11TH GFAR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
FAO, Rome, May 14, 2002

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

I. OPEN SESSION

1.1. Introductory Remarks

Rajendra S. Paroda, Chairman, GFAR Steering Committee, welcomed the participants. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1. In his opening remarks, Dr. Paroda presented on various important developments relating to program matters, multi-donor agreement with FAO and Secretariat related issues and also highlighted the key points discussed in the Donors’ Support Group and the NARS Steering Committee Meetings of the previous day, highlighting the pledges from the donors for 2003 and the request from the NARS for increased support from GFAR to their Regional Priority Setting and related activities. He mentioned that the large attendance at this GFAR meeting was also possible due to the support provided by EFARD as well as their invitation for all GFAR stakeholders to attend the 2nd EFARD General Meeting that was to take place immediately after GFAR meeting. He also highlighted some important changes that had occurred since the last meeting in Washington in October 2001:

- Jean-François Giovannetti was assuming the position of Officer in Charge after the departure of Fernando Chaparro in February this year. To renew this position, Christian Bonte-Friedham has taken the position of Chair of the Search Committee for the new GFAR Executive Secretary. An Interim Executive Council was established to guide the Officer in Charge, with the support of Rodney Cooke (IFAD), Dietrich Liehner (FAO/SDR) and Henri Rouille D’Orfeuil (GFAR, Vice Chair);
- Dr. Bruce Oliver attending at the Meeting, was welcomed at the NARS Senior Visiting Fellow to the GFAR Secretariat;
- There were very strong Regional Fora participation and contribution to the Post-Harvest exercises undertaken during the last months;
- The last CGIAR ExCo Meeting in London gave the opportunity to present the Concept Paper on Civil Society Participation;
- Special welcomes were made for those who filled new positions: the FARA Chair, Mr. Joseph Mukiibi, FARA Vice Chair, Mr. Adama Traore, Executive Secretary of CORAF, Mr. Mdiaga Mbaye, and the Chair of APAARI, Mr. Raghu Sapkota;

He then underscored that the Steering Committee meeting will be held in two sessions:

1. The Open Session for information sharing on the activities of the various stakeholders and updates on GFAR initiatives;
2. The Closed Session for administrative and managerial issues.

The members of the GFAR Steering Committee approved the tentative agenda and also endorsed the Minutes of the previous meeting.
1.2. Progress since October 2001

Jean-François Giovannetti, Officer in Charge, presented "Activities of the GFAR Secretariat From Washington 2001 to Rome 2002" highlighting five main points in the GFAR Secretariat Plan of Work (POW):

1. **Support to stakeholder activities** through strategic thinking exercises (APAARI and AARINENA); support to RF/SRF (FORAGRO), and promotion of research partnerships (SEARCA, CORAF /NGOs and GIPHT);

2. **Follow-up on the GPPs portfolio** through meetings with IFAD on Prolinnova, following-up on the DMC initiative with the Montpellier Facilitation Unit, accompanying activities of the June Workshop on International Commodity Chains, and the Global Conservation Trust;

3. **Launching new proposals** including those submitted to the Netherlands, the follow-up of the DURAS programme with France, and the programme for the strengthening of CSOs that is under discussion with the EC;

4. **Strengthening the facilitation function of GFAR Secretariat** such as the activities related to Rural Knowledge Systems -FAIP /ISNAR, RKS / CABI and ARD Methods / IAC & ICRA, the International Pole on Rural Innovation with IAO/ IC EPS and the Animal Health & Production sector) and;

5. **Information & Communication Management**, including the dissemination of “lessons learned” from the October IFAD/GFAR Workshop on GPPs through the EGFAR Website and the Workshop minidisk, the production of the first issue of the GFAR Electronic Newsletter, GLOBAL-RAIS and the launch of the new EGFAR Website in early May 2002 (http://www.egfar.org/maquette/home.htm).

Fulvia Bonaiuti, Associate Professional Officer, then presented the new EGFAR site (not yet accessible) describing the main tools and innovations with respect to the present Web Site.

1.3. Global Partnership Programmes: The Role of the Facilitating Unit

Three presentation were made during the meeting on Global Partnership Programmes:

1.3.1 "Lessons learned from the Facilitation Unit on International Commodity Chains and the Montpellier Workshop" by Hubert Omont (IPGRI)

The GFAR SC commissioned IPGRI to study the feasibility of establishing global programmes for the major commodity crops (citrus, cocoa, coconut, coffee, cotton, oil palm, pineapple, rubber and sugarcane) and Cirad offered to co-operate on this topic. They jointly established a small facilitation unit, with an expert in commodity chains seconded by Cirad at INIBAP headquarters, in Montpellier.

The GPP on major commodities covers banana, coconut and cocoa, each of which is in a different stage of development. The possibility of working with other commodities is being discussed with interested stakeholders. The Programme on banana (PROMUSA) is active and the coconut and cocoa programmes (PROCOCOS and PROCOCAO, respectively) are in preparatory stages.

1.7 "DMC and the launching of the Montpellier Facilitating Unit" by Fatima Ribeiro (DMC Facilitating Unit)

The proposed GPP on DMC features a bottom-up process of learning and synthesis regarding conservation agriculture practices. It will strongly benefit from the rich discussion on the lessons learned from the case studies presented in the Rome 2001 Workshop on GPPs. These lessons can guide the implementation of the DMC initiative in its early stages.

Dr. Ribeiro also presented the draft work programme of the DMC Facilitating Unit which will primarily focus on four types of activities: i) learning activities; ii) synthesis activities; iii)
feedback, and iv) advocacy and information sharing. Budget requirements for the initiative were also presented.

1.7 "Global Framework on Under-utilised and Orphan Crops and the Launching of the Facilitation Mechanism in IPGRI" by Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon (IPGRI)

The mission of the UOC Global Facilitating Mechanism established under the umbrella of the GFAR is to mobilize support and to facilitate and coordinate the work of stakeholders involved in research and development on UOCs at all levels (national, sub-regional, regional and global) in order to increase food security and income generation for the rural and urban poor.

During the general discussion, the following issues were addressed:

The location of the facilitation units in Europe appears to be related more with the commitment of some stakeholders, than a geographical strategy. In any case, these facilitation units aim at leading to Global Programme, with a worldwide coverage.

The value-added and the nature of the activities managed by this kind of unit were also discussed mainly through the most achieved example, which was related to international commodity chains. The proactive role to be paid by these units, for the involvement of all the stakeholders, including the private sector, was underscored, as well as the necessity to identify and mobilize a key stakeholder in the arena to lead the process of launching a Global Partnership Programme. For the Montpellier unit, the model of Promusa, as a Global Programme had been very useful.

The need for a sustainable financial support during this preparatory phase leading to the launching of a GPP has been underlined as a critical issue, to be tackled by the GFAR Secretariat and by the involved stakeholders.

1.4. Global Partnership Programmes: Ongoing International Initiatives

Regarding the on-going international initiatives on Global Partnership Programmes, the following presentations were made during the session:

1.4.1 “GPP on Trypanosomosis Control” by Emmanuel Camus (CIRAD)

The aim of this GPP is to exploit biotechnology and animal genetic resources for the improvement of livestock productivity through control of Trypanosomiasis. Linkages with FAO/PAAT – Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis were proposed with GFAR as providing research support to PAAT.

1.4.2 “Global Intitiative on Post Harvest Technology-GIPhT” by Francois Mazaud (FAO/AGSI)

GIPhT is an FAO programme aiming at stimulating renewed interest in the post-harvest sector by launching an open, international initiative gathered towards the development of the post-harvest sector in the poor countries. GIPhT is based on a three-phase approach: (i) five regional workshops were held from September 2001 to March 2002. (ii) an international consultation is in program for the implementation of the Global Initiative. iii) the Global Initiative is implemented. GFAR will continue to facilitate the development of GIPhT in collaboration with FAO/AGSI.

1.4.3 “PROLINNOVA” by Ann Waters Bayer (NGO Committee)

The objective of PROLINNOVA GPP is to promote farmer innovation for improved management of natural resources. The long-term aim is to institutionalize PROLINNOVA approaches within national programs of research, development and education. The outline and
development of the program were presented including recent events and on-going activities and a proposed inception phase.

1.4.4 “Global Conservation Trust” by Ruth Raymond (IPGRI)

The Global Conservation Trust is an endowment fund that will provide a permanent source of funding for *ex situ* conservation of PGRFA around the world. The goals of the Trust are to (i) provide sustainability support for collections meeting eligibility principles and internationally agreed standards of management; (ii) provide technical and capacity building support to collections meeting eligibility principles and progressing towards a verifiable plan to meet internationally agreed standards of management and to (iii) support in perpetuity for the conservation costs of a rational system of plant genetic resources conservation. The role of GFAR is proposed to support the Trust among governments, participate in the development of criteria for resources allocation and participate in the process of developing the rational system.

During the general discussion the following issues were addressed:

A need for a better formalization of the involvement of the GFAR Secretariat in the Global Initiative on Post-Harvest (GIPHT) was underlined. A letter of Agreement in this regard would be desirable.

For the Global Conservation Trust Initiative, some comments highlighted the need to further discuss as to what could be brought through “in situ” conservation. Also the need of the strengthening the capacities of the developing NARS was very much emphasized.

Through this set of presentations, the GFAR Secretariat concretized the wide range of possible role paid by the GFAR Secretariat, from a light to a heavy involvement in the facilitation function and the involvement of the various stakeholders.

1.5. **New GFAR Secretariat's Project Portfolio**

During this session, the following project proposals were presented.

1.5.1 “DURAS” by Andre Martin (Ministere Francais Des Affaires Etrangères)

The main goal of the DURAS project is to contribute to the sustainable development of southern countries through the (i) strengthening of the NARS’ institutional capacity; (ii) involvement at the national level of Universities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in a shared agenda for sustainable development; (iii) fostering the regional dialogue between the various stakeholders. GFAR will be involved in the definition of the project to identify (i) international partnerships in the area of sustainable development; (ii) research activities in sustainable development area involving CSOs; and (iii) facilitating the mobility of researchers within RF/SRF. DURAS project will be launched at the end of 2002 – beginning 2003.

1.5.2 “Strengthening the participation of Farmers’ Organizations and NGOs in the ARD Agenda. Proposal for a project in ACP countries submitted to EC” by Oliver Oliveros (GFAR Secretariat).

The project proposal was presented highlighting the two main objectives of the project that are to strengthen: (i) the participatory and representational mechanisms of NGOs and FOs, including their information management capacity to a) communicate the main issues that are being debated in regional and global ARD; and to b) foster the development of their own strategic agendas; and to strengthen (ii) the participation of NGOs and FOs in the decision-making mechanisms of ARD at the national, regional and global levels. The project proposal was submitted to EU for financial consideration.
1.5.3 “Cross-cutting issues of the GFAR portfolio of projects and activities, new resources mobilization strategy for the Secretariat of GFAR” by Jean-François Giovannetti (GFAR Secretariat).

The presentation focussed on the lessons learned from the workshop on Methodologies and Management of Global Partnership Programmes held at IFAD, October 2001, highlighting a wide range of roles that the GFAR Secretariat has in the Global Initiatives. Three main thematic areas (i.e. Rural innovation and support to SMEs, Livestock, and Rural Knowledge and Systems) are emerging from the facilitating function strengthened during the last three months. Common denominators in the GFAR Secretariat Portfolio of projects were identified (i.e. ICM, and support to GPPs, RF/SRF and GFAR Secretariat metabolism). A two pronged funding strategy was presented for endorsement, the first through operational programmes of the GFAR and the second emphasizing to the donors the importance of Facilitation Function of the GFAR Secretariat.

During the general discussion, the following issues were addressed:

The DURAS project has been perceived as a model of co-operation to support Global Partnership Programmes and the GFAR Steering Committee members endorsed the principle as well as concept and felt that other donors would use this model for funding other bilateral initiatives. GFAR Secretariat underlined the specific component enabling the basic metabolism of the Secretariat as a mean to support the important facilitation function, usually not considered for support by donors and which is rather difficult to sustain.

The CSOs strengthening project has been perceived fully as per the mandate of the GFAR, as a concrete step to better involve the weakest stakeholders in the decision making process. GFAR Secretariat was requested to have further consultations related to the design of this project, taking advantage of both the forthcoming EFARD Conference and the next World Food Summit of FAO in June.

The GFAR Steering Committee members endorsed the need for the GFAR Secretariat to have a focus and prioritization of GPPs in future, and the proposed ones were supported to begin with.

1.6 Progress Reports and Future Plans by the GFAR Constituencies

**NARS**

On behalf of the NARS, Mohammad H. Roozitalab (AARINENA) presented the various activities of the Regional Fora. These include, among others, the Regional Priority Setting (RPS) exercises in the CAC and Asia Pacific region; establishment (formal) of the Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) where Drs. J. Mukiibi and A. Traore were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively; initial discussions on the establishment of South East Asian Forum on Agricultural Research (SEAFAR) held in Bangkok, Thailand; as well as FORAGRO’s activities related to Sub-Regional Fora integration in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), their new initiative on South-South collaboration and the election of A. D. Portugal as Chair of FORAGRO.

**IARC**

ISNAR Director-General Stein Bie reported that CGIAR has assign to himself and ICRISAT DG William Dar to liaise with GFAR. He mentioned that CG Centres now recognise that GFAR and CGIAR do not compete but in fact complement each other, especially in encouraging stakeholders to participate in the global ARD. As such, he mentioned that CGIAR will strengthen its interaction with GFAR, such as through CGIAR participation in GFAR Mid-Term Meetings in May, even if the CGIAR will no longer be holding its own MTM.

Dr. Bie mentioned the activities of the CG centres in several regions such as Regional Priority Setting exercises and the establishment of a CGIAR Regional Office in the CAC region. He updated the meeting on the developments related to Challenge Programmes (CPs), e.g. co-ordination with FARA
in the development of some CPs (i.e., water, biofortification and genetic resources/genomics). While on this topic, Dr. Jamin Akimaliev raised the issue of creating a CP for the CAC region, which is vital for the implementation of agricultural research priorities in the region. Dr. Bie replied that CG Centres will try to help address these regional priorities and that he will convey CAC’s plea for CG’s assistance. He added, however, that the region should not only depend on external assistance but also tap its own expertise.

Dr. Bie reiterated the need to hear the voices of ARD stakeholders at the World Food Summit + 5 and Earth Summit + 10 Conferences.

**Farmers’ Organizations**
Chebet Maikut (IFAP) reported on some progress made since AGM 2001 in Washington. He cited that the 85 Farmers’ Organizations that are members of IFAP are playing a greater role in ARD in their various local levels with many of their representatives sitting in their various planning and management committees of NARS. For example, the multi-stakeholder government task force initiated by the government of Uganda to improve the Ugandan ARD sectors includes FOs.

However, he mentioned that a lot still needs to be done to increase the level of participation of FOs in developing countries at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels in terms of priority setting, governance and decision making. He cited the Ugandan example that demonstrates the capacity of farmers to contribute to national and sub-regional/regional fora. This capacity must be acknowledged in decision making mechanisms at all levels, including the CG ExCo, through the establishment of concrete representation mechanisms for FOs.

He also reported that GFAR-IFAP Collaborative Programmes were discussed and endorsed in the previous IFAP Executive Committee meeting in Copenhagen in 2001. He mentioned that the GFAR Secretariat has been assisting IFAP to push forward towards full implementation of the Collaborative Programmes for the broader participation and benefit of FOs and their respective farmers. He also mentioned that IFAP welcomes collaboration with other FOs that is based on commonalities while acknowledging differences between the organizations such as Via Campesina.

IFAP has also expressed the need to assist the FOs to have a voice in a global decision making mechanism and mentioned that GFAR Secretariat should continue to provide assistance. He cited that IFAP and *Via Campesina* has begun a discussion to open the lines of communication between FOs, facilitated by GFAR. He mentioned that GFAR should continue to provide this facilitation role. Finally, he mentioned that the possibility of setting up a Global Farmers Co-ordinating Committee will be explored in the IFAP Science and Technology Committee meeting during the forthcoming World Farmer’s Congress in Cairo by the end of May, 2002.

**NGOs**
Christian Castellanet cited that during the GFAR 2000 Conference in Dresden the NGO constituencies involved in global ARD identified Regional Focal Points (RFPs). He mentioned that it was their consensus that RFPs will serve as a mechanism to build up CSO/NGO constituency in RF/SRF, with the CGIAR NGO Committee liaising with other NGOs in the regions.

Mr. Castellanet mentioned, however, that they have been challenged about the representativity of these RFPs: there is no representativity in the NGO constituency and there will never be. This must be accepted as a reality. NGOs, by default, are organized as networks and that some NGOs in various regions are well organized and others less so. He added that what is important is to work with NGOs who are open and interested to participate in the ARD process.

Mr. Castellanet outlined some of the NGO constituency’s involvement in regional activities. He discussed NGO involvement in Latin America where a meeting in Guacimo (Costa Rica) among small farmers took place. He added that this is a good example of how small farmers can get involved in the RPS exercise. Also, he cited NGO activities in Asia such as the NGO-organized consultation meeting

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1 Negotiations are also underway with *Via Campesina* for a similar arrangement.
to discuss the region’s agricultural research priorities, as well as CAC NGO Focal Point participation in the Search Committee of the new GFAR Executive Secretary.

He mentioned that his term as NGO alternate in GFAR has ended and that a new NGO alternate representative to GFAR will be identified.

In response, the GFAR Chair thanked Mr. Castellanet for his involvement in the GFAR process. He also called on the various GFAR constituencies to help in building NGO and FOs at the national and regional levels.

Business & Industry

Ms. Radha Ranganathan (ASSINSEL) reported that she is replacing Patrick Heffer as Private Sector representative to GFAR. As she has just assumed the role in the last week, she could not report on anything more. She mentioned that her organisation works in the seed and plant breeding industry and that they have national and regional associations as well. She mentioned that as a Private Sector representative, she can act and liaise with private sectors in various countries.

Gisèle D’Almeida reported on the experience of Interface in networking with various small and medium agribusiness enterprises in 13 African countries. She mentioned that they are linking with NEPAD for its activities related to the sector such as in technology promotion; commercialization and transfer; establishment of a NEPAD-FARA-INTERFACE linkage; and facilitating the participation of small and medium agri-enterprises in international dialogues, among others.

Advanced Research Institutions (ARIs)

Willem Van Vuure, for the European ARIs, mentioned that the EFARD 2nd General Meeting will take place the next day. He briefly cited the rationale of EFARD as it relates with Global Partnership Programmes (GPPs) and with Challenge Programmes (CPs). He underscored the importance of the EFARD meeting where the main aim was to set up a European ARD system around the four main themes identified in Wageningen – Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, Natural Resources and Agroecology, Commodity Chains and Food Safety, and Innovation, Rural Transformation and Poverty – and through these participate in the Global Forum for Agricultural Research and in the global agricultural research development system. He added that these four main themes will be analysed in the light of the possibility of developing an active European scientific community, inclusive of scientists working in other regions, around a few specific action programmes, designed to reflect specific social needs rather than pure scientific concerns.

The EFARD meeting will analyse key problems of food security and sustainable development and will work out research programmes on which to concentrate activities and resources. Around these programmes, it was expected that institutional frameworks (e.g. platforms, poles of excellence, networks, etc) will be identified; as well as the means e.g. education, training, exchange if scientists, etc. through which an integrated scientific community may be built.

Speaking on behalf of the North American ARIs, Russ Freed reported that the North American Forum on Agricultural Research (NAFAR) website (http://www.nafar.info) is up and running. He reported that they are still trying to get the involvement of the US Department of Agriculture in NAFAR. He has re-affirmed NAFAR’s support to GFAR and expressed that they are hopeful that NAFAR will be able to better contribute to the GFAR process and activities by the time GFAR meets again.

Donor

Philippe Vialatte from the European Commission (EC) mentioned that the donors are fully aware of the current difficulties of the GFAR Secretariat in terms of budget and staffing issues, which is presently in the period of transition. He emphasized, however, that donors are committed to support GFAR.

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2 The replacement of the representative and the alternate of this sector has to be done during the next GFAR Steering Committee Meeting in October
He reported to the GFAR-SC members, the main points discussed in the Donor Support Group. These were: (a) status of the Multi-Donor Agreement; (b) German support to GFAR through the Facilitation Unit on under-utilised and orphan crops housed at IPGRI; (c) Dutch support at the current level with a provision on the current political situation in the Netherlands; (d) Italian support to GFAR at previous levels as well as the APO it has provided to work in GFAR Secretariat; (e) ISNAR’s offer to second a Senior Staff in the GFAR Secretariat to work on ICM issues; and (f) the various proposals being prepared to provide support to various activities and GFAR stakeholders.

Mr. Vialatte also emphasised the need to develop a strategy to attract more donors to support GFAR as well as the need to design funding strategy to ensure GFAR’s sustainability.

Dr. Paroda thanked the donor community for its continued support to GFAR and their expression of interest on the need to finance the Secretariat in a sustainable manner in future.

1.7 Other Matters

John Russell of UK Agri Forum expressed his satisfaction on the way GFAR has moved forward since the GFAR External Review. He also agreed on the need for GFAR to assist civil society in strengthening their capacity to participate in the ARD process.

Related to the forthcoming Earth Summit+10 Conference to be held in Johannesburg this year, ISNAR DG, Stein Bie, expressed the need to react to the “Chairman’s Letter” which failed to highlight the role of agriculture in addressing sustainable development. Referring to Article 35 of the document, Dr. Bie suggested that a statement be drafted by a small group of GFAR stakeholders. It was clarified that while such a statement will provide visibility to GFAR, it should not be labelled as a GFAR Statement document as this would stall the opportunity to further discuss the issue among GFAR constituencies.

Instead, this statement can serve as an input for the representative national governments, some of whom may be present during the GFAR meetings, to consider for Bali Meeting where the “Chairman’s Letter” will be discussed at the end of May.

Toward this end, a small group led by Stein Bie was tasked to draft the said statement which is appended as Annex 2.

1.8 Closing

Dr Paroda thanked everyone present for his or her active participation in the meeting. He appreciated the large attendance to the meeting which reflected stakeholders’ interest in GFAR, despite there being no CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting this time. He reiterated that GFAR’s strength lies in the support given by its various stakeholders. In closing, he expressed his appreciation to the GFAR Secretariat for its support. Special thanks were given to Fernando Chaparro who left the Secretariat in February 2002. He also thanked CIRAD, IFAD and FAO for its support to GFAR, as well as Christian Bonte-Friedheim for chairing the Search Committee for the new GFAR Executive Secretary.

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3 For further comments/suggestions, contact Stein Bie at S.Bie@cgiar.org.
II. CLOSED SESSION

2.1 GFAR Secretariat budget for 2002 and budget projections for 2003

In his report on the GFAR Secretariat budget for 2002 and budget projections for 2003 and beyond, Dr. Jean-François Giovannetti mentioned that the GFAR Secretariat is in a tight financial situation and that efforts need to be made to ensure its basic metabolism. He mentioned that among these efforts is the Secretariat’s initiative to submit proposals to various donors\(^4\) to help finance the activities of GFAR stakeholders related to regional priority setting, constituency building, GPPs and ICM.

He also sought the GFAR-SC decision in terms of the (a) US$ 40,000 which is available in the Operational Budget 2002, and its use for pending request from stakeholders; (b) agreement on the principles of overhead to be charged by the GFAR Secretariat for “Operational Programmes;” and (c) agreement on the role of “public service” played by the GFAR Secretariat on focused themes (Rural Innovation, Rural Knowledge System, etc.).

On these points, GFAR-SC members agreed (a) to de-freeze the amount and use it to respond to urgent pending request from stakeholders; (b) that a limited percentage of overhead cost from projects/programmes (around 10%) can be taken by the GFAR Secretariat to support its basic functions; and (c) on the need to strengthen the role of GFAR Secretariat in facilitating various stakeholder-led initiatives as part of its “public service.”

GFAR-SC members reiterated the need for GFAR to have a sustainable financing strategy. As such, the Secretariat was asked to draft a long term strategy, which could then be reviewed by Donor Support group and the Steering Committee.

2.2 GFAR Management Issues

Selection process of Executive Secretary

Christian Bonte-Friedheim as Chair of the Search Committee for the new GFAR Executive Secretary reported on the Committee’s deliberations. Before revealing the three short-listed candidates, he emphasized the fact that what is needed for the job is a manager with proven experience in agricultural sciences and who can work with various stakeholder groups.

It was decided by the GFAR-SC that the three short-listed candidates will be interviewed as early as possible. A group composed of Dr. Bonte-Friedheim, Henri Rouillé D'Orfeuil (GFAR Vice-Chair), to act as Chair of the Selection Committee, Rodney Cooke (IFAD), and Dietrich Leihner (FAO) will conduct the interview and recommend one final candidate to the Chairman, GFAR, who then will submit the recommendation to Dr. Jacques Diouf, the FAO Director-General for final approval. The new GFAR Executive Secretary may possibly arrive in Rome by September 2002.

Specific issues related to the interim period

Discussing the GFAR Secretariat’s transition phase, GFAR-SC members agreed on the following:

a) Dr. Giovannetti will continue to serve as GFAR Secretariat’s OIC until the new Executive Secretary is appointed and assumes his/her charge in the Secretariat;

b) Henri Rouillé D’Orfeuil’s term as GFAR Vice-Chairman ends now and his successor, who has to be elected from constituency groups other than NARS, will have to be elected in October 2002 during 12\(^{th}\) GFAR-SC’s Meeting in Manila, The Philippines;

\(^4\) French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (for Programme DURAS); European Commission (for CSO Strengthening in ACP countries); and the Netherlands.
c) Dr. Paroda offered and left the Meeting Room so that GFAR-SC members could freely discuss the GFAR’s Chairmanship issue. After GFAR-SCs' deliberation, it was decided that Dr. Paroda’s replacement as new GFAR Chair may be elected during the 12th GFAR-SC Meeting. All members were highly appreciative of the matured leadership provided by him to GFAR.

Willem Van Vuure’s term as Europe’s representative to GFAR was also ending. It was informed that a new representative to GFAR will be identified during the EFARD meeting and decision communicated to GFAR.

2.3 GFAR-2003: The General Conference in Dakar

Jean-Pierre Ndiaye (ISRA) presented the Senegalese Government’s proposal for organizing the GFAR 2003 Conference. Following his presentation, it was agreed that the GFAR 2003 Dakar Conference would be held on 21-23 May, 2003 back-to-back with the FARA General Assembly slotted for the 19-20 May, 2003.

A Working Group will complement the National Preparatory Committee at the GFAR level chaired by Dr. Joseph Mukiibi. This Working Group will be composed of one (1) representative each from the Government of Senegal (i.e., from the National Preparatory Committee), NGOs, FOs, CGIAR, Europe (i.e., EFARD), ARIs, the Private Sector, FAO and the GFAR Executive Secretary.

The GFAR Secretariat was tasked to draft the Terms of Reference of the Working Group as well as a budget estimate both for the preparatory activities and the GFAR 2003 Conference. GFAR-SC members also asked the Secretariat to come up with a more dynamic title for the Conference (other than the one approved earlier "Linking Research, Rural Innovation and Development: From Regional Priorities to Global Action"), but the theme in general should not be changed.

Other suggestions included the following: (a) 20 percent of the participants be from the civil society organizations (like the GFAR 2000 Dresden Conference); and (b) to explore the possibility of inviting an eminent person to open the Conference such as Nelson Mandela, FAO DG Jacques Diouf, or IFAD President Lennart Båge, etc. Advance invitation in this regard would be necessary.

2.4 Conclusion by GFAR Chairman

The GFAR Chair concluded the meeting by thanking all the GFAR SC members for their active participation and positive and constructive comments. He noted, with pleasure, the increasing commitment of stakeholders and encouraged them to continue their efforts to mobilize their constituencies for continued support to the GFAR.
# Annex 1

## 11th GFAR Steering Committee Meeting

**FAO, Rome, May 14, 2002**

### List of participants

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1. These comments are meant to share the concern that the role of agriculture to alleviate poverty, ensure food security, improve human health and ensuring wise and sustainable use of natural resources is inadequately covered in the new document issued in advance of the WSSD PrepCom meeting in Bali, Indonesia ultimo May 2002.

2. In particular there is a concern that the limited attention given to agriculture through the one page (Section 35) in a document of 39 pages fails to portray the increasingly held view that for the majority of the world’s poor, who are those who live in the countryside of developing countries and the majority of whom are women and children, agriculture offers the only or most probable route out of poverty, of food insecurity and poor health. Agriculture must be recognized as the most likely engine of rural economic growth for the poor, which impacts not only on the rural population, but also on the urban poor through lowered food prices and less migration from rural areas. For the rural poor sustainable agricultural practices are the most likely to meet the multiple targets of the Millennium Declaration. Neglect of the economic role of agriculture may lead to social instability, civil strife and national and international armed conflict, and to refugees and mass migration.

3. Agriculture is about more than food production. Its relationships to human health through its influence on disease vectors of dehabilitating and fatal diseases such as malaria, schistosomiasis, trypanosomiasis, river blindness, diarhoical diseases, illnesses induced by vitamin and mineral deficiencies and many others, are becoming increasingly well understood. Agriculture is the greatest user of land, water and labour in poor developing countries. Sustainable agricultural practices foster sustainable natural resources management. Sectoral treatment of agriculture without seeing farming and livestock husbandry as intimately linked to health, wealth and environmental issues and the multifunctional role of the land, fails to reveal the most likely tool from which more than one billion people can benefit in their quest for longer, healthier and more prosperous lives.

4. The failure to identify the devastating impact HIV/AIDS has on labour availability for agricultural production, and increasingly beyond sub-Saharan Africa, and the asset stripping in rural and urban areas in the wake of this pandemic, now endangers the sustainability of food production generally and for poorer sections of the population in particular. The loss of parental knowledge for the new generation of farmers has serious consequences for the aims to increase food production.

5. As scientists and administrators in the agricultural sector worldwide we wish to draw the attention of our national delegations to WSSD, and delegations representing international and national organizations and institutions, of the possibilities of strengthening the impact of this main WSSD document on poverty, food security, human health and sustainable natural resources use. This can be achieved through a careful revision of the document aimed at emphasizing the role of agriculture as the engine of growth and welfare for the rural, and also urban, poor. Whilst this view should permeate the document as a whole, and may be applied to many sections in the document, we believe that significantly better guidance for action can be achieved by strengthening Section 35. Towards this end we offer some concrete suggestions.

6. Suggestions for reemphasizing the role of agriculture in Section 35:
Preamble: Agriculture produces most of the food required for present and future global populations. The majority of the world’s poor, more than 1 billion people and mostly in developing countries, are directly tied to agriculture. Improvements in food security, human health and the feasibility to achieve sustainable use of land, water and other factors depends on major improvements in the role allotted to agriculture in the national economies of poor and rich countries, and in the trade between them. For poor rural populations agriculture is the likely engine of economic growth and improved welfare. Increasingly poverty reduction strategies must take cognizance of this. International, regional and national actions are required to:

(a) create economic and other incentives for increased economically, socially and environmentally sustainable production of nutritious food for all;
(b) enhance access at fair prices to existing markets and develop new markets for basic agricultural produce and for value-added products;
(c) remove barriers and disincentives to agricultural trade by lowering and eliminating export subsidies and trade-distorting domestic support;
(d) reverse the declining trends in national public and private sector investments in the rural primary industries;
(e) increase international economic investments, through development assistance and private investments, in agriculture and other primary rural industries in poor countries, particularly aiming investments at the smallholder sector where poverty, food insecurity and poor health are most prevalent;
(f) reverse the declining trends in public and private investments in agricultural research relevant for the rural poor, both at national and international level, and improve communication between farmers and the research community to ensure relevant research agendas for poverty alleviation, and rapid dissemination of and access to relevant and appropriate research results and technologies when available;
(g) ensure timely access at fair prices to agricultural inputs from private and public providers;
(h) ensure that scientific advances in plant, livestock and fish breeding are available for application in developing and developed countries through fair intellectual property regimes and adherence to internationally recognized biosafety regulations;
(i) support major international and national efforts to preserve plant, animal and fish genetic material and biodiversity in ex situ and in situ collections for future generations, both in international collections and increasingly at national and sub-regional level;
(j) support and improve agricultural educational efforts at all levels and foster regional and international educational exchanges of students and staff;
(k) support efforts to reduce disciplinary barriers between sectors, so as to ensure that the food, health and environment issues are treated as an integrated challenge at local and national level, and foster cooperation between authorities to achieve this;
(l) develop and implement integrated natural resources management plans to ensure sustainable use of land, water and biological resources, with particular emphasis on the role of smallholders and local communities in all phases of planning and execution; and strengthening the abilities of local and national institutions to undertake such work;
(m) enact, as appropriate, measures that protect indigenous resource knowledge management systems, promote local innovation and support the participation of all appropriate stakeholders in rural planning and governance;
(n) adopt policies and implement laws that guarantee well-defined and enforceable land and water use rights and promote legal security of tenure, recognizing the existence of different national laws and/or systems of land access and tenure, and provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries that are undertaking land tenure reform;
(o) recognize the devastating impact the HIV/AIDS pandemic has on rural communities and food production, and support – from a food security point of view – national and international efforts to reduce the risk of infection and spread, and to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on households and at local and national level;

(p) realize the “right to food” as stated in Article 11 of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as a means to promote food security and fight hunger in order at least to reach the World Food Summit and Millennium declarations target to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world’s people who lack food security;

(q) enhance international cooperation to combat illicit crops.