

Foreword

The aims of the GCARD consultations are to solicit regional perspectives through publications and stakeholder views on ARD in preparation for the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development 2010 (GCARD 2010) due to take place on 28-31 March 2010 in Montpellier (France)¹. Six consultations in six different regions² took place between July and November 2009. Each consultation was composed of three main activities: (i) a review of available literature, (ii) an e-consultation and (iii) a face-to-face workshop.

The e-consultation for Europe started on the 2 September and ended on the 25 September 2009. The objective was to collect views of stakeholders on issues of importance with the view of helping to decide on the agenda of the conference. In the first phase, participants were invited to introduce themselves and to share experiences of past research with the view of identifying factors influencing the success of research. Participants were invited to answer five specific questions in a second phase and in a third and last phase to suggest ideas for GCAR agenda. Over 190 participants from 50 countries followed the consultation and about 115 messages were exchanged by the official closure of the consultation – although exchanges have continued since then.

This document is a synthesis prepared by Olivier Chartier (EUROQUALITY), facilitator of the e-consultation for Europe. It starts with some statistics on participation & contributions received, and continues with a summary of the contributions from each of the three phases. The conclusions section provides the results of the e-consultation evaluation and a summary of the key messages. For more information, please visit:

<http://gcardblog.wordpress.com/category/regional-e-consultations/europe/>

First page: word cloud of the 115 messages exchanged during the e-consultation (created with <http://www.wordle.net>)

¹ <http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard>

² (1) Asia Pacific, (2) Central Asia & the Caucasus, (3) Europe, (4) Latin America & the Caribbean, (5) Sub-Saharan Africa and (6) West Asia & North Africa.

Content

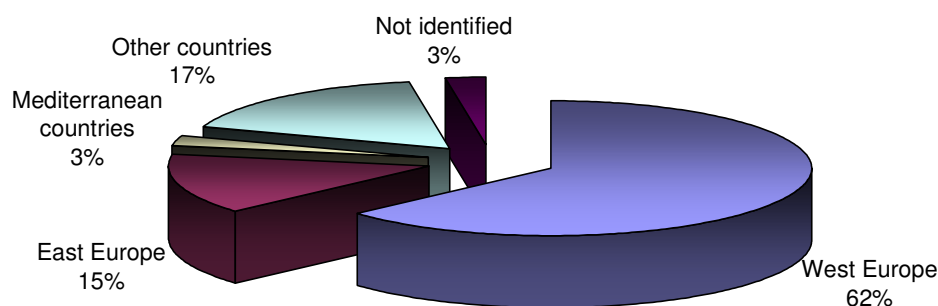
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1. OVERVIEW OF THE PARTICIPATION

1.1 Registered participants

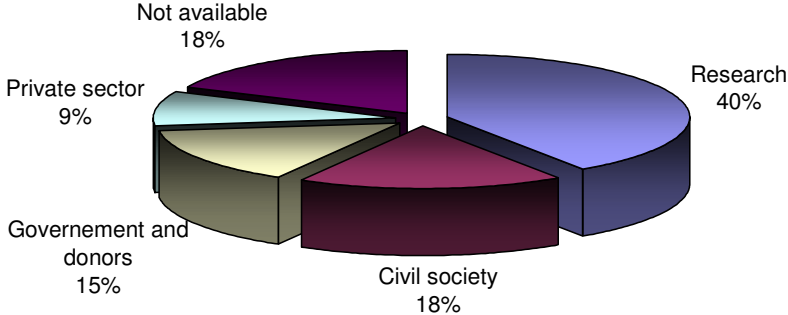
- The e-consultation was followed by 193 participants from 50 countries.
- More than 75% of the participants were from European countries (62% from Western Europe and 15% from Eastern European countries – *see figure below for details*).
- For Western Europe, participants originated from 14 countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. The highest numbers of participants were from Italy (30), UK (20), France (13), the Netherlands (12) and Belgium (10).
- The 28 participants from Eastern Europe originated from 16 countries. Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Cyprus, FYROM, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Turkey.

**Participation to the GCARD e-consultation for Europe:
distribution per countries**



- The overall distribution per type of organisation was well-balanced: besides the expected participation of scientists (40% of the total number of participants), civil society (including NGOs and Farmer Organisations), government & donors and the private sector together represented 42% of the participants (*see figure next page for details*).

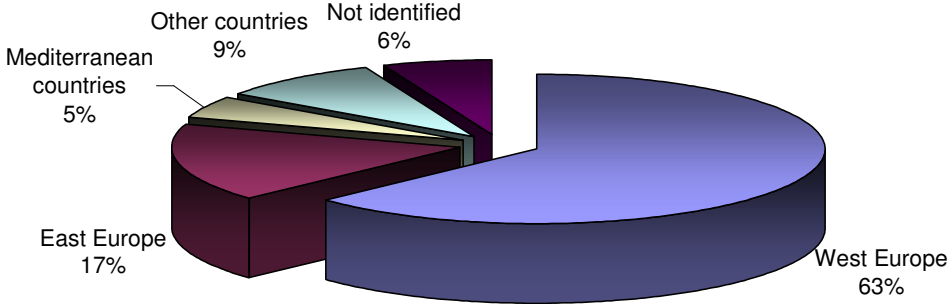
**Participation to the GCARD e-consultation for Europe:
distribution per type of organisation**



1.2 Contributions received

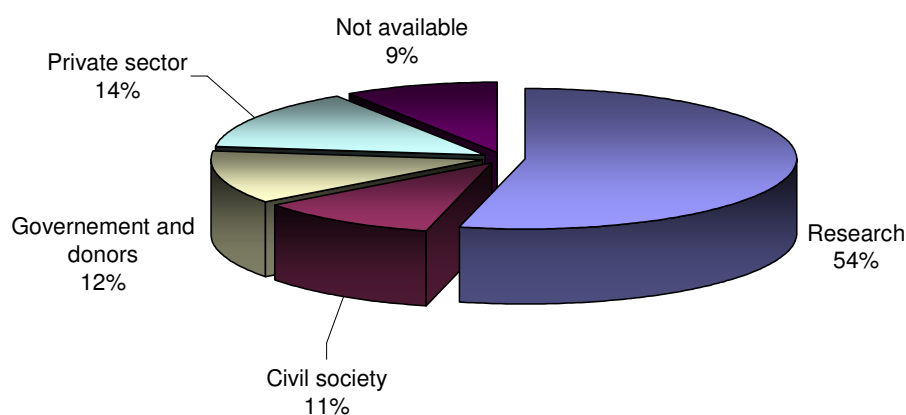
- More than 115 messages were exchanged during the three phases of the e-consultation, representing around 100 pages or 45.000 words. The distribution in the three phases was as follow: 43 introduction messages (phase 1), 26 answers to the five questions (phase 2) and 25 ideas for GCARD agenda (phase 3). The other 22 messages were general comments and answers to contributions from other participants.
- Around 67 participants sent at least one email: it means that 35% of the registered participants actively contributed to the discussion. Among these 67 participants, around 30 sent at least 2 messages (active contributors) and 13 sent more than 3 messages (top contributors).

**Contributions to the GCARD e-consultation for Europe:
distribution per countries**



- The profile of the 67 contributors is roughly equivalent to the profile of the registered participants: more than 75% of the contributions were made by European participants (63% from Western Europe and 17% from Eastern European countries) - *see figure on the previous page for details*. The distribution per type of organisation is also roughly equivalent to the one of the registered participants with 54% of the contributors from research organisations, 12% from government & donors and 25% from civil society (Farmer organisations & NGOs) and private sector - *see figure below for details*.

**Contribution to the GCARD e-consultation for Europe:
distribution by type of organisation**



- The profile of the 30 most active contributors (at least two messages) is also roughly similar to the one of the 67 contributors with 57% from Western Europe, 27% from Eastern Europe, 3% from Mediterranean countries and 3% from other countries. According to the type of organisations the profile of the most active contributors was: research (46%), governments & donors (18%), civil society (14%), private sector (11%).
- The quality of the contributions was overall very good with only a few messages with little relevance. The evaluation of the e-consultation showed that 67% of the respondents rated the quality of the exchange “good or excellent” and 22% “average”. The level of participation and the facilitation were also positively evaluated with more than 70% of positive opinions.

Summary: participation to the e-consultation

In terms of numbers, the e-consultation for Europe was satisfactory with 193 participants, 115 messages and 67 contributors. In terms of geographical distribution, Europe represented around 75% of the participants and 80% of the contributions but the share of participants and contributions from Eastern Europe was too low (around 15% of the total). In terms of profile, there is an expected bias towards researchers (54% of the contributions) but the civil society and the private sector were represented (around 25%). The share of government & donors was also satisfactory. The overall quality of the contributions was very good.

2. FIRST PHASE: INTRODUCTION AND EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH

2.1 Overview

- The first phase aimed at launching the consultation: the main objectives were to increase the number of participants and to receive introductory messages from those already registered. Another objective was to identify examples of research that had an impact on the poor, with indications of the reasons for success or failure.
- During this phase, 60 new participants registered, about 20 messages were exchanged with 9 examples of past research. Another 20 introduction messages were sent at a later stage.
- These examples illustrated some key reasons for success such as: demand-driven research focused on the needs of the poor; the involvement of stakeholders; the continuity of actions; and adequate research programming through donor coordination.

2.2 Examples of past research

Panicum maximum (T58): it took over 30 years to impact poor farmer families.

(Yves Savidan, France, 03.09.2009)

Yves explained the efforts undertaken to ensure the results of a plant breeding research programme were “put into widescale use”. His story started in the 70’s in West Africa with the release of *Panicum maximum* T58, a grass used as fodder. It continues in South America and ends 30 years later, when the cultivar is utilised by resource-poor farmers in South East Asia. His example illustrates the difficulties in transferring results to the poor when research originates only from scientists’ interests. The main lesson learned is that research should address needs articulated by users right from the beginning of the process. Nevertheless, it also indicates that considerable time is often required to get research into use.

Quality declared seeds: successful utilisation by small-scale farmers in Tanzania

(Britt Granquist, Denmark, 03.09.2009)

Britt’s example of successful innovation was the introduction of Quality Declared Seeds in Tanzania. She explained the advantages for small-scale farmers (seeds of good quality at lower price than certified seeds) and recommended the introduction of this type of seed production system in other countries.

Supporting rural development programme implementation in Romania: the importance of trustworthy relations between stakeholders

(Doris Marquardt, Germany, 04.09.2009)

This example illustrated the difficulties encountered by European advisors when delivering support abroad. Doris’ example is based on her personal experience in assisting Romanian local authorities to implement rural development programmes. She underlined the importance of establishing trustworthy relations between stakeholders.

PROLINNOVA: participatory R&D integrating indigenous and scientific knowledge

(Ann Waters-Bayer, the Netherlands, 04.09.2009)

Ann’s message introduced “Prolinnova”, an NGO programme that aims at promoting innovation in agriculture and natural resource management. Prolinnova uses participatory approaches to promote innovations that integrate indigenous & scientific knowledge. The

initiative is raising a growing interest. It demonstrates the advantages of putting users at the centre of the research and innovation process.

Rice research programme in Egypt: a successful example

(Mounir Sabaa, Egypt, 06.09.2009)

The rice research programme in Egypt is an example of success. The programme, started in mid-80s, involved cooperation between national and international research organisations. Extension staff played a significant role in technology transfer. Keywords for this success story were “continuity”, “multidisciplinarity” and “technology transfer”.

CARBAP: strong linkage with civil society and involvement of donors as key factors of success

(Jacky Ganry, France, 10.09.2009)

According to Jacky, the activities of the CARBAP (Centre Africain de Recherches sur Bananiers et Plantains) had a significant positive impact on development. Among the reasons for success were the dimension of the centre (regional dimension from the beginning), the strong linkages with civil society (also involved in priority setting) and the engagement of the donors (allowing continuity of the action). Jacky considered that the impact could be increased if more donors and European partners were involved.

CERAAS: the importance of stakeholders and donor commitments

(Jacky Ganry, France, 10.09.2009)

In the same message, Jacky explained the reasons for the difficulties encountered by the CERAAS, a research centre dedicated to the improvement of plant adaptation to drought. According to him, the centre had little impact on development because of the poor commitment of stakeholders and donors and the lack of regional dimension.

Cash-based intervention in food crisis: continuity of expertise and networking are essential

(Myriam Aït-Aïssa, France, 11.09.2009)

This example showed how NGOs can cooperate with other organisations to develop innovative actions that meet the needs of the poor. Myriam explained how «Action Against Hunger» learned from a pilot experiment of cash distribution in response to food emergency crisis. This example illustrates the importance of networking, of the continuity of expertise as well as the effectiveness of activities driven by users.

Nutrition and HIV: how can we explain a gap in knowledge?

(Myriam Aït-Aïssa, France, 11.09.2009)

Myriam drew our attention to the existing gap of knowledge on relations between nutrition and HIV. “Nutrition & HIV issues” are neither a priority for the agricultural & food sector nor for the medical sector. The limited attention of the research community may be explained by a lack of coordination of donors.

The Business Alliance against Chronic Hunger (BAACH): partnering with local stakeholders

Since 2006, a group of international, regional, and national companies have collaborated with NGOs and the government of Kenya to develop new strategies to increase food production, nutrition, and incomes. The BAACH action plan aims to improve production of staple and high-value crops and to strengthen entrepreneurship. One action that has already had an effect is a pilot voucher program for agricultural inputs: it has provided more than 10,000 farmers with access to their choice of maize seeds and fertilizer. A key feature is that smallholder

farmers are issued vouchers that can be redeemed for discounted seed and fertilizer at their local input dealers (stockists). Key factors influencing success of research

- **Demand-driven research:** participatory research starts with finding out how farmers work (*Ann Waters-Bayers, 04.09.2009*); agriculture research can have an impact on the poor when the original research question begins with smallholder needs and interests (*John Preissing, 07.09.2009*); producers are the most important actors; the information coming from them is considered of primary importance (*Pellumb Harizaj, 08.09.2009*); knowledge production should be responding to a well identified need (*Yves Savidan, 03.09.2009*).
- **Involvement of stakeholders:** researchers work in isolation and/or through bilateral collaboration (*Yves Savidan, 03.09.2009*); trustworthy relations between stakeholders are important (*Doris Marquardt, 04.09.2009*); strong linkages with civil society (producers, NGO, private sectors) were reasons for success (*Jacky Ganry, 10.09.2009*); the programme was based on cooperation between national and international organisations (*Mounir Sabaa, 06.09.2009*).
- **Continuity of actions:** multidisciplinary teams worked together for a long period to achieve results (*Mounir Sabaa, 06.09.2009*); donor engagement with continuity of actions and expertise was exemplary (*Jacky Ganry, 10.09.2009*); quality and continuity of the expertise was a reason for success (*Myriam Aït-Aïssa, 11.09.2009*).
- **Research programming:** lack of coordination of donors may lead to knowledge gap (*Myriam Aït-Aïssa, 11.09.2009*); a key challenge for the future is how to mobilize the best of science to address needs of the poor (*Yves Savidan, 03.09.2009*)

2.4 Other issues raised in the discussion

- Use of IT to bring research closer to practice (*Arman Manukyan, 04.09.2009*)
- The need for statistics harmonisation or investment in education and knowledge transfer (among others) in Western Balkan countries (*Natalija Bogdanov, 07.09.2009*).

Word cloud: key factors influencing the success of research



3. SECOND PHASE: ANSWERS TO THE 5 QUESTIONS

3.1 Overview

- In the second phase of the e-consultation, participants were invited to answer 5 specific questions (see appendix 1 for details).
- Around 50 messages were exchanged with 26 answers to the questions (the other messages were introductory messages or more general comments).

Q1 drivers and challenges

The table with drivers and challenges raised a lot of comments. In particular:

- The need to focus on poverty alleviation
- The need to develop regional and local answers to these global challenges (global by nature or common to geographical areas).

Participants suggested the following additional drivers:

- Change in poverty patterns & rise in income inequalities,
- Change in livelihood strategies,
- Change in the research system,
- Loss of genetic biodiversity,
- Migration (depopulation from rural areas due to unemployment & consequent growing urbanisation)

Other participants proposed other drivers: the relation between HIV, nutrition & food security; food waste or post harvest losses. The challenges associated with the drivers were also commented on. For example, it was proposed to change the challenge associated to globalisation from “improved trade” into “exclusion of smallholders” or to add the challenge “competition for food for human & animals versus other uses” to the driver “scarcity of fossil fuel & bioenergy development”.

For Eastern Europe, the compliance with external policy (alignment of national policy to EU policies), the on-going institutional changes or the influence of negative demographic trends were also mentioned.

Q2 Does European ARD effectively support global poverty reduction?

The answer from several participants was "partly": Europe is already doing a lot (especially at national level) but the impact could be improved. Other participants had more negative opinions. Some were of the view that research is too focused on small and medium size business and not enough on the poor. Several contributions underlined the importance of local capacity building: European researchers should work in close collaboration with local partners, enabling the research environment in local institutions to be strengthened. Some relevant initiatives (PAEPARD, AGRINATURA) were mentioned. The following points were also made:

- There is a need to learn more about poverty (characterisation, evolution etc.)
- The FP7 does not identify poverty or malnutrition as a priority; there is need to involve all partners from Southern countries in priority setting.
- “Effective support” is not only a question of quantity but also of quality: there is, for example, a need for better coordination between donors

Q3 Does European research effectively support poverty reduction in Europe?

We learned one important thing from the answers: many European participants involved in ARD do not have an opinion on this question. This suggests a lack of interest of the European ARD community on poverty issues in Europe.

The participants who answered were rather negative. The main reason given was the low level of attention given to poverty in the research agendas both at national and EU level. A barrier is poor knowledge on poverty issues in Europe and the lack of capacity to conduct analysis.

In order to effectively support poverty reduction in Europe, participants suggested investing more into knowledge transfer: a lot of knowledge is already available but results should be adapted to local conditions.

Q4 How to improve civil society participation?

Answers from the participants confirm the findings of the review that there is a desire to improve the participation of civil society (NGOs, farmers' organisations and private sector) in ARD. Among the many suggestions on how to improve the current situation:

- Research instruments should encourage the participation of civil society: small research projects are not appropriate, objectives should be relevant, civil society should be involved as a research partner and not only as an user of the research results.
- Civil society should also be involved in research programming: it would help to focus research on issues relevant to civil society.
- Research results should be made more accessible to civil society.
- There is a need for capacity building both for civil society and scientists.

Q5 How to improve the use of research results?

The question was related to the previous one: improving civil society participation will help to improve the utilisation of research results. A lot of ideas were shared:

- There is a need to ensure that research answers user needs by facilitating users' representation in research programming.
- Vocational training for farmers should be developed. Education is also a priority.
- Dialogue between scientists & farmers and between civil society representatives (scientists, farmers and users, NGOs, the media, public authorities) should be increased.
- User groups (including NGOs) should be involved as research partners and not only as 'extensionists' at the end of research projects.
- There is a need to communicate success stories and concrete examples of how partnerships work and how technological innovation improve local communities' living standards.
- There is a need to reinforce the communication of research findings. For this, there is a need for capacity building for scientists and others and for incentives that stimulate scientists to engage in communication.
- Some participants proposed a change in the reward system of scientists in order to balance the importance of scientific publications with the delivery of information to users.
- Several initiatives were mentioned (ESFIM, Generation Challenge Programme, Swiss Guideline etc.).

4. THIRD PHASE: IDEAS FOR GCARD AGENDA

4.1 Overview

- In the third phase of the e-consultation, participants were invited to suggest one key issue to put on the GCARD agenda
- Around 35 messages were received with around 25 ideas for the GCARD agenda (other messages were more general comments).

4.2 Ideas for GCARD agenda

On “**key challenges in development and where to focus research**” (day 2 of the conference) the participants raised a number of ideas related to specific topics related to:

Poverty:

- “Multi-dimensional analysis of poverty and social exclusion”
- “Social Networks and their role in poverty alleviation”

Nutrition:

- “How to improve links between agriculture & nutrition issues”

Plant science:

- “Research on locally valuable plant species”
- “Research on drought resistant species”
- “Review of the Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) procedures and legal frameworks”
- “Knowledge transfer for organic horticulture or open discussions about GMO plants”
- “Development of a surveillance and risk assessment system for crop pests, diseases and invasive species”
- “GlobalHort -global initiative on horticulture”

Management of natural resources:

- “Landscape management, including the role of forests”
- “Soil and water conservation”

Other

- “Multifunctionality of agriculture”
- “Investments in Africa’s Agricultural Information Systems”
- “Food waste in developed countries”
- “Social acceptability of technological innovation”

On “**changes and tools needed in the agricultural research systems**” (Day 1 and 3), participants referred to:

Education:

- “Agricultural education- How to harness creative ideas from the young generation and how to reform in primary and secondary education?”

Stakeholders and their relations:

- “Involvement of private actors in research, notably via public-private partnerships”
- “The critical role of extension and advisory services in Agriculture for Development”
- “Improve stakeholders’ participation in the research process through participatory approaches”
- “Adoption of Technological Innovation for Agricultural Production and Sustainable Rural Viability”
- “Organizing the complementarities and synergies between different research actors, including the private sector”
- “How can we bridge the gap between researchers and farmers?”

Accessibility of research output

- “Accessibility of research output by smallholders”
- “Are top researchers best to have an impact on poverty?”

Research evaluation

- “How to make impact delivery more visible and powerful in research evaluation & assessment and become an incentive for researchers?”

Dialogue

- “The need for more dialogue on issues of ARD and its linkages with the rest of the agriculture knowledge system”

Finally, several key issues for the discussion on the “major barriers to bring research into use” were suggested by Jean-Luc Khalfaoui and complemented by Yves Savidan:

- 1) The lack of liaison between agricultural research and broader development efforts.
- 2) The lack of involvement of users in the definition and implementation of research.
- 3) The weakness of research institutions in many countries and the lack of researchers, in particular of young and female trained staff (particularly acute in most of Sub-Saharan Africa).
- 4) Agricultural research conceived and implemented in isolation from research in other development areas (health, energy, and environment) when interactions are important and directly affect impact in each sector.
- 5) Agricultural research conceived and implemented in isolation from investments in agriculture.

Word cloud: ideas for GCARD agenda

5. CONCLUSIONS

The e-consultation helped to identify the expectations of the ARD stakeholders for the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development 2010 (GCARD 2010). The level of participation was satisfactory with 193 participants and 115 contributions from researchers (54% of the contributions) and representatives from NGOs, farmers' organization, private sector, government and donors (37% of the contributions). Despite an expected bias towards researchers, the e-consultation also helped to gather views of other stakeholders involved in ARD. A weakness was the low participation of representatives from Eastern Europe (only 15% of the total).

The participants positively evaluated the e-consultation for Europe: according to the evaluation survey, 25% of the participants rated the e-consultation "excellent", 45% "good" and 25% "average". Around 75% of the respondents considered that their understanding of Agricultural Research for Development issues in Europe was increased.

Some key messages regarding research programming were: the necessity to focus ARD on the needs of the poor; the desire to involve users in the setting up of research agendas; and the need to develop more links with (i) other sectors (environment, health etc.), (ii) other investments in the agricultural sector and (iii) other development efforts.

Key messages regarding implementation of research were the needs: to design new "types of research projects" (longer projects, involving users including the private sector); to develop "capacity building" (both for the civil society and for scientists, in communication for example); and to create new incentives for scientists (based on real impact not only on "impact factor").

Ideas for the GCARD agenda include: discussions on future challenges (poverty, nutrition, plant science, landscape & forestry, soil & water etc.); on education issues; on stakeholders & their relations (role of private sector or extension service, participatory approaches etc.); and on the accessibility of research output by the poor.

These results will be discussed at a workshop organised in Brussels on the 29 September 2009. The findings of the "Regional review", of the e-consultation and of the workshop will be summarised in a synthesis report expected for the end of October 2009.

APPENDIX: MESSAGES INTRODUCING THE THREE PHASES

Phase 1: message sent on the 02.09.2009

Dear all,

Thank you for subscribing to the GCARD e-consultation for Europe, a 3-week electronic dialogue on possible pathways to transform agricultural knowledge into positive impact for the poor in Europe and in developing countries.

Our consultation starts today. In this message, I invite you to introduce yourself and to share an experience that shows how agricultural research can have an impact on the poor. At the end of this message, you will find several helpful reminders about this on-line event.

Please start by introducing yourself briefly:

- Your name
- The organization you work with
- Your professional background
- The work you are currently involved in.

Then if possible share briefly an experience:

- Describe briefly an example of agricultural research that had an impact on agricultural development, addressing food security and poverty alleviation (either in Europe, either in the developing world).
- Comment its impact by indicating what worked and what didn't. Indicate the reasons for the impact considering for example aspects related to the partnership, or the type of research (ie: involvement/ownership/commitment of all stakeholders, research driven by users, quality and continuity of the expertise etc). Example of failure stories would also be interesting, indicating the reasons (ie: lack of commitment of actors from the beginning, lack of ownership etc.).
- If available you are welcome to share links to more information.

As Europe is both a donor and a recipient of Agricultural Research for Development, examples could be based on research that had an impact in Europe or in the developing World. Please indicate in your email if your example refers to Europe or to developing countries outside Europe.

Your message will not be published on any website. It will be received by the participants of the consultation (use "reply to all" or send a new email to "GCARD2010-EU-L@mailserv.fao.org").

Finally, you will find in the attachment the executive summary of the "GCARD Regional review for Europe". I kindly invite you to read it as we will use it during the second phase of our consultation (scheduled to start at the end of next week).

I hope you enjoy meeting online!

Olivier Chartier

Facilitator of the Europe e-consultation

Email: Olivier.chartier@euroquality.fr

Skype: ochartier.euroquality

Web: <http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard/regional-consultations/eu>

Phase 2: questions sent on the 02.09.2009**Question 1: drivers of agricultural research?**

- Do you agree with the major drivers of research as identified from the review at:
 - Global level
 - European level
 - East and south East Europe
- Should further drivers be added? Should some of these be removed?

Driver	Challenge	Global level*	European level**	E/SE Europe***
Climate change	Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change	✓	✓	✓
Growing population + change in food consumption pattern	Food security	✓	✓	✓
Scarcity of fossil fuel and bio-energy development	Energy security	✓	✓	✓
Globalisation	Improved trade	✓	✓	✓
Degradation of the environment	Biodiversity and natural resource management (including soil and water)	✓	✓	✓
Plant and animal diseases, pandemics	Food safety including animal/human health and animal welfare	✓	✓	✓
Change in dietary patterns	Nutrition: obesity and malnutrition	✓	✓	✓
Scarcity of phosphorous/other inputs	Agricultural fertiliser security		✓	

Sources: * IAASTD reports, World Development report (2008)

** EC Communications + SCAR foresight

*** EIARD strategy, ERA-ARD reports

Question 2: does European ARD effectively support global poverty reduction?

- Do you think that global poverty issues are sufficiently addressed by European support? In your opinion, which research priorities require attention to more effectively tackle global poverty?

Question 3: does European research effectively support poverty reduction in Europe?

- Do you think that poverty issues in Europe are sufficiently addressed by the European research community?
- Considering poverty issues in rural areas, what are the peculiarities in Europe compared with other regions in the world?
- In your opinion, which research priorities require urgent attention to tackle poverty in Europe?

Question 4: how to improve civil society participation?

- In your experience, which mechanisms are best fitted to increase the participation of civil society (NGOs, farmers' organisations) and private sector in setting-up of research agendas, in implementation of research and in spreading research results?
- How can farmers be more involved in research activities implemented by public research organisations?

Question 5: how to improve the use of research results?

- To your opinion, what are the reasons for the low uptake of research results? What should be done to improve the use of research results?
- In your opinion, in what areas does capacity need to be developed (e.g. knowledge management, farmers advisory services, communication technologies)?
- What specific comparative advantage does Europe have in capacity development?

Phase 3: message sent on the 02.09.2009

Dear All,

Today, we start the last phase of our e-consultation. I would like to thank the 50 participants who sent contributions last week and invite all of you to express your concerns and ideas before Wednesday 23 September, by:

- Answering the 5 questions

We received around 20 contributions to the 5 questions raised last Monday. A lot of useful information has already been generated but we would like to hear from more of you, especially from participants from countries and sectors not sufficiently represented (eg.civil society organisations, donors; and representatives from Eastern and South-East Europe, Russia and other European countries such as the UK).

For details on the questions, please visit <http://gcardblog.wordpress.com/2009/09/14/eu1/>

- Selecting one key issue to be put forward on GCARD agenda

This consultation aims at preparing the first Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD 2010) that will take place in Montpellier (France) in March 2010. As indicated in the GCARD brochure published last week "the regional electronic consultations are your opportunity to make sure that issues that are important to you are on the agenda" (see <http://gcardblog.wordpress.com/2009/09/16/gcard-brochure-now-available/>).

In this last phase, we therefore invite you **to indicate one issue that in your opinion, should be on the agenda of the conference**. Please indicate one topic and, if possible, explain the reason why it is the most important item to be discussed in Montpellier next year.

We will close the consultation at the end of the week. In order to prepare the summary, we invite you to send your contribution before Wednesday. You will find in the attachment a copy of the messages exchanged so far and below a short overview of your answers to the 5 questions.

Best regards,

Olivier Chartier (EUROQUALITY)

Facilitator of the Europe e-consultation

Email: Olivier.chartier@euroquality.fr

Skype: [ochartier.euroquality](https://www.skype.com/username/ochartier.euroquality)

Web: <http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard/regional-consultations/eu>

Blog: <http://gcardblog.wordpress.com/category/regional-e-consultations/europe/>