TOWARDS A GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SYSTEM
- DRESDEN DECLARATION -

At the dawn of the 21st century, the stakeholders of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) wish to remind the international community of the importance and urgency for the common future of the humankind of three huge challenges which, for several decades, have been posed to agricultural research:
- Matching human growth and food production increases;
- Avoiding the risk of asphyxia of the world economic growth due to pauperization and exclusion of an important part of the world population, in particular from the rural areas;
- Promoting agricultural production systems which will sustainably preserve the natural resources used.

To address these challenges, the GFAR stakeholders gathered in Dresden, Germany, 21 – 23 May 2000, have developed a Global Shared Vision which strongly reaffirms the three main objectives of global agricultural research, namely: food security; poverty alleviation; and sustainable natural resources management. They also confirmed the three priority axis for global cooperation in agricultural research for development:

→ Promoting new innovative research partnerships in four priority areas:
  - genetic resources management and biotechnology;
  - natural resources management and agro-ecology;
  - research activities integration along the principle of commodity chain for all agricultural sub-sectors;
  - formulation of adequate agricultural policies and of a suitable institutional framework.
→ Strengthening the institutional and organizational capacity of the developing-country National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and of their regional and sub-regional fora.
→ Building-up a global information system.

The strategy adopted by GFAR to implement this programme of work is based on the three main principles of subsidiarity, complementarity and added value. More specifically, this strategy aims at:

1. Favoring the expression of the needs of the three main categories of actors in agricultural production and natural resources management, namely the producers, the non-governmental organizations and the private sector enterprises;
2. Mobilizing international agricultural research centers and advanced research institutions on scientific issues related to development and sound management of the environment;
3. Assisting all GFAR stakeholders to find where they fit in this emerging global research system through the establishment of partnerships based on individual comparative advantages and the transparency of the alliances;
4. Encouraging each group of GFAR stakeholders to organize itself to better assume its responsibilities and the functions assigned to it, with a special emphasis on regional and inter-regional cooperative mechanisms;
5. Developing solidarity between the stakeholders with different levels of resources.

The GFAR stakeholders gathered in Dresden are convinced that these concerted actions can contribute to the emergence of a global agricultural research system. They are also convinced that this will not succeed without additional investments in agricultural research. This implies additional efforts from the international community and the establishment of new funding mechanisms to mobilize new public and private resources. Therefore, the GFAR stakeholders request the policy and decision-makers to support the on-going renewal of agricultural research and to assist its efforts of redynamization.
On their side, the GFAR stakeholders commit themselves to increase their efforts so that this century becomes, in terms of economic and environmental development, a century of dynamic equilibrium and not a century of deadly breaking off. To do so, in Dresden, they have decided to launch the following actions and programmes:

1. In the field of promoting new innovative research partnerships in four priority areas:

   1.1. Genetic resources management and biotechnology

   1.2. Natural resources management and agro-ecology

   1.3. Research activities integration along the principle of commodity chain for all agricultural sub-sectors

   1.4. Formulation of adequate agricultural policies and of a suitable institutional framework

2. In the field of strengthening the institutional and organizational capacity of the developing-country National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and of their regional and sub-regional fora:

3. In the field of building-up a global information system for agricultural research for development: