After two decades of widespread neglect of agriculture and agricultural innovation, the world is now experiencing cycles of food price crises, caused by a combination of increasing food demand, changing consumption patterns, climate change, diminishing natural resources and alternative usage pressures on agricultural land. Both new knowledge, and the better use of existing knowledge, are crucial if we are to sustainably increase production from existing lands, meet the income and livelihood needs of poor farmers and sustain the natural resources on which agriculture and ecosystems depend.
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The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) is the recognized global platform bringing together all those who care about the future of agriculture and the role of knowledge and research in its development. The Global Forum provides an open and inclusive international mechanism that brings together the views and actions of all those involved in the generation, sharing, access and practical use of agricultural knowledge around the world. Founded in 1996, GFAR is a key mechanism to foster new thinking and trigger collective actions that can bring about large-scale changes and benefits in agriculture and rural development.

GFAR rallies the voices and collective actions of all sectors to transform and strengthen agricultural research and development systems to achieve the changes and benefits we all wish to see in agriculture and rural development.

Those involved in GFAR cover the continuum from farmers and consumers to researchers, extension, education and enterprises and international organizations, working together to deliver developmental change and impacts around the world.

We seek to ensure that research serves the aims of communities and puts the needs of farmers (in particular resource-poor farmers) at the very core of agricultural research and innovation systems.

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1GFAR’s role in support of the global agricultural research system is recognized in Ministerial declarations of the G8 in 2009 and the G20 in 2011.
How GFAR Operates

The multi-stakeholder GFAR Steering Committee determines actions to be mobilized and delivered through the many partnerships, collaborative networks and institutions brought together through the Forum. Mutually-agreed actions are delivered directly through the organizations, networks and agencies involved in systems of agricultural innovation around the world.

The GFAR Secretariat – hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - facilitates, coordinates and supports the Global Forum and its actions with a multidisciplinary team of experts, some on secondment, from agencies in agricultural research, knowledge management, development policies and socio-economics.
What We Achieve

Actions undertaken by GFAR’s extensive stakeholder networks, supported by the Secretariat and enabled by a number of funding agencies contribute directly to the transformation and strengthening of all aspects of agricultural innovation systems to achieve:

- Better priority setting and advocacy for agricultural research, responding to key challenges and development needs around the world

- Better partnerships and synergies between different sectors and institutions in agricultural research-for-development (AR4D) systems, with farmers at the centre of these processes

- Institutions and their capacities transformed to meet the needs of today – and tomorrow, with funding systems aligned between research and development

- Sharing and scaling-out of new knowledge and learning of all forms to foster change and innovation

In 2011, the generous support received from a number of agencies\(^2\) has enabled GFAR to commission a series of more strategic activities by the Regional Fora and a wide range of other programme-implementing organizations. These actions are taking forward and supporting the changes in institutional and individual behaviour and system operations and functions set out in the GCARD Roadmap (see text box), as endorsed by all parties and regions, which now form the strategic direction for all of GFAR’s work.

\(^2\) European Commission, MAEE France, IRD, DFID, DGIS, Government of Italy, Irish Aid, SDC, CAAS, IFAD, FAO, CIDA
GCARD ROADMAP

The Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) is an innovative global process by which all stakeholders are working together to transform and strengthen agricultural research and innovation systems towards achieving global development goals. It operates through GFAR, in partnership with the CGIAR Consortium.

Contributions and dynamic interaction of thousands of stakeholders from all sectors have created the GCARD Roadmap. The Roadmap highlights the urgent changes required in Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) systems, to address worldwide goals of reducing hunger and poverty, creating opportunity for income growth, sustainable intensification of agriculture; while particularly meeting the needs of resource-poor farmers and consumers. The Roadmap proposes a six-point plan for transforming agricultural research for development around the world:

1. Focusing collectively on key priorities, as determined and shaped by science and society
2. Developing a true and effective partnership between research and those it serves
3. Increasing investments to meet the challenges ahead and ensure the required development returns from AR4D
4. Increasing capacities to generate, share and make use of agricultural knowledge for development change among all actors
5. Embedding effectively research in the wider development context and actions enabling developmental change
6. Demonstrating the development impact and returns from agricultural innovation

Representatives of all regions and sectors, including farmers, regional fora of national systems, civil society, the private sector, UN agencies and the Consortium Board of the CGIAR, formally endorsed the Roadmap in 2011. GFAR is now working to help organizations catalyze and deliver these changes around the world.
1. **Shaping the Future together**

An important need identified at the first Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD1) 2010 was to improve processes of foresight and prioritization in agricultural research, to ensure that research and innovation better anticipate and reflect key future needs in agriculture and rural development. This is a critical issue. The long-term nature of agricultural research means that investment decisions taken now will determine our ability to deliver required changes over the years to come.
In a decisive meeting held during the CGIAR Science Forum 2011, the future of farming patterns, the futures of land use and future links between consumption and production were identified as the most challenging yet insufficiently explored issues regarding the future of agriculture. These three questions lie at the core of debate through the Global Foresight Hub and bring many differing views. Advances in integrating these three issues, and with a Region focus will be reported and debated in 2012. The group of practitioners include scientists from national and international research organizations, universities, and professionals from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**EXPLORING FUTURES**

**ANTICIPATING CHANGES**

- Who will be farming in the future world?
- Where will farming take place?
- How will farming respond to the demands?

In a decisive meeting held during the CGIAR Science Forum 2011, the future of farming patterns, the futures of land use and future links between consumption and production were identified as the most challenging yet insufficiently explored issues regarding the future of agriculture. These three questions lie at the core of debate through the Global Foresight Hub and bring many differing views. Advances in integrating these three issues, and with a Region focus will be reported and debated in 2012. The group of practitioners include scientists from national and international research organizations, universities, and professionals from governmental and non-governmental organizations.
In response to demands expressed in the GCARD 2010 process, GFAR has developed and convened the Global Foresight Hub as an integrated mechanism to bring together all those working to understand future agricultural needs. The Hub is designed to provide a neutral and objective space to bring together and learn from the rich diversity of studies on agriculture of the future and their underlying assumptions, in addressing key issues for agriculture and humanity. By examining future needs through multiple lenses, we can better understand different ways in which agricultural systems may develop and link these to new agricultural research and innovation to inform and create the agricultural futures we wish to see.

The concept of a Global Foresight Hub was brought to the G20 High-Level Agricultural Research for Development Meeting, held in September 2011 in Montpellier, France and was widely welcomed and endorsed, GFAR being requested to put the Hub into action among the diverse institutions and programmes involved.
2. Partnerships for Impact

CGIAR Reform and the CRPs

Support to the processes of CGIAR reform remains a priority for GFAR. GFAR supported the inclusion of its stakeholders and partners views in the funding decisions of the CGIAR Fund Council. The GFAR Secretariat ensured that the 15 proposals for research programs (CRPs) were reviewed discussed among diverse GFAR stakeholders, prior to their consideration for approval in the CGIAR Fund Council for 2011.

This helped to shape the CRPs content and ensure that they address development targets expressed and prioritized by stakeholders from developing countries and aligned with the principles of the GCARD Roadmap.

Helping to shape international research

Continuing its direct involvment in supporting the reform of the CGIAR, significant inputs and investments were made through GFAR in 2011 in supporting interactions between those developing and revising the CGIAR Research Programme (CRP) proposals and other GFAR stakeholders, in particular via the Regional Fora. This resulted in: a) direct inputs contributing to the drafting of the proposals through discussions with Team Leaders, such as in the case of CRP2 - Policies, Institutions and Markets; CRP 5 - Water, Land, and Ecosystems; CRP7 - Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security; CRP 3.7 - Aquatic Agricultural Systems, CRP 3.6 - Dry Lands Systems etc. and b) directly expressing the views of other GFAR constituencies on the different proposals submitted by the CGIAR Consortium for Fund Council decision.
Developing thematic partnerships

Climate Change

GFAR has again been a core partner, with other agencies including CCAFS, IFAD and GDPRD, in organizing the Agriculture and Rural Development Days around the UNFCCC process and specifically highlighting the agricultural implications of climate change. GFAR funding has enabled the involvement of civil society partners and national research system representatives in the ARDD processes and debates at the UNCCD COP17/CMP7 conference and side meetings in Durban Conference in December 2011. This resulted in a successful and broad-based meeting, the outcome being a collective call for action on agriculture and climate change to policy makers across a wide partnership of organizations from diverse agricultural sectors and regions.

Through supporting regional actions by AARINENA, APAARI and CACAARI, GFAR has helped bring direct focus on research needs associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation in the regions concerned.

GFAR and the World Meteorological Organization directly supported the International Conference on Adaptation to Climate Change and Food Security in West Asia/North Africa region, organized through AARINENA in Kuwait in November 2011. The Conference resulted in a plan of action to address mitigation and adaptation to climate change within the West Asia/North Africa region. These actions include the need to integrate science, practice and policy in climate change and agriculture through multidisciplinary approaches and examine alternative scenarios according to the extent of climate change, for future food security of the region. Actions are to be taken forward as a focused network among the agencies and countries concerned.

“...one-size-fits-all solutions are not the answer given the specific needs and lifestyles of farmers, households and communities. To achieve feasible, integrated solutions, the critical elements are knowledge sharing ... that interact with empowered farmers organizations”. (T. Mamo, Member, CCAFS Commission on Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture, at COP 17 Conference).
Agro-biodiversity

GFAR, together with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), has advocated for greater research attention to the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity at national, regional and international levels. They co-organized an inter-regional and multi-sectoral workshop to discuss the importance of local varieties and indigenous species, at FAO, Rome, in January 2011. The participants committed to forming a new collective movement: the Diversity for Development (D4D) alliance, which decided, in the first instance, to establish the evidence-base documenting the value of local varieties and indigenous species.

Participants in a side-event organized by GFAR at the Fourth Regular Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA in Bali, Indonesia in March 2011, agreed to jointly promote the need to expand varietal conservation and exchange and sustainable use. During its sessions, the Governing Body of the International Treaty has now formally recognized the role of GFAR in promoting sustainable use of plant genetic resources.
GFAR commissioned GlobalHort to lead a review of evidence regarding the role of development opportunity crops. The resulting scientific report was used to make a robust case for conservation and use of species diversity into the GFAR-sponsored agro-biodiversity session at the CGIAR Science Forum in Beijing in October 2011. The Science Forum itself brought together some of the world’s leading thinkers on agro-biodiversity, working to address the science around biodiversity and its role in sustainability and productivity of agricultural systems. These issues are many and complex and it became recognized that much further work is required to understand the implications and value of biodiversity at different scales and that in many cases we do not even yet have adequate tools and measures by which to do so. As a consequence, agrobiodiversity criteria receive lower attention than other measures used in agricultural policy and planning.

With increased support from GFAR in 2011, the regional fora, supported by GFAR, started to implement their regional frameworks for the conservation and use of agro-biodiversity. For the Asia-Pacific region, “The Suwon Agro-biodiversity Framework” which was agreed late 2010 in the context of APAARI recognizes that the reservoir of genetic resources remains the biggest resource for food security, and equally important for improving nutrition, product quality, product diversification and food safety.

For sub-Saharan Africa, the Agricultural Biodiversity Initiative in Africa (ABIA) was launched by FARA at the end of its General Assembly (2010) with the aim of halting further deterioration in PGR, and to help unleash the potential of agricultural biodiversity for development in the continent. In the Near-East North Africa region, collaboration between ITPGRFA and GFAR, with Bioversity International and ICARDA has helped revamp the plant genetic resources network in the region and led to the formulation and endorsement of a new biodiversity strategy at the AARINENA General Assembly in Kuwait.

**Partnerships in Local Innovation**

GFAR supported Prolinnova - an innovative global partnership which aims to promote and share the value of local innovation in agriculture in 2011 to undertake activities for the implementation of the GCARD Roadmap.
Prolinnova has enabled and supported a range of locally-led initiatives by NGO/CSOs in AR4D at all levels and enhances the relevance of AR4D efforts through increased use of credible farmer-led approaches that scale out local innovations into wider practice. This also now includes the use of innovative funding models where research can be directly commissioned by farmers themselves.

Prolinnova has also been mobilizing collective action among civil society organizations and in November 2011, Prolinnova co-organized with the EC-funded Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development project (INSARD), an international consultation meeting in Nairobi to discuss the findings of an inventory of African and European CSOs involved in ARD in sub-Saharan Africa. Prolinnova staff have also created an effective discussion platform in the CSO-GARD network established through the GCARD 2010 and which now includes over 70 civil organizations actively contributing to discussion of key issues.
Gender in Agricultural Research and Innovation

The GCARD Roadmap highlighted that women’s needs and priorities are grossly neglected in agricultural innovation systems around the world despite the fact that women comprise almost half the global agricultural workforce.

Consequently, GFAR has initiated, catalyzed and supported a major new initiative in 2011, the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP), developed through extensive dialogue and in partnership with leading agencies around the world, in particular the CGIAR, FAO, IFAD, WFO, Regional Fora and community organizations in the Sub-Saharan Africa, N Africa & W Asia and Asia-Pacific regions, addressing the particular needs of agricultural innovation of women farmers and rural householders.

Several pilot gender-related activities were commissioned in the year among FAO, the CGIAR, the Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa and its Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme (FARA/SSA-CP) and the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions of Near East and North Africa (AARINENA). Collaborations sponsored by GFAR between IFPRI and FAO have generated two extensive review studies, summarizing global knowledge and the issues around making innovation systems more relevant to women, the first of which is now published: http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rr176.pdf.

With financial support from GFAR, a study commissioned by AARINENA examined the innovation needs of rural women in several countries of the WANA region. This study produced a range of insights on the role of women farmers in the region and how these can be better addressed. This report highlighted the clear need for a gender focus in consideration of agricultural issues in the region.
The case for women’s equal rights and access to resources in agriculture is clear cut and undisputed. This report and the recent studies cited provide ample evidence that the development prospects of the WANA countries are seriously compromised by persistent gender inequities. The study clearly illustrates the significant barriers rural women and female farmers face in the WANA region. (AARINENA report, 2012)

These studies and events in 2011 set the context for GFAR’s sponsorship of the Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (GCWA) a groundbreaking international event organized by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Indian Council on Agricultural Research (ICAR) which led to the formal launch of the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP) in March, 2012.
Giving Young Agricultural Professionals a voice - and a future

The year 2011 was the UN International Year of the Youth. The Young Professionals’ Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD), hosted and directly supported and funded by GFAR Secretariat, mobilizes the voices and experiences of young professionals and advocates for their needs through a variety of new media and approaches.

Among others, in 2011 GFAR support enabled participation of young professionals in the CGIAR Science Forum in Beijing, and additionally supported an extensive survey and review study undertaken by YPARD in 2011. This study showed that young people are looking for entrepreneurial training and new skills often not provided by conventional curricula. Reform of curricula becomes a crucial need.

This need has also been recognized by the education sector itself and GFAR has continued to support major reform of the sector, working through support to specific actions led by the education community. This includes the formation of a global body for actions addressing these needs (GCHERA), helping to enable inter-regional linkages within the sector (e.g. Agrinatura & RUFORUM) and working directly with leading universities to bring their experiences into wider linkage through collaborations between regional fora and extending this approach to supporting capacity-development linkages between European institutions and CACAARI, FORAGRO and APAARI.
Strengthening Rural Advisory Services

The collapse of state extension services around the world has left a void that must be filled in new ways if knowledge generated from research is to find pathways for its transformation, access and use. Those brokering these links now include public, private and civil organizations, but still operate under many constraints of capacity and resources. GFAR was one of the key drivers behind, and a core founder of, the new Global Forum on Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) which was established to specifically highlight this need and create a practical mechanism for sharing and advancing best practices in this sector around the world.

GFRAS, the global initiative to strengthen agricultural advisory services, has been directly supported through GFAR from the outset, including through direct sponsorship of all southern farmer and CSO representatives to the initial programme development meeting in Italy in 2010, funding support to the subsequent Nairobi and India international extension conferences in 2011 and active participation in the Steering Committee of the GFRAS initiative. GFRAS also creates a mechanism for advisory services to now be directly represented into GFAR’s governance as a critical entity in the research-to-development innovation system continuum served by GFAR.
Sharing Knowledge with All

GFAR promotes the culture of more equitable, open access and efficient sharing of agricultural knowledge by supporting improved communications and information management among all AR4D stakeholders at all levels.

Information and Communication Management

In 2011, GFAR supported all the Regional Fora in improving communication and information management in their regional agricultural information and learning systems. This enabled successful regional workshops (see Table) to take forward new information and communications technologies and trends such as use of cloud based and “crowd” computing, mobile computing and social media with more open access to agricultural information in West Asia and North Africa (through AARINENA), South Asia, South East Asia and in the Pacific (through APAARI), Central Asia and the South Caucuses (through CACAARI), South America (through FORAGRO).
These regional conferences addressed:

- **Capital**: The need to increase, improve and target financial investment in information and communications management in agricultural research organizations at national level and for regional coordination of agricultural information flows through the regional fora;
- **Content**: The current dearth of relevant, useful, timely information for decision making by all AR4D stakeholders creates the need for more open information access to information which is “re-useable” into different applications, taking advantage of new ICTs;
- **Connectivity**: The huge potential that mobile cellular and wireless broadband connectivity now offers to rural areas, especially small farmers, producers and entrepreneurs to improve farming, marketing and stimulating innovation;
- **Collaboration**: The need to collaborate in a) generating content including multimedia, applications and b) involving civil society actors as intermediaries for effective information management and use in rural communities;
- **Capacity**: The need for renewing and building new capacities at different organizational levels in the context of rapidly changing technologies and needs of users;
- **Community Participation**: The growing realization that, with the rise of “social media” rural communities have huge capacities to generate content through participatory audio and video and deliver it in locally relevant ways through mapping and GIS links and involvement of local councils, NGOs, faith communities, women and youth groups, schools, farmers clubs and organizations;
- **Cultural change in organizations**: The need for cultural and behavioural change in ARD organizations at all levels to recognize all the above issues and work individually and together to change institutional policies, structures and work processes to improve generation, flow and use of agricultural information globally.
Through GFAR support, AARINENA and APAARI developed reports on the Status of Information and Communications Management for AR4D in the West Asia & North Africa and Asia-Pacific Regions. These reports highlighted systematic weaknesses in ICM systems in these regions that require Institutional interventions and support, investment in technologies and new capacities and coordination to enable improved information and communications and their effective use for agricultural development and innovation. Nonetheless, APAARI usefully highlighted several major success stories in use of new ICTs in agricultural communities in the region.

*Greater Openness in Information Sharing*

Ensuring access to information from science to all users in R&D is a major challenge that a number of governments are beginning to take on. GFAR organized and pioneered an e-conference on “Building the CIARD Framework for Data and Information Sharing” on the e-Agriculture platform, which led to an international workshop, held in Beijing, to discuss the draft “Framework for Data and Information Sharing for ARD” produced from these consultations. This Framework which focuses on issues of “interoperability” of agricultural data and information is being further developed for discussion and mobilization at GCARD2.

Opening access to agricultural data and information also became a theme at various regional and national workshops. These advocacy and capacity development activities of GFAR have resulted in several countries, including China, India, Thailand, Sierra Leone and Ghana, now implementing principles of open access, as advocated by CIARD, in their national information systems.

GFAR also supported the development of the new CIARD advocacy toolkit by commissioning relevant studies and summaries from information specialists in the CGIAR Consortium and supporting knowledge ‘Share Fairs’ for CIARD principles to be spread around the world.
Knowledge for All

GFAR promotes the cause of ready access to agricultural knowledge for all, recognizing that agriculture is increasingly a “knowledge-based” industry. GFAR in 2011 directly supported the organization of two international conferences related to extension and advisory services which considered knowledge sharing issues in depth among agricultural communities. “Innovations in Extension and Advisory Services: Linking Knowledge to Policy and Action for Food and Livelihoods”, organized by GFRAS in Nairobi and the “International Conference on Innovative Approaches to agricultural Knowledge Management” in New Delhi.

ICTs are powerful tools for improving efficiency and effectiveness of information flows in market chains but now need new ways to tackle the associated institutional, community and technology-related issues. GFAR is now actively fostering the development of appropriate applications, using open access and user generated data and information. This includes support to FARA in their review of the use of mobile technologies, especially cellular telephones, by farming communities and their role in African agricultural progress.

GFAR has also supported the development of improved mapping systems, geo-spatial data and use of Geographical Information Systems. GFAR also actively participated in the BING-PROGIS-Terra Workshop on the Improved and Optimally harmonized Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for Agriculture and Land Use in Washington, DC, USA, contributing to the development of an approach to wide-area GIS-based activities in agriculture and forestry.
APAARI compiled and published Success Stories on ICT / ICM in AR4D in Asia and the Pacific Region

The publication embodied five success stories on a variety of ICT/ICM initiatives in Agriculture:

• The innovative television program Moti-O-Manush in Bangladesh,
• ICT-enabled information services to farmers through aAQUA initiative in India,
• Improving adoption of technologies and marketing in vegetables with the help of Krishi Community Radio in Nepal,
• Appropriate use of ICT tools and methods through Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) in the Philippines and
• Cyber Extension in support of agricultural extension system in Sri Lanka.

These success stories highlight the role of new information & communication technologies and information management (ICT/ICM) in strengthening agricultural extension systems in these countries. Sharing these proven approaches for efficient transfer of technologies to the farmers has empowered their decision making and enabled access to new information as well as developing innovative technologies, public-private partnerships, involving farmers with ICT/ICM and sharing better practices in ICT/ICM to spark new AR4D initiatives.
Knowledge Sharing

Through a new partnership with the online journal New Agriculturist, information links with the CGIAR, FAO and very extensive networks of stakeholders, GFAR is now routinely soliciting and widely disseminating feature articles on the successes and challenges in agricultural research for development. GFAR’s own mail-lists reach around 5,000 people directly, with a very significant multiplier effect through the various networks and focus groups concerned. Coverage and awareness in the media has also increased. GFAR publishes a regular, event driven e-news while the GFAR website (www.egfar.org) provides a range of practical information services available to all and platforms discussing and updating users on critical issues related to AR4D.

Investments

The GCARD Roadmap identified decades of chronic under-investment in AR4D systems around the world as a major barrier to development. GFAR is advocating for increased investment in all AR4D sectors and is working to bring greater coherence and efficiency between national and aid investments and to better embed investments in research into wider commitments supporting rural development and fostering the access, uptake and use of agricultural innovation.

Monitoring and reporting these investments and their impacts is an essential need and to help make the case for increased investment, GFAR is tasked by the GCARD to establish baseline data in investments and capacities, against which changes can be traced and successful effects determined.

GFAR works through and helps support expert agencies such as ASTI, the Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators programme of IFPRI, which works to generate internationally comparable data on agricultural R&D investments and capacity for developing countries. GFAR has also helped mobilize and support initiatives such as those of FAO and GFRAS that are determining rural advisory services worldwide.
In partnership with collectives of aid agencies: the Global Donor Platform on Rural Development (GDPRD), the European Initiative on Agricultural research for Development (EIARD), the OECD and others, GFAR is working to bring greater coherence and clarity on what investments are being made in the sector by governments and aid agencies around the world. This process has fed into and informed both OECD-DAC and the G8 in their efforts to better track donor investments in food security, including under the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI).

GFAR is also supporting the establishment of national baseline data on AR4D investments and capacities through support to regional fora including AARINENA, APAAARI, CACAARI, FARA and FORAGRO, each of which are working with ASTI and others to together determine the status and trends in each region together with international organizations such as the CGIAR.
From research into development

*World Bank and IFAD*

During the World Bank 2011 Rural Week and through the subsequent IFAD International conference on Scaling up the fight against rural poverty (June 2011), GFAR facilitated a process of international discussion among major research and funding agencies on the implications of scaling-up and scaling-out of research products related to rice and other major crops. Following on from this process, GFAR commissioned the ALINe group of the Institute of Development Studies to undertake an innovative study with Africa Rice Centre, FARA, the Government of Ghana, the CARD programme and a range of in-country partners.

*Policy engagement with the G20*

Strong support for GFAR and GCARD expressed by the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting in June 2011 and then the September G20-Agricultural Research for Development conference, in which GFAR was one of four international organizations involved, created opportunity to engage technical partners from advanced research institutions into agricultural research-for-development applications, mobilizing advanced capacities and resources via coherent, demand-driven processes that are accountable to both taxpayers and intended end-users.

The outcomes of the first three sessions of the G20-ARD conference point at practical mechanisms for: (1) improved prioritization and better-informed policies, (2) improved and equitable partnerships, (3) capacity development, (4) increased integration of research and development support and investment mechanisms towards development impacts and (5) increasing G20 national commitments to these aims and highlighting their impact.
G20 nations have now also engaged with GFAR as a key mechanism to engage their own capabilities more effectively in development. The G20 nations are a powerhouse of both agricultural innovation and agricultural production, but to date have largely been focused on meeting domestic needs and international trade opportunities, with various specialized institutions working directly into development. However, growing recognition that agricultural issues such as increasing food prices and their societal impacts, unsustainable practices, increasing rural poverty and interacting disruptions such as climate change and trans-boundary diseases are of global significance has created demand for upstream capabilities to also be engaged into processes that benefit both domestic purposes and the crucial need to meet international development goals.

Support to regional processes of AR4D strategic priority setting and partnership

GFAR’s support to FARA enabled African AR4D stakeholders and their development partners to meet together in Zurich, to discuss and plan the next phase of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programs (CAADP). The demand for CGIAR processes to be directly aligned with the CAADP was strongly expressed by African farmers’ organizations in the GCARD 2010 consultations and this has now come though into a strategic alignment and investment in the CGIAR’s role in support of the CAADP objectives.

With GFAR’s support, the Regional Forum for Central Asia and the Caucasus (CACAARI) has now developed a Regional Strategy for Agricultural Research for Development for Central Asia and the Caucuses. Based on the African model, this was the first ever agreement among all AR4D stakeholders in the region to identify and pursue common regional priorities.
4. 2011 Financial Summary

2011 GFAR Activities - expenditure
Total income: US$ 4 710 525
Total expenditure: US$ 3 752 952
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