Collaborative Research Partnerships

Briefing of GFAR External Evaluation Panel

Global Forum on Agricultural Research
Rome, Italy
8 May 2006
Global Forum on Agricultural Research

Outline

1. Collaborative Research Partnerships: what they mean to GFAR
2. The Global Partnership Programmes
   - Definition and key principles
   - GPP evolution
   - GPP evaluation
3. DURAS Competitive Grant Scheme
4. Learning and sharing information about partnerships
5. Looking to the future
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1. Collaborative Research Partnerships: what they mean to GFAR

Business Plan 2004-2006

Pillar I
Interregional collaboration

Pillar II
Collaborative research partnerships

Pillar III
Advocacy, public awareness and strategic thinking

Pillar IV
Management information systems

Active involvement of civil society organizations

Engagement of the private sector

http://www.egfar.org
Objective of the Collaborative Research Partnerships Pillar

To promote, develop and implement research partnerships on key ARSD issues that are of regional and/or global concern, and identified by stakeholders in a participatory manner.

GFAR Business Plan 2004-2006
Global Forum on Agricultural Research

1. Collaborative Research Partnerships: what they mean to GFAR

Rationale: why are partnerships at the heart of the GFAR concept?

• Complexity of the challenges in achieving multiple objectives of ARD
• The need for systems perspectives to problem solving
• No one institution or organization has all the skills or capacity to achieve the impact required
• Desired outcome: more appropriate research, quicker and more applicable
Modus operandi

• Since 1999, GFAR adopted the Global Partnership Programme mechanism (GPP) as its ‘preferred tool’ to promote and learn about partnerships
• In 2004, GFAR incorporated a competitive grant scheme (DURAS) to foster good practice in partnership building and South-North collaboration
Timeline of events related to CRP

- 1999: GFAR Secretariat makes a call for GPP ideas
- 2000: 1st GFAR Conference, Dresden (May)
- 2001: GFAR-IFAD Technical Workshop on GPP (October)
- 2001: Regional Forums complete priority setting
- 2002: Workshop on Commodity Chain Programs (June)
- 2003: 2nd GFAR Conference, Dakar (May)
- 2004: GFAR Business Plan Retreat (February)
- 2004: DURAS Competitive Grant Scheme starts (May)
- 2006: GPP Learning and Review Workshop (January)
1. Collaborative Research Partnerships: what they mean to GFAR

Expected outputs 2004-2006

- Up-to-date and useful information on GPPs available
- 2 - 3 pipeline GPPs developed and being implemented
- Phase 2 of one or two on-going GPPs started
- New GPP ideas in pipeline
- Recommendation on the continued relevance and adequacy of GPPs as a tool for partnership building
- Robust mechanism for fostering South-North collaborative partnerships in place (DURAS)

GFAR Business Plan 2004-2006

http://www.egfar.org
2. The Global Partnership Programmes: definition and key principles

Definition

GPPs are collaborative efforts addressing strategic ARD issues of global relevance jointly developed, carried out and owned by a set of diverse stakeholders.

Review of the Global Partnership Programmes.
Gonsalves and Niangado, 2006.
GPPs should:

• Be derived from stakeholder priorities
• Fall within the four thematic areas defined in Dresden:
  – Genetic resources management and biotechnology
  – Natural resource management and agro-ecology
  – Commodity chains/under-utilized species
  – Policies management and institutional development
Key principles (abridged)

- Nurture different kinds of partnership (N-S, S-S, PPP, etc.)
- Incorporate the participation of diverse stakeholders
- Be of interest to two or more regions
- Build on and add value to on-going activities at different levels (micro, meso, macro)
- Value capacity building and knowledge sharing
- Monitor and evaluate process (internal) and assess impact (external)
- Promote the ‘open nucleus’ principle of partnership

2. The Global Partnership Programmes: GPP evolution

‘Generations’ of GPP

- On-going initiatives that were used as first models
  - PROMUSA (and PROCORD)

- Programmes arising from 1999 call and endorsed at GFAR 2000 in Dresden
  - DMC, PROLINNOVA and UUS

- Post 2001 GFAR-IFAD workshop GPP
  - ICM4ARD, GPhl-LFM, NFTP
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GPP acronyms

- PROMUSA: The Global Programme for Musa Improvement
- DMC: Direct Sowing Mulch-based Systems and Conservation Agriculture
- PROLINNOVA: Promoting Local innovation in Ecologically Oriented Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- UUS: Underutilized Species
- ICM4ARD: Information and Communication Management for Agricultural Research for Development
- GPhl-LFM: Global Post-harvest Initiative: Linking Farmers to Markets
- NTFP: Non Timber Forest Products

http://www.egfar.org
GPP ideas that have not progressed

- Agriculture-livestock integration
- Organizational partnerships for agricultural research
- Putting knowledge to work
- Innovative policy directions for sustainable development
- Trypanosomosis

Smith, O. 2003.
## 2. The Global Partnership Programmes: GPP evolution

### Present status of GPPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPP</th>
<th>Gestation period</th>
<th>Year initiated</th>
<th>Situation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROMUSA</td>
<td>(1 year)</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Transition from research network to a true multi-stakeholder R&amp;D partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROLINNOVA</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Expanding. Needs to foster relation with RF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMC</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Stalled. Has moved back to consultation phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UUS</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Executing second phase. Needs to broaden stakeholder participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICM4ARD</td>
<td>2 years +</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>In establishment phase. Is championed and funded by GFAR Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPhI-LFM</td>
<td>(5 years)</td>
<td>(2007)</td>
<td>Presents GPP proposal to GFAR-PC in Sept 06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFTP</td>
<td>(3 years)</td>
<td>(2007)</td>
<td>Presents GPP proposal to GFAR-PC in Sept 06</td>
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2. The Global Partnership Programmes: GPP evaluation

The Review Team:

- Concluded that the GPP concept is still highly relevant but that the original intentions have yet to be achieved
- Identified key elements for GPP success
- Urged the establishment of an adequate support structure within the GFAR Secretariat
- Encouraged donors to play a more pro-active role in all stages of GPP identification and development
- Highlighted the responsibilities of the Regional Forums

3. DURAS Competitive Grant Scheme

Objectives

• to encourage and promote innovation
• to scale up innovative practices developed in the south
• to enhance scientific capacity of southern partners
3. DURAS Competitive Grant Scheme

- Promotes good practice in R&D partnerships
  - Seed funds for proposal development
  - Three partners of which one is CSO
  - Monitoring and evaluation
- 4 themes
- Two calls for proposals
- 12 projects financed

http://www.duras-project.net/index
4. Learning and sharing information about partnerships

- Facilitate access to GPPs through EGFAR window
- Synthesize results and experiences, compare lessons learned across GPP
- Provide information about multi-stakeholder partnerships and partnership building
- (Monitoring and evaluating partnership quality in GPPs)
4. Learning and sharing information about partnerships

- This is “work in progress”
  - Slowly improving the information available on EGFAR
  - Data base on research partnerships for ARD and preliminary literature review
  - Concept note prepared and presented to IFAD
  - Possible GFAR participation in Science Council study of IARC-CSO partnerships
5. Looking to the future

- Strengthen complementarity between DURAS and GPP mechanisms
- Next period is critical for the credibility of the GPP mechanism
- GFAR Secretariat’s competence and capacity to provide service support to GPPs is precarious
- Evaluation has shown us what needs to be done