The new EGFAR

The new EGFAR webspace

A virtual space to access, share, exchange and communicate information and knowledge on agricultural research and development
Contents

• Why re-engineer EGFAR
• Re-engineering EGFAR: the proposal
• Underneath the bonnet
WHY RE-ENGINEER EGFAR
Why re-engineer EGFAR

- GFAR is rapidly evolving its vision and adding to its mission and programs
- ICT is changing very rapidly, offering new facilities that can help realize the vision of EGFAR
- Stakeholders, especially in the South, are becoming more capable to use ICT to manage ARD information
The re-design is intended to comply fully with the original objectives of EGFAR and to enhance some of the key concepts of its original vision by exploiting new ICT.
EGFAR’s vision

EGFAR was initially

• conceived as a tool to fulfill the need for a “a communication platform [...] to exchange experiences, information and knowledge among all stakeholders involved in ARD”

• defined as the “electronic communication and information system of the GFAR stakeholders”

• defined as “a system of web pages”
EGFAR’s general objectives are:

1. provide “an interactive communication system among the stakeholders of ARD”

2. provide “information resources relevant to ARD and enhance access to them”, thus providing “gateway (portal) functions”

3. build and allow access to “knowledge pools” built “through collaborative efforts among stakeholders in a few high priority areas identified by them”
Implementation of objectives

Key tools which were originally identified to implement the main objectives

- **Objective 1 (interactive communication):**
  - **website**: stakeholders-led, decentralized management
  - **electronic forum**: communication platform
Implementation of objectives (2)

Key tools which were originally identified to implement the main objectives

- **Objective 2 (enhance access to information resources)**
  - enabling integration of ARD information through a “webring”:
    - decentralization
    - subsidiarity
    - multi-host resources
    - gateway functions
  - identifying and facilitating access to global ARD information resources
  - information “tailoring” to meet the needs of stakeholder groups and individual stakeholders
RE-ENGINEERING EGFAR
A PROPOSAL
Our viewpoint

from

a system of web pages

to

a virtual space

for

exchanging information and knowledge equitably among all stakeholders involved in ARD
a system of inter-related web pages

View points

a Virtual Space

HOME

Page 1
Page 2
Page 3
Page 4
Page 5
Page 6
Page 7

DATA
Institutions
Experts
Events

WebRing

Partner websites
All the web

ARD news
ARD search

Indexes
Directories

Archives
Documents
Media

Advanced searches
Keep informed
Knowledge basis

GFAR Stakeholders
Programmes
News

What is GFAR

Registered users

Content management
Tailored information
Personal data

Communication Tools
My EGFAR

Directions

_advanced_searches

Keep informed

Documents

Media

Advanced searches

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What is GFAR

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_advanced_searches
a system of inter-related web pages

View points

HOME

Page 1  Page 2  Page 3

Page 4  Page 5  Page 6  Page 7

a Virtual Space
- routes of users
- routes of information
a Virtual Space

• a website that enables users to share and exchange information, tailors their information needs, offers communication tools and provides an organized interactive knowledge basis can be defined as a “virtual space” where a community can operate

• a virtual space should implement those operational functionalities that fulfill the specific needs of its reference community
EGFAR as a Virtual Space

EGFAR can be the Virtual Space of the GFAR community

• EGFAR’s virtual space mimics the physical GFAR space for discussion and action on ARD

• EGFAR’s virtual space realizes the original main objectives by fully implementing the key concepts related to the objectives

see following slides: key concept(s) → implementation
stakeholder-led website / decentralized management

- the contents of the future e-GFAR will be written, edited and published by stakeholders’ representatives facilitated by the GFAR Secretariat staff, through a very intuitive and secure web interface.
Interactive tools

communication platform, knowledge sharing, “tailoring”

internet

- participate in open forums
- subscribe to newsletter
- receive news by email
- get information through RSS

- manage certain sections of the website contents
- upload documents / media
- participate in forums / lists
- receive “tailored” information

extranet

Stakeholders / projects representatives

GFAR SC and GFAR Secretariat Staff

- upload / download internal documents / media
- participate in internal WIKI and internal Bulletin Board

intranet

General public

Stakeholders / projects representatives
The new EGFAR

MENU TREE

Part 1

My e-GFAR

The section of EGFAR devoted to management, interaction and customization

Content management

(According to permissions)
- Edit contents in section
- New contents in section

Community

(According to role)
- Download / Read documents
- Upload / Edit documents
- Bulletin Board
- Wiki
- List server / forums

Account

Personal data
- Subscriptions
- Customizations
Knowledge: access to partners’ information

decentralization, subsidiarity, multi-host resources, gateway function

the WebRing

stakeholders’ websites

search / browse

stakeholders’ databases (examples)

GFAR-hosted databases (FODABASE etc.)

NARS database

Wisard database

Other partner’s database

agreed standard platform

gateway

EGFAR
Knowledge: access to external resources

facilitating access to relevant external resources

ARD news / advanced search

• Information resources not part of the WebRing:
  – selection of relevant websites
  – selection of relevant resources making information available through RSS feed → regular and real-time updating of external information
knowledge management, information platform

the document / media repository

- GFAR documents/media: immediately published on the website

- GFAR documents/media: organized according to a suitable classification (see next slide)

- GFAR documents: fully searchable

- Partners’ documents: agree on a taxonomy and on search criteria where possible
Knowledge: facilitating access

“converting information into knowledge that is useful for different end-users and stakeholders, and facilitating access to it”, knowledge management

taxonomies

• a real value added by EGFAR are “paths to the information” which are clear and logical from the point of view of the stakeholders, which means correct presentation, classification and indexing of the information
“EGFAR will have to promote standards (use those already available) to be shared by the various stakeholders”, information “tailoring”

- Taxonomies: compliance with existing standards
  - a thematic classification (ARD themes, commodities...)
  - a geographic classification

- Development of taxonomies fitting exactly the stakeholders’ needs
  - a “GFAR-specific” classification
  - a “type” classification (media? type: institution, document...)
Knowledge: “tailoring”

“converting information into knowledge that is useful for different end-users and stakeholders, and facilitating access to it”, information “tailoring”

keeping updated

• a structured mailing system filtering information according to users’ preferences

• possibility to send via email regular updates on information selected by the user

• newsletter
Knowledge base

The section of EGFAR devoted to shared, exportable and “tailored” knowledge

The new EGFAR

MENU TREE

Part 2
stakeholders-led website, “the electronic information system of the GFAR stakeholders”

- what is expected from the stakeholders is support in order to:
  - set the ARD agenda
  - execute the ARD agenda through programs
  - monitor the programs
  - evaluate the programs

- e-GFAR should be perceived by the stakeholders as their reference website when it comes to the activities related to the setting of the ARD agenda and to the monitoring and evaluation of relative programs
The GFAR pages

stakeholders-led website,
“the electronic information system
of the GFAR stakeholders”

• The information which is primarily expected to be clearly presented on the website is information on:
  – Programs
  – Stakeholders
  – Meetings
  – Latest events / updates on projects

• In fact, these are the main voices of the present e-GFAR menu, and they will be the first voices of the menu of the new e-GFAR as well
The new EGFAR

MENU TREE

Part 3

About GFAR

The section of e-GFAR dedicated to the GFAR pages
The new EGFAR
Overall view
Main voices of the menu tree
Part 3

UNDERNEATH THE BONNET

Technologies underneath the re-design
### The re-design underneath the bonnet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information &amp; communication services layer</th>
<th>Virtual Space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application layer</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-house developed Middleware</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSP pages, Java classes, Servlets and Beans, XML definitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framework: CMS based on the MVC model + 3rd party libraries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment layer</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web server + Servlet engine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Persistent data layer</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Databases / Content repositories / Media repositories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oracle → MySql / XML, maybe JRE / File system</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Diagram Details:**

- **Virtual Space**
  - WebRing
  - ARD Searches
  - Knowledge base
  - Documents
  - Registered users
  - SEARCH MAP
  - Directions

- **My EGFAR**

- **GFAR Documents**

- **SEARCH MAP**

- **Tools & Services:**
  - Registered users
  - Directions
  - What is GFAR

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**Defined Components:**

- **My EGFAR**
  - What is GFAR
  - ARD Searches
  - Documents
  - Registered users
  - Directions

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**Diagram Notes:**

- The diagram illustrates the various layers and components of the system, including the application layer, environment layer, and persistent data layer. Each component is interconnected to demonstrate the flow of information and services.
The new EGFAR

THE END