Why Reforming GFAR Governance?

1) **Normal Process:**
   - **GFAR Charter** (Oct. 1998) revised:
     a) First GFAR External Review, mid-2000 - Establishment of Program Committee strengthening RF/NARS role in defining GFAR agenda
     b) GA 2003: *ARIs constituency as regional fora* within GFAR. Charter finalized in 2006.
   - **Evolution in AR4D:** WDR 2008; IAASTD 2009; CGIAR Reform (2008-2010); adoption of GCARD RoadMap (2010); new development challenges ...
   - **Pragmatic adjustments** in GFAR Governance at *global level* after GCARD Roadmap for transformation of AR4D Systems
     - Greater inclusiveness in SC (P. Sect, NGOs, FOs, Extension, Education)
     - **CGIAR expectations:** inputs in Foresight/Priority setting (updating SRF, CRPs, other GPPs i.e. Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP), request on Open Access Policy.
     - **Stronger CGIAR Consortium involvement** (CEO in GFAR SC): Increased interactions on partnerships, New phase of CRPs, agreement for GCARD3.
   - **Need to formally adjust** obsolete provisions i.e **Triennial GA /biennial GCARDs. Revision of GFAR acronym (including D ?)**

2) **SC decisions** at Istanbul Meeting (April 2013) on **Governance External Review** (MANNET January 2013)

**Global governance** (strategic agenda for AR4D + influence policy-makers decisions on AR4D investments, ensuring all stakeholders engagement); **network governance** (functioning as a global forum); **institutional governance** (classic functions, budget, meetings); and **stewardship** (catalytic funding of AR4D Initiatives and entities, transformative strengthening of RFs)

- **Overall conclusion:** GFAR governance not sufficiently robust
- **Weaknesses in SC** (flaws in representation, conflict of interests, excessive RFs weight, risk becoming an impediment to Forum ability to deliver its global AR4D mandate.
- **Argued for rapid process of Renewal of Forum Governance**

- **SC agreed in principle** on most Recommendations (17) and start change process towards new “compact” and revised Charter (Constituent Assembly).
- **SC made 2 major decisions and a suggestion:**

  - Establishment of *ad Hoc* Strategic Governance Working Group (SGWG) to provide guidance to GFAR SC in implementation [R # 1]
  - Replacement of the Program Committee by Resource Allocation Committee (RAC) empowered to take decision in this domain [R # 8].
  - *Suggestion of self-reflection process* at Regional/sub-regional & National levels on how RFs want to evolve as Fora (?) and be represented in GFAR [R # 2].
SGWG Composition = Six (6) members:

GFAR Chair or Vice-Chair, or their delegate, as convener

- 1 representative from AARINENA and FARA to articulate perspectives from Regional Fora
- 1 representative each from Farmers’ Organizations and Advisory Services, providing perspectives from stakeholder groups
- Chair of the Donor Support Group, = perspectives of those funding GFAR
- FAO representative providing perspectives of GFAR establishing institutions and international organizations

GFAR Executive Secretary Ex officio with support from Secretariat to Working Group process and re-commissioning MANNET will be re-commissioned for advisory support

Timetable: September 2013 to January 2014

- Steering Committee will make decisions in light of SGWG report and proposals. (First Quarter 2014)
- Consider holding GFAR Constituent Assembly (3rd Quarter 2014 ?) or integral component of GCARD3 (November 2014 ?)
4) **Probable New Governance Mechanisms of GFAR**:

(i) Steering Committee,

(ii) **Executive Committee** with decision powers delegated by SC *(Substituting Management Team – Recommendation **not clearly endorsed**)*

(iii) **Resource Allocation Committee** *(phasing out of Program Committee)* – not representative of all stakeholder groups. Members: GFAR Chair and host organization SC member; 1 or 2 donor representatives and 2 independent experts with significant experience or academic credibility in AR4D - Executive Secretary, *ex-officio*, as responsible for fundraising and contracts with donors,

(iv) Executive Secretariat *(reinforced but lean (consultants), cost effective procedures (virtual meetings/Tele and Video Conferences)),*

(v) Donor Support Group *(revitalized)*

(vi) **Facilitating Agencies**: **roles clarified**:

1) Facilitate link between GFAR activities and development programs, given it their common poverty alleviation, food security and environmental sustainability mission.

2) Sensitize and mobilize all GFAR stakeholders and donor community towards achieving GFAR goals and objectives.

3) Support, directly or indirectly, GFAR stakeholders and Secretariat in implementing agreed GFAR strategic agenda and MTP.
GFAR key strategic objectives (unchanged):

- Advocacy for change through agricultural research to meet the future needs of humanity
- Reshaping institutions for the future to link agricultural science and society
- Increasing ARD effectiveness by fostering inter-regional partnership and learning
- Bridging knowledge gaps and enabling the poor to access critical knowledge to empower their own innovation and development
5) Implications for **ALL** Regional Fora -

- Translating *New understanding of GFAR evolution, partners involvement and linkages* into their approaches and activities

- **Strong inputs expected in GFAR Renewal** at two levels:
  1) in process leading to the GFAR Constituent assembly
  2) work of the SGWG: nurturing FARA and AARINENA positions

- GFAR is also *further elaborating its Theory of Change* working actively with Consultant (Firetail): e-Survey/Stakeholders interviews for reviewing and bottom-up perspectives

6) **Specific inputs from EFARD**:

- **Framing of new collaborative Instruments in interregional collaboration:**
  - Europe/SSA collaboration (PAEPARD, Intense Africa) with FARA
  - with other Regions (Europe/LAC ?; Europe/South East Asia ?) etc..

- **Facilitating GFAR I & C with relevant EC bodies** (DG R & Innov.; DEVCO; EIARD) on MTPs, evolution, achievements...)

- **Providing European inputs in GCARD processes**
Thank You!

www.gfar@fao.org