Prospectus for Regional Write Workshops on Agricultural Foresight

Venue: Rome (Italy), San Jose (Costa Rica) and Bangkok (Thailand)
Date: June and July 2012
Audience: Authors or professionals engaged in pre-selected foresight studies

Introduction
In preparation for the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) 2012 (see http://www.egfar.org/gcard-2012), the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) conducted an inventory of forward thinking activities. This effort complements the ongoing activities in the framework of the Global Foresight Hub of the GFAR (see http://www.egfar.org/our-work/shaping-future-together/global-foresight-hub).

As part of the inventory, a series of recent foresight studies were identified, analyzed and selected to be further discussed. These discussions will take part during three regional write workshops where those involved in the production of the foresight studies will be invited. GFAR, in collaboration with the Institutional Learning and Change Initiative of the CGIAR – ILAC, are the organizers of the workshops, which aim to produce individual concise documents, which will highlight the key foresight messages and learning each participant feels important it is heard during the GCARD meeting in October 2012 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The documents produced in these write workshops will be assembled in a global report on foresight for impact that will be discussed at GCARD. Some participants will be invited to attend GCARD, present their messages as illustrative cases and contribute to the debates during the foresight sessions.

Workshop methodology

Pre-workshop
Before the write workshop, participants will be briefed on what their contribution would be, and how they would be supported for this purpose. A group of facilitators will interact with participants through email, skype calls or phone calls.

Face-to-face workshop
Participants will bring to the workshop elements of the content of the key messages they wish to highlight, which will be clarified during the pre-workshop interactions.

The key messages will focus on the visions of the future, and their implications for agricultural research for development. The documents will also include relevant information on the foresight process (e.g. tools used, who participated, how it was implemented, geographic coverage, topics considered, how it was used by the organization).

Participants will also provide elements of thoughts for improved foresight especially in terms of partnership and capacity building.
The workshop will provide a dynamic environment where authors will receive support for the production of these key messages according to a common reporting frame, benefit from the interaction with the other participants to clarify, identify and highlight the key elements of their messages, and exchange with colleagues with similar experience in their region/field/language.

Sessions will alternate individual writing periods and collective sharing and discussion of ideas. Individual cases will focus on the key messages, but the salient elements of the collective discussion will be recorded and reported.

Each write workshop will last 3 days and will be conducted in the language appropriate for the participants (Spanish, English, or French). In addition, facilitators fluent in Spanish, French and Portuguese will assist with translations.

Post-workshop
The outputs of the workshop will be used for the production of a *global report on improved foresight for impact*, highlighting the diversity of visions resulting from these forward thinking cases and their key messages, and the diversity of tools and methods used.

One or two participants from each write workshop will be invited to participate in the GCARD 2012, and therefore, will engage on virtual meetings in preparation for GCARD.

Facilitators
The workshop will have a support team composed of foresight experts, facilitators, and editors, to help participants interact with one another and develop clear key messages.

Workshop Cost
There will be no workshop fees and organizers will cover travel expenses for those who need financial assistance. The travel expenses include a most economical round-trip air ticket, and a daily allowance to cover local transport, accommodation, meals and travel insurance.