



## GCARD3 Organizing Committee

Meeting #8: **Thursday 19 November 2015, 12:00p.m UTC** Virtual

### MINUTES

Approved by Organizing Committee 14 December 2015

#### Participants:

Frank Rijsberman (co-Chair, CGIAR Consortium Office),  
Mark Holderness (co-Chair, GFAR Secretariat),  
Esther Penunia (Asian Farmers Association)  
Aggrey Agumya (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa)  
Shadrack Moephuli (Agriculture Research Council, South Africa)  
Bridget Murovhi (International Relations, ARC)  
Fiona Chandler (GFAR Secretariat, *ex-officio*)  
Nadia Manning-Thomas (CGIAR Consortium Office)

#### Apologies:

Sigismundo Bialoskorski Neto (International Cooperative Alliance)  
Alain Vidal (CGIAR Consortium Office, *ex-officio*)  
Tom Randolph (CGIAR Research Program – Livestock and Fish)  
Kwesi Atta-Krah (CGIAR Research Program – HumidTropics)

#### 1. **Welcome** (and introductions to alternate representatives)

The meeting welcomed Bridget Murovhi from ARC to the OC Meeting and noted the apologies for absent members. With five members of the Committee present, quorum was achieved.

#### 2. **Matters Arising** from Minutes of OC Meeting #7

The minutes were accepted as prepared. The outstanding item regarding the Communication Plan was raised with the Plan approved as written. It was noted that it is a living document that will serve the interests of both the Local Organizing Committee and the GCARD3 Organizing Committee.

#### 3. Update on planning **GCARD3 Global Event**

As input to the draft program frame, one of the key issues that isn't explicit yet, and which is directly relevant, is how the initiatives that international and national agricultural research are involved with have transformative impact. Although the proposed program frame seems appropriate the OC members discussed how far the sub-themes as proposed are the rights ones to address the issue of scaling up so impact can happen. It was felt that the themes may seem a bit too theoretical and we should be striving to articulate practical themes derived from these principles that will resonate and excite people from many different sectors. Towards this, themes were suggested, based around broad principles of scalability in going from research to impact in meeting the SDGS such as:

- How agricultural research keeps up with the new advances in science (e.g. capacity of our people, investments, infrastructure and equipment)
- Being able to provide evidence and measures of impact and returns on investments, particularly for attracting investment into national and international research and innovation systems

- Recognition of the role of farming (both small scale and large scale) as a sustainable enterprise ('Farming as a business' – and the role of agri-food research and innovation in creating enterprise opportunities. This includes looking at markets, processing, value chains, links to private sector)
- Agriculture as a stabilizer of society and providing economic and employment opportunity, especially for the youth (addressing migration issues at source)

It was suggested that the GCARD3 global event be positioned as a major global level opportunity to address such topical issues. The communication piece should now be repackaged to take into consideration the points raised by the OC members.

**ACTION: Revise the Program Frame communique and circulate this to the OC members for comment by 27 November 2015 (GCARD3 Support Team)**

The OC reviewed and accepted the proposed Terms of Reference for the GCARD3 Global Event Program Task Force noting that it will liaise closely with the Local Organizing Content sub-Committee. In reviewing the suggestions for Task Force members, the matter of having Task Force members that have real ownership in the GCARD3 Program was considered critical to its success. It was decided that more names were needed of dynamic and willing individuals to serve, on a volunteer basis, on the Task Force.

**ACTION: OC members will each propose at least two names for the Program Task Force and send these to the Support Team (Nadia and Fiona) by Wednesday 25 November.**

In his update on the local organization, Shadrack asked for guidance on:

- A logo for the event and a theme
- Information for the website
- ICT requirements for the conference
- Building up for the event it is important we work in sending out key messages
- Budget

A few venues have been explored close to Johannesburg and Pretoria. Unfortunately the Sandton Convention Center is not available. The venue most appropriate seems to be the Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre (near Johannesburg airport). The Birchwood will work with other hotels in the area and is open to discussions on ICT requirements (especially web streaming, simultaneous translation and internet access/wifi across the premises). ARC has made a preliminary booking and will need to discuss the requirements in more detail in their follow up discussions.

The Local Content sub-committee plans the topic of ARC day to align with the overall program. The ARC's overall theme for their day is celebrating their success and future vision for the next 30 years (Vision 2050). The themes proposed for the Global Event fit well and South Africa can provide a number of relevant case studies.

Cabinet is still going through the various processes to make the public announcement and one of the key things they are working on is a public statement. Shadrack will come back in the next two weeks on this, asking for OC input. This will help provide clarity on the process for obtaining visas.

The OC agreed and confirmed that the venue for the GCARD3 Global Event will be the Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre and the dates will be April 5-8 2016.

It was agreed that the Communication Task Force will work with the Local Organizing communication and marketing sub-committee on the communication and information. The logo will be based on the previously used GCARD logo, adapted to highlight the South African flag.

#### 4. Update on **GCARD3 National consultations**

With two national consultations now completed (Nigeria and Nicaragua) it was reported that they have gone generally quite well, with many lessons being learned in practice (largely around framing, awareness of the wider GCARD process

among the partners and going forward). Information and documents from the National Consultations are being shared on <http://gcard3.cgiar.org/national-consultations/> and the individual pages for each country.

The other 4 national consultations scheduled for 2015 are on track and the remaining 14 are still scheduled for the first quarter of 2016. The focus on the remaining 14 is on planning at this stage with dates to be announced as soon as possible.

It was reported that those national consultations that reached out to GFAR for additional input on participants (Nicaragua, Nigeria, and Tanzania) had taken suggestions on board and this was appreciated.

The Consortium Office is compiling lessons learned from these consultations and will liaise with GFAR to compile a more complete report.

**ACTION: By the end of the year a lessons learned report on national consultation will be presented to the Organizing Committee (GCARD Support Team)**

#### 5. Update on GCARD3 Regional Consultation

The Middle East North Africa regional consultation has concluded and the Asia-Pacific regional consultation (High Level Policy Dialogue) is scheduled for 8-9 December. The Central Asia and Caucuses regional consultation fell through due to a postponement of the CGIAR meeting (which was the aligning meeting) and alternatives are being sought although nothing suitable has been proposed to date. There are no relevant meetings coming from the LAC region at this stage (via FORAGRO). There are no further national consultations planned for Latin America, but perhaps there may be an opportunity to have a stand-alone consultation if there is a local host to organize (e.g. IICA, or the sub-regional PROCIS). This may also be possible for Central Asia. There may be scope to link a SSA regional consultation with one of the national dialogues in that region, however the preference would be for a regional dialogue, e.g. with NEPAD, AU, COMESA, CORAF.

**ACTION: Write to IICA (for LAC) and CACAARI (for Central Asia) to determine if they would be willing to host a stand-alone GCARD3 regional consultation and the most cost effective way do this (GCARD Support Team)**

**ACTION: Aggrey (FARA) to provide some suggestions for possible regional meetings in sub-Saharan Africa by Wednesday 25 November.**

#### 6. GCARD3 Task Forces to support implementation of GCARD3

The Committee reviewed and accepted the overall organization schematic. In reviewing the functions to be under the GCARD3 Organizing Committee they discussed global event logistics and monitoring and evaluation. It was decided that in as much as the Local Organizing Committee and sub-Committees are taking care of logistics for the Global Event, where there are aspects that are more global in scope, and these should be picked up by GFAR Secretariat.

GFAR Secretariat will work with the LOC to ensure smooth coordination and overall budget for the Global Event. To this end, Fiona Chandler will visit South Africa in the forthcoming weeks and work up a detailed budget and plan for who is responsible for which elements of the organization and associated funding elements required (learning also from previous GCARD events), so that responsibilities are clear from the start.

The Committee agreed on the importance of M&E and confirmed that the responsibility for this lies with the OC with some support and assistance from M&E professionals. GFAR will explore the possibility of using an existing contract with M&E experts Firetail, modified to support this process.

**ACTION: Prepare and present an M&E plan for the next meeting (GCARD Support Team).**

**ACTION: Fiona Chandler to visit South Africa and work with the LOC to prepare an overall budget for Global Event (GCARD Support Team)**

#### 7. Communications

As noted in agenda item 1, the Communication Plan was approved and will now be implemented.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The OC asked the GCARD Support Team to organize the next Organizing Committee Meeting (#9) on either 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or even 14<sup>th</sup> December. A doodle poll soliciting the preferred date will be circulated to all members.