



GFAR

GFAR Business Plan 2007-2009

GFAR Secretariat

**Global Forum on Agricultural Research
(GFAR)**

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ACRONYMS

AARINENA	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa
AgREE	Agricultural Research, Extension and Education
APAARI	Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development
ARIs	Advanced Research Institutions
BP	Business Plan
CACAARI	Central Asia and Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CGS	Competitive Grants Scheme
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DSG	Donor Support Group
DURAS	Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems
EGFAR	Electronic Global Forum on Agricultural Research
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research for Africa
FOs	Farmers' Organizations
FORAGRO	Foro Regional de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GFAR-SC	GFAR Steering Committee
GFUUS	Global Facilitation Unit for Under Utilized Species
GPPs	Global Partnership Programmes
IARCs	International Agricultural Research Centers
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ICM	Information and Communication Management
ICM4ARD	Information Communication Management for Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)
IFAP	International Federation of Agricultural Producers
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
LSPM	Linking Smallholder Producers to Markets

MIS	Management Information System
MT	Management Team
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NATURA	Network of European Agricultural Universities and Scientific Complexes for Agricultural Development.
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NTFPs	Non Timber Forest Products
PC	Program Committee
POG	Program Oversight Group
PROLINNOVA	Promotion of Local Innovation
RAIS	Regional Agricultural Information System
RF	Regional Forum
SC	Steering Committee
SO	Strategy Objective
SP	Strategic Plan
SRF	Sub-regional Forum
YPARD	Youth Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that includes: National Agricultural Research Systems from the north (Northern NARS), National Agricultural Research Systems from the south (Southern NARS), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR) and Non-CGIAR International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs), Farmers' Organizations (FOs), Non Governmental Organizations(NGOs), the Private Sector (PS), Donors and Development Agencies. It serves as a neutral platform for dialogue and consensus-building. It provides advocacy for action on agricultural research for development (ARD) priorities.

Covering the period from 2007 to 2009 and fourth in the series, the current GFAR Business Plan (BP) is prepared through an inclusive participatory consultative process that culminated in a retreat held in Alexandria, Egypt from 30 March to 1 April 2007, with a balanced representation from the above mentioned GFAR stakeholders.

GFAR Comparative Advantages

The value added to GFAR is driven by its key strengths as reconfirmed by the GFAR Second External Review. These strengths consist of:

- Neutral global platform for dialogue on consensus-building and advocacy for action on agricultural research priorities for agricultural development of global concern;
- Balanced statutory representation in GFAR governance of major stakeholders in ARD from the South and the North with equal voices in decision-making;
- Strong trust by stakeholders to GFAR for promoting partnerships and strategic alliances among them;
- Close and effective links to NARS for influencing research priority settings.

Strategic Objectives

The BP builds on the GFAR 2004-2013 strategy, as realigned to reflect the current global and regional challenges in ARD and takes into consideration the recommendations of the GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference, the GFAR Second External Review, the lessons learned from the implementation of the 2004-2006 BP and the unique comparative advantages of GFAR. The selection of the BP activities were guided by the need to shift agricultural research, education and extension systems from a narrow technological focus towards a more interactive, multidisciplinary, gender sensitive and integrated approach to solve the inter-related complex issues of poverty alleviation, food security and conservation of natural resources in a rapid and threatening global climate change context.

While the vision, mission and pillars of the GFAR 2004-2013 strategy remain valid, the priority areas of intervention, projects and outputs of the BP are set to meet the following four re-aligned and consolidated Strategic Objectives (SO):

- ***SO 1: consensus-building and advocacy for action on agricultural research and innovation priorities;***
- ***SO 2: promotion of global and regional partnerships for collaborative research and innovation;***
- ***SO 3: knowledge and Communication for Agricultural research and Innovation;***
- ***SO 4: strengthening the Institutional Capacities of GFAR and its Stakeholders.***

The Three-year Rolling Plan

Project Portfolio

Consensus-Building and Advocacy for Action on Adaptation to Climate Change

The viability of agro-ecosystems and future food security, particularly in food shortages of developing countries are exposed to threats from increased climate variability in the form of changes in temperature and rainfall regimes, increased drought and flooding and general shifts in the prevailing conditions required to produce food. Solutions at a global scale for adaptation to climate change and variability are needed. This requires regional and global dialogues for consensus-building and advocacy for action by policy makers, scientists, development specialists, farmers' organizations and CSOs for a concerted global and pressing research agenda on adaptation to climate change. GFAR is well placed to facilitate this dialogue.

Enabling Transformation in Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Systems

The globalization of agricultural trade, the degradation of natural resources, the climate change, the knowledge-based agriculture, the changing nature of societal needs, the increased role of the private sector and CSOs, are emerging forces in driving the urgent reforms for retooling the agricultural research, extension and education systems to serve the needs of the demands of today's society and future generation. The reforms would aim at: i) a better balance between theoretical and bio-physical sciences educational content for agricultural productivity increases on one hand and more skills in inter-disciplinary and problem solving approaches on the other hand; ii) ensuring better interdependency between education, research, innovations and knowledge communication. This requires regional and global dialogues for consensus-building and advocacy for reforms. GFAR is well placed to facilitate an inclusive dialogue in this area.

Linking Small Holders Producers to Market

This program aims at fostering collaborative partnership and institutional mechanisms for effective linkages between smallholder producers and markets to improve their income on a sustainable manner through their integration in the market chain as active partners to engage in value addition activities. The output would be to develop a global multi-stakeholder GPP and launch its implementation with secured financing by more than one donor. The research dimension and innovative features of the program relates to: 1) the institutional form and governance structure of the partnership arrangement; 2) action research linked to donors' ongoing investment projects involving small producers and private agribusiness companies and marketing chains; 3) networking, cross fertilisation and knowledge sharing between sub-regional programs.

Accelerated program for adaptive research and transfer to farmers of available technologies for the management of on farm water use efficiency

Most countries in the dry areas are facing increasing water scarcity. Climate variability in the form of changes in rainfall regimes is expected to exacerbate the severity of water scarcity. This project aims at accelerating the application by farmers of available research results and best practices for on farm water use efficiency such as water harvesting, supplementary irrigation, and agro-management techniques developed by farmers or generated by applied research work conducted in benchmark sites of global and regional relevance. To be led by NARS through their regional Fora, the program would built and complement on-going collaborative applied research efforts by, NARS and the CGIAR centres and particularly its Water and Food challenge program.

Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems (DURAS)

This on-going project demonstrated that in order to be highly effective agricultural research has to be driven, implemented and managed not only in consultation but in partnership with all stakeholders including the civil society and particularly farmers' organizations (FOs) and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). The aim is to closely monitor the implementation of the project until its completion in June 2008, conceptualize and document the approaches and practices applied and replicate the project through a multi-donor second phase with global geographic coverage.

Enabling Small Farmers' Access to Knowledge for Innovation and Sustainable Livelihoods

Farmers now need information not only on new agricultural technologies, but also about what and how to grow and market their produce profitably to make their livelihoods sustainable. They need customized and innovative solutions for their unique problems. These solutions are increasingly based on blending knowledge and information from various sources. GFAR, with its mission and range of stakeholders, is uniquely placed to facilitate a dialogue among ARD stakeholders for building awareness and advocating approaches to mobilize and enable access to knowledge from a variety of sources that contribute to innovation in smallholder agriculture. This includes the need for transformation in agriculture-related systems, institutions and processes.

Support Activities

Monitoring of ongoing partnership programs

During the period of the Business Plan, GFAR Secretariat would provide an oversight role for the on-going partnership programs including: The Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Partnership programme, the Global Facilitation Unit for Under Utilised Species (GFUUS), PROLINNOVA (Promoting Local Innovation) and the Information Communication Management for ARD (ICM4ARD).

Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of GFAR and its Stakeholders

The support activities would target: i) the Regional Fora constituencies (NGOs, farmers organisations); ii) the inter-regional collaboration (commodity and thematic networks); iii) the CGIAR-Regional for a collaboration including the participation of NARS and their farmers' organization constituencies in the CGIAR meetings and the continuation of the Stakeholders Committee for the Generation Challenge Program iv) the GFAR governance (statuary meetings); and v) the capacity of the GFAR-Secretariat (staffing, budget management and communication).

Implementation of the Business Plan

The implementation of the Business Plan is considered as a collective responsibility of GFAR stakeholders at large and not only of the GFAR-Secretariat. All partners willing to assume a lead implementation and resource mobilization role, in close collaboration with the GFAR-Secretariat for a particular project of the Business Plan, are encouraged to express their interest. Should the funding perspectives by donors prove to be a limiting factor; the six projects of the Business Plan and the support activities are to be considered by donors as options to choose from to match their funding priorities for ARD.

Operating Budget of the Business Plan

The total cost of restricted projects (table 5) for the BP period amounts to US\$5 019 487. Out of this amount, about 20% (US\$1 028 487) are secured for 2007 and 2008 mainly from France (DURAS project) and DFID. About 80% (US\$3 991 000) need to be mobilized for 2007 (US\$ 780 000), 2008 (US\$ 1 599 000) and 2009 (US\$ 1 612 000 respectively).

The total operating cost (table 4) for the GFAR-Secretariat and GFAR Governance for the triennial period of 2007-2009 amounts to US\$ 3 328 615, of which 62% is to be financed through core funding and 38% through charging the GFAR Secretary indirect cost (overhead) on restricted projects. The financing gap for 2007 amounts to US\$426 860 for which donors are invited to make financial contributions before the end of this year

I. Context for the GFAR 2007-2009 Business Plan

1.1 Process

1. GFAR operations are based upon a 10-year Strategic Plan (SP) that guides the programmes of the 3-year Rolling Business Plan (BP). In turn the BP guides the preparation of the GFAR-Secretariat Annual Work Plan and Budget, the definition of the GFAR-Secretariat staffing requirement and the mobilization of resources to finance the operating budget. The SP and the BP are developed through consultations with GFAR stakeholders and partners. The inclusive consultative process for the 2007-2009 BP started at the 2006 GFAR Triennial Conference, followed by a participatory formulation retreat and ended with the approval of the BP by the GFAR Steering Committee. The current GFAR Strategic Plan for the period from 2004 to 2013, although still valid and relevant for the vision and mission of GFAR, requires some adjustments in the strategic objectives and the areas of interventions to reflect the current context.

2. The 2007-2009 BP builds on the GFAR 2004-2013 strategy as realigned to reflect: i) the current global challenges in agricultural research for development (ARD) as highlighted by the GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference; ii) the unique comparative advantages of GFAR as confirmed by its Second External Review completed in January 2007; and iii) the lessons learned from the implementation of the 2004-2006 BP.

3. The Participatory Retreat held from 30 March to 1 April 2007 at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt with representatives of the civil society organizations (farmers' organizations and , non-governmental organizations), regional research forums, research organizations of the North and South, donors and international development agencies represents a key milestone in the formulation of the Business Plan. The retreat set the direction and priorities for GFAR work during 2007-2009 to contribute in addressing the persistent challenge of poverty alleviation, stressed in the welcoming address of Mr Ismael Serageldin, current Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and among the key founders of GFAR in 1996 when he was a Vice President at the World Bank and Chair of the CGIAR.

1.2 Global ARD Challenges from the GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference

4. The GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference held in November 2006 in New Delhi, India advocated the following changes in ARD, with focus on pro-poor, smallholder farmers and producers to guide the future work of GFAR:

- The need to shift agricultural research from a narrow technological orientation towards an interactive science that involves societal stakeholders so that agricultural researchers, innovators, farmers and development workers working together to improve the use and the impact of generated knowledge and technology.
- The need for ARD to shift from an orientation to increase production and productivity towards more market-orientation and creation of sustainable livelihoods in rural areas while conserving valuable natural resources in the new context of climate change. At the crossroads of this shift are smallholder producers who have limited windows of opportunities outside agriculture to benefit from.
- The need to promote a type of ARD that will lead not only to the generation of technology and policy options but to changes in systems, institutions and processes for smallholders' access to research results that contribute to societal needs.

- The need for better quality partnerships for ARD to generate a constant flow of innovations to support an increasingly knowledge-based agriculture. This would be a response to growing recognition by stakeholders of agricultural development and that innovation does not occur in isolation but through linkages, collaboration and partnerships, as well as among people and institutions.

1.3 Lessons learned from the GFAR 2004-2006 Business Plan

5. The implementation of the previous GFAR BP for 2004-2006 provides a number of lessons and recommendations that guided the formulation of the new BP. These are:

- The 2004-2006 BP did not internalize the concept of a rolling programme for mobilizing sufficient financial resources during its last year (2006) to finance the activities of 2007, as the first year of the new BP. Given the low level of secured funding in 2007, the new Business Plan for 2007-2009 is conceived to be of a modest undertaking and directed towards a small number of relevant emerging concerns in order to allow time for resource mobilization and to strengthen the human resource capacity of the GFAR-Secretariat.
- During the second half of 2007, in addition to the completion of ongoing activities with secured funding in 2006) from 2006, the work programme would focus on transforming the new Business Plan into actionable few multiyear projects for presentation to lead donors for entry into their funding pipelines and financing during the last quarter of 2007 and/or early 2008. The new projects would be initiated as early as possible during 2007 and 2008 as resources become available and the required staff recruited.
- The GFAR-Secretariat would have a strict facilitation role with a clear exit strategy for the programmes and activities it advocates while maintaining a lead role of backstopping, oversight and monitoring of the outcome and impact of its operations. The current function of financial management for implementing partnership research programmes such as the case for the DURAS Project would be reduced to cover only the activities related to the capacity building of the GFAR at large, for interregional collaboration and for NARS CGIAR collaboration.

1.4 Unique Comparative Advantages of GFAR

6. The value added to GFAR is driven by its key strengths as reconfirmed by the GFAR Second External Review. These strengths consist of:

- a neutral global platform for dialogue and consensus-building and provides advocacy for action on agricultural research priorities of global concern;
- a balanced statutory representation in GFAR governance of major stakeholders in ARD from the South and the North with an equal voice in decision making;
- a strong trust by stakeholders to GFAR for promoting partnerships and strategic alliances among them;
- Close and effective links to NARS for influencing research priority settings.

II. Re-Alignment of GFAR Strategy to the Current Context

2.1 Introduction

7. The Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) was established in 1996 to: (i) serve as neutral global forum for stakeholders to build consensus on setting and implementing a global agricultural research agenda aimed at finding solutions to the persistent problems of food insecurity, hunger, extreme poverty and sustainable use of natural resources and (ii) 1998 promote cost effective partnerships and strategic alliances amongst stakeholders involved in agricultural research for development (ARD). GFAR became operational in 1998

2.2 The Vision

8. GFAR stakeholders envision a progressive development of a multi-purpose agriculture that:

- contributes in a cost-effective and sustainable manner to eliminate hunger and alleviate poverty, through environmentally sensitive resource-utilization systems and innovations;
- is diversified, innovative and supported by traditional knowledge as well as newly generated technologies;
- thrives on research outputs generated through the participation of different stakeholders, including farmers and their grassroots organizations, working together as equal partners;
- Stimulates long-term public and private policy support to the research and innovation systems that produce beneficial outputs and lasting impacts.

9. Convinced that developing a multi-purpose competitive agriculture requires sustained collaborative efforts amongst the several stakeholders involved in agricultural research for development, GFAR stakeholders envisage that the scientific community and other stakeholders involved in research for ARD will collaborate and work together as equal partners and in an inclusive manner to develop policy, technical and socio-economic solutions to address hunger, poverty and the degradation of natural resources.

2.3 The Mission

10. The mission of GFAR will continue to be the mobilization of and support to the scientific community and all other stakeholders involved in agricultural research and innovation systems for development, in their efforts to alleviate poverty, increase food security and promote sustainable utilization of natural resources.

2.4 The Strategy and Strategic objectives

11. In 2003, GFAR stakeholders collectively formulated a 10-year strategy (2004-2013) with a clear vision of the path which agriculture should take in the future, a guiding mission and a set of strategic objectives and priority areas of interventions that will contribute to realizing the vision. While the mission and vision remain valid today, the strategic objectives and priority intervention areas are in need of adjustment to re-align with emerging global concerns and priorities for agricultural development. The adjustment of the strategic objectives takes into consideration the need for new approaches to research, innovation extension, technology transfer and knowledge-blending and dissemination. The adjustment of the priority intervention areas embraces the relevant emerging global issues and particularly those related to climate change, increasing severity of water scarcity and quality, bioenergy, security of land tenure farmers' access to market, transformation in agricultural research, extension, education and blending of knowledge and enabling its access to enhance the sustainability of livelihoods of smallholder producers.

12. In line with the original four pillars of GFAR (advocacy and public awareness, collaborative research partnerships, inter-regional collaboration and management information systems), the outputs of the GFAR Business Plan for 2007-2009 are carefully prioritized to meet the following key strategic objectives as re-aligned to the current ARD context:

Strategic Objective 1: Consensus-building and advocacy for action on agricultural research and innovation priorities

13. One of the key issues on which there was a wide consensus during the past 3 triennial conferences was that GFAR should pay special attention to stepping-up its role of building consensus and advocacy for action on research priorities. GFAR will therefore focus on this strategic objective during the Business Plan period. Firstly, it will endeavour to add its voice and perspective to emerging global debates on strategic policy and institutional issues of great significance to and agricultural research for development. Stakeholders will select thematic issues of global importance; organize high-level regional and global debates and discussions on them to produce outputs in terms of options for solutions targeted to the appropriate decision-makers at different levels, i.e. national, regional and global. Secondly, GFAR will contribute to on-going efforts to demonstrate the vital contribution of agriculture to economic growth and human well-being and therefore sensitize policy makers on the need to increase and sustain the focus and investment in agricultural research in developing countries. Thirdly, GFAR will engage in an active advocacy role to ensure that Regional Fora are truly influencing the decision-making processes for implementing the current global and regional research priorities as defined collectively by NARS while taking into consideration those of CGIAR, as set by its Science Council.

Strategic Objective 2: Promotion of global and regional partnerships for collaborative research and innovation

14. Structured into Regional Fora (RF) and sub-Regional Fora (SRF), GFAR stakeholders have come to the collective realization that an important value-added niche of GFAR is in its neutral facilitating role for collaboration to promote an exchange of ideas, knowledge, technologies and information across the regions. During the next Business Plan, increased attention will be paid to exercise this special value-added role. In addition, GFAR will continue to use one of its successful tools, the Global Partnership Programmes (GPPs), to promote and implement collaborative research on global concerns for producing international public goods. These GPPs will continue to be viewed as collaborative initiatives led, developed and implemented by recognized GFAR stakeholder platforms, which remain open to participation by other stakeholders as and when they find a suitable niche role. Research partnerships will be developed around the following thematic areas considered to be of global importance by GFAR stakeholders and reaffirmed as still highly relevant now and likely to remain so in the near future: genetic resources management, biotechnology, commodity chains value addition, linking farmers to markets, under-utilized crops, management of policy change and institutional transformation, and research on adaptation and mitigation to climate change. The gender dimension will be addressed as a cross-cutting concern in all the research work on these thematic areas.

15. Under this strategic objective, the GFAR-Secretariat does not engage in the implementation of partnership programmes beyond the role of facilitation, design, advocacy for resource mobilization, monitoring and oversight. A role of financial management could be performed at the request of donors during the initial stage of launching a specific partnership, such as the case of the Non Timber Forest Products Programme (NTFP).

Strategic Objective 3: Knowledge and Communication for Agricultural Research and Innovation

16. The role that the new Information Communication Technology (ICT) could play in promoting the concept and the reality of partnership on which GFAR is founded, was reaffirmed by the 2006 GFAR Triennial conference, as well by the Second External Review of 2006. Such roles include: facilitating access to and the processing of information, the development and operation of networking activities, the promotion of participatory forms of research and the provision of a convenient forum for the exchange of views and positions, either on focused research themes or on more general topical debates.

17. The activities for achieving this objective will continue to focus on: a) the further improvement of EGFAR, the Forum's electronic information-communication medium which will develop new and more versatile capabilities for knowledge-sharing and information exchange amongst stakeholders; b) the strengthening of Regional Agricultural Information Systems (RAIS) for all the Regional Fora and the linking of these RAIS, within the context of a global system for managing ARD-related information, which will allow stakeholders to know who is doing what, where, for what purpose and with what outputs. A special effort will be made to take advantage of new and emerging ICT to promote ownership and management of GFAR e-communication systems by the various stakeholders, in order to adequately reflect GFAR guiding principles of subsidiarity, stakeholder involvement and participation. Efforts will also be made to complement these electronic based strategies to include other appropriate media such as print materials, in order to reach and serve all GFAR stakeholders.

Strategic Objective 4: Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of GFAR and Its Stakeholders

18. In spite of the past efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity of GFAR, its Secretariat is still suffering from a limited staffing level, inadequate funding and a low level status within FAO structure and decision making and where it is considered as a project attached to an FAO Division rather than an independent, housed entity reporting directly to an Assistant Director general. The Regional Fora are still in need of additional support to strengthen their constituency representation, particularly the private sector. First, there is a need to better understand their complementary roles within the research and development continuum. Second, on the basis of respective comparative advantages, new mechanisms need to be developed for engaging motivated private sector constituents as active partners in GFAR stakeholder activities. Furthermore, a central part of this strategic objective is to make small holder farmers and producers the central piece of all GFAR activities. A special effort will therefore be made to ensure the active involvement and participation of CSOs in decision-making by GFAR's constituents at all levels (GFAR Steering Committee, regional and sub-regional fora and NARS). These weaknesses, i.e. private sector engagement and the full participation of CSOs in the ARD process, will continue to be addressed by the Business Plan activities.

III. The Three Year 2007-2009 Rolling Business Plan

3.1 Project Portfolio

***Project 1* Consensus-building and Advocacy for Action on Adaptation to Climate Change (new project)**

High contribution to Strategic Objective 1 and moderate to Strategic Objective 3

RATIONALE

19. The viability of agro-ecosystems and future food security are progressively being exposed to threats from increased climate variability in the form of changes in temperature and rainfall regimes, increased drought and flooding and general shifts in the prevailing conditions required to produce food. People living in marginal areas such as drylands and mountains, in particular, face additional challenges with limited management options to reduce the impact of climate change. Adaptation to climate variability and change require research on innovation, new knowledge and technology to develop mitigation and adaptation practices.

20. Among the climate change challenges, two are directly relevant to food security. The first relates to the changing weather regimes which is affecting distribution patterns of plant diseases and pests vectors, as ecosystems undergo transition towards new equilibriums, leading to losses and disruptions in food production and other economic benefits. The second is about the changes in temperature and the length of growing seasons, which are particularly relevant to cropping systems that need time to adjust to new conditions in order to perform efficiently.

21. Given the above threat on overall food security and particularly in the developing countries already contending food shortages, solutions at a global scale for adaptation to climate change and variability are called for. This requires a regional and global dialogue for consensus-building and advocacy for action by policy makers, scientists, development specialists, farmers' organisations and CSOs for a concerted global and pressing research agenda on adaptation to climate change and variability. The dialogue will start with a multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary expert consultation, continue with in depth dialogue at regional level and culminates into a global policy forum at ministerial level.

22. As a unique global forum with regional research fora, international and advanced research partners, farmers' organisations, CSOs, the private sector and donors being represented in its governance structure, GFAR is well placed to facilitate and mobilize all these stakeholders in a bottom up dialogue on and advocacy for a shared global priority research agenda on adaptation to climate change and variability.

MAJOR OUTPUTS

23. THE EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS ARE:

- An issues paper on climate change challenges, both formulated and shared;
- Regional research priorities on adaptation to climate change formulated and validated;
- Global research priorities on adaptation to climate change prepared and presented to policy makers at a ministerial level forum;

- Advocacy for the potential CGIAR Challenge Programme on climate change, agriculture and food security, recommended by the CGIAR Executive Council for its 16-17 May meeting in Madrid to advance to the pre-proposal stage.
- The expected medium and long term impact of the on farmers will be spelled out as part of the generation of research priorities on adaptation to climate changes.

KEY ACTIVITIES

24. THESE ARE:

Expert Consultation: An expert knowledge panel involving all GFAR stakeholders, including Regional Fora, will be convened in early 2008. The consultation is expected to sensitize GFAR stakeholders on emerging challenges and the long-term impact of climate change and variability. It will produce an issues paper to guide the in depth dialogue and consensus building at regional and global levels.

Regional consultations: The outcome of the expert consultation will be fed into a series of regional consultations to be led and facilitated by the GFAR Regional Fora during 2008. These consultations will provide a unique opportunity for NARS to debate the emerging issues of climate change and enable them to discuss, formulate and identify national/regional research priorities on the much-needed adaptation to climate change and variability.

Global Policy forum: A ministerial-level forum will be organized during the fourth quarter of 2008 to: a) sensitize and advise decision-makers to finance national, regional and global climate change research priorities; and b) develop a shared global research agenda on adaptation to climate change.

INTENDED USERS: International and NARS researchers, policy makers and donors, NGOs and farmers.

KEY IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS: Regional Fora in the south and the North with facilitation, coordination and monitoring by the GFAR-Secretariat.

KEY COLLABORATORS: FAO, the CGIAR Science Council, The CGIAR Alliance, the CGIAR Centres, ARIs, IFAD the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, the Swedish Environmental Institute (SEI) farmers and NGOs.

TIME FRAME: 18 months (March 2008 – September 2009) subject to timely resource mobilization and the recruitment of a Senior Programme Officer by the GFAR-Secretariat.

ESTIMATED BUDGET: US\$910 000

PROJECT LOGFRAME

PROJECT 1: CONSENSUS-BUILDING AND ADVOCACY FOR ACTION ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Goal, Purpose, Outputs and Activities	Output indicators	Outcome indicators	Assumption	Budget (US\$)
<p>Goal: To build consensus and raise awareness among policy makers on action for adaptation to climate change and variability</p> <p>Purpose: To generate research priority areas on adapting smallholder agriculture to climate change</p>				
<p>Output/Component 1: Produce an issues paper on climate change threats and opportunities</p> <p>Key Activities</p> <p>1.1 Organize a multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary expert consultation</p> <p>1.2 Produce an issues paper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proceedings published - Global issue paper produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue paper on climate change adaptation published and widely disseminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding from donors available and released on time. 	160 000
<p>Output/Component 2: Generate regional research agendas on adaptation to climate change and variability</p> <p>Key Activities</p> <p>2.1. Organize five regional consultations</p> <p>2.2. Prepare five regional research agendas and policy orientations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proceedings published - Five Regional research agenda developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adaptation of climate change incorporated into ARD priorities at national and regional levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy makers and key partners motivated 	500 000
<p>Output/Component 3: Convene a global policy forum at the ministerial level</p> <p>Key Activities</p> <p>3.1. Prepare a consolidated global research agenda and policy orientation</p> <p>3.2. Organize Policy forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy paper published - Forum proceedings completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministerial declaration endorsed as a global policy platform for collective actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministers available to attend Forum 	250 000

***Project 2* Enabling Transformations in Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Systems (new project)**

High contribution to Strategic Objective 1 and moderate to Strategic Objective 3

RATIONALE

25. Several forces, such as the globalization of agricultural trade and the dwindling of natural resources are driving changes in agriculture, which is becoming globally market-oriented, more competitive and knowledge-intensive. These changes in agriculture are also leading to the retooling of the agricultural research, innovation, extension and education systems

26. Declining public sector investments in research, particularly in developing countries and the rapidly increasing role of civil society organizations (CSOs), including the private sector in ARD, are leading to significant changes in the organizational structure of agricultural research and extension of the South. The National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs), the main driving force in ARD in developing countries at the present time, are evolving as components of larger systems for agricultural research and innovation which include the universities, CSOs and private sector. These changes are also affecting linkages between agricultural research, technology transfer and education.

27. Agricultural education, whose priority until recently, was to support agricultural development directed to increasing food production and productivity to reach national food security through the development of human skills needed for research and extension is now also being forced to change to respond to the above merging challenges, support both commercial and non commercial agriculture, and address new societal needs.

28. The current situation in most universities is such that emphasis is on theoretical and quantitative aspects of agricultural production through application of bio-physical sciences. Emphasis is on content rather than skills with a rather weak inter-disciplinary and systems-thinking approach. There is inadequate attention to skills currently required to contribute to the new needs of developing and communicating knowledge. The new agriculture needs an inter-disciplinary system approach that enables learning among all ARD stakeholders so that it meets merging societal needs, especially those of smallholder producers as well as consumers.

29. Moreover, enrollment in agricultural universities is on a downward trend as employment opportunities for graduates are increasingly reduced, due to a mismatch between their education and the skills required to serve the changing market demands. This has resulted in a lack of adequate human resources for agricultural development in many countries. Reforms now have to be urgently introduced to improve the relevance of agricultural education and to enable it to respond to the demands of today's society. Despite the obvious close relationship among agricultural research, extension and education systems, there appears to be a lack of coordination and synergy amongst them, particularly in the South. The challenge is how to promote transformation and

interdependence among these systems. Fara already initiated a facilitation process for assessing the weaknesses of the current agricultural education and extension systems in Africa and country case studies are available for sharing within GFAR stakeholders. Relevant related work is being conducted jointly by FAO and UNESCO.

30. Given its role as a neutral multi-stakeholder platform, GFAR is in a position to facilitate the retooling of agricultural research, technology transfer and education systems at various levels. It can provide a multi-stakeholder analysis and recommendations to address this “*problematique*”. It can contribute to further examining the reforms needed towards: 1) development programs that address poverty reduction; 2) promotion of an innovations systems approach to ARD; 3) promotion of the involvement of the entire range of stakeholders and exploring pathways for agricultural science to make the desired contributions to the livelihoods of farmers and 4) addressing the perception of agriculture as a second class profession, particularly among young people;

MAJOR OUTPUTS

30. THE EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS ARE:
- Regional issues paper on the state-of-the-art of the agricultural research, extension and education systems (AgREE)
 - Best practices on the transformation of AgREE;
 - Consensus-building on the reforms needed to transform the AgREE systems;
 - Policy dialogue forums on reforming AgREE;

KEY ACTIVITIES:

31. THESE ARE:
- Preparation of regional issues paper based on an assessment of the current state of the agricultural research, technology transfer and education systems(build on the initial work conducted trough Fara for Sub-Saharan Africa);
 - Preparation of 5 case studies (one by region) on experiences in transforming the AgREE systems (work initiated through Fara for Sub-Saharan Africa.);
 - Organization of regional policy dialogue forums on proposed reforms needed to retool the research, extension and education systems.

INTENDED USERS: Universities, research institutions, policy makers, farmers, NGOs and private agribusiness companies.

KEY IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS: Regional Fora in the south and the North with facilitation, coordination and monitoring by the GFAR-Secretariat

COLLABORATORS: FAO, UNESCO, regional and global University Consortia for Agricultural Education, CGIAR, YPARD, NATURA, IFAP and NGOs.

TIME FRAME: 18 Months (March 2008 - September 2009), subject to timely resource mobilization and recruitment of a Senior Program Officer by the GFAR-Secretariat.

ESTIMATED BUDGET REQUIREMENT: US\$910 000

PROJECT LOGFRAME

PROJECT 2 : Enabling Transformations in Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Systems (AgREE)

Goal, Purpose, Outputs and Activities	Output indicators	Outcome indicators	Assumptions	Budget
<p>Goal: Retooling the agricultural research, extension and education systems to better respond to societal needs</p> <p>Purpose: Consensus-building on changes and policy directions for a more relevant and responsive AgREE systems</p>				
<p>Output/Component 1: Produce regional issues paper on reforming AgREE systems</p> <p>Key Activities:</p> <p>1.1 Organize an expert consultation panel</p> <p>1.2 Produce a global issues paper to guide regional consultations</p>	<p>- Issues paper prepared and reviewed</p>		<p>- Commitment of stakeholders on the need to reform AgREE systems</p>	130 000
<p>Output/Component 2: Prepare best practices on the transformation of AgREE.</p> <p>Key Activities:</p> <p>2.1 Prepare five country studies (one per region) on experiences in reforming AgREE systems</p> <p>2.2 Develop regional policy guidelines</p>	<p>- Five country case studies prepared and reviewed</p> <p>Regional policy guidelines on reforming AgREE systems developed</p>	<p>- Regional consensus built on the reforms needed to retool the AgREE systems</p>	<p>- Funding from donor available and released on time</p>	330 000
<p>Output/Component 3: Policy dialogue forums on reforming AgREE</p> <p>Key Activities: 3.2 Conduct five regional policy dialogue forums.</p>	<p>-Policy Guidelines presented in regional policy forums.</p>	<p>- Policy recommendations being used as platform for reforms</p>		450 000

Project 3: Linking Smallholder Producers to Market (LSPM) (on-going project)

High contribution to Strategic Objective 2 and moderate to Strategic Objective 1, 3, 4

RATIONALE

32. Smallholder farmers in developing countries are experiencing rapid and profound changes in their marketing environment, caused by major economic changes such as globalization, urbanization and market reform. Markets are becoming less accessible for a variety of reasons which include inadequate infrastructure. In addition, in response to more progressive and aggressive economies, national markets are laying down stringent rules of market engagement, based on regulations for quality, food safety and traceability. Although these changes also offer farmers new opportunities to move up in the value chain and benefit from higher value and high volume markets. In the majority of cases, smallholder producers and rural entrepreneurs are unable to capitalize on these benefits. The result is that millions of smallholders are facing exclusion from lucrative growth markets, which will exacerbate the cycle of poverty.

33. Partnerships have always been at the core of GFAR's activities, a mode for fostering collaboration among different stakeholder groups in global research areas requiring collaborative efforts for greater efficiency. The external review on the Global Partnership Programmes (GPPs) conducted in 2005 and the Second External Review of GFAR completed in early 2006, both reinforced the concept of partnership building as an effective way of achieving GFAR's overall objectives. In response to this challenge and with initial funding from DFID, GFAR launched a participatory process with the Regional Fora in 2006 to promote a GPP on LSPM Projects. The research dimension and innovative features of the program relates to: 1) the institutional form and governance structure of the partnership arrangement, 2) action research linked to donors' ongoing investment projects involving small producers and private agribusiness companies and marketing chains 3) networking, cross fertilisation and knowledge sharing between sub-regional programs.

MAJOR OUTPUTS

34. THE EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS ARE:

- A GPP on upscaling innovative processes in action research activities to link smallholder producers to markets designed and submitted to donors for funding;
- Regional Fora case studies on best practices on LSPM for out scaling are completed;
- A global program developed with stand alone sub regional programs for implementation
- Project funding approved by donors and partnership arrangements formalized;
- Implementation is initiated in 2 regions.

KEY ACTIVITIES

35. THESE ARE:

- Convene a workshop with participants from potential and interested stakeholders to outline a detailed project document and define respective partnership roles and responsibilities (2007);
- Prepare and share regional case studies on successful LSPM experiences (2007);
- Formulate a full design GPP document on LSPM composed of 5 stand alone regional subprograms and submitted to regional and multinational donors for funding (2007);
- Follow-up with donors until approval of funding (2008);
- Initiate GPP implementation with the establishment of an M&E system (2009).

INTENDED USERS: Policy makers, smallholders, producers, agribusiness companies

KEY IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS: Regional Fora for the GPP development under the overall coordination by CIAT as the host of the secretariat of the interim committee.

COLLABORATORS IFAP, FAO, IICA, IFAD, Private sector agribusiness companies, farmer's organizations, NGOs, microfinance institutions

TIME FRAME:

-GPP development: 7 months (September 2007 - March 2008) subject to timely availability of additional funding and recruitment of a Senior Programme Officer;

-GPP implementation for action research: 3 years (April 2008 - March 2011) subject to timely resource mobilization.

ESTIMATED BUDGET:

-GPP development: - US\$455 000 of which US\$130 000 is available from DFID;

-GPP implementation for action research: US\$4 000 000 is an indicative target for a three year first phase program.

PROJECT LOGFRAME

PROJECT: Linking Smallholder Producers to Markets (LSPM)

Goal, Purpose, Outputs and Activities	Output indicators	Outcome indicators	Assumptions	Budget by component (US\$)
<p>Goal: Develop a mechanism for establishing effective linkages between smallholder producers and markets for improving their income</p> <p>Purpose: Foster mutual learning and knowledge sharing through innovative processes, which build on and add value to successful experiences</p>				
<p>Output 1: A GPP on upscaling innovative processes to LSPM is designed and submitted to donors for funding</p> <p>Key Activities:</p> <p>1.1 Hold workshop for GPP development</p> <p>1.2 Further project development into 4 stand alone regional sub programs</p> <p>1.3 The SC and the RFs undertake fundraising activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Framework for GPP developed - A full project proposal designed and submitted to donors for funding - Funds are secured for the GPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners are implementing the outcomes of the workshop - The first Steering Committee meeting for the GPP is conducted and minutes shared among partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment of the different stakeholder groups to undertake the activities assigned to them 	130 000
<p>Output 2: Regional Fora Case studies on best practices on LSPM for outscaling are completed</p> <p>Key Activities:</p> <p>2.1 The Regional Fora undertake the process of identifying and documenting successful experiences for LSPM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Success Stories published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Success Stories disseminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Fora have sufficient funds for undertaking the activities 	50 000
<p>Output 3: GPP implementation is initiated</p> <p>Key Activities:</p> <p>3.1 Partners start implementation of activities</p> <p>3.2 M&E mechanism developed and operational</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities are initiated in two regions - A learning and assessment workshop conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A full assessment report on achievements, shortcomings and direction for the future published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding from donors available and released on time 	275 000 as an initial funding to be followed by a US 4000 000 program

Project 4: Accelerated Programme for adaptive research and transfer to farmers of available technologies for the management of on farm water use efficiency (new project)

High contribution to Strategic Objectives 2 and 3 with strong link to project 1 on adaptation to climate change

RATIONALE

36. Most countries in the dry areas are facing increasing water scarcity and quality and for some, the availability of fresh water has already dropped well below the internationally recognised water scarcity benchmark of 500m³ per year and per capita. Fara, AARINENA and several of APAARI and FORAGRO member countries are located in the world's most water-scarce regions where projections of population growth indicate a further decrease in per capita water resources. Climate variability in the form of changes in rainfall regimes is expected to exacerbate the severity of water scarcity in these regions where water resources are often misused and not managed in a sustainable manner. Presently irrigation accounts for 75-85% of all water used in dry areas. Urbanisation and improving standard of living are increasing the demand for water. Increasing competition for water among various sectors will likely reduce the share for agriculture to about 50% by 2050. These challenges call for global action on the efficient management by farmers of the increasing severity of water scarcity .and require knowledge and innovation.

37. This project aims at accelerating the upscaling and application by farmers of available research results and best practices for on farm water use efficiency (growing more food with less water) such as water harvesting, supplementary irrigation, agro-management techniques developed by farmers or generated by applied research work conducted in benchmark sites of global and regional relevance. To be led by NARS through their regional Fora, the program would built and complement on-going collaborative applied research efforts by, NSARS and the CGIAR centres including the Water and Food challenge program. The niche role of GFAR in this program is not to conduct research or transfer technology, but to facilitate the development of a multistakholder partnership and advocate for the resource mobilisation for its implementation.

MAJOR OUTPUTS/COMPONENTS

38. THE EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS ARE:

- Formulate programme, establish partnership arrangements and mobilise funding
- Implement programme

KEY ACTIVITIES:

39. To achieve the above outputs, the following activities would be undertaken:

- Identify leading NARS, CGIAR and non-CGIAR centres to develop a Program covering pilot countries in FARA, APAARI , FORAGRO and AARINENA regions
- Synthesize the available indigenous knowledge, validated research results and best practices for improving the on farm water use efficiency, relevant to small scale farmers under rainfall conditions in dry areas
- Test and adapt the results in farmers fields across diverse ecosystems and socio-economic conditions in pilot countries ;
- Upscale the adapted results in rural communities in pilot countries

INTENDED USERS: Extension specialists, farmers communities, NGOs and decision makers in development agencies and Ministries of Agriculture

Key Implementation Partners: Regional Fora, lead NARS and rural communities

KEY COLLABORATORS: Relevant CGIAR Centres such as ICARDA, ICRISAT, IIMI and IFPRI

TIME FRAME:

-Program development: 6 months (January-June 2008) subject to availability of funds

-Program implementation: 3 years months (October 2008 - September 2010) - subject to timely resource mobilization

BUDGET ESTIMATES:

-Program development: US\$195 000 for participatory program design and resource mobilization

-Program development: US\$ 3 000 000 as an indicative amount.

PROJECT LOGFRAME

PROJECT TITLE: ACCELERATED PROGRAMME FOR ADAPTIVE RESEARCH AND TRANSFER TO FARMERS OF AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ON FARM WATER USE EFFICIENCY (NEW PROJECT)

Goal ,Purpose, Output and Activities	Output indicators	Outcome indicators	Assumptions	Budget (US\$)
<p>Goal: Promote on farm water use efficiency in water scarce countries of the dry regions. Purpose: Transfer to farmers of available technologies for on farm water use efficiency in dry regions</p>				
<p>Output/Component 1 Formulation of an adaptive and transfer of technology program and establishment of partnership arrangement Key Activities 1.1 Identify leading NARS , CGIAR and non CGIAR centres 1.2 Synthesize available technologies and practices 1.3 Formulate programme, establish partnership and mobilize resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key implementations partners identified • Promising technologies for on farm water use efficiency synthesized • Programme developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • programme financed by donors 	Financing secured	195 000
<p>Output/Component 2: Implementation of the Programme Key Activities 1.1 Test technologies in farmers' fields 1.2 Upscale results at the community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technologies tested in farmers fields • Technologies up scaled by rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water use efficiency practices widely adopted by farmers and disseminated. . 	Financing secured	3 000 000 (indicative)

Project 5: Enabling small farmers' access to knowledge for innovation and sustainable livelihoods (new project)

*High contribution to Strategic Objective 3 and moderate to Strategic Objectives 2 & 4
This projects links to project 2 on transformation of AgREE and project 3 on farmer's access to markets*

RATIONALE

40. Access to new knowledge is key to innovation. As agriculture becomes more market-oriented and globally competitive, maintaining a sustainable livelihood for smallholder farmers and producers across the world is becoming a continuous challenge. Producing for markets and in situations where natural resources are dwindling requires access to knowledge beyond what is locally and indigenously available. Farmers now need information, not only on new agricultural technologies, but also about what and how to grow and market their produce profitably to make their livelihoods sustainable. They need customized, innovative solutions for their unique problems. These solutions are based on blending knowledge and information from various sources. Some examples of the knowledge now required by smallholder farmers include: customer preferences, market forecasts, relevance of new agricultural technologies to their local conditions and trade regulations of various countries where they can export their produce.

41. Agricultural innovation systems are now being developed in many parts of the world to enable farmers to innovate and adapt to new emerging challenges. A core issue in these innovation systems is the easy access to a relevant blend of local, indigenous, scientific and global knowledge from a variety of sources that enables smallholder farmers to innovate and remain competitive on a sustainable basis.

42. The advent and growing access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in rural areas is providing new avenues to mobilize knowledge and enable its access to smallholder farmers and producers. There are many examples, such as of the knowledge villages in rural India promoted by the M.S. Swaminathan Foundation, where ICT has been used successfully to provide useful new knowledge for agricultural development to rural communities.

43. The success of the green revolution in South and East Asia was based on enabling access to a blend of new knowledge for farming communities. Providing access to this knowledge required transformation of systems, institutions and processes to create and provide technologies such as high yielding varieties and establish effective supportive extension and input/output market services to farmers. In the new context of market oriented agriculture where innovation is key to sustainability, a new phase of systems, institutions and processes to enable access to new knowledge for smallholder farmers is now required.

44. GFAR, with its mission and range of stakeholders, is uniquely placed to facilitate a dialogue among ARD stakeholders for building awareness and advocating approaches

to mobilize and enable access to knowledge from a variety of sources that contribute to innovation in smallholder agriculture and sustainable livelihoods for smallholders.

45. EGFAR, with its web ring of ARD stakeholders is an existing electronic platform of GFAR not only for discussion and debate, awareness and advocacy but also an example of how knowledge access can be enabled for a variety of ARD actors and stakeholders. It also represents GFAR's far-sighted initiative in the area of enabling access to knowledge.

MAJOR OUTPUTS

46. THE EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS ARE:

- Development of conceptual approaches for blending knowledge from ARD and enabling its access to small producers;
- Regional adaptation of approaches and tools for blending knowledge from ARD and its access to small producers;
- Application of approaches and tools in 5 pilot countries (one in each region).

KEY ACTIVITIES

47. THESE ARE:

1. Preparation by a multidisciplinary team, of a conceptual paper on approaches for blending knowledge from a variety of sources and enabling its access for innovation in smallholder agriculture to achieve sustainable livelihoods;
2. Organization of 5 design workshops for ARD stakeholders on regional adaptation of knowledge-blending approaches and the preparation of operational guidelines and policies to apply the approaches to address local specific problems;
3. Use of the blending knowledge approaches as support decision making tools in 5 pilot countries (one country per region).

Intended Users: Donors, project analysts, extension specialists, farmers

Key Implementation Partners: The GFAR-Secretariat, through the facilitation of the current Senior Programme Officer in collaboration with regional fora and NARS

Key Collaborators: CGIAR centres, FAO, CTA, IFAP and NGO Consortiums

Time frame: 24 months (January 2008 - December 2009) - subject to timely availability and release of funds

Estimated Budget: US\$650 000

PROJECT LOGFRAME

PROJECT TITLE: ENABLING SMALL FARMERS ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE FOR INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Goal/Purpose/Output/Activities	Output indicators	Outcome indicators	Assumptions	Budget (US\$)
<p>Goal: To contribute to smallholder producers' livelihoods sustainability Purpose: To develop and advocate approaches for blending knowledge and its access by smallholders farmers to sustain their livelihoods</p>				
<p>Output /component 1: Development of conceptual approaches for blending knowledge and its access Key Activities 1.1 Establish a multidisciplinary expert group 1.2 Develop approaches</p>	<p>- Approaches developed and validated</p>	<p>- Approaches published in peer review journals and disseminated through Community of Practices</p>	<p>- Timely availability and release of funding</p>	100 000
<p>Output/component 2: Regional adaptation of approaches and tools Key Activities 1.1 Hold 5 regional workshops to adapt the approaches 1.2 Prepare operational guidelines for users</p>	<p>- Proceedings published - Guidelines and success stories available</p>	<p>- Guidelines and success stories used as training material</p>	<p>- Active participations by all Regional Fora constituencies</p>	250 000
<p>Output/component 3 : Regional application of approaches and tools in pilot countries Key Activities 1.1 Select pilot countries and projects and conduct training for users 1.2 Apply approaches as decision support tools</p>	<p>- At least 60 potential users by country trained in on-going donor investment projects</p>	<p>- Approaches used by farmer communities</p>	<p>- Buy in by policy makers in pilot countries</p>	300 000

Project 6: Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems (DURAS) (on-going project)

High Contribution to Strategic Objectives 2, 3 and 4

RATIONALE

48. The multi-stakeholder agricultural research approach being advocated by GFAR has led to the development and implementation of this on-going project. The DURAS Project is based on the premise that for agricultural research to be effective, it should be defined, driven, implemented and managed not only in consultation but in partnership with all stakeholders including the civil society and particularly, farmers' organizations (FOs) and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). The use of local and traditional knowledge should be promoted and research participatory approaches applied. The main objective of the DURAS Project is to contribute to strengthening the involvement of southern stakeholders in the agricultural research process and ensuring that their voices are heard at the international level.

MAJOR OUTPUTS/COMPONENTS

49. THE EXPECTED MAJOR OUTPUTS ARE:

- Component A:* Support the facilitation role of the GFAR-Secretariat, particularly its efforts in strengthening Regional Fora, in strategic agenda and research priority setting as well as in enabling relevant stakeholders such as NGOs, farmer groups and small and medium agribusiness enterprises to actively participate in the ARD process;
- Component B:* Enhancement of the GFAR electronic information and communication instrument (EGFAR) and the development of the Regional Agricultural Information Systems (RAIS);
- Component C:* Implementation of a Competitive Grants Systems (CGS) to promote innovation as well as to contribute to enhancing the scientific capacity of the southern partners in ARD.

50. Launched in April 2004, this is a three-year project with a total budget of Euro 4 million funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Components A and B are being implemented directly by the GFAR-Secretariat in Rome. Component C is being implemented by Agropolis International in Montpellier, where a full-time coordinator outsourced by the GFAR-Secretariat is hosted.

Progress made

51. Under Component A, the DURAS Project has supported a number of GFAR activities related to the development of the GFAR Business Plan, the revisit/update of regional research priorities and the facilitation of the involvement and strengthening of CSOs as a formal constituent in the Regional Fora through the establishment of CSO

networks, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The participation of representatives from the Regional Fora, NGOs and farmers organizations in various GFAR and related events were also made possible through the DURAS project.

52. Component B focused on information and communication, as supporting the regular updating and improvement of EGFAR (<http://www.egfar.org>) as well as facilitating the development of the Regional Agricultural Information Systems (RAIS) in all of the five Regional Fora.

53. Component C, a Competitive Grants Scheme (CGS), promoted innovation, as well as scaling up innovative practices in ARD developed in the South, and enhanced the scientific capacity of southern partners. Two calls for proposals on four priority themes identified by GFAR stakeholders were launched in 2004. From more than 300 submissions received, 12 initiatives have been selected and are currently under implementation since October 2005 in 22 countries in Africa and 3 countries in Asia. Each initiative involves at least three types of stakeholder groups, one of which is an NGO, a farmers/producers organization or a small-medium enterprise. The grant scheme sizes ranged from Euro 90 000 to Euro 150 000.

54. A mid-term external review was commissioned by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the last quarter of 2006. The findings of the review confirmed the relevance and the novel approach adopted by the DURAS project, which is now considered as a powerful mechanism to promote multi-stakeholder partnership for innovation. While strongly recommending a multi-stakeholder second phase, the DURAS project and the extension of the present phase to June 2008, the review team urged that the emerging results and methodological approaches adopted by the 12 winning Grant Schemes be immediately mainstreamed for adoption by future participatory research programmes.

KEY ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2007-2008 GFAR BUSINESS PLAN

55. THESE ARE:

- Completion of the thematic review on the conceptualization of the process of partnership building as well as to the resultant constitution of partnerships and learning;
- Preparation of the publications and materials, through the results achieved with the funded schemes and lessons learned;
- Organization of the 3rd Project Leaders' Meeting in April 2008 on innovative research partnerships. The objective is to facilitate cross-fertilization of experience and lessons learned on the dynamics of partnership, local innovation and ARD;
- Facilitation of the completed evaluation of the DURAS Project, which will be commissioned by the MAE, France;
- Design of a DURAS II project with global geographic coverage and secure financing from at least 2 donors;

Intended Users: Research staff, development specialists and decision-makers, CSOs and NGOs in the South and donors

Implementation Partners: GFAR-Secretariat, Agropolis International in Montpellier, NARS, IARCs and ARIS

Estimated Budget: US\$670 000 is already available to cover the period from January 2007 to June 2008

3.2 Support Activities

3.2.1 Monitoring of on-going Partnership Programmes

3.2.1.1. Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)

56. The Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Partnership programme, an initial INBAR idea, is promoted by GFAR into a fully designed proposal and endorsed by the GFAR Steering Committee in 2006. Start-up funds have been provided by DFID through the GFAR-Secretariat to launch the programme by INBAR as the housing institution for implementation, governance and coordination of resource mobilization. GFAR will maintain a reduced monitoring and oversight role with emphasis of facilitating the dissemination of the results of the programme through EGFAR.

3.2.1.2. Global Facilitation Unit for Under Utilised Species (GFUUS)

57. As of June 2002, GFUUS is fully operational as a multi-stakeholder partnership under the umbrella of GFAR. It is hosted by Bioversity International in Rome with its own governing structure and resource mobilization mechanism. In addition to its oversight role through membership in the Steering Committee, the GFAR-Secretariat will facilitate the dissemination of the results of the programme through EGFAR.

3.2.1.3. Promoting Local Innovation (PROLINNOVA)

58. This global partnership is considered as a concrete follow-up of the GFAR 2000 Triennial Conference in Dresden to build a global learning network on local innovation in ecologically-oriented agriculture and NRM. It is presently fully operational in nine countries and managed by ETC EcoCulture, a Dutch NGO. During this Business Plan, in addition to its monitoring role as a member of the Programme Oversight Group (POG), the GFAR-Secretariat will facilitate the dissemination of the results of the programme through EGFAR.

3.2.1.4. Information Communication Management for ARD (ICM4ARD)

59. The ICM4ARD programme aims to improve information and communication management ICM4ARD through: i) advocacy and sensitization of NARS leaders and

policy makers on the importance of ICT-enabled agricultural information systems; ii) Capacity development for information and communications management; iii) improving integration of agricultural research and information systems at national, regional and global levels; iv) Improvement in the governance of ARD information systems. The GPP has been partially supported by the MAE, France through the DURAS project. During the Business Plan period from 2007-2009, the GFAR-Secretariat will continue its implementation role of the programme's approved plan of work.

Estimated budget: US\$45 000 for 2007 available through the DURAS Project

3.2.2 Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of GFAR and its Stakeholders

3.2.2.1. Strengthening Regional Fora Constituencies and Inter-regional Collaboration

60. During the previous triennium, a significant progress was made in supporting AARINENA, APAARI, FARA and FORAGRO to achieve an inclusive stakeholder representation in their decision-making bodies. As a result, both NGOs and Farmers Organizations are fully represented in FARA and FORAGRO governance structures. For AARINENA and APAARI, the process of amending their respective constitutions to include NGOs and Farmers Organizations as formal members is completed. For CACAARI, the previous support was related to conduct of regional research priority setting. During the 2007-2009 Business Plan, GFAR-Secretariat support to CACAARI will focus on: i) enhancing NGOs and Farmers Organizations representation in the RF governance and; ii) the development and implementation of a medium-term action plan for the identified regional priorities.

61. As for CSOs in 2008, the Secretariat will engage the regional NGOs in a consultation process that eventually will lead to the establishment of a global NGO Consortium. Equally, the GFAR-Secretariat will continue to work with IFAP farmers Committee on ARD to further strengthen the linkages between producers and researchers at all levels, i.e. national, regional and global.

62. The GFAR-Secretariat support will benefit existing regional networks commodity and thematic networks, such as the cotton network, bio-technology and bio-safety network, the olive and olive oil network. In addition, support is envisaged as of 2008 for new networks on trans-boundary diseases and pests; biodiversity conservation and management of water scarcity.

Estimated budget: US\$511 000, of which US\$161 500 is available from DFID and committed in 2007. In addition, an amount of US\$13 000 as carry-over from the DURAS project funds is being committed for support to Regional Research Networks and Priorities Setting.

3.2.2.2 Strengthening Regional Fora and CGIAR collaboration

63. These components would include the following activities: i) to enhance the dissemination and delivery of CGIAR public goods; ii) the participation of NARS and their farmers' organization constituencies in the CGIAR meetings and; iii) the continuation of the Stakeholders Committee for the CGIAR Generation Challenge Program and advocacy for new CGIAR challenges programs such as the one on adaptation to climate change.

Estimated budget: US\$546 000 for 2007-2009

3.2.2.3 Statutory Meetings for GFAR Governance

64. GFAR is governed through four types of statutory meetings: Steering Committee (twice a year); Programme Committee (once a year); Management Team (minimum twice a year); and Donors Support Group (minimum once a year). While Regional Fora and CSOs (farmers' organization and NGOs) are well represented in the Steering Committee, the Private Sector participation remains sporadic and weak. Therefore, the GFAR-Secretariat will engage in a wide consultation with the Private Sector to develop a reliable mechanism for an enhanced PS representation and involvement in GFAR governance.

65. The GFAR-Secretariat will continue its facilitation role to convene and service all GFAR Statutory meetings in the most cost-effective way during the period of the triennium. In addition, the GFAR-Secretariat will assist the SC to implement the Second External Review on stream lining the GFAR Governance Structure.

3.2.2.4 GFAR-Secretariat Management and Staffing

66. In line with the Second External Review of GFAR findings to overcome the current limited staffing level of the GFAR-Secretariat, elevate its status within FAO structure for a higher level of decision-making and autonomy and enhance the GFAR image, it is envisaged that:

(i) The current Executive Secretary post of D-1 is upgraded to a D-2 level position starting 2009. This will allow him/her to report directly to an Assistant Director-General within FAO and improve the performance of the Secretariat through a streamlined decision making process by reducing the current number of clearances by a Divisional Director.

(ii) The critical human resource requirements to implement the 2007-2009 Business Plan would be composed of an Executive Secretary, three senior programme officers, a communication specialist (part-time), a web-master (part-time), a budget and administrative assistant (G-6 level) and one secretary (G-4 level). Additional support as required would be mobilized through short-term consultants and APOS, as in kind contribution from bilateral donors when possible. One of the three senior professionals would be at a P-5 level as of 2009 in order to exercise the responsibility of a budget

holder and as officer-in-charge when the Executive Secretary is on duty travel and on annual leave. The two other senior programme officers would be at P-4 level.

(iii) In order to maintain a minimum critical level of stability, it is proposed that the positions of Executive Secretary, one of the senior programme officer, the budget and administrative assistant and the communication officer, are financed through core funding by donors on a yearly basis and the rest of the staff through charging to the restricted projects the indirect GFAR Secretariat cost (overhead).

The details of the staffing level presented by category of funding during the 2007-2009 Business Plan is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: GFAR-Secretariat Human Resource Requirement by Category of Funding - BP 2007-2009

Category	2007		2008		2009	
	Core Funding	Restricted Funding (Overhead)	Core Funding	Restricted Funding (Overhead)	Core Funding	Restricted Funding (Overhead)
Outgoing Executive Secretary	1 MM					
Interim Executive Secretary	4 MM					
In-coming Executive Secretary	4 MM (D-1)		12 MM (D-1)		12 MM (D-2)	
Senior Programme Officer 1- IC & KM Portfolio	12 MM (P-4)			12 MM (P-4)		12 MM (P-4)
Senior Programme Officer 2 - Consensus-building and advocacy Portfolio				12 MM (P-4)		12 MM (P-5)
Senior Programme Officer 3 - Partnerships Portfolio				12 MM (P-4)		12 MM (P-4)
Programme Office (P-2): NARS-CSOs Collaboration	6 MM (P-2)					
Programme Office (P-2): Global Partnerships	10 MM (P-2)					
Communication Specialist (part-time)			6 MM		6 MM	
Web-site manager (part-time)		6 MM		6 MM		6 MM
Consultants		3 MM		6 MM		6 MM
Budget and Administration Officer (G-6) as of 2008			12 MM (G-6)		12 MM (G-6)	
Secretary	12 MM (G-5)		12 MM (G-4)		12 MM (G4)	
Secretary	11MM (G-2)		12 MM (G-4)		12 MM (G-4)	

* MM = Man Month

IV. The Business Plan Operating Budget and Financing

67. The triennial operating budget and financing for the GFAR 2007-2009 BP are presented in tables 3 to 5.

68. Table 2 shows the total operating budget for GFAR-Secretariat and GFAR Governance. The projected operating budget is presented by the 2 category of financing: core funding and overheads charged to the restricted projects to finance costs related to incremental staff and consultants for the implementation of the BP.

69. Table 3 presents the projected operating budget for projects with restricted funding from various donors. This is also broken down into two categories: base project cost and overhead on new projects to charge back the GFAR-Secretariat's operating cost.

70. Tables 4 and 5 provide the financing scenario and incremental resources to be mobilized (financing gap) per year for GFAR-Secretariat operations and GFAR Governance; and restricted projects, respectively.

71. The total cost of restricted projects (table 5) for the BP period amounts to US\$5 019 487. Out of this amount, about 20% (US\$1 028 487) are secured for 2007 and 2008 mainly from France (DURAS project) and DFID. About 80% (US\$3 991 000) need to be mobilized for 2007 (US\$ 780 000), 2008 (US\$ 1 599 000) and 2009 (US\$ 1 612 000) respectively.

72. The total operating cost (table 4) for the GFAR-Secretariat and GFAR Governance for the triennial period of 2007-2009 amounts to US\$ 3 328 615, of which 62% is to be financed through core funding and 38% through charging the GFAR Secretary indirect cost (overhead) on restricted projects. The financing gap for 2007 amounts to US\$426 860 for which donors are invited to make financial contributions before the end of this year

Table 2: Projected Operating Budget for the GFAR-Secretariat and GFAR Governance (US\$)

Category	2007			2008			2009			Total		
	Core Funding	Restricted Funding (Overhead)	Total	Core Funding	Restricted Funding (Overhead)	Total	Core Funding	Restricted Funding (Overhead)	Total	Core Funding	Restricted Funding (Overhead)	Total
Staff Costs (Salaries and benefits)	545,327	120,000	665,327	547,908	332,000	879,908	613,180	307,000	920,180	1,706,415	759,000	2,365,415
Staff duty travel		42,000	42,000	75,000	53,000	128,000	75,000	53,000	128,000	150,000	198,000	298,000
Consultants	13,033	100,667	113,700	10,667	43,333	54,000	30,000	24,000	54,000	53,700	118,000	171,700
Hospitality	2,000		2,000	2,000		2,000	2,000	0	2,000	6,000	0	6,000
Training	2,000		2,000	5,000		5,000	5,000	0	5,000	12,000	0	12,000
Expendable Procurement	2,000		2,000	5,000		5,000	5,000	0	5,000	12,000	0	12,000
Nonexpendable Procurement	2,500		2,500	5,000		5,000	3,000	0	3,000	10,500	0	10,500
General Operating Expenditures	3,000		3,000	7,000		7,000	7,000	0	7,000	17,000	0	17,000
GFAR Governance Meetings	82,000		82,000	54,000	48,000	102,000	54,000	48,000	102,000	190,000	96,000	286,000
Total	651,860	262,667	914,527	711,575	476,333	1,187,908	794,180	432,000	1,226,180	2,157,615	1,171,000	3,328,615

Table 3: Projected Operating Budget for Restricted Projects and Support Activities (US\$)

Project	2007			2008			2009			Total		
	Net	Overhead	Total	Net	Overhead	Total	Net	Overhead	Total	Net	Overhead	Total
1. Consensus Building and Advocacy for Action for Adaptation to Climate Change	200,000	60,000	260,000	300,000	90,000	390,000	200,000	60,000	260,000	700,000	210,000	910,000
2. Enabling transformation in Agricultural Research, Extension and Education systems	200,000	60,000	260,000	200,000	60,000	260,000	300,000	90,000	390,000	700,000	210,000	910,000
3. Linking Small Holders Producers to Markets (LSPM)	110,500	19,500	130,000	150,000	45,000	195,000	100,000	30,000	130,000	360,500	94,500	455,000
4. Accelerated Programme for Adaptation Research and Transfer to Farmers of available Technologies for a Farm Water Use Efficiency			0	150,000	45,000	195,000			0	150,000	45,000	195,000
5. Innovative approaches for Enabling Small Farmer's Access to Knowledge for sustainable livelihoods	100,000	30,000	130,000	100,000	30,000	130,000	300,000	90,000	390,000	500,000	150,000	650,000
6. Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems (DURAS)	437,658	34,667	472,325	218,829	17,333	236,162	0	0	0	656,487	52,000	708,487
7. Support to inter regional colaboration	161,500	28,500	190,000	170,000	51,000	221,000	180,000	54,000	234,000	511,500	133,500	645,000
8. GFAR/CGIAR Collaboration*	100,000	30,000	130,000	160,000	48,000	208,000	160,000	48,000	208,000	420,000	126,000	546,000
Total	1,309,658	262,667	1,572,325	1,448,829	386,333	1,835,162	1,240,000	372,000	1,612,000	3,998,487	1,021,000	5,019,487

Table 4: Projected financing scenario for the GFAR-Secretariat Operating Budget and GFAR Governance (US\$)

ITEM	2007			2008			2009			Total		
	Total	Secured	Financing Gap	Total	Secured	Financing Gap	Total	Secured	Financing Gap	Total	Secured	Financing Gap
I. Secretariat and GFAR Governance												
<i>Core funding</i>	651,860	375,000	276,860	711,575	0	711,575	794,180	0	794,180	2,157,615	375,000	1,782,615
<i>Overhead on Projects</i>	262,667	112,667	150,000	326,333	17,333	309,000	432,000	0	432,000	1,171,000	130,000	1,041,000
Total	914,527	487,667	426,860	1,037,908	17,333	1,020,575	1,226,180	0	1,226,180	3,328,615	505,000	2,823,615

Table 5: Projected Financing Scenario for Restricted Projects and Support Activities (US\$)

Projects	2007			2008			2009			Total		
	Total	Secured	Financing Gap	Total	Secured	Financing Gap	Total	Secured	Financing Gap	Total	Secured	Financing Gap
1. Consensus Building and Advocacy for Action for Adaptation to Climate Change	260,000	0	260,000	390,000	0	390,000	260,000	0	260,000	910,000	0	910,000
2. Enabling transformation in Agricultural Research, Extension and Education systems	260,000	0	260,000	260,000	0	260,000	390,000	0	390,000	910,000	0	910,000
3. Linking Small Holders Producers to Markets (LSPM)	130,000	130,000	0	195,000	0	195,000	130,000	0	130,000	455,000	130,000	325,000
4. Accelerated Programme for Adaptation Research and Transfer to Farmers of available Technologies for a Farm Water Use Efficiency	0	0	0	195,000	0	195,000	0	0	0	195,000	0	195,000
5. Innovative approaches for Enabling Small Farmer's Access to Knowledge for sustainable livelihoods	130,000	0	130,000	130,000	0	130,000	390,000	0	390,000	650,000	0	650,000
6. Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems (DURAS)	472,325	472,325	0	236,162	236,162	0	0	0	0	708,487	708,487	0
7. Support to inter-regional collaboration	190,000	190,000	0	221,000	0	221,000	234,000	0	234,000	645,000	190,000	455,000
8. GFAR/CGIAR Collaboration	130,000	0	130,000	208,000	0	208,000	208,000	0	208,000	546,000	0	546,000
Sub-total 2	1,572,325	792,325	780,000	1,835,162	236,162	1,599,000	1,612,000	0	1,612,000	5,019,487	1,028,487	3,991,000

V. Implementation of the Business Plan

73. The GFAR Steering Committee recognizes that the Business Plan is challenging in terms of scope and the global concerns to be addressed. The Steering Committee, however, believes that the scope of the Business Plan and the relevance and of its project portfolio represents a minimum operational programme expected by GFAR constituencies to make a significant contribution and impact in addressing the emerging challenges for ARD during the period from 2007-2009.

74. The implementation of the Business Plan is to be considered as a collective responsibility of GFAR stakeholders at large and not only of the GFAR-Secretariat. All partners willing to assume a lead implementation and resource mobilization role, in close collaboration with the GFAR-Secretariat for a particular project of the Business Plan, are encouraged to express their interest.