



## EGFAR - the GFAR web space

EGFAR is a virtual space to access, share, exchange and communicate information and knowledge on agricultural research and development

### *EGFAR's key functions*

#### gateway

EGFAR **brings you to what you need** and guides you to the most suitable resources

**custom web searches**  
**taxonomies**

#### platform

EGFAR **helps you voice your opinion** and describe things your own way

EGFAR **welcomes you as an author** of its collaborative website

**Open Site**  
**forum**

#### knowledge

EGFAR makes **documents and data** accessible

**document repository**  
**institutions database**

#### forum

EGFAR provides **public and private spaces for discussion** and puts people in contact

**forum**  
**community**

#### aggregator

EGFAR gathers **news from external relevant sources**

searches external relevant **websites**

brings to you **data from external relevant sources**

**rss feeds aggregator**  
**custom web searches**  
**web ring**

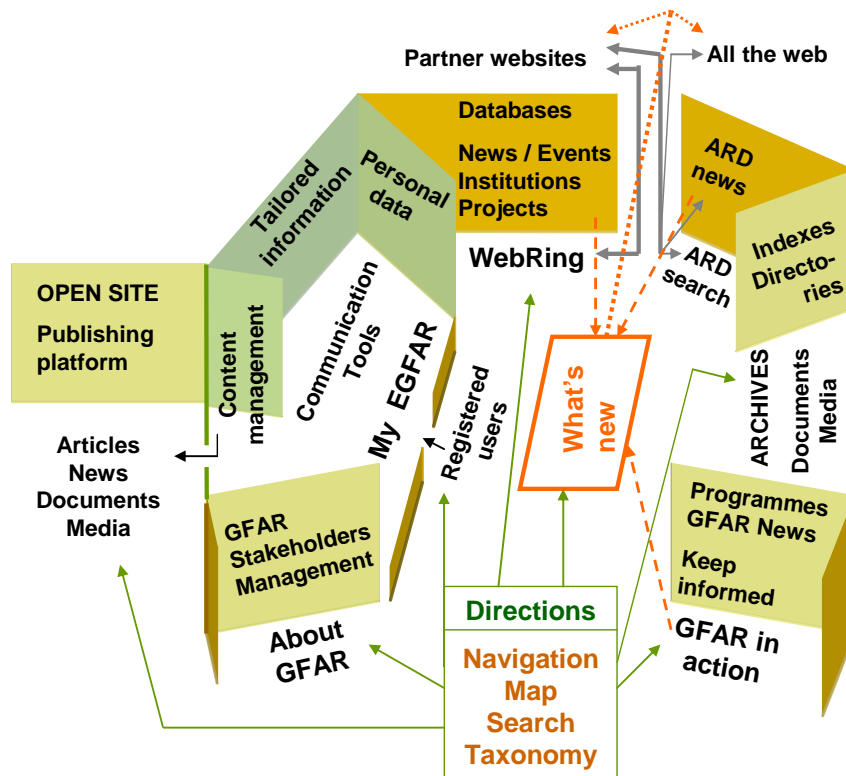
#### disseminator

EGFAR **disseminates its own information** and **publishes your own information**

**newsletter**  
**open archive**  
**Open Site**  
**rss feeds**

## The EGFAR virtual space

EGFAR's virtual space mimics the physical GFAR space for discussion and action on ARD



### Key concepts

EGFAR is an electronic platform for information and discussion on critical global ARD issues by its stakeholders. The implementation of this platform must comply with the principles of decentralization and subsidiarity that guide the operational aspects of GFAR.

#### > communication platform

- My EGFAR implements the Community functions of EGFAR through public and private discussion fora and access to the Open Site where everyone can publish contents

#### > enhancement of access to information resources

- users are guided to the information through specific taxonomies and search strategies: the GFAR taxonomy and the ARD Custom Search Engine provide tailored paths to information;

- EGFAR uses standards (XML, RSS, agricultural-specific metadata formats, standard-compliant software) for achieving better interoperability and integrating content from external sources.

#### > decentralization

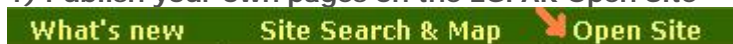
- EGFAR is expected to be a **stakeholder-led** system with decentralized management: through the EGFAR Open Site, stakeholders can publish articles, news and events;

#### > subsidiarity

- EGFAR aims at implementing **gateway functions** (searches, directories) to distributed resources rather than host and maintain local databases

## How to use EGFAR

### 1) Publish your own pages on the EGFAR Open Site



Login to My EGFAR (either directly on the Open Site page or under My EGFAR). Once logged in, when navigating the Open Site, buttons and links will allow you to edit existing contents or add new contents in the category of your choice. Detailed instructions on how to write and publish contents are available in the Help section on the Open Site.

### 2) Participate in an existing forum or ask for a new public or private forum



Login to My EGFAR and then go to the Community page: a link gives you access to all EGFAR existing forums. Users management in EGFAR and in the forums are synchronized so you don't need to login twice.

If you want to open a new forum, be it public or restricted to selected participants, just click on the corresponding link on the Community page in My EGFAR.

### 3) Search for GFAR documents

Main menu: Knowledge → Document Repository.

This engine allows you to search by title, year, type of document and subject (based on a specially developed taxonomy, also mapped to Agrovoc for compliance with existing and widely accepted standards).

On the right side menu, there are also links to special subsets of documents ("Shortcuts to documents") like annual reports, conference reports, reports from the Fora, meeting minutes etc.

To search for ARD related documents on the web, use the ARD Custom Search Engine for documents.

### 4) Search for ARD Organizations

Main menu: Web Ring → Web Ring Databases.

This engine allows you to search by name, region, country and "domain" (based mostly on the stakeholder group according to a terminology widely accepted among the GFAR community).

At the moment this engine searches for organizations in the GFAR database and in the EARD/Infosys+ database of european organizations. As soon as interoperability protocols are implemented with our partner information systems, a real Web Ring of relevant databases will be searched and other domains (projects, experts) will be covered.

Important collaborations with partner organizations (the Regional Agricultural Information Systems, FAO, Wageningen International, Infosys, CTA) are going on in order to set up a coherent platform for sharing reliable and updated information.



### 5) Use the ARD Custom Search Engine

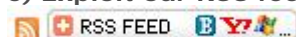
Main menu: Web Ring → ARD Advanced Searches → ARD Web Search Engine.

Type the word(s) to search for (use the same syntax as for Google searches).

The engine searches only selected websites (our "web ring") and when the results appear you can still narrow your search by clicking on the corresponding tab (each tab narrows the search to a certain category of websites).

This engine is based on a new service powered by Google (Google Custom Search Engine).

### 6) Exploit our RSS feeds



GFAR news and events: Main menu: What's new → Keep informed.

GFAR documents: Knowledge → Document Repository → Advanced search

On these pages you will find the URLs of our news feed, events feed and documents feed: you can read them through your favorite news aggregator or you can publish them on your website.

Technical support for this and other technology issues is available on the website (main menu: Open Site → Building and enhancing ARD websites → Technical tips).

e-GFAR  The Website of the  
Global Forum on Agricultural Research

About GFAR In Action Knowledge Web Ring What's new Site Search & Map Open Site

Path: / Home >> My EGFar <<

**Shortcuts and Spotlights**

*New*  
Collaborative Website

ARD Custom Searches

Web Ring Databases

   
Document Repository

**Welcome to EGFar, the website of GFAR**

GFAR is a multi-stakeholder initiative that contributes to eradicating poverty, achieving food security, and conserving and managing natural resources. It enhances national capacities to generate, adapt and transfer knowledge.



**EGFar is a key tool through which GFAR plays its facilitating role**

EGFar is the website of all ARD stakeholders and all are welcome and encouraged to visit us, subscribe to our information tools and contribute to keep the contents of this website updated

**News**

Communiqué after the GFAR Retreat in Alexandria  
Representatives of GFAR Stakeholders met from 30th to 1st April 2007 in Alexandria, Egypt, to formulate the central theme, direction and priorities through a business plan for GFAR for the next 3 years.

**Events**

ERA-ARD Conference: "ARD in Europe: towards a shared vision"  
2007-06-28 - 2007-06-29  
Brussels, BEL

[All the News >>](#)

 [RSS feeds >>](#)

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## Global Forum on Agricultural Research

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