2\textsuperscript{nd} Triennial GFAR Conference

22 – 24 May 2003
Méridien Président Hotel, Dakar, Sénégal

\textbf{Linking Research and Rural Innovation to Sustainable Development}

\textit{Rapporteurs’ report to plenary on global issues & new GFAR business plan discussed in roundtable sessions}

\textit{(Groups 5 to 10)}
Synthesis of Working Groups 5-10

Goals
1. To be a global platform for dialogue, advocacy, policy-making and supporting implementation on issues of global concern in agricultural research and development (ARD) such as intellectual property rights, production of global public goods, impact of globalization and appropriate use of biotechnology by its stakeholders.

2. To promote participatory action research mechanisms through coordination, facilitation and supporting capacity building for all of its stakeholders at community, national, regional and international levels.

Strategies
1. Enable change in agricultural research worldwide in the context of the new emerging paradigm and objectives of agricultural innovation such as shift from product to producer focus, food to nutritional security and poverty alleviation to sustainable livelihoods and quality of live improvement.

2. Enable agricultural research to be expanded through partnerships with the community, private and public sectors.

3. Enhance and enable new types of linkages between agricultural innovation/research and all actors in the commodity value-addition chain through use of appropriate information platforms and information and communication technologies (ICT).

4. Develop and implement, through advocacy, mechanisms to promote participatory planning at all levels.

5. Work to overcome the growing disconnection between research objectives and the heterogeneous needs of farmers through participatory information and knowledge sharing including indigenous knowledge at all levels.

6. Engage actively in inclusion of various actors, including women, youth and the elderly, and development of inclusive methods such as study of agriculture in basic education for agricultural development.
Themes

1. Integration of smallholder resource poor farmers with local, national, regional, and global markets including fostering regional trade and establishing a more level playing field for north-south trade.

2. Broadening of research objectives, such as from cereal-based national food security to individual, household and community nutritional food security.

3. Inclusive partnerships at all levels with equity, such as shifting focus from land ownership-based projects to holistic community-based projects.

4. Building political and civil society support for emerging paradigms in agricultural research for development

5. Enabling research on often currently neglected political, social and economic aspects of agricultural research and development

6. Reassessment of current research focus taking into consideration the difficulties developing countries face with new treaties, issues and regimes such as phyto-zoo sanitary standards, food and bio-safety and subsidization of agricultural produce as also access to water, energy and new technologies for agriculture.