14th Steering Committee Meeting
24 October 2003
Mexico-City, Mexico

Minutes of the Meeting

OPEN SESSION

Welcome address
GFAR Chair, Mohammad Roozitalab, welcomed all stakeholders present at the meeting. The Chair introduced Dr Arvind Kapur, the new private sector member to the committee, and Dr Zhang Lijian, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China who was present as an observer. The Chair, then, reminded the participants the objectives of the meeting and declared the 14th GFAR SC meeting open.

Adoption of agenda and approval of 13th GFAR SC meeting minutes
The provisional agenda was adopted after the incorporation of an additional item “Statements from FAO (the hosting organization of GFAR Secretariat)” under the agenda item “Statements and reports from Stakeholders”. The committee approved minutes of the 13th SC meeting without changes.

Highlights of GFAR activities “GFAR Progress Report for 2004”
GFAR Executive Secretary, Ola Smith, presented the progress report of the GFAR Secretariat. During 2004, the Secretariat invested some time and effort in the development of GFAR Business Plan for the period 2004-2006. The Executive Secretary highlighted the consultation process undertaken in developing the Business Plan, which was inclusive to ensure the concerns and interests of all the stakeholders are reflected and addressed. He then highlighted the components/pillars of the plan and what has been achieved with respect to the implementation of the various pillars since the development of the plan. Some of the activities he mentioned were:

- review of priorities and research gap analyses carried out in the South and West Asia region by APAARI with the collaboration of a number of CG centres including ICRISAT and ICARDA as well as other non-CG institutions such as AVRDC and ICIMOD
• Facilitation of the second and third Executive Secretaries of the Regional Fora meetings place in May in Rome, and in October in Mexico respectively. He noted that these meetings are proving fundamental for sharing information and experiences related to ongoing and future activities in the various regions, with the objectives of identifying areas of collaboration and complimentarity based on the already identified regional priorities.

• Facilitation of the Development of new Global Partnership Initiatives such as the Post harvest Initiative which has now planned a back to the region component.

• The initiation of a competitive grant scheme under the DURAS project to foster multi-disciplinary and cross stakeholder research and development initiatives in two thematic areas: agro-biodiversity and genetic resources management and local knowledge in natural resources management.

• Participation at various meetings to put forward GFAR’s views and voice on issues concerning ARD.

• Update and maintenance of EGFAR.

Other achievements highlighted by the Executive Secretary were:

- Publication and distribution of the first GFAR Annual Report
- Publication and distribution of the proceedings of GFAR 2003 Conference in French and Spanish were also distributed, as well as the proceedings of GLOBAL RAIS project.
- Dissemination of promotion brochure on Post Harvest systems research.
- GFAR e-newsletters, including a special issue pertaining to the DURAS project supported by France.

Several participants congratulated the secretariat for a busy and fruitful year, and wished it similar successes in coming years. Specific comments from some participants focused on the need to include more under the inter-regional collaboration pillar, given its contribution to information sharing amongst regional fora. The need was also expressed to continue to work on the RAIS project and strengthen these units which will contribute to bridging the digital divide. Other ideas that were discussed focused around a suggested blueprint from FORAGRO and which could be used in the future for collaborative activities on institutional innovation, biotechnology applicable to agriculture and management information systems. The GFAR chair suggested that this idea be further explored in the near future as he rounded up the discussion on the presentation.

Statements and reports from Stakeholders

The following are the major highlights from statements and reports by the stakeholders:

1) Non Governmental Organisations

Ms. Monica Kapiriri, GFAR Vice-Chair and NGOs representative on GFAR Stakeholder Committee briefed the committee members on some of the activities that regional/sub regional NGOs carried out since Nairobi meeting in 2003:
ETC Eco Culture in EFARD region: Focused on the preparation and mobilization of NGOs participation in EFARD 2005 Conference. ETC is also the facilitating unit of PROLINNOVA (a GFAR GPP)

ANGOC (Asia NGO Coalition) in APAARI region:
- research and documentation, focusing on case studies and publications
- NGO capacity building
- Policy dialogue

PELUM and WECANPA in FARA region:
- mobilized NGOs to participated in regional and sub-regional meetings
- initiated resource mobilization and publicity of the networks

ANSAD in AARINENA region:
- organized training for capacity building
- established local networks
- lobbying and advocacy activities
- volunteered for development aimed at attracting expertise to NGOs

MAELA-CIED in FORAGRO region
- CIED Peru focused on the promotion of concerned management, proactive mobilization and political advocacy
- Transformation of expertise
- establishment of information networks (AGUALTIPLANO)

Ms. Kapiriri also reported that as Vice-Chair of GFAR, she participated in number of consultation activities over the year: the development process of the 2004-2006 Business Plan, GFAR 2004 Management Team Meetings, the nomination of NGO representatives for the GFAR stakeholder Committee of the Generation Challenge Program and WARD partnership committee’s evaluation exercise.

Ms. Kapiriri, pointed out that during GFAR 2003 conference in Dakar the NGOs nominated regional/sub-regional focal points to help facilitate and coordinate the NGOs activities. She, however, informed the Committee members that due to lack of resources the focal points were yet to carryout any coordinating activities. In her conclusion, Ms Kapiriri, informed the committee that the GFAR’s CSOs regional focal points will meet in Mexico City on Monday October 25th to mainly discuss on how to mobilize the CSOs to better contribute to the implementation of the Business Plan and outcomes will be reported to the SC members.

2) Farmers’ Organisations

Mr. Jack Wilkinson, President of IFAP and FOs representative on the steering committee gave a brief overview of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). During the briefing, Jack Wilkinson, stressed on the need to enhance and build FOs capacity if the global and regional research communities want to see their products well utilized. He appealed to the RF and GFAR to include FOs in their day-to-day business and not only in the regional research priority setting exercises. He also cited the need to involve FOs in the GPPs especially the Linking farmers to Market (Global Post Harvest Initiative) He particularly stressed the importance of capacity building efforts of FO to ensure that farmers can effectively add value to, and upscale research contributions. He repeated the need for farmers to be their own advocate but sees the contributions of NGOS in the area of service delivery

During the discussion following these presentations, participants acknowledged the need to work more closely with both the FOs and NGOs especially at the regional fora level. Invitations were extended to the IFAP to participate in various planned regional activities and to work with the FORA on how to further improve participation by farmers in regional fora’s activities.
3) IARCs

Dr. Emile A. Frison, Director General of IPGRI, presented to the Committee the Draft Guiding Principles for the development of Future Harvest Centers’ policies to address the possibility of unintentional presence of transgenes in ex-situ collections. These were based on the outcome of a workshop on technical issues which was held 30 August-1 September 2004 in Rome, and which was attended by members of the Genetic Resources Policy Committee (GRPC) and technical experts from within and outside of the Future Harvest centers. The main objective of the workshop was to explore ways and means to handle the risk of unintentional presence of transgenes in germplasm collections, with the goal of providing technical inputs to the GRPC who developed the Draft Guiding Principles during a meeting held just after the workshop. Emile Frison informed the Committee members that the Draft Guiding Principles are available on IPGRI’s web-site and requested that comments to be sent to IPGRI before developing the final Guiding Principles in March 2005. He invited GFAR stakeholders to help circulate the document for further inputs that will help refine the document. The Guiding Principles will enable each of the Future Harvest Centre gene banks to draw up procedures aimed at preventing the unintentional introgression of transgenes into the collections.

Dr Frison then presented to the committee the progress made by the Center Directors in creating an Alliance of Future Harvest Centers in order to strengthen the centers’ capacity for collective action. Following this presentation comments were made on how to harmonize this type of initiatives and other CGIAR priorities with regional fora priorities such as the Asia Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology, the relationship between this initiative and the Dresden declaration, and the role of GFAR. With regards to harmonizing CGIAR priorities with those of Regional Fora, Emile Frison indicated that the Science Council will soon organize a series of meetings in Rome to refine CGIAR priorities and inputs from Regional Fora will certainly be requested and factored into the final outputs. Secondly, that some workshops and meetings have been planned for the ASARECA and CORAF regions to provide inputs into the initiative. Frison also gave an update about the Global Crop Diversity Trust. He suggested that GFAR could play an important advocacy role to stimulate financial contribution to the Trust.

4) Advanced Research Institutions (ARIs)

Christian Hoste the vice-chair of European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) briefly presented the plans for the forthcoming EFARD 2005 scheduled for the 27th to the 30th of April 2005. He indicated that the conference site is up, and all the details on the conference are on the site. The organizing committee is still open to ideas from potential participants who should send in such ideas for participating in the conference. He also briefly described a number of on going initiatives within Europe that touch on ARD issues especially the renewed ECART which could be a source of expertise for developing countries.

Russell Freed representing the North-America Forum for Agricultural Research (NAFAR) indicated that he was impressed by the level of activities by the other GFAR stakeholder groups, in contrast to NAFAR but maintained that the latter has some latent energy with good potentials for partnership opportunities. His brief presentation was centred on three issues:

i) Research partnerships, noting that NAFAR has a functional website that gives access to North American researchers as well as a number of donors such as CIDA, IDRC, and USAID. He identified the CRSP programme as a model of a partnership programme.

ii) Partnership sustainability: He indicated that within the NAFAR, funding was mainly based on co-funding and that many of the sustainable projects were without donor support, and also relied a lot on leadership and human capital.

iii) Future activities. He pointed out in order to have the concrete and tangible research we should develop the extension services in the south so that end-user can benefit from the research. He also
promised to: work with the Secretariat to source for support for GFAR, and raise awareness about it in the NAFAR environment and to identify an active replacement for himself as the liaison to GFAR.

Following the presentation from the ARIs, Monty Jones from FARA, wanted to record FARA’s appreciation of the support received from the ARIS with regards to the preparation of the FARA Challenge Programme (CP). He acknowledged that some of the principles elaborated by the ECART group were used in the development of the CP. He also acknowledged the contribution and support of the ARIs to the capacity building efforts in FARA. He then appealed to the ARIS to take a good look at the CAADPD in order to identify in which areas they could help Africa implement this programme. Another important contribution to the discussion was the comment from Dr Paroda who acknowledged that EFARD has moved a long way and wanted to know how to further strengthen collaboration between EFARD and the southern fora for their mutual benefit. Christian Hoste suggested that the forthcoming EFARD 2005 could provide a good opportunity to start a dialogue process between EFARD and the southern fora, which will respond to the need expressed.

5) Private Sector

Dr. Arvind Kapur, the newly appointed PS representative, thanked the GFAR family for the bringing the PS on board in order to add their voice to the global ARD debates through GFAR, and expressed his own personal appreciation of the honour given to him to serve as the PS representative. His brief statement focused on the role of PS in ARD in Asia particularly in India and how to improve the linkages between the PS and researchers on the one hand and the PS and consumers and farmers on the other hand.

He reiterated the fact that the PS is a reliable partner for agricultural growth, giving the example of India where the sector’s activities are worth over $1 billion and still growing. Areas in which the sector is working and contributing to knowledge include: new product development which usually takes a long time, bio safety issues related to biotechnologies, development of genetic and chemical technologies which as in the case of his company are directed towards seed sector, and which are contributing to improved farmers livelihood. He identified the need to work seriously on policy issues whose environment keep changing, and which if not understood could prove to be barriers to material exchanges, hence the need for a continuous dialogue between the public and private sectors. He pledged his support to the efforts of GFAR to work on these issues.

Discussion was essentially focused on public-private partnership issues. The Donor representative Philippe Vialatte indicated that public-private partnership is an important issue for the EU, and will feature in the VIIth framework in which there will be provision for funding a technology platform. Detail information he indicated could be found on the website although has a European focus. Other comments highlighted the inevitability of rules and regulations to ensure that private-public partnerships work and thrive. The problem to be tackled being the issue of who defines the rules.

6) Donors

Dr. Philippe Vialatte, European Commission representative, on behalf of GFAR Donor Support Group congratulated the Secretariat on the brilliant job done with regard to the preparation of GFAR business plan. He expressed the EC’s keen interest in GFAR’s business and reaffirmed that the Commission will ensure that the Secretariat will get all the support it needs to carry its mission. He also commended the dynamic build up of activities at the regional fora level but lamented the absence of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in many of the RF’s governing structures. He indicated he was aware of efforts being made by the CSOs to define how to better be engaged with GFAR, and hoped that the RF/SRF in their turn will welcome them with open hands. He therefore urged the Secretariat to include the tasks of linking farmers to researchers in its list of activities.

He noted that the Business Plan clearly shows where we want to go, but thought that we also need re-examine our guiding principles i.e. the charter. In this respect he expressed the need to include extension agents and consumers in the GFAR group of stakeholders. He acknowledged the need for increased manpower at the Secretariat to effectively tackle the task ahead, including strengthening the stakeholder groups. He welcomed the presence of China and the Private
One issue he suggested might require urgent attention from GFAR is the issue of contributing to the debate on biotechnology as opposed to biotechnologies to minimize the excessive attention now focused on GMOs. Developing capacity for biotechnologies was of interest to the EU, and it would welcome participation in this regard. Finally, he cautioned that even if the financial picture now looks rosy, now is the time to start thinking of what next towards ensuring resource sustainability through innovative ways. He pledged the continued commitment of the DSG to GFAR.

7) CHINA

On behalf of Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and the President of the Chinese Advance Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Dr Zhang Lijian, thanked GFAR SC and particularly the Executive Secretary for inviting China to attend this 14th GFAR SC meeting. Dr Zhang informed the SC members that although China is not a GFAR Stakeholder group, it closely follows the activities of the Forum. He said that China is very interested in and keen to join GFAR. He made a short presentation on the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences which works in all areas of agriculture research, and has collaborative activities with well over 60 countries as well s with the CGIAR. According to Dr Zhang, there are well over 110,000 agricultural researchers in China. He concludes by reiterating the willingness of China to be a part of GFAR and promised that an official confirmation will follow.

8) FAO

Dietrich Leihner, Director of Research, Extension and Training Division of the FAO, expressed FAO’s commitment to hosting the Secretariat of the forum and informed the SC members that FAO will provide the support needed to ensure the Secretariat fulfils its mandate. He congratulated the Secretariat for the work done on the business plan which it is now implementing and reporting on. He, however, informed the committee members the need to enhance FAO/GFAR collaboration and the need to raise awareness and sensitise FAO departments on GFAR’s work and activities. This is important particularly now given the budget cuts FAO is going through, so that it is easy to demonstrate the added value of hosting GFAR within the organization. Such an awareness raising effort should include FAO senior management which makes decisions. In this respect he recommended an annual GFAR day at FAO including seminars or workshops and displays of GFAR’s activities and outputs.

Committee members endorsed the idea of organizing such an awareness crating and advocacy activity on a regular basis, and suggested that the first one should be done at next opportunity during the midterm meeting.

Update on Global Partnership Programmes

1. On-going GPPS

A) PROLINNOVA

Fred Kafeero, Environmental Alert, reported that in March 2004, representatives of PROLINNOVA country programs (CPs) met at Furra Institute of Development Studies in Yirgalem, Southern Ethiopia for the first of a series of internal workshops. During this workshop it was decided to form a PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) as governance mechanism to ensure accountability of the GPP to the CPs, their constituencies and the donors. PROLINNOVA also has an International Support Team (IST) made up pf IIRR in the Philippines, Centre for International Cooperation (CIS) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Swiss Centre for Agricultural Extension (LBL) and ETC Ecoculture – which supports the country-level activities in terms of international coordination, capacity building, networking, web-based knowledge management, documentation, publishing and advocacy. PROLINNOVA is now being planned or implemented in nine countries: Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nepal, Niger, South-Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Mr Kafeero provided a brief overview of the organisation and activities of PROLINNOVA in Uganda.
**B) Underutilised Species (UUS)**

Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon, Underutilized Species Coordinator, reported that the Global Facilitating Unit (GFU) has held two international workshops i) “Underutilized plant species and poverty alleviation”, and ii) “Marketing Strategies and Capacity Strengthening to Realize the Economic Potential of Underutilized Species”. She also presented the outcomes of a general assessment exercise and recommendations for next phase whose principal recommendations included:

a) organization and finances: BMZ will continue to funding next phase; IPGRI should provide increased support; IFAD should consider financial support to GFU, review of composition of the steering committee, and

b) priority outputs and activities: the second phase should place much greater emphasis on policy related issues, while continuing its work on documentation, information and communication; public awareness.

**C) Direct Sowing, Mulch-based Systems and Conservation Agriculture (DMC)**

Bernard Triomphe, DMC Coordinator, briefed the committee members on key DMC achievements since 2002 and future activities. These activities include i) development of a framework for DMC case studies, and development of DMC web-site. He informed the committee members that DMC, in close collaboration with ACT (African Conservative Tillage Network, a regional NGO), is involved in the organizations of the 2nd World Congress on Conservation Agriculture that will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2005. DMC had expressed strong desire to establish partners with GFAR regional and fora, particularly FARA and CORAF/WECARD. Dr. Triomphe was candid about the limitations facing the DMC programme, and stressed for increased engagement and support from the GFAR Secretariat so that the forward looking plan he presented could be implemented.

**Comments on the on-going Global Partnership Programmes**

The following are the comments and suggests for future action expressed by the Committee members after some discussion which even touched on the need to clarify what is and what is not a GPP.:

a) More clarity is required on the GPP concept and the role and responsibilities of Global Facilitating Units.

b) Facilitating units of the on-going GGP should put an impact assessment mechanism in place to monitor the effectiveness of the GPPs.

c) The Regional Fora should become more involved in the implementation of GPP activities.

d) As indicated in the Business Plan, an evaluation of the current on-going GPPs should be carried out.

**2. Pipeline Global Partnership Programmes**

**A) Information and Communication for Agricultural Research and Development (ICT4ARD)**

Jean François Giovannetti, GFAR Secretariat, presented an up-date on the Information and Communication Management for Agricultural Research and Development GPP which has completed its cycle of regional consultations and based on the results of an inter-regional meeting held in Rome in June 2004 has developed a project proposal for presentation to donors.

The main purpose of the ICM4ARD Project is to enable more equitable access to agricultural information globally for ARD stakeholders through improved ICM and more efficient use of ICT in National, Regional and Global agricultural information systems. The main pillars of the Project are:

- Development of the capacity of NARS leaders for advocating development of ICT enabled Agricultural Information Systems (AIS) at the national, regional and global levels

- Development of the capacities of ICT managers and staff of NAIS, Sub-RAIS (S-RAIS) and RAIS in further developing NAIS and RAIS
• Integration of and equitable access to National, Regional and Global Agricultural Information through GLOBAL.RAIS Web Ring

• New Governance structures for ICT enabled information systems at regional and global levels

B) Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP)

Ramanuja Rao, Director (Programs), International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), presented the outline for a GPP on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP). NTFPs are among the most diverse and valuable resources for the rural poor. The economic value of these resources is estimated at over US$ 100 billion/year. Despite their importance, the attention given to NTFPs has been sporadic and disjointed. This has led to a situation in which there are:

• No strategic global institutional system and support
• A set of widely distributed and unconnected individual projects with no system to leverage learning and replication within and across countries and regions
• Lack of stakeholder organization and support infrastructure
• No knowledge system that captures the learning from projects – much remains as grey literature
• Considerable local knowledge is progressively being lost

The proposed GPP would build on the experience and institutional framework of INBAR, and could be expanded the commodities to include products such as medicinal plants, honey, mushrooms, firewood and charcoal, etc. The essential design parameters for the GPP include: a) development-led research, b) learning by doing, c) rooted in the rural situation, d) oriented to the market, e) supported by a robust and simple institutional system, that has both depth and breadth.

It is proposed that activities initiate in Asia, since this is where INBAR has a more established program on which to build.

C) Global Post-harvest Initiative: Linking Farmers to Markets (GPhI)

Rupert Best, GFAR Secretariat, provided the Steering Committee with an update on the progress of the Global Post-harvest Initiative: Linking Farmers to Markets that is being developed in collaboration with FAO and the PhAction consortium of institutions. Following five regional consultations and an inter-regional meeting held in Rome in October 2003, a strategic framework has been developed within which region specific programs will be formulated.

The purpose of the GPhI is to improve the livelihoods of poor people by enhancing agri-food systems for a range of local, national, regional and international markets through sustainable and equitable post-harvest interventions. The Initiative has four strategies:

• Developing appropriate policies
• Institutional strengthening through collaborative research and capacity building
• Developing competitive and equitable agri-food systems
• Fostering networks, communication and further programme development

The Initiative is scheduled to be presented to FAO’s permanent representatives on November 4, and the first regional planning workshop will be held in the Asia-Pacific region on 1-2 December convened by APAARI.

Comments on the pipeline Global Partnership Programmes

In general, the proposed GPPs were well received by the majority of the Steering Committee, although a number of members noted that the programmes varied in their stage of development and the process by which they are or will be formulated. Discussion also touched on the issue of the need to further clarify the process of developing GPPs,

The following captures some of the conclusion reached, although it was suggested that the discussion be reopened during the closed session.
1. The process by which a GPP is formulated should follow a similar consultation and planning procedure as undertaken by the ICT4ARD proposal, which was considered to be exceptional in its preparation.
2. The GPhI is eminently suitable for pursuing as a GPP and its formulation should proceed as planned.
3. While the NFTP proposal is interesting, further consultation with the regional fora is required to ascertain the true global nature and relative interest of different stakeholders in a GPP of this nature.
4. The GPP themes are complementary to those of CGIAR Challenge Programs and an effort might be made to seek synergies among some of the programs. One candidate would be the prospective CP on Desertification.
5. The on-going and pipeline GPPs have evolved in very distinctive ways, and Steering Committee recommended that the GFAR Secretariat review the original guidelines for the generation of GPP ideas, and the subsequent process by which these programmes are developed and implemented. The principles and guidelines should then orient the selection and subsequent development of future GPPs.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Financial report for 2004 and budget for 2005**

Ola Smith presented GFAR’s budget and financial situation, which shows a marked improvement over the situation at the same time last year. The presentation highlighted the budget allocated for each other pillars of the business plan for 2005. The Executive Secretary also indicated that there are a number of on-going conversations with prospective donors to ensure expected funds for the Business Plan implementation are raised.

In the discussion on the budget, the following points were raised and debated by Steering Committee Members:

- The resources made available by donors to GFAR are to support the global activities of GFAR. While it is understood that GFAR cannot be a success without effective and strong Regional fora, global resources should be not used to substitute for resources that need to be sourced locally to establish and maintain the base operations of regional fora, including staffing, at an appropriate level. Funds from GFAR should be used to activate and support programmes that help to forge inter-regional and global links and partnerships

- The financial report for 2004 presented lacked essential details in many respects, and additional efforts need to be made to represent the report with more details.

- The budget for 2005 presented by the Secretariat also needs to be structured and presented with greater details, and preferably following the formats used in previous years. The expenditures should better reflect activities concerned, and the need for a balanced budget with expenditures within pledged contributions was stressed. In this respect, the FAO representative Dietrich Leihner indicated that the not only must the budget be balanced with no projected shortfalls, it must also have a built in reserve to fall back on in case expected contributions come in late, as has always been the case.

- It was suggested that following further consultation with the regional fora the budget and financial report be represented to the Steering Committee so that an approval for the 2005 budget could be given.
Intervention of Ian Johnson and Francisco Reifschneider

Drs Ian Johnson and Francisco Reifschneider, Chair and Executive Secretary of the CGIAR respectively, joined the closed session of the Steering Committee Meeting and addressed the members.

Dr Johnson stressed the watershed nature of this year’s AGM. The accent for agricultural development now is not only productivity to meet food deficits but also on how to meet changing demands in terms of income generation for the rural poor and changing diets. This means paying more attention to non staple and non traditional higher value products, and to achieve productivity gains while managing water and land more carefully to protect the environment. Farming carbon is also an emerging opportunity for developing countries. GFAR has a particularly important role to play in the social issues surrounding agricultural development through strengthening the role and linkages between the public and non-public sector. The agricultural R&D paradigm has shifted. In the past the North did research for the South. Today world class research is undertaken in the South, and smaller countries need a collective agenda. Strategic thinking around these changes is required.

Dr Reifschneider complemented Dr Johnson’s words underlining the strengthening of ties between GFAR and the CGIAR and stressed the need for continuing feedback on how to do things differently, citing this year’s Farmers’ Dialogue as a concrete example.

During the discussion, Steering Committee members manifested their satisfaction at the growing links between the CGIAR and GFAR. In particular, the participation in the priority setting process was felt to be significant. Further opportunities now exist as the CGIAR expands its mandate to higher value products and value addition, areas in which GFAR has initiated work. Further involvement of GFAR stakeholders in the Challenge Programs should also be envisaged, with opportunities for greater regional fora leadership in, say, Central Asia.

Dr Johnson concluded that he felt there are two important areas in which GFAR and the CGIAR should work together: a) on joint publications on advocacy, and b) on public-private partnerships – including partnership with civil society, which is easy to say but difficult to act upon.

Governance and other issues

Charter review

John Russell presented the proposed changes and amendments to the GFAR Charter. Steering Committee members were requested to review the document and provide feedback by 15 April, for finalisation of the modified Charter and its subsequent approval in the next Steering Committee Meeting.

GFAR 2006

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that a decision on the venue for GFAR 2006 needs to be made by March or April at the latest and requested for suggestions as to the theme of the conference. The GFAR Chair will send a proposal to three potential candidates: Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and China. FORAGRO requested time for consultation. The Executive Secretary proposed that the Management Team make the final decision on the location once offers had been obtained.

GPP endorsement

The Steering Committee members present when this agenda point was tabled, questioned whether there was quorum for taking decisions with respect to the GPP. Those present considered the ICT4ARD and GPhI proposals to be mature and were endorsed for further development. The NTFP proposal needs to complete a process of consultation, while recognising that Asia and Africa regional fora had shown interest in the topic. The Steering Committee reiterated the need for a review of GPP principles and guidelines for development, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.
Concluding remarks
The Steering Committee Meeting was concluded with the Chair thanking the members for their participation and patience, especially given the length of the proceedings.

The meeting was adjourned at 21h00

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14th GFAR SC Meeting
AGENDA
Sunday 25, October

09:00 Welcome Address
   by Dr Mohammad Roozitalab, Chair of GFAR

09:10 Adoption of the agenda

09:15 Approval of minutes of the 13th GFAR Steering Committee meeting

09:20 Highlights of GFAR 2004 Activities (20 min. presentation + 20 min. discussion)

10:00 Statements and reports of GFAR Constituencies: NGOs, FOs, IARCS (10 min presentation + 10 discussions)

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Statements of GFAR Constituencies cont’d: ARIs, Private Sector, and Donors

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Updates on ongoing GPPs:
   a) Prolinnova
   b) Under Utilised Species
   c) DMC

15:00 Proposals on new GPPs
   a) ICM for ARD
   b) Non Timber Forest products

15:45 Summary Report of 14th NARS Sub-Committee meeting

16:00 Closing Remarks

16:05 Coffee break

CLOSED SESSION
16:30 Adoption of the agenda
16:50 Governance and other issues:
a) Review of the Charter
b) Representation in the Steering Committee
c) GFAR 2006
d) CGIAR

19:00 Closing Remarks