



GCARD3 Organizing Committee

Meeting #6: **Friday 9th October 2015, 12:00p.m UTC**, Virtual

FINAL MINUTES

Approved, with one comment, on a no-objection basis

Participants:

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

Apologies:

Frank Rijsberman (co-Chair, CGIAR Consortium Office),
Sigismundo Bialoskorski Neto (International Cooperative Alliance)

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

Welcome to all attending and apologies noted. Alain Vidal stepped in as co-Chair for Frank Rijsberman.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes of OC Meeting #5

No comments on the text of the minutes were made. Action items were addressed through the agenda.

3. Way forward for planning GCARD3 Global Event

As reported by Shadrack Moephuli, South African Government approval (national) is underway as it includes consultation with provincial and local government to decide on city (Johannesburg¹ or Pretoria). Sign off seems to be imminent on the government approval on expenses (e.g. security, transport for VIP guests). NB. ARC's funds are for the actual funding of the event.

Exact dates will be sorted out in the next week (so as to be securely locked in Minister's diary). It was confirmed by Alain Vidal that the Global Event should not clash with Fund Council (which will be in Washington DC) and usually held later in April. The CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council have requested that the GCARD 3 Global Event fall before their meeting (which is 12-14 April, 2016). Therefore the option would be towards the end of the week of 4 April 2016.

It was suggested to have an alternative date just in case with note taken to exclude 12-14 April and the week of 25 April, 2016

A local organizing committee has been formed with Shadrack Moephuli as the Chair. Sub-committees are being established dealing with:

- content (key issues of agricultural research),
- finance and procurement,

¹ Johannesburg would be preferable because of diversity of hotels, access to airport, good transport

- technical and infrastructure support,
- marketing and communication, and
- security

These sub-committees will liaise with GCARD3 OC and the OC Task Forces to identify specific issues and questions. The OC would like to ensure that the content sub-committee is clearly aligned with GFAR and CGIAR.

As part of the ARC celebrations, there is a clear intent to have a program containing scientific content. The Department of Science and Technology are very interested in this approach and feel it could add value to the GCARD event.

Mark Holderness went through the draft (on the OC Shared Folders) Global Event Program Outline highlighting the proposed overall theme (*Ensuring SDG impact from agri-food research and innovation*) with individual themes of Investment, Integration, Alignment, Equitability, Metrics and a new one (just suggested) on Advances in Science (celebrating the science produced or in process in delivering on the SDGs). It was noted that it would be interesting to see how these themes are picked up in the current thinking on the CRP proposals.

Alain Vidal added that donors will be expecting an event of around 300 participants that remains focused on priorities of agricultural research for development (beyond CGIAR) and alignment with development priorities. This needs to be considered when designing the program and the participation.

Venue can only be confirmed once the city, then provincial and then national government approval. This may be available in the next couple of weeks.

ACTION: The preferred date and venue will be confirmed by Shadrack Moephuli as a result of his discussions with the South African authorities and he will advise accordingly before 20 October.

ACTION: OC members will respond to the draft program outline (themes) (as amended by the GCARD Support Team) and discuss via email within the next two weeks (deadline 20 October). The OC members will also provide names for people to sit on the Program Task Force. The GCARD3 Support Team will provide a more fleshed out document for the next meeting.

4. Update on regional GCARD3 consultations

Mark Holderness provided an update on the MENA regional consultation (conducted as part of the South-North Mediterranean Dialogues in Milan (4-6 October)). CGIAR was represented by ICARDA, IFPRI, CIMMYT, CRP on Dryland Cereals and Legumes, CRP on Policy, Institutions and Markets, and Wheat CRP. The short report from the CGIAR focal point is being posted via a blog (by CGIAR Consortium Office) and the final report of the Dialogues in the coming weeks.

Reflecting on the lessons learned from this regional consultation were the time it takes to get visas for participants (specially from Middle East), the need to confirm participants as soon as possible (in the case of the Global Event, ideally before January 2016) and providing logistical information well in advance. From the CGIAR they reported it was useful to be part of, and contribute to, an existing consultation (rather than hosting and leading a consultation) and that ensuring appropriate and adequate CGIAR engagement through this approach can be further refined. CRP and CGIAR were actively part of the 'solution' to issues and challenges identified. This would be a good model for future regional consultations.

Central Asia regional consultation is still being planned (by CACAARI and CGIAR Coordination Unit in Central Asia) in first week of December. However it was suggested that an alternative to the CGIAR meeting venue (Steering Committee of the CGIAR) might be the Eurasian Food Security meeting (November). The feasibility and acceptability of this will be explored.

Planning continues for an Asia-Pacific GCARD3 regional consultation as part of the High Level Policy Dialogue (8-10 December).

There is a possibility to connect with FORAGRO to develop a Latin America/Caribbean regional consultation but will need further investigation to see if it is appropriate.

A suggestion was made to both try and find a suitable meeting for a GCARD3 Regional Consultation for Africa and use meetings coming up shortly in Africa as opportunities to listen and learn from dialogue (as the timing is too short to integrate a regional consultation) and feed these into the GCARD3 global event dialogue.

ACTION: A calendar of meetings in Africa (for the next 4-5 months) will be circulated and Irene (FARA) will identify opportunities for an African GCARD3 regional consultation. Any OC members who are attending or have members of their networks attending meetings in Africa in the short term are encouraged to use these opportunities to provide input to the GCARD3 Global Event dialogues.

5. Planning of national GCARD3 consultations

Six national consultations are being prioritized for the next couple of months including:

- Bangladesh (TBD) with WorldFish and IRRI as the co-leads from the CGIAR
- Ethiopia (TBD) with ILRI as the CGIAR lead (building on an existing mechanism)
- Nicaragua (16-17 November) with CIAT as the CGIAR lead
- Nigeria (16-17 November) with IITA as the CGIAR lead
- Tanzania (3-4 November) with IITA as the CGIAR lead
- Vietnam (TBD) with CIAT as the CGIAR lead (based on strong interest from the Agricultural Ministry)

Guidance notes are being prepared to help national coordinating groups.

There was a plea to make sure that the farmer organizations and platforms in Asia would be invited in the consultations (Bangladesh and Vietnam) and possibly join in the design of the national consultations.

ACTION: Esther Penunia will provide a list of contacts from farmer organizations and platforms to CGIAR Consortium Office who can then be contacted to participate and possibly contribute to design.

ACTION: Nadia will repeat the invitation to national coordinating groups to contact GFAR Secretariat for participants from other constituencies (e.g. farmer organizations, civil society, NGOs, private sector) in that country.

6. Next Meeting

Virtual feedback on draft global event themes will be done within two weeks (to GCARD Support team (deadline 20 October))

Doodle poll will be set up to select most convenient date for GCARD3 Organizing Committee Meeting #7 (options of 26, 28 October or 6 November)