are the data for these being collected so that the data can be consolidated as part of the reporting system at the end of the process? The OC is asked to consider how much data is actually required in each of these areas in terms of the effort also required in obtaining it.
3. Are the higher order outcomes, both later stage and eventual impacts, also logical and accurate? Do they support the ultimate outcomes of increased investment, site integration and partnership? Are they being collected anywhere and how will this feed into a dashboard of consolidated outcomes for the event? What is the timeframe expected for these changes to happen? Are they aligned with the measurement plan as articulated in terms of the roles and responsibilities for data collection and any assumptions for the events success?
4. What is the process for consolidating all the data and indicators for each level, and each geography for key sites? Who will do this, are extra resources needed for it, can it be quality assured by an external partner e.g. Firetail, Does this require additional resources to their contract?
5. What is currently missing from the plan includes the themes and the communications/outreach and some of the networking indicators, can the committee suggest additional?
6. What else does the committee need to ensure that a report of the outcomes from process/operations to the event and the system outcomes are reported effectively to guide directions for the future?
7. Is the committee comfortable with the notion of using case studies or examples to highlight aggregated changes for the IDOs level changes? System change at this level clearly is dependent on other factors and efficiencies and the will of various stakeholders and cultures. And is a dashboard the best way to present these? What do they think is the best way of reflecting some of these high level impacts at national, regional and global levels?
8. The committee needs to express an executive decision on the degree to which it actually collects data and metrics on the high level outcomes and impacts. As mentioned above, aggregation is inherently not possible throughout, and attributing these changes to GCARD alone is not feasible. So they need to guide the Committee on where the emphasis for data collection needs to be as a practical undertaking.
9. The committee should expect from Firetail a diagrammatic TOC for this whole process, and a measurement framework constructed on the basis of an approved and systematic TOC, at a later date. When is this possible and how can approval be facilitated to be prompt so that it can be implemented?

Initial feedback from the Committee was that the draft framework seemed logical and helpful, although there were a large number of indicators and it was debatable whether it is feasible to actually measure all of these. As was clarified by Firetail, most of the indicators should already be collected as part of the GCARD3 process and so the framework is a collation of these.

It was also noted that as much as it would be nice to have evidence reviewed and collated on the returns and development impacts from investments in agricultural research and innovation (IDO level), this is a longer term impact that could not readily be linked to the GCARD3 process. Firetail concurred that at the level of IDOs the aggregation is more of a challenge and a dashboard of change will be difficult to illustrate. Rather, this should refer to the evidence gathered and presented at the event only and be an output of the event itself, with follow-on actions agreed at the event for gathering the further evidence that will be required to convince policy makers in specific contexts.

The Committee would like to ensure that there is a mechanism to collect information that will assess the achievements of the outcomes from all of the GCARD events. Example: survey of participants at the events. This will help consistently measure the outcomes of the different event, which should be informing the processes going forward. Firetail confirmed that there were well established processes by which to do so.

The Committee concluded that the practical implication of the plan and collation of the outcomes is under the responsibility of the Committee and that Firetail will play the quality assurance role on the data (so that it is systematic and of a quality that allows analysis as a benchmark to show that innovation systems do change). It is the Committee's responsibility to take this plan into action and the responsibility of Secretariats to write the report. The final report will have to be owned by the Organizing Committee.

ACTION: Noting the number of outstanding questions in regards to the Framework, the Committee Members need to provide feedback and input so that Firetail can finalize the Framework and the different entities involved in the data collection can be informed and engaged. Deadline: 22 January 2016

4. Update on GCARD3 National consultations

The Committee were informed that the first six national consultations have now concluded. Reports and communication pieces are available on the GCARD3 website. For 2016, the remaining 14 will be done in the first quarter of the year. Nepal is done, DRC and Zambia dates are confirmed. Half of the other ones are in planning (dates next week) and a few more require further prompting. It was noted that Burkina Faso may follow a different model as there have already a number of consultations in the past year. In this country there will be examination of either using the existing consultation or, if appropriate, more consultations.

Speaking on behalf of GFAR, Mark Holderness noted that more effort to engage the Global Forum's stakeholders is required and emphasized this for the upcoming national consultations.

ACTION: The GFAR Secretariat will continue to reach out to the Global Forum regional and national stakeholders advising them of the dates of the national consultations and to contact CGIAR lead Centers who are organizing the events.

ACTION: CGIAR Centers who are leading national consultations will be advised by the Consortium Office and by the CRP Leaders on the OC to be more proactive in giving notice to national partners of upcoming national consultations. Messaging should emphasize the expectation that national consultations be a multi-stakeholder consultation. If this is not happening at the specific national consultations there will need to be other meetings arranged to ensure that this happens.

The Consortium Office noted the lessons being learned so far include:

- a. The need to have internal (to CGIAR) planning meetings take place before the national consultations
- b. Funding for these consultations is being largely borne by the CRPs and so they are looking for the best ways to co-fund between them; this varies between countries as not all are involved in each site.
- c. There is realization that there may be need for additional and different approaches, engagement and dialogue to get alignment, depending on the country concerned.
- d. So far there has been some good feedback from participants on the efforts to align CGIAR programmes to national needs
- e. More mapping exercises of CGIAR activities at a national level would be helpful

As the information builds on the lessons it will be added to the shared folder.

Feedback from the Committee noted that there is a critical need to maintain interest in the process. People are stretched and there is a need to find a way for CGIAR partners to be energized and engaged with the opportunity that these consultations offer. It was noted that some of the ++ countries want to know "what next" in the consultation process.

ACTION: Consortium Office and CRP leaders on the OC will send messages to CRP and Center leads to help them understand that coordinated consultation is a longer term and ongoing process for which they are responsible (and what the long term goal is).

ACTION: The Consortium Office will improve the communication among the CGIAR entities around the remaining national consultations and ensure there is a feedback loop to all participants, so they continue to be part of the ongoing planning processes.

ACTION: As Lead Centers are responsible for taking forward the site integration plan (with national partners and other CRPs), once the full CRP proposals are prepared they will need to review the proposals prior to submission to see that they are aligned with the site integration plans and share these with other CRPs and stakeholders. Follow up by CRP leaders on the OC.

ACTION: Development of site implementation plans is a group activity that includes all CRPs in the geography. The role of Lead Center is in pulling these plans together and linking this to the key outcomes of the CRP proposals. Follow up by CRP leaders on the OC.

5. Update on GCARD3 Regional Consultation

Arturo indicated that the ICA network could run a survey as part of a regional consultation for Latin America, but would like some feedback on what should be included that would be useful for GCARD3.

ACTION: The GFAR and Consortium Offices will compile and send links on existing information and share with Arturo to see if that would be helpful.

In Central Asia, there is an outline plan for a regional consultation aligned with the Eurasian Centre for Food Security (ECFS) conference on Food Security and Nutrition (29 Feb – 2 March 2016). There is an e-consultation as preparation for the event running for three weeks, starting on 13 January 2016. CACAARI is working to ensure a broad spectrum of stakeholders is invited to participate and that could be supported through the available GCARD3 funds. Kwesi Atta-Krah is reaching out to CGIAR Centers and CRPs to coordinate their presence. It was confirmed that IFPRI will be attending, however their interest is largely on nutrition and so there is a need to have broader CGIAR involvement to speak about broader issues.

ACTION: Kwesi will reach out to ICARDA (Dr. Mahmoud Solh) to see what involvement and coordination they would be willing to take on.

It was reported that the South-North Mediterranean Regional Dialogues Report is now available and the Asia-Pacific regional consultation report is in near-final draft and will be released shortly.

Noting that FARA has not been able to provide ideas or suggestions for a regional consultation for sub-Saharan Africa, the Committee explored other ways for this to move forward.

ACTION: ARC will discuss internally to see if there is a possible meeting that might be conducive and report back to the Organizing Committee before the next meeting.

ACTION: The GCARD3 Support Team will also explore with the sub-regional organizations (e.g. CORAF, ASARECA) on their interest or knowledge of suitable forums that could ensure a SSA regional consultation prior to the Global Event.

6. Update on planning and program of the GCARD3 Global Event

The LOC representative (Bridget Takalani Murovhi) reported that due to the holiday season the progress has been limited however there is a meeting of the LOC on Monday 18 January.

Sequencing of events within the Global Event:

In regards to the sequencing of the events that form sections of the GCARD3 Global Event (ARC Day, GFAR Partner Assembly and GCARD3), the results of the between-meeting deliberations indicate a consensus that ARC Day is sandwiched between the two GCARD days.

It was confirmed that from a GFAR perspective either Option 1 or Option 4 is acceptable. This view is shared by ARC. The argument for Option 4 would be that the opening of the GCARD could be on the Tuesday (5 April) thus giving more time for the GCARD program (jumping straight in on the morning of Wednesday 6 April). Arguments for Option 1 put forward were that the central aspect of ARC Day and the GFAR Partner Assembly is GCARD3 and as such opening with GCARD3 to set the scene, followed by ARC Day to celebrate the success of national Agriculture Research and Development (the South African example) and how this fits into GCARD3. The final day (Partner Assembly) could then demonstrate the links and opportunities of working together (multi-stakeholder processes) in Agri-food research and innovation through Collective Actions.

Noting that a similar rationale could be drawn with Option 1 the Organizing Committee confirmed that the sequencing of days for GCARD3 Global Event would be:

Day 1	5 April 2016	GFAR Partner Assembly (with the GCARD3 Opening after the PA finishes in the late afternoon)
Day 2	6 April 2016	GCARD3 Global Event
Day 3	7 April 2016	ARC Celebrations (South Africa Day)
Day 4	8 April 2016	GCARD3 Global Event and closing

ACTION: The GCARD3 Support Team will advise the Program Task Force and Local Organizing Committee on the OC's decision.

Report from the Program Task Force

The Program Task Force had their first meeting on Monday 11 January 2016 (minutes of the meeting are in the OC shared folder). A Chair for the Task Force is being selected with a confirmation on the Chair by Monday 18 January.

The Program Task Force have agreed to hold weekly meetings (every Tuesday) with assigned tasks between these meetings (posted on a shared folder). Two sub-groups have now been formed – one to work on the topics and themes and the other on speakers/contributors. The Task Force are working towards having a draft program to the OC by end of January with a finalized program by 28 February.

ACTION: The Chair of the Program Task Force will be invited to join the OC meetings

Input to Program Task Force deliberations

As noted as input to the OC discussion, there is a need to ensure GCARD3 has a major focus beyond the alignment of programmes of the CGIAR. It should really be focused on the role of research and innovation in ensuring the place of agriculture in the transformation agenda of developing regions of the world. Given the fact that the event is being held in Africa and that over 50% of the CGIAR investment is on Africa, a significant emphasis should fall on the role of Africa in feeding itself and potentially also other regions. This will go beyond research and must include the private sector, investment partners, and policy makers. Thus they need to be given ample visibility in the GCARD Global Event.

GCARD3 Global Event must be an eye-opener to the fact that the CGIAR cannot achieve significant success in helping deliver impacts without investment in new forms, involving the private sector, farmers and civil society and governments (national, regional and global). Development Banks thus also need to be given space and emphasis. With the event taking place in Africa, it will be opportune and significant to bring the African Development Bank to the table. AfDB, has since the commencement of the new President, Dr. Akin Adesina, taken on a bold policy shift towards unlocking Africa's agricultural potential and its development value. They have also thrown a line of partnership to the CGIAR, and are currently working with the CGIAR, FARA and GFAR on how to bring about this transformation in a big way. GCARD3 must build on this, showing how the initiative can be replicated in other developing regions of the world.

The ARC Day offers an excellent opportunity to show how new investments can work, actual and potential. It might be good to include a Ministerial Panel or Roundtable, with 5 or so Ministers of Agriculture, and chaired by the Minister of Agriculture of South Africa, as part of the GCARD3 process.

The earlier a draft agenda and Conference Brief on the event can be released the better as VIPs will need a long lead-in time.

Suggestion for VIPs

The Organizing Committee discussed ideas for VIPs to attend including:

- Akin Adesina (President of African Development Bank) (for any day of the GCARD). Kwesi will explore with him informally to see if (and what day) he'd be available together with a formal invitation from the OC. If his personal presence cannot be captured then do a video.
- High level people from South Africa (ARC to suggest), not just Ministers but also others e.g. entertainers, artists to bring diversity to the overall programme
- From related fields outside of agriculture e.g. health, nutrition, climate

It was requested that recommendations should be made by the OC on (1) VIPs and (2) keynotes that will excite and inspire.

Furthermore, the Program Committee are encouraged to include non-traditional program elements and be inventive with the formats and ways to keep stakeholders excited and engaged. The Program Task Force should work with the Communication Task Force and Local Organizing Committee in this regard.

Side events

It was noted that experience from previous GCARD events that side events can be problematic and even negative if not carefully managed. The OC advises that any side events considered must not compete with the main event and requests for side events be either incorporated into the substance of the main program or be held as pre or post events for which the bodies concerned are themselves responsible and will have to fund for themselves.

ACTION: The Program Task Force are asked to think through the substance for the program in more detail in line with the decision on the sequencing of the events (noted above) and inputs from the OC on the Program, VIPs and side events.

ACTION: The Program Task Force is to suggest and recommend the content and speakers of formal events (reception, opening, closing etc.) to the OC for input. The GCARD3 Support Team will provide the names of VIPs that have been invited to and/or attended previous GCARD events.

ACTION: The Program Task Force is asked to prepare a policy on side events (what is allowed and not allowed, timing, relevant topics that are a contribution to the Global Event, space, costs) for the OC's approval

7. Update from Communication Task Force

The OC were updated on the ongoing mobilization of the CGIAR communication community for the national consultations, noting the points raised in agenda item #4.

The model of holding social media training attached with regional consultations has been successful to date (Asia Pacific) in extending the number and reach of communication coming from the event. The social media training is targeted at youth (in partnership with YPARD) and the regional consultation participants and provides training and mentorship in being the social reporters for the regional consultation. The social media training will also be a key feature of the GCARD3 Global Event and tap into the South African agricultural and communication community (especially, but not completely exclusive to, youth) as well as coming from the national and regional sectors.

Following through on the actions outlined in the GCARD3 Communication Plan, material (infographic, media kits, video etc.), links with press service (IPS) and engaging communicators in GFAR and CGIAR networks continues. A revision of the GCARD3 logo has been done to reflect South Africa as the host country and agreed by the Task Force and will now be widely used for all GCARD3 material.

8. Next Meeting

The OC agreed that meetings should now become more frequent and agreed on a bi-weekly schedule (but to avoid Tuesdays when the Program Task Force meets). A Doodle Poll will be created and shared to determine the preference for the next meeting (OC Meeting #11) on either **28 or 29 January 2016**.