



Report of the GFAR Programme Committee

Submitted to the
GFAR Steering Committee

Regional Fora Progress Reports

AARINENA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further development of RAIS• Existing commodity networks further strengthened (med plants, global crop biodiversity trust,) and LF/M• New networks: NERAKIN, agro biotech, Plant genetic resources
APAARI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing Regional PGR Strategy• Harmonizing Biosafety Regulations• Experts Consultation on Biofuels• Review of Research Networks and Consortia
FARA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening civil society organizations• Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems• AARINENA facilitating north African membership to FARA• Linking farmers to markets engagement
FORAGRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for a Regional R&D Agenda• Capacity building and exchange of experiences• Information management for R&D• Lobbying for R&D in relevant Fora• Support for the Regional R&D System

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Priorities for inter-regional collaboration

	FARA	AARINENA	APAARI	FORAGRO
ICM/ICT & knowledge dissemination	APAARI	✓	✓	✓
Linking farmers to markets	✓✓	✓ Hosted Cairo	✓	✓✓
Strengthen civil society groups	✓	✓	✓ FARA	✓
ASTI & impacts/returns on research	✓	✓	✓	✓
Research/extension institutional innovation	✓	✓	✓ Private sector	✓
Biofuels & climate change	✓ APAARI	✓	✓ (JIRCAS)	✓
Cotton, Biotechnology inc. biosafety & biosecurity	✓ AARINENA- INCANA	✓ INCANA	✓ INCANA	✓
Inter-regional linkage & mutual exchange	✓ AARINENA, APAARI EFARD (PAEPARD, ERA-ARD) FORAGRO (FONTAGRO)	✓ FARA ERA-ARD	✓ FORAGRO AARINENA FARA	✓

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Stakeholder Reports

FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAO-GFAR Collaboration ongoing on various projects activities (e.g, ICM,GFU,LFM)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Future areas of possible collaborations▪ Enabling transformations in agricultural research, extension and education systems▪ Enabling small farmer's access to knowledge for innovation and sustainable livelihoods
IFAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Particular attention to LFM issues through various initiatives (LFM-GPP, Regoverning Markets)▪ Contribution to various research meetings▪ Farmer's regional focal points engaging with regional fora
YPARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Membership growing over 1200▪ Exchange of information and knowledge among young professionals through newsletter, the web portal and the development of a database▪ Involvement in the establishment of "University Network" involving the universities of Hannover, Uppsala,▪ Participation in proposed initiative on agricultural education curriculum reform (PROMOTED)

NGOs, Private sector, ARIs, IARCs and donor group were unable to make their presentations

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Global Partnership Programmes (GPPs)

GPP	UPDATES	PC RECOMMENDATIONS
Prolinnova	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and organizing new phase including start up of new Prolinnova country programmes• 15 additional joint experimentation on technological innovation documented• Farmer-led documentation (SA, Cambodia, Ghana)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting to focus on research outputs and impacts• Cross-learning across GPPs• Linkage with RFs
Under utilised Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working towards creation of new entity on under-utilized crops (BFU + ICUC)• Progress in policy analysis and advocacy in Peru, PNG, Nepal, VN, Jordan, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Ghana• Recommendations to policy makers for general national policy reforms in the agriculture, education, health & nutrition, investment and export sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See if proposed “Crops for the Future” could be a GPP

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Global Partnership Programmes (GPPs)

GPP	UPDATES	PC RECOMMENDATIONS
ICM4ARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior NARS Advocacy in APAARI, AARINENA, FARA• Development of tool kits for NAIS• Capacity development WS in APAARI and AARINENA• Re-engineering of EGFAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further strengthening of on-going efforts and linking with RF
Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination unit established in New Delhi (GTZ support)• Training workshops on selected priority and high potential NTFPs in China	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlight research outputs and impacts in succeeding reports• Involve at least 2 RFs
Linking Smallholder Farmers to Markets (LFM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constitution of SC with representation of RF• Business planning WS (June 2007, Rome)• Regional case studies initiated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve awareness on the GPP• More involvement of Senior experts from the regions in the Steering Committee• Early finalization of the project proposal

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Global Partnership Programmes (GPPs)

GPP	UPDATES	PC RECOMMENDATIONS to the SC
DURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive mid-term external review• 2nd DURAS Project Leader's WS held to share lessons learned and emerging results• 12 funded-projects on-going as planned• Exploratory meeting with RIUP for future collaboration• Documentation of experience WS planned (Q1 2008)• Project closing workshop (Q2 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify other donors to co-fund Phase 2• Highlight research outputs and impacts in succeeding reports• Strongly recommended for 2nd Phase to the Government of France
DMC/ Conservation Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication on conservation agriculture underway presenting various case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revive CA GPP with CIMMYT as coordinator• Convene an interim group involving CIMMYT, CIRAD, FAO, ICARDA• Develop proposal soon and flag it to donors• On-going support and initiatives (case studies, etc) including those of RF should be documented and housed in EGFAR• Involve RF in planning process

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PC recommendation to all GPPs

- Reporting to focus on research outputs and impacts
- Cross-learning across GPPs
- Involvement of at least 2 Regional Fora

Other initiative discussed

Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building

- Use of GFAR as platform to promote the initiative as well as to provide linkage with stakeholders was endorsed by the PC
- Proposes to link this to a wider issue of capacity building in agriculture
- Look at statistics in terms of number of breeders in the national systems, universities
- FAO to facilitate the process and involve RFs and CG centers

Priorities for 2008

Priority 1 : Continue to support the following initiatives:

- Policy advocacy
- Support to GFAR Secretariat
- Inter-regional collaboration
- Research partnerships (e.g., DURAS) and on-going GPPs
 - GFU Underutilized species
 - Prolinnova
 - ICM4ARD
 - Conservation agriculture

In addition, follow-up to the 2 initiatives identified in BP 2007-2009

- Linking small-holders producers to markets (Project 3)
- Promotion of sustainable development in agricultural research systems, DURAS (Project 6)

Priorities for 2008

Priority 2 : New themes identified in the GFAR BP 2007-2009

- Theme 1 : Consensus-building and advocacy for action on agricultural adaptation to climate change
- Theme 2 : Enabling transformations in agricultural research, extension and education
- Theme 5: Enabling small farmers' access to knowledge for innovation and sustainable livelihood
- Theme 4 : Adaptive research and uptake of available technologies for on-farm water use efficiency

In addition

- + *Ensure additional budget for inter-regional cooperation*
- + *Explore linkages with other similar/like-minded on-going initiatives (e.g. RIU)*
- + *Develop Concept Notes on project ideas for submission to potential donors*

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Possible areas for collaboration between GFAR and Science Council as per Programme Committee recommendation

1. New challenge programmes (Climate Change, High Value Crops, Oasis)
2. Interaction and support to the CG Scoping Team; CG Evaluation Team
3. Dialogue, advocacy, consensus process (bridging between international and local realities through RFs and SRFs)
4. Capacity and institutional building (Strengthening NARS, YPARD)
5. Other joint activities (e.g., CGIAR system-wide priorities, Framework Plans, ASTI, etc)

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Programme Committee issues

- Need to elect PC Vice Chair
- Need to complete its membership
- PC must meet before the SC so it can prepare its recommendations concerning Work Plan to match with budget for GFAR SC deliberation and decision