The following were present:

1. Monica Kapiriri, Vice-Chairperson, GFAR
2. Adel El Beltagy, Chairman-Designate, GFAR
3. Isabel Alvarez, Member, FAO
4. Shantanu Mathur, Member, representing Donor Support Group Chair.
5. Alessandro Meschinelli, Member, IFAD
6. Ola Smith, Executive Secretary, GFAR and Secretary to the MTM
7. Ajit Maru, Research Officer, GFAR

1.1. Welcome remarks

Monica Kapiriri chaired the Management Team Meeting in the absence of Mohamed Roozitalab, who was unable to attend the meeting. The meeting started with the Chair requesting all present to introduce themselves for the benefit of Adel El-Beltagy the incoming chair of GFAR.

Adel El-Beltagy in his introduction commended the work GFAR has been doing over the last several years. He also asked that his gratitude be conveyed to his colleagues who selected him to serve as the next Chair of GFAR for the confidence placed on him, and promised to do his best to merit that vote of confidence.

1.2. Adoption of meeting agenda

The agenda of the 14th MTM was tabled by the Chair and examined. It was decided to discuss the issues related to the contract of the Executive Secretary under the agenda item: Ad-hoc Committee for developing a process for the evaluation of the Executive Secretary. The agenda was adopted unanimously and is available as Appendix I.

1.3. Approval of the minutes of the 13th management team meeting held on the 15th of November 2005

The minutes of the 13th Management Team meeting held on the 15th of November were presented and examined.

As under item 2.6 paragraph iii, Shantanu Mathur reiterated the pledged support from IFAD. The proposal will focus on research and capacity building with regard to partnerships for improving collaborative knowledge generation, management, learning and innovation. This would entail organizational change based on an action-research-training methodology, with a strong capacity strengthening perspective - currently under discussion between the GFAR Secretariat and IFAD.

Action Item: GFAR Secretariat to follow-up on the Concept Note
The Chairperson thanked Shantanu Mathur for the clarification. The minutes of the 13th MTM were accepted and approved unanimously as tabled.

2. **SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS**

2.1. **Finalization of the terms of reference for the second external review of GFAR**

Upon request by the Chairperson, Ola Smith presented a table (Appendix II) that showed responses to comments and suggestions received on the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the second external review of GFAR from the Steering Committee (SC) when it was presented during the Marrakech meetings in December 2005, and also from members of the Donor Support Group (DSG) to whom it was sent after the Marrakech meetings. A revised version (Version 2: Appendix III) of the TORs which incorporated many of the comments and suggestions received was then presented to the MT along side a track-mode version prepared by a member of the DSG Jean-Francois Giovannetti, to bring out the suggested changes.

The MT carefully considered all of the comments and suggestions to accommodate them in the attached final version (Appendix IV). Some of the comments and suggestions raised number of fundamental issues, for example, on the focus and scope of the review and the governance issue. The discussions by the MTM are summarized below.

a) **Section 2:** Focus of the Evaluation. In the chapeau of this section the original version suggested that the starting point of the evaluation should be a review of the outputs of the first evaluation and then to build on this by asking new questions on how effective GFAR has been in terms of addressing its goals and objectives. Jean-Francois Giovannetti (JFG) suggested that the text should read how effective GFAR has been in terms of adding value to the achievement of a global agenda in Agricultural Research for Development. After carefully considering this suggestion, the MT felt that the second formulation is rather too wide in scope and would be difficult for the review team to address. It therefore recommended retaining the original formulation.

b) **Section 2:** Still under the same section on the focus of the evaluation, JFG also suggested that the review team should examine how GFAR can specifically contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Here also after a careful consideration of the suggestion, the MT felt that the objectives and business plans of GFAR were not originally formulated with a focus on the MDGs and this term of reference would distract the reviewers from the primary purpose of the evaluation.

c) **Addressing the governance issue:** Comments received ranged from not reviewing governance, putting less emphasis on it, to fully reviewing it. The MT felt GFAR should be considered as a system made up of different parts, and wondered if it would be efficient to review some components and not others, given that the components form a whole which needs to keep evolving to respond to a changing external environment. It suggested that while it is not, and should not be the main focus of the exercise, attention should be paid to it in terms of examining the relationships and interactions among its various statutory components - the Steering Committee, Programme Committee, Management Team and the
Secretariat, and make recommendations on how to improve these relationships for a more effective GFAR, without calling into question the raison d’être / purpose of GFAR

The outcome of this careful deliberation is summarized as follows:

i) Full acceptance of suggested text and/ or comments. For example a suggested reorganization of the clustered areas of review in a more logical manner, starting with the concept and relevance, followed by the business plan and finally the governance and functional structures

ii) Minor modification of suggested text (mainly editorial)

iii) Compromise text to accommodate different but equally valid views. For example, there was no consensus on whether to address the issues of current make up and relevance of the stakeholders groups or how the subsidiarity concept is addressed within GFAR.

The attached revised version (Appendix IV) has taken all of the above issues into consideration.

The MT also considered the budget which showed details in terms of the number of working days, for each of the activities including report writing and travel by the reviewers. However, the MT decided that the Secretariat should prepare a new budget after the reviewers would have been selected, in order to reflect actual costs (fees) based on the market value of the selected reviewers and their home base which will affect travel costs. It was also agreed that all reviewers need not visit all groups and institutions to be consulted

2.2. Selection of the review team for the second external review of GFAR

On the basis of the CVs of the 7 candidates received before the meeting, and taking into account such factors as experience, complementary strengths, area of expertise, and gender each member of the MT selected a core team of three persons.

Two of the candidates, who were common on the selected list of all MT members were: Julian Gonsalves, and Dominic Hounkonou. Two other candidates found suitable were Henri Rouillé d’ Orfeuil and Abdelmajid Slama. However, because of their past strong ties with GFAR, the MT was reluctant to consider any of the two as a core team member. It was suggested that they should rather be requested to serve as resource persons to be consulted as required and at cost. The MT therefore suggested limiting the core group to two persons, to be supported by the two resource persons. It also suggested that Julian Gonsalves be requested to serve as the team leader

As requested by the Steering Committee, IFAD confirmed it will provide a secretariat to manage the process, and will provide financial support as well. A contact person to whom all correspondence pertaining to the review should be sent was identified as: Ms Isabella Mazzarella (i.mazzarella@ifad.org)

The MT also suggested that the SC should nominate a team of 2 persons plus the resource
persons to brief the reviewers at the beginning of the exercise.

**Action Items:**

i) The Executive Secretary should send the revised TORs for the review and the outcome of the selection of the reviewers to the Steering Committee for its approval on a no objection basis as decided in Marrakech.

ii) Following SC approval, Executive Secretary should inform selected reviewers and confirm their continued interest and availability to carry out the exercise.

iii) Review Secretariat set up at IFAD to take over the organization of the review thereafter, in a way to ensure that the exercise is started latest by mid-March 2006.

3

**Update on preparatory activities for GFAR 2006 General Conference**

Upon request by the Chairperson, Ajit Maru from the Secretariat presented a brief update on on-going preparatory activities towards the GFAR 2006 Conference scheduled to be held in New Delhi (9th to 11th November 2006). The report (attached) covered the outcome of the deliberations of the CWG on the sub-themes and a draft programme.

He also presented the conference logo designed by an artist in consultation with the Secretariat. He informed the MT of a planned visit to India by the Executive Secretary and himself for meeting the local conference organizing committee to discuss detailed logistics for the conference. The MT commented on the presentations and made some suggestions with regards to the write up on the sub-themes and the draft programme. It acknowledged the considerable progress made towards the organization of the conference and endorsed the proposed follow up plans.

In an e-mail message sent to the Secretariat, Anne Germain from CIDA raised an important issue of potential overlap between GFAR 2006 and AGM 2006 given the proximity in time, and wondered if it was possible to take some actions that would avoid a competition for participants and their commitment. As requested by Anne, the matter was put before the MT. Ola Smith informed the MT that he has on a number of occasions discussed the issue with the Director of the CGIAR Office since he became aware that India is a candidate host for the AGM as well. No decision has apparently been taken the CGIAR Executive Committee with regards to the venue of AGM although the dates have been set. Since no decision has yet been made with regards to the venue of AGM, it was difficult to see how to organize the two events to prevent such an overlap. If AGM were also held in India, then it might be possible to hold the two meetings close to each other, and benefit from the resulting synergies. If the AGM is held elsewhere, the prospects of preventing the overlap became more difficult, given that the Government of India has accepted to host GFAR 2006. The MT mandated the Chair of GFAR to liaise with the Director of CGIAR and the Executive Committee and examine the possibility of AGM being held in India and bringing the two events closer to each other.

**Action Items**

i) Secretariat to continue with the on-going preparatory activities for GFAR 2006, and regularly update the SC on its progress.
ii) The Chair of GFAR should liaise with the Chair of CGIAR and the Director of the CGIAR office to examine possibilities of holding GFAR 2006 and AGM 2006 at the same venue (same country) and in close proximity date wise.

2.4. Follow up on action points from Steering Committee Meeting of December 2005

2.4.1. Ad-hoc Committee on Terms of Reference for a Finance Committee

During the discussion on this agenda item, Shantanu Mathur the convener of the committee set up to develop a framework and terms of reference for a finance committee informed the MT that he will initiate discussion within the committee and ensure that a draft report is made available for SC approval by June 2006 as requested.

Action Item: Shantanu Mathur to initiate discussion for a framework and TOR for Finance Committee

2.4.2. Ad-hoc Committee for developing a process for the evaluation of the Executive Secretary

Under this agenda item, the MT discussed next steps with regards to the Executive Secretary whose current contract ends in June 2006. The MT examined a letter dated 13th of February 2006 received from the Executive Secretary (Appendix V) in which he requested for a final extension of his contract to December 2006, to enable him properly conclude a number of important and on-going activities including the GFAR review, GFAR 2006 General Conference, on-going negotiations for future funding for GFAR, etc. In addition, he informed the MT that he will reach the mandatory retirement age at FAO early in 2007, and will therefore be seeking no further contract renewal after this final 6 months extension.

The MT also considered a confidential memo written on this request by the Chair of GFAR and which was favourable to the request for a final 6 months contract extension. In addition, MT received a copy of a memo sent by the convener of the above Committee with regards to the protocol for future evaluation of the Executive Secretary, and what to do this current year.

After carefully considering all of the issues raised, the MT recommended as follows to the Steering Committee

i) That the contract of the Executive Secretary be renewed for a final 6 months up to the end of December 2006,

ii) That a Search Committee be selected as soon as possible and mandated to start the process for the selection of a new Executive Secretary who will assume office in January 2007.
**Action Item: The recommendations of the MTM to be conveyed expeditiously to the Steering Committee**

2.5. **Next Steering Committee Meeting**

The Executive Secretary informed the MT that the Director General of FAO has been informed that the new GFAR chair will start his three-year mandate in June 2006, and that GFAR will like to seize the opportunity to make a formal introduction of the chair to him. The Executive Secretary therefore suggested that next Steering Committee meeting be organized to coincide with this event, during which a meeting with Senior FAO management would also take place. This is in line with the meetings time table he presented for approval to the SC in Marrakech. The exact dates for the SC meeting will be communicated as soon confirmation of availability of the new Chair and the DG FAO is known.

The Executive Secretary also suggested that the next meeting of the Programme Committee (PC) should take place in September, by which time the Committee on Finance would have been set up. The Finance Committee would then work with the PC on the GFAR 2007 budget, prior to its presentation to the SC for approval, as decided during the SC meeting in Marrakech.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 17h00