The Global Forum on Agricultural Research

GFAR
ANNUAL REPORT
2013
GFAR Annual Report 2013

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research

Together we’re shaping the future of agriculture
A Global Forum to meet tomorrow’s needs - today

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research is a unique, open and inclusive forum for action, a catalyst for change to shape the future of agriculture. To achieve this, the Global Forum brings together and triggers collective actions among all those involved in agricultural innovation: international, regional, and national research and advisory systems, farmer and civil society organizations, UN agencies, private sector organizations and educational institutions from around the world.

Partners from all sectors work together through GFAR to strengthen links between agricultural research and wider society. GFAR fosters large scale change in agricultural research and innovation systems to better meet the needs of the poor, in particular of resource-poor smallholder producers.

In 2013 we welcomed a new GFAR Chair: Mr Juan Lucas Restrepo, President of Corpoica, Colombia, former Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia and Board Chair of CIAT and a new Vice-Chair, Hon Prof Ruth Oniang’o, the first African woman Professor of Nutrition, a former Member of Parliament and now director of an NGO connecting science and communities. Both were selected through an open and transparent public process.

As we report here, 2013 was a year of reform and new ways forward for the Forum, an exciting period of change to create a vibrant and effective Forum for all and help enable humanity to meet tomorrow's agricultural challenges today.

GFAR Constituencies: Transforming agricultural research, extension, education and enterprise for development

- IFAD & FAO - Founder UN organizations
- CGIAR Consortium & AIRCA - consortia of 24 leading international agricultural research centres and their funders
- Farmers organizations: 285 linked > 200 M farmers
- Regional Fora of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) around the world AARINENA, APAARI, CACAARI, EFARD, FARA, FORAGRO
- Private sector: PanAAC SMEs - 35 country networks; SAI - 55 major international food companies
- Civil Society Organizations (CSO): CSO-GARD > 200 CSO members
- Advanced research: G20 MACS & BRICS: 70% of world’s AR4D investment
- Advisory Services - GFRAS, networks around the world
- Higher Education - GCHERA: > 600 universities > 1 million students
- Youth - YPARD - 6,600 individual youth members
- Donors - represented directly and through their consortia
It has been more than a year since I was elected as the Chair of GFAR; a great opportunity since, even though I have had the opportunity to chair a few organizations, GFAR is unique. It is not a body or an entity with defined limits but a real Forum that understands its mandate of helping shape the future of agriculture and how this can only be achieved through the collective actions of us all, not by the actions of a few individuals or institutions. Just as unique is that GFAR does not take specific political views on the different issues discussed in the dialogue or actions it supports. The multi-stakeholder perspectives articulated through the Forum ensure we are known as a good faith convener and catalyst. I feel we are doing a fine job in this regard.

This GFAR 2013 Annual Report demonstrates how the Forum is working for all and benefits agricultural innovation as a whole. The report gives an excellent overview of the achievements the Global Forum has made over the course of the year. As the Chair, I’ve been impressed by the range and relevance of these accomplishments, which I encourage you to read in the Report.

There have been a number of exciting advances during 2013 in the implementation of the GCARD Roadmap. All partners in the GFAR Steering Committee have this year endorsed and committed to the GFAR Medium Term Plan 2014-2017. This is a huge step forward in fostering concrete actions and delivering the changes desired by our thousands of stakeholders.

The progress in the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP) is one such success. Although formally launched in 2012, its continual drive forward is impressive, including the launch of the GAP website, its policy influence and creating a collective movement for change in this important area.

Equally exciting have been the results of GFAR’s actions on Farmer’s Rights and plant genetic resources. Commitment to this important issue has resulted in significant outcomes this year. The Global Forum’s work has influenced the CGIAR’s Intellectual Assets Principles; it has led to direct changes in national policies to incorporate farmer’s rights in Guatemala, and has informed renewed attention to farmer’s rights from the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

In order for the Global Forum to be able to achieve the outcomes we set ourselves in the Medium Term Plan and engage in emerging issues of importance, it is critical we are seen as the place where all voices can be heard and all actors can interact. I take this opportunity to welcome new partners into GFAR in 2013, including the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS), the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agriculture and Life Sciences (GCHERA) and the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD). We look forward to engaging through and with these networks into the future.

GFAR is devoted to continually strengthening its governance, making sure, in a changing world, that the people determining our agenda really represent, and engage with, the interests of the different actors involved in AR4D scenarios, from local to global.

GFAR convenes its first Constituent Assembly – CA - in 2014, where international, regional, and national research and advisory systems, farmer and civil society organizations, UN agencies, private sector organizations and educational institutions from around the world will discuss governance, representation and set out new guidelines for the Forum. Progressive reform is a must, to ensure that GFAR remains relevant to the agricultural and development concerns of today and tomorrow and has access and thrust anywhere we need in relation to our mandate.

This Annual Report covers many areas and initiatives, all important to fulfill our mandate. Please use this Annual Report for information on the many great things that are happening but also to signal us on areas where we should emphasize or do better.

Cordially,
Juan Lucas Restrepo
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Implementing the GCARD Roadmap

Thousands of stakeholders came together through processes of the first Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) (2008-2010) to produce the GCARD Roadmap.

Endorsed by all sectors involved and by the G8 and G20, the GCARD Roadmap is an outcome-based plan for change and greater accountability for impact in AR4D systems. The Roadmap sets out 6 principles for changing the way AR4D systems are focused and operate, so that they become more effective agents of development impact. The desired outcomes are achieved through the four operating mechanisms of the Global Forum:

- Converging voices
- Fostering partnerships
- Re-imagining institutions
- Sharing knowledge

In 2012, the Global Forum, in collaboration with the CGIAR Consortium, successfully delivered the Second Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD 2) in Punta Del Este, Uruguay. GCARD2 was a further practical step towards transforming agricultural innovation systems around the world, shaping and tracking multi-stakeholder partnerships and processes of change towards outcome-based agricultural innovation systems.

GFAR Medium Term Plan

In 2013, The GFAR Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 was built around the areas of action identified in the GCARD Roadmap. Endorsed and committed to by all sectors represented in the GFAR Steering Committee, the Plan gives a clear common purpose to all its stakeholders for delivering collective, outcome-focused change in agricultural innovation systems around the world.

The GFAR MTP builds on the principles of change established among thousands of partners through the consultations of GCARD1 and further developed through GCARD2.

The MTP is now being put into practice in specific, well defined areas, supporting the programmes of stakeholder networks towards achieving real change at scale. GFAR funds enable catalytic actions, influencing institutional agendas through stakeholder actions in all sectors, building on the voices of farmers and users, in particular, and triggering innovative programmes towards large scale change. In some areas, GFAR Secretariat is directly driving networked actions for change, in others GFAR stakeholders establish networked delivery of system change, towards achieving important agendas at scale.

“The GFAR MTP is a huge step forward, that for the first time provides a means for the CGIAR and its partners to enter detailed discussion of how they can best work together and move forward on each of the 6 outcomes.”

Anne Marie Izac, CGIAR Consortium Chief Science Officer
Implementing the outcome-focused GFAR plan of work requires that stakeholders are both represented, and mobilized, in the most effective and transparent ways possible within our governance structure. GFAR’s unique strength as a multi-stakeholder forum is also a challenge – to ensure effective representation, inclusivity and accountability across all sectors. In 2013 we have taken important steps to strengthen the governance, accountability and efficacy of GFAR.

GFAR works to catalyze change, triggering actions in and between a wide variety of networks, to change perceptions, behaviours and practices in systems of agricultural innovation. To do so, we work to break down the ‘walls’ between institutions of all forms and to foster practical actions, and mutual accountability, at the interfaces between different networks and institutions. We work along the complex pathways required for agricultural innovation to impact on desired development outcomes of food security and nutrition, sustainable agricultural intensification and poverty reduction whilst conserving environmental resources.

The principal changes required in agricultural innovation systems were identified through GCARD regional dialogues in 2009-10, and summarized in the GCARD Roadmap. Turning the GCARD Roadmap into practice requires both individual and institutional commitments and sharing principles and practices around the world, triggering outcome-focused programmes that bring out these change principles while addressing issues of major international concern.

Processes to develop the GFAR Theory of Change were presented and endorsed by the GFAR Steering Committee in 2013. The Theory of Change describes the type and breadth of social change that GFAR aims to achieve. The Global Forum— through all its constituent parts— works to catalyze change, to ensure that research is demand-driven and that innovation processes and partnerships encompass multiple institutions and draw together diverse perspectives. We aim to foster more efficient systems that bring greater accountability of research for development systems to their end users and to those who are intended to benefit from the innovation concerned. The impact of these outcomes will be on predominantly poor rural households in multiple areas of the world including Sub Saharan Africa, South and South-East Asia, Latin America, Central Europe and Asia and the Pacific.

In September 2013, we commissioned an independent survey of GFAR Stakeholders to further develop this collective TOC, drawing from the expectations and contributions of our stakeholders. 243 people responded to the survey, from across all sectors and with nearly 60% from the South. The most valuable role they saw for the Global Forum was advocating for change and triggering new thinking.

GFAR-facilitated activities considered most important to respondents’ own institutions or networks were:

- Providing space for Stakeholders to express demand for agricultural knowledge, skills, technology and triggers for innovation
- Building active and mutually accountable partnerships
- Enabling diverse partners to work together effectively between diverse institutions and sectors.
The great majority of respondents - 82% - said that being involved in GFAR enhances their participation in collective actions in the sector. Respondents’ feelings about participation in collective actions of their sector being enhanced by being part of GFAR.

Percentage of respondents that think that the AR4D system overall needs to be transformed and strengthened.

Percentage of respondents that feel that their organization/network as part of the AR4D system needs to be transformed and strengthened.

Type of organisations represented by survey respondents:

- National Agricultural Research Institutions: 20%
- Education Institutions: 14%
- Rural Advisory and Extension Services: 4%
- Private Sector Networks: 2%
- Non Governmental and Civil Society Organizations: 10%
- Regional Fora on Agricultural Research & Innovation: 4%
- Multilateral Financing Institutions: 1%
- Professional Associations: 3%
- Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR): 11%
- Farmer Organizations: 6%
- Other International Research: 2%
- Advanced Research: 3%
- UN Agencies: 3%
- Other: 11%
The Global Forum works through a number of specific interventions, triggering changes towards the outcome areas set out in the GFAR Medium Term Plan:

1. Farmers (particularly women producers) empowered and informed to better negotiate their own agricultural futures

2. Equitable and effective demand-driven partnerships enabled to transform agricultural research and innovation into impacts at scale

3. Transformative investments in AR4D systems stimulated to better meet the needs and opportunities of the resource-poor

4. Collective initiatives fostered to generate new capacities in transforming AR4D systems

5. Agricultural research and knowledge embedded into rural development agendas and better meeting societal needs

6. Accountability, transformational change and development impacts in AR4D systems increased through greater strategic coherence and more transparent stakeholder involvement

There was very strong agreement among stakeholders on the importance of the agenda being pursued through the GFAR Medium Term Plan. When asked: “In order to achieve a transformation of the AR4D system, how important do you think each of the following are? Respondents attached great importance to all these key areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Inclusively define research and innovation priorities and actions, driven by development needs</td>
<td>90,9% (120)</td>
<td>8,3% (11)</td>
<td>0,8% (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Develop and foster equitable partnerships among all stakeholders</td>
<td>75,0% (99)</td>
<td>25,0% (33)</td>
<td>0,0% (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Achieve increased investments required to meet development needs</td>
<td>80,3% (106)</td>
<td>18,9% (25)</td>
<td>0,8% (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Develop essential human and institutional capacities to meet the needs of today and the future</td>
<td>87,0% (114)</td>
<td>13,0% (17)</td>
<td>0,0% (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Embed innovation in development programmes and policies</td>
<td>76,5% (101)</td>
<td>23,5% (31)</td>
<td>0,0% (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Include and involve stakeholders in particular smallholder farmers in the accountability and value of system used</td>
<td>85,5% (112)</td>
<td>13,7% (18)</td>
<td>0,8% (1)</td>
</tr>
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The ‘ripple effect’ of actions triggered through GFAR and its processes, and in turn influencing change in others through each constituent network, institution or forum, are set out in the diagram below. Changes of this kind occur at multiple levels. Different actors can change their own thinking, influence the thinking of others, and in turn create changes in practices, contributing to the achievement of our commonly desired development aims.

Building from the Theory of Change, a global Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework is being introduced, with indicators and measures that reflect these changes. The MEL framework will show how the programmes and actions of the Global Forum partners, in addressing these core functions, are contributing to the collective Outcomes that all involved in the Global Forum are seeking to achieve.

“The experience of working with partners in member countries was helpful to develop rich documents with useful insights for accelerated, inclusive and sustainable AR4D. The follow-ups indicate positive outcomes from these GFAR efforts.”

“Consultations with stakeholders have been enriching and one feels part of the global movement in AR4D.”

Survey respondents’ feedbacks
Agricultural research for development (agricultural innovation) is complex and multifaceted. GFAR’s constituencies range from farmers and consumers to upstream research, and address the roles of knowledge and innovation in research, extension, education and enterprise. An External Governance Review was commissioned in 2013 to identify optimal governance mechanisms for the Forum, centred on transparency, legitimacy, active programmatic delivery and commitment of partners to the collective aims expressed by the Forum.

The Review team consulted widely and drew comparative models from other multistakeholder fora. The 2013 GFAR Steering Committee meeting in Istanbul fully accepted the recommendations of this Review, and its proposed changes, to increase the effectiveness of stakeholder representation and provide effective strategic oversight for processes of the Global Forum.

Recognizing the complex and unique nature of GFAR, the Review recommended both immediate and longer term steps to optimize GFAR’s governance. The Programme Committee was discontinued, to remove potential risks of conflicts of interest and enable a more transparent and open mechanism for discussing and agreeing priorities. It was also agreed that the Charter be changed. Global sectoral networks, catalyzed through GFAR and our partners to mobilize advisory services (GFRAS), higher education institutions (GCHERA) and youth (YPARD), now have full and equal status in GFAR’s Steering Committee and decision-making, alongside others already represented.

A Strategic Governance Working Group established from across the Steering Committee membership, is revisiting the composition of sectoral and regional representatives in GFAR’s governance and activities, to ensure best possible practices for the now expanded basis of GFAR (including advisory services, education, revisiting the role of regional fora, etc.) and the complex innovation systems and challenges of today. A subsequent GFAR Constituent Assembly in 2014 will bring together a wide range of stakeholders and use the Working Group’s findings as a basis for discussion to determine how best to represent all sectors in GFAR’s operation and actions and to make the required changes to the GFAR Charter.
International partnerships and stakeholder accountability

External Review of the GCARD

The Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development is a unique process for development of multi-stakeholder partnerships for change and in bringing public accountability for international agricultural research. In addition to the external review of GFAR’s governance in 2013, an external review was also commissioned for the GCARD2 event and GCARD process, to find the best way forward in meeting the needs of GFAR and the CGIAR Research Programs.

This study showed the strong value of GCARD2: 79% of GCARD2 participants felt that they would be likely to change the design or implementation of their AR4D programmes and activities as a result of the knowledge they acquired in the Conference.

Nonetheless, the review also highlighted the need for the GCARD to take on a clearer flow of processes in linking science to development and providing public awareness and accountability for the evolving work of the CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs). To create a lower cost process, more directly engaging farmers and rural communities, the GCARD process going forward will have more emphasis on learning from national, regional and global consultations involving multi-scale actions and dialogues and reported back to global assemblies of key sectoral representatives.

The proposal for the Third Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3) has been developed through direct discussion and in close partnership with the CGIAR Consortium Office. The proposal is directly targeted towards meeting the CGIAR’s needs for public accountability for progress so far, for direct input into the planning of the next round of CRPs and ensuring these deliver effectively towards the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

The GCARD process is seen as an important contribution to the CGIAR reform, particularly among countries of the South. The GCARD3 events themselves form milestones by which to publicly review progress against intended development outcomes and establish mutual responsibilities towards future impacts through AR4D. The GCARD3 event will be held in 2015, to fit with the review of CRP progress to date and formulation of the next round of CRPs.
International research

The Global Forum works to help ensure that the voices of partners are directly heard in the planning and implementation of all CRP programmes. The CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) were discussed among a wide range of stakeholders at GCARDs 1 and 2 and CRPs now connect with many programme partners from different GFAR constituencies.

In 2013, GFAR Secretariat and constituencies have become directly linked in the operational governance of the Water, Land and Ecosystems and the Dryland Systems CRPs. In Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS), the Global Foresight Hub is involved in strengthening foresight actions. Technical inputs are being provided into the CRP on Policies, Institutions and Markets, in particular on rights issues and development of new regional partnerships such as in Central Asia. This year, GFAR provided further technical input to the Drylands Systems CRP, supporting the development of its Gender and Youth Strategy, informed by gender experts of the Gender in Agriculture Partnership.

More widely, a clear role has been agreed for GFAR in mobilizing partner feedback to help shape key policy documents of the Consortium. This included direct inputs to a planning meeting to develop a Capacity Development Strategy for the CGIAR, as a result of which GFAR has been invited to represent partner perspectives into the CGIAR Working Group concerned.

GFAR Chair and Executive Secretary represented non-funding partners in the CGIAR Fund Council meeting in Nairobi. Partner feedback was solicited prior to this event and constructive input provided on a wide range of issues. This feedback has already been taken up in the Open Access policy and the gender strategy proposed by the CGIAR Consortium. GFAR has also continued to offer stakeholder’s inputs, particularly from Farmers Organizations, CSOs/NGOs and Regional Fora, into meetings organized between CRPs and their partners, as they develop and implement their Action Plans (AAS; Roots, Tubers and Bananas (RTB); Wheat and Maize; Livestock & Fish, in particular). The CGIAR CEO has now formally joined the GFAR Steering Committee, further strengthening that body and its role in regard to the CGIAR.
Strengthening National and Regional networks towards better AR4D systems

Regional Fora provide an important focus and driver for international actions. GFAR provides technical, and where available financial support to the Regional Fora, for catalyzing actions and interactions that bring changes, in line with the collective GFAR Medium Term Plan.

Regional Fora are regionally-managed associations of research and partner institutions, which coordinate regional initiatives and foster actions and change at national level. The Regional Fora play very important roles in identifying common needs across countries with similar cultures and agro-ecosystems, mobilizing partnerships for change in the workings of agricultural research and innovation in the region and sharing the learning from agricultural research through to its users in rural communities. Here we illustrate some of the changes underway through the Regional Fora in each region:

The Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) has this year developed a Science Agenda for Africa, articulating the science and technology that African agriculture needs to prioritize in order to achieve its agricultural development targets; the complementary actions required for science and technology to be sufficiently harnessed; and the type and scale of investments required. The development of an agriculture science agenda for Africa is one of the five work streams of the Dublin Process—an initiative of African stakeholders in agricultural research and development, the CGIAR Consortium and development partners aimed at improving alignment of the CGIAR to the CAADP agenda.

The Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO) is the Regional Forum working in the Latin America and Caribbean region. In December 2013, FORAGRO held its Executive Committee Meeting in Brasilia involving representatives of all stakeholder groups. In this meeting EMBRAPA took on the Presidency of FORAGRO.

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One of the main outcomes of the meeting was the agreement to undertake an initiative that brings together the various sectors of innovation systems across the region, around a project that is significant to all.
It was agreed that FORAGRO should build a place for discussion, analysis and the joint construction of knowledge on how to lead and strengthen agricultural innovation systems. The strengthening of individual and institutional capacities requires joint actions across the region, to share experiences, methods and information between the countries and build a basis for collective learning on various critical issues. A governance review of FORAGRO, gender analyses and regional dialogue with the CGIAR will be supported through GFAR in 2014.

The Central Asia and Caucasus region has gone through major challenges, with a long term decline in support for agriculture and research systems over recent decades. Addressing this gap requires considerable change in practices and a greater focus on improving delivery, inclusiveness and participation. The Central Asia and Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (CACAARI) is actively evolving from a Research Association to become a Forum on agricultural research and innovation and in turn develop national fora.

This requires a new Charter and institutional changes, including greater representation of women, youth and sectors beyond research. CACAARI seeks to work more deeply with the development of national forums as policy makers are still heavily driven by national directives. A governance review of CACAARI is a priority for the year ahead, as well as the strengthening of extension systems across the region.

The European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) has reviewed its governance structures and now provides an umbrella, not just for research organizations, but also for other sectors including networks of universities, CSOs, farmers, donors and youth. EFARD’s role now goes beyond research to look at landscapes, nutrition and value chains and with a new management structure reflecting these shifts. As a multi-stakeholder platform, EFARD is directly aligned with and supportive of the GCARD process. EFARD is seeking greater involvement of the private sector. It addresses both European specific dialogues and the European ‘offer’ in support of other regions.

Focal areas include CSO mobilization, private sector engagement, food and nutrition security, including food safety and waste, capacity strengthening and inter-regional collaboration. Current priorities are: policy dialogue on future questions in agriculture, multi-stakeholder dialogues on identification of sustainable agriculture needs in Europe and Africa, user-led innovative funding platforms such as the Platform for African European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD) and coherence in innovation system capacity development. Involvement of the private sector was discussed and the need to address both nutrition and obesity issues, as well as the opportunity to work across Directorates-General of the EC.

In 2013, the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council mobilized a discussion, with around 100 participants, including the heads of national agricultural research institutions of the South Asia region and the Directors-General of CGIAR Centers active in the region. The partnership between national research and extension systems and CGIAR Centers was an important cradle of the ‘Green Revolution’ in the region. A similar partnership is needed now to address the current and emerging challenges facing agriculture. The dialogue focused on future priorities and strategies for strengthening partnership between national agricultural research systems and CGIAR Research Programs in developing a shared vision in AR4D and creating an enabling environment to ensure food, nutrition and livelihood security in the region. Sessions defined a Road Map for strengthening AR4D partnership between NARS and CGIAR in the region. Major recommendations included:

- CGIAR Research Programs should be highly complementary and focused on helping to achieve desired national outcomes. However, the priorities of CRPs are often not well aligned with those of National Agricultural Research Systems. More detailed consultations are required with regional stakeholders.
• There is an urgent need to increase investments (almost triple) and capacities for AR4D in South Asia, but government and donor policy support is often lacking. CGIAR could play an important role in policy advocacy for greater investments, strengthening agricultural R&D institutions for diversified agriculture in the region.

• With an increased focus on nutrition security, the focus of AR4D also needs to be reoriented towards bridging yield gaps, diversifying agriculture, out-scaling innovations, ensuring resilience, sharing knowledge and inclusive, market-oriented development.

• Partnership between national systems and international research is non-linear and both should jointly play more effective and complementary roles, including support in both cash and kind. CGIAR Centers should mainly target new innovations, whereas NARS should assume major responsibility for faster adoption in farmers’ fields through refinement and validation of technologies.

• New mechanisms to share/transfer knowledge/technology more efficiently will have to be evolved for out-scaling innovations at scale.

• It is extremely important to involve both women and youth in agriculture. Their empowerment, training and participation in AR4D related activities will greatly help in ensuring future agricultural growth and address the emerging concern of an ageing agricultural population. Talents of young professionals must be recognized and fully exploited, with entrepreneurship encouraged.

It is expected that CGIAR Research Programs will address these concerns in direct partnership with national systems.

Ensuring Farmers Rights

As originators of much of the world’s crop and domesticated animal diversity, farmers have worked for Millennia to develop plant and animal resources that will sustain communities in the diverse habitats in which humanity lives. It is vital that farmers, particularly smallholder farmers, are enabled to make use of these resources, and can equitably access materials developed by researchers from them, long into the future. While the rights of plant breeders to protect their intellectual property are generally well recognized, farmers’ rights, although recognized by International Treaty, are seldom granted similar recognition.

Extensive progress was made in 2013 around the issue of farmers’ rights to plant germplasm. As requested by the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, GFAR focused resources on the important issues of farmers’ and breeders’ rights to help shape new policies of the CGIAR and national policy reforms in the South.

Concerns raised by the Global Forum over the proposed new Intellectual Assets Principles of the CGIAR, led to GFAR’s direct commissioning of a study on reconciling farmers’ rights and breeders’ rights. The study provided “very valuable and informative” input to the implementation guidelines on intellectual assets of the CGIAR Consortium, ensuring that farmers’ rights became properly recognized in these guidelines. This review has in turn sparked interest from a wide range of national systems and farmer organizations on their application to national policies and practices.

A GFAR-sponsored side event in the FARA Africa Agricultural Science Week in June examined the practical application of farmers’ rights policies in relation to African crops and varieties. The study was very well received by the East African sub-regional research forum ASARECA and by farmer groups from a number of countries of East Africa. The practical measures discussed will form the basis for subsequent work taking forward these issues into new policies and their use in the region.
In November, GFAR, the Ministry of Agriculture of Guatemala and local farmer and civil society institutions organized the first National Meeting on Farmers’ Rights in Guatemala, with the aim of achieving a common understanding of farmers’ rights by the public and private sector, and to raise awareness on the importance of the implementation of farmers’ rights for food security and livelihood improvement of the most vulnerable populations. This has led in turn to direct change in national policies to incorporate farmers’ rights. The work is now being scaled out into other countries of the Central America region and around the world.

As a result of these actions and GFAR’s direct linkage with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture, the countries of the Treaty’s Governing Body, at their meeting in Oman, set out a strong request for renewed attention to farmers’ rights and for further collaborative work in this area.

Stakeholders in the Global Forum have long championed and worked through collective actions to realize the value of crop diversity for smallholder producers. The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) supported the implementation of the Regional Near East North Africa Plant Genetic Resources (NENA PGR) Strategy and established a regional network for promoting the conservation and use of medicinal and herbal plants in NENA region. Some of the NENA countries are in the process of building their own capacities to conserve genetic resources. AARINENA and ICARDA held a workshop within the Dryland CRP 1.1 activities to engage NENA partners in the development of national and regional sound strategies for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal and herbal plants.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), in partnership with other GFAR stakeholders including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO and Bioversity International, addressed these issues and ways of directly enhancing South-South cooperation, through a consultation, among participants from 32 countries, on the Use and Management of Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Security. The meeting identified a range of policy and practical requirements to improve the management and use of agrobiodiversity.

The Food and Agriculture Organization’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP) and the APAARI also jointly organized a Regional Expert Consultation on Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting assessed the current status of production, use and conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants in the Asia-Pacific region, and identified policy options for their conservation needs and opportunities for their development, enabled the exchange of knowledge and technologies across the region and created awareness of the value of medicinal plants among small scale producers.
The GFAR Medium Term Plan aims to help inform and empower farmers and national stakeholders to better negotiate their own agricultural futures. Through the Global Foresight Hub, much progress was made in 2013 towards this outcome.

An operational forward thinking platform addressing key challenges for the future

The Forward Thinking Platform became operational as a collective mechanism among foresight specialists, with 50 members distributed worldwide, and is working to address key challenges for the future of food, agriculture and rural development and related research and development priorities. Platform members collectively engaged in the production and agreement on a glossary of common terms used in futures studies on food, agriculture and rural development, as requested by participants at GCARD2, a major step forward in reducing confusion and misunderstanding between different futures studies.

Regional and local foresight capacities enhanced for greater self-determination

The GFAR Secretariat and Kenyan members of the Forward Thinking Platform organized a scenario-building training course for African participants at the Africa Agriculture Science Week on “The futures of sustainable rural areas in Africa”. The Africa Science Week also provided the opportunity to launch the African Chapter of the Foresight Academy, which will develop regional capacities for the young people of Africa to inform their own policies and make their own judgments on the implications of future agricultural scenarios. FARA has now identified foresight as one of their three key strategic actions in their new medium term plan, developed through the 2013 Science Week and associated discussions in development of the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa.

Following on from discussions initiated in GCARD2, 2012, more than 20 farmers and NGOs committed to lead, manage and engage in a grassroots foresight activity on the futures of smallholder and family farming. This innovative process will be implemented in 2014 and 2015.

Key future agriculture questions addressed, leading to national and regional options for research and policy priorities

The Sustainable Development Goals being formulated through the UN will have far reaching impacts on aid investments. The Forward Thinking Platform was commissioned through GFAR Secretariat, by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD), to study prospects for development assistance in the framework of the post 2015 development agenda.
Experts of the Global Foresight Hub were also invited to contribute to several major analyses throughout the year. These include:

- CGIAR Strategic Results Framework and Climate Change CRP (CCAFS)
- EC activities: Global Food Security Foresight study of the Joint Research Centre, DG-SANCO foresight on ‘Delivering on EU food safety and nutrition in 2050 - Scenarios of future change and policy responses’
- Governmental Foresight Organization Network strategic priorities and action plan
- FAO Forestry Foresight working group, which links high level forestry directors from Brazil, India, Nicaragua, Kenya and Peru. Expected outcome is engagement of Ministries in forestry foresight
- Co-creation of the Public-Private Club of Ossiach
Creating and catalyzing multi-stakeholder actions to address important farmer-centred themes is a key part of the Global Forum’s work. These processes address agenda of worldwide significance, through innovative approaches that directly link science and society in new thinking and actions. This is addressed in very practical ways, as seen here in GFAR’s work, through a multitude of GFAR stakeholders, to tackle the agricultural implications of climate change.

Creating International Partnership on Climate Change

The Global Forum has been deeply involved in generating collective actions on climate change and agriculture since pioneering discussion of agriculture and climate change into the UNFCCC process in Poznan, 2008. However, despite huge collective efforts among many partners, achieving high-level policy change in regard to agriculture has been a slow process. Through a technical meeting in the Hague, and then the 3rd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security and Climate Change in Johannesburg, South Africa, GFAR has actively supported processes to establish an alliance among all concerned actors globally, to join up, advocate and link the agendas of agriculture, food security and climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas emission—the Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (ACSA).

GFAR has committed to help establish an inclusive Alliance, going beyond multilateral and bilateral international organizations. Our aim is to ensure cross fertilization between regions experiences in coping with climate change and particularly to engage farmers and civil society, in an effort to understand their perceptions of the future impacts of climate change, innovation required, and what they are already doing or are prepared to do to integrate adaptation, mitigation and resilience measures into agricultural practices. Through these engagements, the Global Forum has been formally asked by the Governments of the Netherlands, Vietnam and South Africa to provide support to a common objective of raising societal awareness, informing policies, and building institutions and capacities—promoting an ACSA receptive and enabling environment. This process will continue throughout 2014, towards the UN Climate Summit and the launching of ACSA.

AARINENA co-sponsored the 11th International Drylands Development Conference (IDDC) in China, with the theme of “Global Climate Change and its Impact on Food and Energy Security in the Drylands”. The Participants of the Conference adopted the Beijing Statement which underlined that more than 50% of the poor and malnourished of the world live in dry areas and suffer from food insecurity, and socio-economic and socio-political instability. There is an urgent need to pay attention to improving resilience of peoples in the dry areas and to minimize vulnerability through knowledge-based adaptation and mitigation actions, generated through global cooperation. Participants in the Conference represented the research and development community from 29 countries and 14 regional and international organizations.
Strengthening agricultural research and development requires increased investment – International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) estimate a tripling of investment is required by 2025. Many countries are a long way from these growth targets and have even fallen further behind in their investments in the development and use of agricultural innovations. GFAR is working both to advocate for increased investments in agricultural research and innovation around the world and to ensure that these investments are more accountable to farmers themselves.

Research investment and policies

GFAR advocates collectively at a high level for greater and more effective investments, through processes including those of the G8 and G20.

The Second Meeting of Chief Agricultural Scientists (MACS) was held in Moscow on 24-25 July, 2013. Organized by the Russian G20 Presidency, the MACS brought together Chief Scientists and high level research officials from across the world’s 20 largest economies and from international organizations. The main objective of MACS is to strengthen and expand research priority areas for collective G20 action in coherence with the existing initiatives to sustainably intensify agricultural production, in order to meet increased and changing demand for healthy, safe and nutritious food.

The Chief Scientists expressed the desire to increase cooperation with existing international platforms, in particular that of GFAR and the GCARD process. G20 nations account for around 3/4 of all global AR4D investments and capabilities. The concept for a facility (combining financial and technical support) to more coherently address national AR4D needs of less developed countries, alongside investments in the CGIAR, was first developed by GFAR with colleagues from Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and is now being taken forward into practice with IFAD, to better balance the equation between required national and international AR4D investments.

“We have made significant progress in implementation of G20 agricultural initiatives and providing linkage to the activities of Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) in its work on agricultural research and its potential application mechanisms.

Presentation of MACS and G20 agricultural initiatives should be one of the important parts of Global Conferences on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD). MACS members welcome the opportunity to explore with GFAR the feasibility of better linking national agricultural research systems and financing of international networked actions.”

Communiqué from the G20 Agriculture Chief Scientists
Public-private partnerships and farmer innovation

GFAR works to create equitable, development-centred partnerships between different sectors and in particular to find ways to help smallholder farmers to turn agricultural innovation – whether local or external - into enterprise and growth out of poverty.

In September, GFAR hosted the Advisory Council of the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) of the world's major food companies (Unilever, Nestlé, Danone, McDonalds, Coca-Cola, etc.) and brought the issues of gender and social equity into their processes. This was strongly welcomed and has led to further partnership development with the sustainability programmes of a number of the companies involved, as well as the SAI Platform itself.

GFAR is strongly pursuing large-scale collaborative action to build women's agricultural entrepreneurship from agricultural innovation and has developed direct linkage with programmes of AWARD, Pan African Agribusiness and Agro Industry Consortium (PanAAC), and many others, towards a major collective action addressing this vital agenda.

The GFAR Executive Secretary and African Union Commissioner Rhoda Peace gave the invited keynote speeches to around 100 participants at the African Agricultural Technology Foundation's (AATF) 10th Anniversary session at the Africa Agriculture Science Week. This led to an invitation to give a keynote speech on public-private partnerships at a major event on agricultural innovation at Chatham House, London in December.

To foster farmer-centred processes, GFAR also provided direct input to the World Farmers Organization meeting in Zambia for World Rural Women's Day. This is now followed by invited input to the Africa planning meeting for the International Year of Family Farming and the International Cooperatives Association.

GFAR also continues to support and actively link with the partnership programme: Promoting Local Innovation in Agriculture (PROLINNOVA). Catalyzed through GFAR among a wide network of civil society actors, this programme enables the very active dissemination and sharing of local, smallholder farmer innovation in Africa and Asia.

Through GFAR support, APAARI, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) organized a national Workshop on Out-scaling Farm Innovation in New Delhi, India. 270 participants attended the workshop, which showcased the potential of innovations for greater impact on small holder farmers.

Recommendations highlighted the need for a paradigm shift in AR4D to address the needs of small farmers, with renewed emphasis on “Farmer First” participatory approaches, knowledge sharing and enabling policy environments. This will require out-scaling of innovations that increase income of small farmers in different agro-ecosystems, market reforms for promoting farmer led innovations, more effective extension mechanisms, including a focus on innovative farmers as trainers, new financial incentives, availability of credit and insurance, promotion of activities by cooperatives, farmers and companies and measures to protect farmers’ innovations and share benefits from their commercialization. Special programs are required to promote on-site conservation of genetic resources.
The scale of the future challenges faced in agriculture around the world means that we need many new capacities throughout the AR4D system, also combining two forms of knowledge and innovation – that from science and that of farmers own innovation. To succeed in reaching the poor, we need to value both approaches; linking and reconciling these knowledge and trust bases.

There is now a wealth of information available, yet farmers are starved of knowledge. There are many new forms of advisory services yet the sector is grossly under-resourced. However, the use of ICTs and new approaches are opening out entirely new ways of sharing knowledge to reach through to farmers in usable forms. GFAR has been central to initiating and fostering a number of global actions each addressing a key part of the AR4D capacity development need: opening access to information through the GODAN and CIARD movements, strengthening advisory services through support to the GFRAS platform and strengthening the involvement of universities through the GCHERA network.

Opening access to agricultural data and information

The Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative was officially announced at the Open Government Partnership conference in London in October. GFAR and Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) are both founding partners in the GODAN initiative. GODAN is a voluntary association that seeks to support global efforts to make agricultural and nutritionally relevant data available, accessible, and usable for unrestricted use worldwide. The initiative focuses on building high-level policy and public and private institutional support for open data, and is open to public and private entities including donors, international organizations and businesses.

CIARD is a collective movement for information access and interoperability, in which the Global Forum partners with FAO, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), CGIAR, Regional Fora and many others. CIARD harnesses and reflects growing international interest in opening access to agricultural knowledge among all actors in food security and rural development, including through the G8, the G20 and the GCARD.

A major review of CIARD was commissioned in 2013 which describes how ICTs have been used by CRP leaders to try to reach out to new communities through GFAR, in direct partnership with FAO. GFAR also established direct partnership between CIARD and GODAN objectives, obtaining the support of the G20 Chief Agricultural Scientists for this valuable linkage.

Finding partners

In April 2013, AgriVIVO, managed by the GFAR Secretariat and developed jointly with Cornell University and FAO, was launched to enable better networking and collaboration in agriculture (http://www.agrivivo.net). AgriVIVO is a search portal built to facilitate connections between all actors in the agricultural field, bridging between separately-hosted directories and online communities.
AgriVIVO customizes the VIVO model, developed to increase connection between medical professionals, to better suit the organization of agricultural research for development. It integrates data relevant to agricultural research and knowledge management from across different institutional or community databases, helping create relationships between people, organizations, projects, events, topics and geographic locations.

New Partner Spotlight

Advisory Services: GFRAS

The mission of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) is to provide advocacy and leadership on pluralistic, demand-driven rural advisory services within the global development agenda and in line with the GFAR Medium-Term Plan. GFRAS became a formal member of the GFAR Steering Committee in 2013.

GFRAS groups its activities under the following three functions:

1) Providing voice for advisory services within global policy dialogues and promoting improved investment in rural advisory services (RAS)

In 2013 GFRAS established a Consortium for Extension Education and Training. The consortium is a platform for professionals in universities and other training institutions, which champions the “New Extensionist” principles developed for the GCARD2. The consortium is prioritizing research on extension and collecting and reviewing curricula with a view to reform extension training in line with the new extensionist vision.

2) Supporting the development and synthesis of evidence-based approaches and policies for improving the effectiveness of rural advisory services

GFRAS and the World Bank’s Secure Nutrition Knowledge Platform published a study to examine the integration and linkages of nutrition within extension and advisory services. The study examined the different roles of these extension agents and how they could be used to promote the topic of nutrition, and identifies a series of challenges for this endeavor, especially regarding the training of the extension agents. The GFRAS gender working group also produced a brief on gender equality in RAS.

3) Strengthening actors and fora in rural advisory services through facilitating interaction and networking

In 2013 GFRAS strengthened existing regional extension networks and formed new networks in West Africa, the Caribbean and Europe. All networks and other stakeholders gathered in September 2013 in Berlin, Germany, for the 4th GFRAS Annual Meeting and discussed the topic “The Role of Private Sector and Producer Organisations in Rural Advisory Services.”
New Partner Spotlight

Education Institutions: GCHERA

In 2013, the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA) welcomed the opportunity to become a full member of the GFAR Steering Committee and to play its part in developing the GFAR agenda.

GCHERA is a confederation of Higher Education Associations, whose members are individual universities and other organizations, governed by a Board representative of those associations. The Higher Education Associations are brought together with a mission to encourage mutual understanding and global co-operation among higher education associations and their constituent member institutions in supporting innovation, and to provide within the global context leadership in education, research and outreach in agricultural and life sciences.

GCHERA aims to ensure that the higher education sector contributes to the development of initiatives and action at the global level addressing the global challenges facing agriculture, food and natural resource management systems through its involvement and contribution in global forums.

Through collaborative ventures between the member higher education associations, GCHERA seeks to:

1) enhance the success of higher education institutions in delivering graduates which have the skills, entrepreneurship and creativity to succeed in the global, regional and national contexts.

2) enable each higher education association to play an enhanced role at the regional or national level through a shared understanding of the global contexts and innovative approaches in addressing the challenges facing agriculture, food and natural resource management systems

3) incubate collaborations and joint activities-conference between the higher education associations.

GCHERA is thus currently focusing on supporting the implementation of Outcome 4 of the GFAR Medium Term Plan – Collective initiatives fostered to improve capacity in AR4D. As a first step GCHERA organized the GCHERA World Dialogue: “Education and Innovation in Agriculture & Life Sciences: Universities as Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Rural Development” at Nanjing Agricultural University in October 2013.

In 2013, GFAR Secretariat also provided keynote talks to the Indian National Academy of Agricultural Sciences for their Conference on reforming the agricultural education sector. The presentations and subsequent discussions are helping to shape a major National Agricultural Education Programme.
The Global Forum pursues important cross-cutting agendas that directly embed agricultural research and innovation processes within specific development agendas. We are working together to empower women in agriculture, create a future for youth and bring the value of agricultural knowledge and innovation in rebuilding hope out of protracted crises.

The Gender in Agriculture Partnership

The Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP) is a global initiative mobilized through GFAR and embracing all those concerned with the empowerment of women farmers.

The GAP was formally launched in 2012 at the First Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (GCWA). The Gender in Agriculture Partnership is growing very rapidly. The initiative already involves over 1,000 partners, and works through individual Catalysts identified by over 80 different institutions and networks, including the CGIAR CRPs, four UN agencies and many public private and civil bodies. Catalysts have taken personal responsibility for commitments to making change happen within their own institutions and partnerships.

The GAP website was launched in 2013 as the direct agricultural interface of UN Women’s Knowledge Gateway on economic empowerment and is already making available a considerable volume of information materials.

In 2013, the GAP continued to drive forward change and grow its partners. Linkages with the CRPs, alongside commitments from others such as UN women, FAO, IFAD, WFP, the World Bank, Regional Fora and a wide range of national actors from public private and civil organizations are creating a major impetus for change in the way we think and act in rural development. “GAP Catalysts” were selected from across a wide range of institutions to leverage actions within their own programmes.

Following the success of GCWA last year and the issues it raised, ICAR proposed a new budget allocation, for a total of approximately 2 million USD per annum for 5 years, to directly support gender equity actions across its sphere of operation in agricultural research, extension and education and to establish and support a regional GAP Hub for Asia, based at ICAR Delhi and managed through Directorate of Research on Women in Agriculture (DRWA). This is an excellent case of actions at scale being leveraged through the GCWA and multiple actions among the GAP partners, including APAARI, ICAR and GFAR.

GAP is now responding to requests received directly from the Ministers of Agriculture in Nepal and Sierra Leone, to bring together concerted actions in restructuring their agricultural innovation systems through gender-based reform, in programmes to be implemented by the GAP partner agencies directly involved on the ground.

GAP Partners worked together in 2013 to organize a side event during the 40th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) entitled “Transforming Food Systems: Empowering Women to Deliver on Food Security and Nutrition”, which focused its attention on the need for transformative change to ensure gender equity, empower women and address their needs in food systems. The event was Chaired by Prof MS Swaminathan, GAP Patron and attended by over 100 UN Ambassadors and partners. GFAR Executive Secretary was invited to directly share the outcomes with the 50 members of the Women Country Representatives to the Rome Based UN Agencies and gender heads of the UN Agencies.
Gender experts from across the CGIAR met in Montpellier in June to explore how to bring a stronger gender focus across international research work in the CGIAR Research Programmes. The gender agenda features prominently in new thinking around the outcome-focused programmes of the CGIAR.

The meeting provided an excellent venue for discussion of taking forward CGIAR engagement in the GAP, particularly in conjunction with the CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Research Network. The meeting also discussed ways in which the GAP umbrella could cross-link international research efforts with coordinated actions to address gender equity in specific countries. These include coherent actions in the seven countries addressed under the Programme for the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (EERW) and conversely, engaging with other agencies to help achieve desired impacts in the country and thematic areas of the CRPs. GAP support was vital in developing the gender strategy for the CRP on Dryland Systems launched in Amman in May 2013, with GFAR represented in the CRP’s Steering Committee (SC). The first iteration of the Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDO) for this CRP was set out, including: More stable household income; more resilient livelihoods in marginal areas; greater quantity and diversity of food sources available to women and children to ensure better nutrition; evidence-based ecosystem management for more efficient, and equitable use of water.

At its second meeting in Addis Ababa in September, through inputs from the GFAR Senior Gender Adviser, the SC agreed to elevate the issues of gender and youth, so that they are directly addressed as intermediate development objectives for the programme. Gender staff and partners of the Dryland Systems CRP are now developing proactive, complementary gender and youth strategies.

“GAP has a very important role in the exchange of knowledge, of ideas, of information on successful experiences and how we can really formulate gender-specific programmes in agriculture.

The time has come to ‘walk our talk’ – and convert the know-how we have on women’s present and potential roles into know-how at the field level”

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, GAP Co-Patron
The Young Professionals for Agricultural Development network (YPARD) was established with support from GFAR, to give a direct voice for young people and help ensure that AR4D systems respond directly to their needs.

GFAR Secretariat now hosts the independently governed Global Coordination Unit of YPARD and provides direct sponsorship and support for YPARD's operations. GFAR Secretariat provided direct input into the planning, processes and reporting of the Indian National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, XI Agricultural Science Congress, February 2013: Agricultural Education: Shaping India’s future. 700 participants examined the reforms required to attune Indian agricultural education to today’s realities and attract the brightest young people. Gender equity issues have never been more publicly discussed in India than at present and the Congress flagged the clear need to provide innovative opportunity and mentoring for young women to enter and succeed in agricultural careers.

YPARD has been engaged in youth conferences organized by APAARI in India and Pakistan, directly reaching several hundred youth participants and their own networks. A Regional Workshop on Youth and Agriculture in Asia-Pacific Region was organized jointly by APAARI and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council with support from GFAR and YPARD in October. About 150 participants from different countries of Asia-Pacific region, CGIAR institutes, private sector, farmers and students took part, over half of whom were young professionals.

Recommendations arising from the Workshop included: the urgent need for promoting youth involvement in agri-innovation, agri-business and entrepreneurship, the need for greater involvement of youth in agriculture and in decision making processes to address emerging challenges and achieve a second green revolution - for household nutrition security. This will require greater investments and curriculum and institutional change, to motivate young professionals to adopt agriculture as a profession, create more job opportunities in agriculture, and develop agriculture so that youth become ‘job creators’ and not ‘job seekers’.

Building a Future for Youth in Agriculture
The Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) serves as a medium for young professionals in ARD to voice their views, exchange perspectives and to contribute to sustainably improved livelihoods, worldwide, through dynamic agricultural research and innovation systems. In 2013, GFAR continued its support of YPARD through direct hosting and administrative support of its Global Coordination Unit in the GFAR Secretariat. YPARD was also welcomed, along with GCHERA and GFRAS, as a formal member of the GFAR Steering Committee.

YPARD actively promoted and supported the participation of youth in key events in 2013. At the 2013 Africa Agriculture Science Week, YPARD hosted an event celebrating what young people have done on the continent in AR4D and examining how they can work more strongly together. Over 40 young professionals were supported through partners to attend and share experiences of youth-led country activities and examine the way forward in engaging youth actions and involving youth—and women—in both policy dialogues and implementation. GFAR helped support processes led by FARA, with CGIAR, YPARD and CTA, to train and involve young social media reporters in disseminating news and information about the conference proceedings.

Leading into the Global Landscapes Forum, held at the University of Warsaw on 16-17 November, YPARD and CIFOR organized a Youth Session to address recurring issues for youth in agriculture. Co-sponsored by GFAR, the CGIAR and CTA, the session showcased youth driven initiatives that are proving that agriculture can be attractive to young people when innovative solutions are applied to meet certain key challenges.

Regional level activities began to gain strength from working with FARA for inclusion of youth in the CAADP Programme, European activity planning at the youth and rural development workshop, the production of videos within Europe on young farmers their lives and visions and participation in the launching of the Drylands CRP meetings. Twenty-five new national representatives were selected, many spearheading strong activities from youth meetings in Nepal, youth contributions to conferences in China, links with IITAs young agripreneurs in Nigeria, providing youth input to the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD) in West Africa, youth meetings in Russia, meetings with regional bodies in Brasil and much, much more.

An external review of YPARD was held in late 2013. The reviewers congratulated YPARD on its successes since the previous review in 2009 including a 400% increase in members, new regional hosting institutions and 41 country representatives. Suggestions for the future included a content-driven agenda, stronger regional hosting arrangements and to roll out the planned mentoring programme.
Agricultural innovation systems play a fundamental role in creating solutions and opportunities that enable people of rural communities to rebuild their lives and livelihoods following crises. GFAR is helping to shape the UN Committee on Food Security’s Agenda for Action, for more effective responses to agricultural innovation and knowledge in countries in protracted crises.

Work on protracted crises featured prominently in the FARA African Agriculture Science Week. This session followed on from the outcome of the Kigali meeting organized in 2012 by GFAR, FARA and the Rwandan Government (The Kigali Movement), together with a new Agenda for Action on Protracted Crisis Situations, led through the Committee on World Food Security.

The Agenda for Action seeks to provide practical support to countries as they strive to grow out of crises and dependency, towards self-sufficiency. The event highlighted experiences from national actors and international support systems across Africa and the work of CGIAR researchers in Afghanistan. Brought together, these processes are addressing both the policy and practice involved in rebuilding communities shattered by conflict and prolonged environmental stress, using agricultural growth as a means of creating trust and new hope.
Financials

Total income received in 2013 for GFAR actions (contributions in 2013 plus 2012 carry forward) was USD 2,181,677. A total of USD 2,118,186 was spent or committed in the year 2013. France continued to contribute in kind, providing two senior professional experts seconded to the GFAR Secretariat.

Anticipated 2013 income was affected by the knock-on effects from financial investment problems in the CGIAR. This resulted in a number of delays in international research funding disbursements adversely affecting cash flow and programme expenditure plans. In turn these delays constrained the catalytic investment of GFAR in networked actions and programmes of change. Fortunately, GFAR was able to negotiate specific arrangements with FAO and IFAD to assure cash flow requirements could be met. The budget was very carefully managed to avoid slipping into deficit. We are pleased to report that at the end of 2013, a new four year agreement has been established between FAO (for GFAR) and EC, providing direct support to GFAR in line with delivery of the overall MTP. This equates to a doubling of the scale of EC commitment to GFAR.

We are very grateful to all those who have provided financial support to activities of the Global Forum.

In 2013 these were:
- The Netherlands - DGIS
- France - MAEE & IRD
- United Kingdom - DFID
- European Commission - EC
- International Fund for Agricultural Development - IFAD
- Switzerland - SDC (for YPARD)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN - FAO
- Germany - GIZ
- Agropolis International
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - BMGF

Income and expenditure in 2013 are shown in the figures below:

In addition France contributed 2 full time senior professional staff.