



GFAR

GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
FORUM MONDIAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRICOLE
FORO GLOBAL DE INVESTIGACION AGROPECUARIA

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GFAR Secretariat Report on Activities in 2005



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GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
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GFAR SECRETARIAT REPORT ON 2005 ACTIVITIES

The year 2005 has seen significant activity across all four of GFAR's Business Plan pillars. Of particular note are the following highlights:

- Renewed sensitization of the European constituencies to the needs of southern regional forums and the availability of regional priorities around which collaboration could be built
- Significant progress towards the development of a GPP in the area of information and communication management
- Useful and important input from the GFAR Stakeholder Committee to the management and activities of the Generation Challenge Program
- Establishment of IFAP's Committee on Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)
- The further integration of Civil Society Organizations into the governance structures of the Regional Forums, and the successful establishment of an Africa-wide NGO Consortium.
- Identification of the most important development issues and major research themes related to the emerging agenda for developing high value agricultural products as a strategy for contributing to poverty alleviation, especially among smallholder farmers.

Annex 1 provides a commentary on the progress achieved in attaining the outputs described in each of GFAR's four Business Plan pillars. The following provides a narrative of the progress achieved in the most significant areas of endeavour.

1. Support to Regional Forums to promote inclusiveness and foster inter-regional collaboration (IRC)

1.1. Improved stakeholder representation within RF/SRF.

Two strategies are being used to achieve this output. Firstly, through advocacy and dialogue, the Secretariat continues to encourage Regional Forums (RF) to involve Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) particularly non-governmental organisations (NGO) and farmer organizations in their various activities. Secondly, specific capacity building

activities of CSOs, such as institutional development, are employed to improve functional linkages with other stakeholders, especially National Agricultural Research Institutions (NARI). The major activities undertaken this year include:

- Initiation and facilitation of a dialogue between the FORAGRO Secretariat and the Latin America Farmers' Committee of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). This interaction in the first instance led to the participation of this group in FORAGRO 2005 General Conference held in April in Panama. The chair of the regional Farmers' Committee not only participated actively in the General Conference, but also was invited to participate in the Executive Committee Meeting, making it the first time that a farmer has interacted with this decision-making body. Subsequently, the vice-President of the Forum participated in the Farmers' Committee Annual Meeting. These initial sets of interactions finally led to the granting of a full-fledged membership status to farmers on the Executive Committee of FORAGRO. All GFAR stakeholder groups are therefore now represented on the decision making body of FORAGRO, as is the case in FARA, which had attained this level of inclusiveness a little earlier on.
- Using the same approach, the Secretariat facilitated consultation and dialogue in the AARINENA region between the regional forum and the Mediterranean Farmers' Committee of IFAP. An immediate output was the granting of an observer status to the Mediterranean farmers' group on the Executive Committee of AARINENA. The issue of full integration of farmers' organizations into AARINENA was placed on the agenda and debated during the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the RF. At this meeting the Executive Secretary of GFAR presented a paper on 'Inclusiveness: a crucial aspect of partnership'. The committee exhaustively discussed the presentation and identified on-going activities in the region in which CSO community participate actively. Two examples are: i) the participation of the RF vice-President in a recent meeting of IFAP Mediterranean Farmers' Committee, during which he made a presentation on how to effectively promote collaboration between the Forum and farmer groups; ii) active participation of NGOs and farmers' representatives at a recent post-harvest workshop designed to move forward the Global Post Harvest Initiative towards the implementation of concrete projects. The Executive Committee also identified within the constitution of the Forum, provisions that would allow CSO to become associate members of the Forum rather than observers, and decided to grant that status which would enable CSO send representatives to the Executive Committee Meetings, with a promise to review the situation after an evaluation of how effectively the CSO have made use of this opportunity in the near future.
- Establishment of a Sub-Saharan Africa NGO Consortium. In collaboration with FARA, the Secretariat supported a group of NGOs to enable them establish a Sub-Saharan NGO consortium so that they can better relate to their well organized counterparts in other regions, and work with them towards the development and utilisation of appropriate and sustainable agricultural technologies, while providing support to farmers where needed. The final stage of this institution building process was carried out during the FARA General Assembly in June 2005, where the

consortium was established. About 30 NGO leaders representing all African sub-regions as well as NGOs from Asia and Europe participated in the meeting. The latter groups from Asia and Europe networked with and provided support and experience to their African counterparts. Participants successfully established the Consortium and developed its vision and mission statements, a code of conduct, and a draft plan of action that described how they intend to interact with FARA. The outputs of their deliberations were presented to the FARA final plenary session. A steering committee with a chair and vice-chair charged with initiating and spearheading future activities was constituted.

- One of such recent activities was the participation of the consortium in a multi-stakeholder consultation at that FARA headquarters in October, which for the first time brought together traditional GFAR stakeholders – the private sector, farmers, representatives of sub-regional forums and IARCS working in the region - to discuss and plan collectively the development and the implementation of a regional ARD agenda. An important outcome of the Accra consultation was the development of a plan designed to facilitate the full integration of Africa-based NGOs in national, sub-regional and regional agricultural research initiatives, and to promote the development of common positions with other CSOs, particularly farmer groups, and the private sector on their full integration and participation in the African agricultural research agenda. In addition the group developed a SSA NGO Consortium Action Plan for the period 2006-2008
- Finally, the Secretariat provided financial and intellectual support towards the realization of IFAP's plan to constitute a Farmer Committee on research whose goal is to properly articulate and present farmers views, concerns and areas of interest at various ARD platforms and at all levels - national, regional and global. The first meeting of the Committee was held at IFAP headquarters in September. The committee developed a medium term program of work during this meeting, and the GFAR Secretariat will continue to work closely with the Secretariat of IFAP to ensure the fine tuning and implementation of the work programme which should provide farmers perspectives and inputs into agricultural research for development activities at targeted levels.

1.2. Regional priorities revisited/updated in some RF

The objective pursued with regards to this output was to identify neglected issues of regional importance that could then be addressed, and where appropriate used for future inter-regional collaboration and networking. The review of priorities is also supposed to include an assessment of the extent to which past and present regional priorities are being addressed. Only one regional forum, APAARI, indicated the desire to undertake a research programme gap analysis in the South-East Asia and Pacific sub-region. The Secretariat supported this initiative which was carried out in October, and built around commissioned background papers that analysed the importance of ARD for the sub-region, its current status, emerging challenges, gaps and new opportunities to address through a comprehensive ARD programme. Efforts were made to ensure participation

and input from various stakeholder groups including farmers, NGOs, the private sector and Governmental agencies. The outputs will be published and disseminated for appropriate utilization by the various stakeholders preferably using a partnership and innovation systems approach

1.3. Regular exchange of experiences, information, and knowledge among Regional Forums facilitated

The following activities were carried out to promote inter-regional collaboration through networking, exchange of expertise, knowledge and information.

1. **FORAGRO 2005:** Among the 130 persons who attended the IVth International Triennial Conference of FORAGRO held from 13 to 15 April were representatives of other regional fora whose participation was facilitated, encouraged and supported by the Secretariat in order to contribute to the achievement of the above output. The goal of the conference, hosted by the Instituto de Investigacion Agropecuaria de Panama (IDIAP), was to dialogue and brainstorm on ideas and suggestions that could be used at national and regional levels for the formulation and implementation of policies and activities for the development of an innovative, knowledge-based agribusiness driven agricultural sector. The inter-regional and global dimensions of this goal were addressed through a session on global and regional knowledge systems. The objective of this session was to examine areas for potential collaboration between stakeholders from FORAGRO and other regions. A panel discussion *on inter-continental cooperation* under the aegis of GFAR and regional forums saw an active participation of all the regional forums including EFARD, which sent in a paper for the purpose, and NAFAR.

The Executive Secretary of GFAR presented an overview paper on “*Global agricultural research partnerships as a response to challenges facing the agricultural sector*”. He suggested that multi-stakeholder and interregional collaboration approaches could provide solutions to some of the problems facing the sector in several developing countries. Representatives of the regional forums then made presentations which highlighted the characteristics of their respective regions, their areas of research focus, their strengths, and the opportunities which could be made available to, or shared with other regions in response to the inter-regional collaboration aspect of GFAR’s work. All of the Executive Secretaries of RF present at the meeting later met to brainstorm on how to capitalize on the rich information presented during the session and move forward on the implementation of the planned interregional collaborative activities. An important element of this conference to which we would like to draw attention is the varied and diverse background of the participants who included representatives from universities, NGOs, public research institutions, producers, the private sector, the global research system, technical and financial cooperation mechanisms and agencies, advanced research systems and members of the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO). This multi-stake holder approach reflects the inclusiveness and strategic partnerships concepts of GFAR, and we hope this will continue to be reflected in future concrete activities undertaken by FORAGRO and other forums.

2. **EFARD 2005:** The European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) held its triennial conference from 27 to 30 April, hosted by ETH in Zurich. The GFAR Secretariat played an important role during the planning stages of the conference having served as a member of the programme planning committee, and ensured that representatives from regional forums, including farmers' organizations and NGOs, were invited to participate. Representatives from APAARI, AARINENA, FARA and FORAGRO were present as were farmer representatives from the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), the Union of Small and Medium Scale Farmers Association of Nigeria (USMEFAN) and others. The GFAR Chair and Vice-chair presented plenary session speeches, as did the Executive Secretary. The two farmer representatives also presented plenary session speeches on farmer perspectives on ARD. In addition, the Secretariat organized a workshop on North–South research partnerships. The DURAS project, whose focus is on north-south partnerships, displayed a poster on the project. This volume and variety of activities facilitated by the Secretariat and the resulting exchange of information, knowledge and networking contributed towards the achievement of the targeted output of facilitating a regular exchange of experiences, information, and knowledge between RF. This activity provided additional visibility for GFAR within the European context and will no doubt stimulate support for future south-north GFAR mediated collaborative activities.

2. Collaborative Research Partnerships (CRP)

The main objective addressed under this pillar was to promote, facilitate the development, and monitor the implementation of research partnerships on key agricultural research for development issues of regional or global importance.

2.1. GPP experiences and lessons learned shared

During 2005 actions were taken to improve the exchange of information among the various initiatives that GFAR facilitates, in particular the GPP. The web pages of EGFAR in the section on 'Research Partnerships' have been updated and modified. Access to information on all the GPPs (PROMUSA, PROCORD, PROLINNOVA, Underutilized Species, GPhI, DMC, ICM4ARD) has been facilitated and, where available, links provided to those GPP that have web pages. Together with the Agricultural Services Support Division of FAO, we have made a major effort to develop a web page for the Global Post-Harvest Initiative (GPhI) so as to make available the substantial information generated during the process of developing the strategic framework for this initiative. In 2006, these activities will fall under the overall review of GFAR's communication strategy, on which discussions have started in 2005, and where EGFAR will remain the prime tool for communication with our stakeholders. Further actions will be taken during 2006 in order to deliver the most up to date and relevant information through this GFAR's portal in an attractive and informative manner.

2.2. Development of pipeline GPP facilitated

Efforts were focused on two initiatives that have completed a series of stakeholder consultations and are now ready to develop concrete proposals for funding and implementation. The two initiatives were: The Global Post Harvest Initiative (GPhI) and the Information Communication Management for Development (ICM4ARD). Activities carried out on the latter are reported under the Management Information Systems pillar.

The Global Post Harvest Initiative (GPhI): After the development of the “*Strategic Framework for a Global Post-harvest Initiative-Linking Farmers to Markets*” following the global workshop in October 2003, this initiative entered a “going back to the regions phase” in which concrete activities will be carried out at the lowest most effective level in accordance with GFAR’s principle of subsidiarity. The strategy agreed upon is to build the initiative on strong regional and sub-regional networks, new and existing programs and projects, and partnerships created across disciplinary and organizational divide. This process was initiated in the second semester of 2004 with workshop organized in Bangkok by APAARI. The report of this workshop is now available and a Steering Group for the initiative in Asia is in the process of being established.

A similar strategy was applied during a planning workshop, hosted by AARINENA with technical and financial support from the GFAR Secretariat. The workshop was held at the University of Akdeniz in Antalya, Turkey from 24 to 25 March. The objectives of workshop were to: a) identify cross-cutting needs of four commodity networks (olive, date palm, cotton and medicinal plants) in the AARINENA region, in the area of post-harvest handling, processing, and marketing and enterprise development; b) prioritize three project ideas; and c) establish a plan of work for the subsequent development of the ideas into full proposals.

Commodity network co-ordinators, leaders of the respective post-harvest working groups for each commodity, resource persons and selected national experts including farmers and NGOs, attended the workshop which was held back-to-back with a joint AARINENA - FAO-RNE training on marketing and post-harvest handling and processing of fruits, vegetables and flowers (providing an example of one of the many collaborative activities of GFAR stakeholders with FAO). The main output of the workshop was the prioritization of 3 out of 9 project ideas presented. These were:

- Market-orientation for the AARINENA networks and their members
- Innovative and effective market-oriented and demand-driven extension services
- Organic production of olive, cotton, dates and medicinal and herbal plants

For each of the selected idea a draft project profile was developed. These have been subsequently transformed into concept notes that will be used as the basis for further project proposal preparation.

The FORAGRO Triennial Conference (see preceding section) in Panama was used to initiate the process of establishing a plan of action in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2006. Discussions were held with the Executive Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Rural Agro-industrial Program (PRODAR) and contacts were made with

potential stakeholders and the sub-regional Executive Secretaries were informed about the Initiative.

At the FARA General Assembly held in Entebbe in June, a pre-plenary workshop was organised by the GFAR Secretariat to inform potentially interested stakeholders about the GPhI initiative and to discuss possible areas of synergy with the Sub-Saharan Challenge Programme. A series of recommendations were presented to the FARA General Assembly. These centred around the need to mobilize the experiences and skills of those involved in the GPhI in support of the marketing component of the Sub-Saharan Challenge Programme.

This year has been a learning experience for the GFAR Secretariat personnel in the promotion of the GPhI, and, as will be appreciated by reviewing the CRP pillar in Annex 1, progress towards the intended 2005 outputs has not been as great as was hoped for. This lag is partially due to setting over ambitious targets, but also related to a misplaced strategy of attempting to develop independent regional programmes as part of a global initiative. It has now become clear that within the strategic framework established for the GPhI it is necessary for the GFAR community to carve out a particular niche where a clear inter-regional need has been identified, and develop around this a global partnership programme. The work that has been developed this year has permitted a clearer idea of potential cross-regional themes for collaboration that can be the basis for developing a well-focused GPP. In all regions, there continues to be concern for the gap that remains between support for farmers that have good access to resources and those whose livelihoods remain dependent on the subsistence or family level agriculture. It is proposed to focus the GPP on the latter, and examine the development issues and corresponding research needs for integrating smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs equitably to growing markets.

2.3. Phase 2 of on-going GPP facilitated

Direct-sowing Mulch-based and Conservation Agriculture (DMC) GPP. GFAR has supported the following activities:

- i) Implementation of two additional cases studies on DMC to provide input for the development of the second phase content.
- ii) Electronic consultation to identify priority needs, activities and governance of a revived GFAR-DMC global program.
- iii) Establishment of linkages with FARA, and especially CORAF, one of its sub-regional organizations, FORAGRO and APAARI.
- iv) Organisation of a special session during the III World Congress on Conservation Agriculture held in Nairobi in October.

As a result of these activities, a small task force has been charged with developing a concept note/state of the art statement on: (a) the problems and challenges the conservation agriculture community is facing in their different dimensions (scientific-technical, organisational, approach, policy etc.), (b) the options for moving forward, and

(c) the specific functions of a global CA facility. This concept note will then provide the basis for the preparation of a full project proposal with the participation key stakeholders.

Promoting Local Innovation GPP. The Secretariat completed the process of identifying a GFAR representative on the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG). Dr Betty del Rosario from the Philippines was selected and accepted to serve in this position and will ensure that updated reports are presented to the GFAR Steering Committee. The POG held its inaugural meeting in February and Dr del Rosario was elected co-chair. We continued to support the resource mobilization efforts of PROLINNOVA, through facilitating linkages to IDRC at headquarters and regional offices in Dakar and Nairobi. In addition, the Secretariat provided support for the first annual meeting of Country Programme (CP) Coordinators in Entebbe, Uganda on 5-7 June 2005. The meeting was designed to accomplish several objectives, the most important among them being to harmonise approaches to Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E). This face-to-face encounter provided the opportunity for a more intensive PM&E process and for mutual learning about farmer innovation, PID, PM&E and facilitating multi-stakeholder processes.

Underutilized Species GPP. A proposal was jointly prepared by the Global Facilitating Unit, CIAT, IPGRI and the Secretariat on successful development of underutilized species: innovation histories. The proposal was presented as a GFAR initiative to targeted donors. Feedback from these donors commented on the lack of a clear strategy for achieving on-the-ground impact with farmers as a result of the knowledge generated by the proposed research. The proposal has been modified in the light of these comments and further efforts will be undertaken to secure financing.

2.4. New GPP ideas have been generated

The proponents of the Non-Timber Forest Products proposal were encouraged to undertake consultations with the regional forums as was decided during the Mexico meeting in October 2004. The International Network on Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) has led these consultations that have been undertaken in the APAARI, FORAGRO, AARINENA and FARA regions. Based on the responses to these consultations, preparations are underway for an initiation workshop that will be held prior to the CGIAR AGM in Marrakech in December.

2.5. GPP guidelines developed and GPP evaluation initiated

The Secretariat started early in the year to implement the plan of action, endorsed by the Steering Committee during its December meeting, for preparing guidelines for the development of GPP. The plan consisted of engaging a team of two experts with relevant experience in partnership programmes and familiar with GFAR *modus operandi* to complete the task, initiated by the Secretariat, of reviewing the current process of developing, implementing and monitoring GPP, and making recommendations for improvement. Subsequently, questions were raised as to the rationale of carrying out this review before, and independently of, the planned internally commissioned external review of the performance of GPP scheduled for 2006. Following a strong suggestion

from the GFAR Chair to seriously consider the questions raised, the implementation plans were reviewed to combine both activities.

The proposal for the GPP Evaluation process was discussed and endorsed by the Steering Committee in its meeting in Uganda in June 2005. Two external consultants, Julian Gonsalves and Oumar Niangado, were identified and contracted to undertake the evaluation. A planning meeting with the consultants was convened in Rome, 14-15 September. The two consultants, after receiving preliminary documentation on the various GPPs, had the opportunity of interacting with the GFAR staff and other resource persons, among them Christian Hoste who provided the institutional memory for the concepts on which the GPP were based and knowledge of the evolution of the GPP mechanism, Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon the coordinator of the Underutilized Species Global Facilitation Unit and staff of the Science Council with respect to the CGIAR Challenge Programmes. The meeting helped to: (i) review the key questions for the evaluation and the comments provided by GPP practitioners; (ii) prepare the analytical framework for the evaluation and decide on the methods required to generate the relevant information; (iii) develop the tools for collecting the required information (questionnaires for key informants, telephone interviews, literature review, field visit, workshop, etc.) and plan the information gathering phase. As a result it was decided to:

- Undertake field visits to PROLINNOVA country programmes in Uganda, Cambodia and Nepal
- Develop and apply a simple questionnaire to gather information from different stakeholders on the GPP mechanism
- Convene an information gathering and experience-sharing workshop. This activity was considered key in achieving high level of ownership of the results of the evaluation, as well as achieving a better product through building on and sharing experiences among GPP practitioners. All potential participants have been contacted and agreed to hold the workshop in the last week of January 2006
- Draft the report following the workshop, and to circulate it to the GPP practitioners and key resource persons for comment before finalisation and submission to the Steering Committee.

Closely linked with the review process is the literature review on research partnerships. The GFAR Secretariat has initiated the process of collecting relevant background documents (books, articles, grey literature) on research partnerships in general, the GPP origins and evolution as well as the CGIAR Challenge Programmes. A database is being created in Microsoft Access with the objective of facilitating the review process and in the future making the information available to interested GFAR stakeholders through EGFAR. It is intended to use the information gathered to prepare and make available as a GFAR working document an 'issues' document that hopefully provides a useful input into the further development of innovative partnership arrangements. This task is being greatly facilitated by the arrival of Steve Crittenden, a Canadian volunteer supported by the Canadian Farmers' Association who will be with the Secretariat until April 2006.

2.6 South-North collaborative partnerships fostered

It can be recalled that two Calls for Proposal were made under the DURAS Project's under the DURAS Competitive Grants Scheme. The first Call was launched in July 2004 while the second call was made in February 2005. A total of 129 pre-proposals were submitted for the 1st Call while 173 were submitted for the 2nd Call. These pre-proposals were reviewed by the DURAS Selection and Scientific Partnership Committee (CSPS) in December 2004 and March 2005, respectively, where 12 pre-proposals from each Call advanced to Full Proposal Development stage.

Proponents of the pre-selected pre-proposals received Euro 5,000 support for the elaboration of their project, which then served as basis for the final selection of projects for funding. From the 24 full proposals, 12 were chosen by the DURAS CSPS and the Steering Committee in June 2005. The projects were selected on the basis of the following criteria: (a) over-all project design and feasibility; (b) appropriateness and innovativeness; (c) socio-economic consideration; (d) environmental and sustainability considerations; and (e) partnership quality.

The twelve projects selected for funding are shown in Box 1. The projects, with award size varying from Euro 90,000 to Euro 150,000, will run for two years. The 12 projects are to be implemented in about 22 countries in Africa and Asia.

With regards to lead proponents, three projects are spearheaded by NARIs, two by African regional research organizations and three projects by African universities. NGOs are spearheading two projects and one project each is being led by a farmer-producer organization and by an agri-SME. Project implementation started in late October 2005.

Prior to full project implementation, the DURAS Project Office organized a workshop that brought together the project coordinators and their European research collaborators of the 12 selected projects on 11-14 October in Montpellier (France). During the workshop project coordinators discussed the potential contributions of their respective projects to sustainable development (SD) and what indicators could they use to measure these. As they were not able to conclude on this, project coordinators agreed to continue this exercise by revisiting their respective project documents and consulting with their other partners and together define no more than 15 indicators covering the economic, ecological and social dimensions of SD.

Also during the workshop, it was agreed that all the 12 projects will provide Quarterly and Annual Progress Status Reports. These progress reports will be basically cover four critical success factors of project implementation namely: (1) Meeting the stated project objectives; (2) Timeliness of project implementation; (3) Functional involvement of stakeholders; and (4) Scientific outputs. Also discussed during the workshop were a financial reporting framework and information and communication tools, which can be used to facilitate interaction among project coordinators as well as in the reporting and dissemination of project results.

Box 1: List of 12 projects supported under the DURAS Competitive Grants Scheme

1. Caractérisation morphologique, zootechnique et génétique des populations locales de volailles de genre *Gallus gallus* dans les pays côtiers de l'Afrique occidentale (*Université d'Abomey-Calavi – Bénin; Pays concernés: Bénin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana*)
2. Un réseau régional de plateformes d'échanges pour améliorer l'identification des besoins des agriculteurs et la diffusion de nouvelles variétés de bananier plantain (*Centre Africain de Recherches sur les Bananes et Plantains, CARBAP-Cameroun; Pays concernés: Cameroun, Bénin, Gabon, Guinée*)
3. Farmer Access to Innovation Resources. Action Research on Innovation Support Fund (*Farmer Support Group-South Africa; Countries involved: S. Africa, Uganda, Cambodia, Sudan*)
4. Innovations et savoirs paysans dans les pratiques de gestion des écosystèmes forestiers humides d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre : diversification des systèmes d'exploitation associant cultures pérennes et vivrières (*l'Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement, IRAD-Cameroun; Pays concernés: Cameroun, Ghana, Guinée*)
5. The implication of the local knowledge in the increasing integration of animal husbandry in the farming systems of disadvantaged communities (*National Institute of Soil and Fertilizer-Vietnam; Countries involved: Vietnam, Laos*)
6. Valoriser les savoirs paysans sur l'intégration agriculture élevage pour une gestion durable des écosystèmes des savanes subhumides de l'Afrique (Centre International de Recherche-développement sur l'Élevage en zone Subhumide, *CIRDES- Burkina Faso; Pays concernés: Burkina Faso, Mali, Tchad, Cameroun*)
7. Approche intégrative de la gestion des nématodes phytoparasites en systèmes maraîchers méditerranéens et sahéliens (*Société MARISSA Groupe AZURA – Maroc; Pays concernés: Maroc, Algérie, Tunisie, Sénégal*)
8. Appropriation par les Organisations de Producteurs d'Afrique de l'Ouest de la technologie d'inoculation avec des microorganismes améliorant la production végétale (*Cadre Local de Concertation des Organisations de Producteurs, CLCOP de Keur Momar Sarr- Sénégal; Pays concernés: Sénégal, Burkina Faso, Bénin, Mali et Niger*)
9. Linking farmers to markets through valorization of local resources: the case for intellectual property rights of indigenous resources (*University of Pretoria – South Africa; Countries involved: South Africa, Namibia*)
10. Improving the pig and pig meat marketing chain to enable small producers to serve consumer needs in Vietnam and Cambodia (*Vietnam Agricultural Science Institute; Countries involved: Vietnam, Cambodia*)
11. Poverty and Pace Setters (POPS). From sector support for farm products marketing to targeting entrepreneurs by building networks among poverty struck (*Centre for Rural Economic Development Research-Vietnam; Countries involved: Vietnam, Kenya*)
12. Production de malts de sorgho ou de mil de qualité pour la production alimentaire artisanale ou semi industrielle en Afrique de l'Ouest (*Centre Régional de Nutrition et d'Alimentation Appliquées Université d'Abomey-Calavi-Bénin; Pays concernés: Bénin, Burkina Faso;*)

3. Advocacy, Public Awareness and Strategic Thinking

The activities carried out under this pillar during the year were focused on the objective of identifying and drawing attention to critical emerging issues that shape and affect Agricultural Research for Sustainable Development and which are of concern to GFAR stakeholders, as stated in the PWB.

3.1 Functional and collaborative linkages established between GFAR and other institutions.

An important advocacy and public awareness activity that was planned for this year was to sensitize FAO Senior Management to the value adding presence of the GFAR Secretariat within FAO, and thus further strengthen the linkages and collaboration between GFAR and FAO. The event was planned to show case past, current and pipelined collaborative activities between FAO and GFAR stakeholders in the field and at the FAO headquarters to illustrate our added value as we pursue similar objectives and goals. The Regional Forums that were to play a decisive role requested that the event be postponed to 2006 to allow for better preparation. Nevertheless, a meeting between the GFAR Management Team and the Deputy Director General of FAO in September laid the foundation for the event to be held in the first semester of 2006. The Executive Secretary presented a number of such on-going collaborative activities on the one hand between the Secretariat and FAO services, and divisions at headquarters (e.g. coherent and integrative information and communication approaches with the Library Information Services; and the Global Post Harvest Initiative with the Agricultural Support Services Division) and on the other hand between FAO regional offices and GFAR Regional Forums (e.g. implementation of FAO Africa region conference recommendations by FARA and the FAO regional office in Accra; a high level dialogue on biotechnology for food and poverty alleviation organized by APAARI and the FAO regional Office in Thailand). A direct and immediate output of this sensitization effort was the restoration of the dwindling contribution of FAO to the Secretariat to its original pledged level.

3.2 Informed, updated stakeholders able to take appropriate decisions and policy actions

The two sets of activities prioritized for 2005 and designed to draw attention to critical emerging issues that could affect ARD were carried out. The first one was the organization of a high-level panel discussion on the role of Biodiversity in achieving the Millennium Development Goals of freedom from hunger and poverty. This was jointly carried out in collaboration with the Global Facilitating Unit of Underutilized Species GPP, IPGRI and the Swaminathan Foundation, and the Secretariat ensured that participants from our regional forums (APAARI, FARA and FORAGRO) were invited and actively participated. About 100 persons including three Ministers of Agriculture from Ghana, Kenya and Indonesia attended the consultation. The outputs were summarized under the title of “The Chennai Platform for Action: Agricultural Biodiversity and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals” and were widely shared in form of a brochure. They were also fed into the Millennium Development Goals review process carried out in September, with the expectation that they will contribute to

the implementation of favourable decisions and policy actions towards biodiversity research and the agricultural sector in general

The second activity with the potential to contribute to the output stated above was the continued support and facilitation given by the Secretariat to the GFAR Stakeholder Committee of the Generation Challenge Programme (GCP) of the CGIAR. The committee which was set up by the Secretariat in 2004 with funding from the European Commission, pursued its objective of facilitating the articulation and presentation of the views of various stakeholders to the GCP management and governance structures in order to contribute to the policies, research and programme priorities of the GCP. The committee held two meetings in 2005, during which it interacted strongly with the GCP secretariat. The committee made efforts to implement the programme of work it elaborated in 2004 and which was focused on four issues: the composition and functions of the GCP consortium, the communication strategy of the GCP, product delivery mechanisms especially to the ultimate end users of the products, and collaboration with the private sector. The committee made strong recommendations to the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) on each of these issues. In particular, they drew their attention to the central role NARS must play at every stage of the implementation of the Programme in order to successfully address its stated goal, which is to use the advances in molecular biology to harness the rich global heritage of plant genetic resources and create a new generation of crops that meet the needs of resource-poor people.

A member of the committee participated in the selection process of the new Director of the GCP. During its last meeting this year, the Committee provided a summary of feedback from their respective stakeholder groups to the GCP, and commissioned a paper on molecular and traditional approaches to breeding for adaptation to drought; the purpose of the latter being to provide information to the committee so that it can in turn make appropriate recommendations to the GCP on traits which at one and the same time are of interest to small- and medium-scale less endowed farmers, and whose selection through molecular and traditional breeding are likely to yield results in the short term, as opposed to other traits which will require more time to unravel. The message from the committee to the GCP was not to neglect the former group of traits, such as drought tolerance in local crops. The outputs of these meetings and activities were presented to the Programme Steering committee (PSC) of the GCP and minutes of the meetings are available on www.egfar.org

3.3 Multi-stakeholder workshop on High Value Agricultural Products

One of the provisions for the GFAR Secretariat made in the GFAR charter is to “commission studies and organize workshops and meetings when necessary to facilitate the discussion on strategic issues or to develop the global and regional research agenda”. For this reason, and also closely with the 2004-2006 Business Plan, GFAR Secretariat together with the CGIAR Science Council Secretariat convened an action-oriented workshop on “*How can the Poor Benefit from the Growing Markets for High Agricultural Value Products (HVAP)*”, which was held in Cali, Colombia, 3-5 October 2005. The aim was to contribute to developing a common understanding about how

small producers can obtain the market linkages, technologies, organization and know-how they require to benefit from dynamic markets for high value products, and to form a platform for future action. To achieve this objective, the workshop brought together a group of strategic thinkers and knowledgeable practitioners from different points in the research and development continuum and from different stakeholder groups. The Secretariat for this specific event attracted the attention of DFID, GTZ and IDRC who contributed to the workshop with *ad hoc* funds. This allowed GFAR to ensure a balanced participation between North-South based participants and guaranteed an adequate CSO representation, including representatives of the private sector.

The Workshop met all its stated objectives and achieved:

- A common understanding of the concept of HVAP for the benefit of the poor
- Strategies and challenges to link small holder farmers to HVAP markets
- The outline of a research agenda on HVAPs
- Ideas for actions and coalitions for developing and promoting HVAPs

Of three emerging coalitions, one is of particular note. Farmer representatives at the meeting proposed a “Farmer Empowerment” initiative to work with farmer organisations to identify ways to build social capital for their organisations and the linkages that are necessary for them to realise the opportunities provided by emerging HVAP markets. Key areas of development would include i) organisations, ii) marketing structures and chain governance, and iii) facilitation of skills.

4. Management Information Systems (MIS)

The Secretariat has vigorously pursued the implementation of its mandate of ensuring a constant flow of information and knowledge among the stakeholders, through the development, maintenance and regular update of the EGFAR with the expectation that this internet platform will be an effective means of achieving this objective. In addition we also carried out a number of activities designed to address two objectives stated in the Business Plan. Firstly, to establish a global Management Information System on ARD that would provide information on stakeholders expertise, activities and research outputs, and secondly to complement information sharing through the internet platform with other appropriate media. The outputs and related activities are briefly presented below.

4.1 A functional user-friendly and versatile EGFAR containing updated knowledge and information generated, owned and used by GFAR stakeholders developed.

We continued to maintain and update the EGFAR, which has become an important source of information to GFAR stakeholders. The first newsletter of 2005 contained a feature article on Family Agriculture a topic that is assuming important dimensions especially in Latin America. It also contained a profile article on a regional NGO based in Jordan, the Arab Network for Sustainable Agriculture Development (ANSAD) to continue our tradition of sharing this type of information in order to enhance the visibility of CSOs within GFAR on the one hand, to promote networking among organizations

with similar objectives, and concerns, and who may not be aware of each other, even when they are in the same country or region. Another NGO, the Asian Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) shared with other stakeholders its evaluation of the progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals and how Civil Society Organizations can contribute to the attainment of these goals. This first edition also contained the traditional news items from regional forums, including the European Forum, as well as from the other stakeholders, and the Secretariat.

The second edition featured an article on the agricultural research priorities of Regional Forums, to draw the attention of potential partners that their support and collaborative efforts should take cognisance of these priorities, and should address the needs of the producers from subsistence farmers in marginal areas, through small scale farmers responding to local markets, to medium and larger scale entrepreneurs targeting global markets, since these three groups co-exist in developing countries. Two new CSO were profiled: the Irrigation Training and Economic Empowerment Organization (IRTECO) an NGO group from Tanzania and the Sociedad Rural Argentina (SRA) a farmer organization from Argentina. The third and final edition of the year will be published in December, as a special edition developed around the theme of building on past achievements for future improvement. It will feature new looks at GFAR, the high points of the Marrakech meetings, and salient event and achievements of 2005.

This year also saw the completion of a Farmer Organizations' database. The database, which was uploaded to EGFAR in October, contains information on more than 250 farmer organizations. It was constructed partially from information obtained through a survey instrument posted on EGFAR and partially through individual contacts. The database is organized on regional basis and will provide useful information to stakeholders on the growing number of farmer organizations. In this manner we hope that EGFAR continues to live up to the expectations placed on it as a medium of information sharing and knowledge exchange.

4.2. Regional and Inter-regional MIS established through further strengthening of RAIS

In pursuance of the objective of contributing to the development of Regional Agricultural Information Systems (RAIS) the Secretariat continued with the implementation of a number of activities contained within the broad framework of the Information Communication Management for Agricultural Research for Development (ICM4ARD) document prepared last year following a series of regional consultations.

In January, we participated in the launching of the FARA-RAIS Task Force, which led to the definition of the variety of activities to be carried out by this forum in the area of ICM for ARD, and the development of a plan of work in close collaboration with the three sub-regional organisations. Following this in February, we facilitated a discussion between AARINENA-RAIS and InfoSys+ to develop a strategy for collaboration for the development a "Global Agricultural Information System" dealing with information on institutions, experts, research activities and outputs of research, through a relational database system. This effort responds to Component 3 of the ICM4ARD project, with

regards to regional integration and the development of the EGFAR web ring, and was based on the development of synergies with the AGRIS network under the new vision coordinated by FAO.

In order to build on the outputs of the two events and move more decisively towards the development of a Global Agricultural Information System, including the GFAR web-ring, RAIS managers from the regional forums and experts from other organisations including FAO and EARD-InfoSys+ were brought together in early May to move the initiative ahead. This RAIS managers' workshop was preceded by a study on existing information tools and approaches for the provision of information on institutions / experts / activities and research outputs. A major output of this consultation was the development of a programme of work whose implementation will contribute to strengthening the RAIS.

4.4 Annual report and a refreshing the corporate image of GFAR

We have initiated a process of 'refreshing' the corporate image of GFAR. The 2004 Annual Report took on a different format with the inclusion of a crosscutting 'theme' essay that brings together highlights from a number of GFAR's activities. The 2004 annual report theme topic was 'innovative partnerships'. This report prepared in 2005 was published on EGFAR, and hard copies have been disseminated to stakeholders and partners. The theme essay for 2005 will be "inclusiveness" and we have started preparatory activities to collect relevant information that will comprise the 2005 Annual Report from all stakeholders.

In addition, we have initiated the preparation of a GFAR communication strategy that is to be characterized by the provision of information that is inclusive, targeting all stakeholders, reliable, relevant, coherent, useful and easily accessible. With the support of specialized information management institutions, we are also working on the presentation aspects of our communication tools such as: promotional folders, leaflets, individual fliers on particular projects, cd-rom label design, GFAR posters, and business cards, and the EGFAR website. Three distinctive templates for the production of hard copy publications will be developed for three types of publications: the Annual Report, GFAR Conference Proceedings, and a Working Document series (e.g. the Business Plan and reports/proceedings of meetings). We will finalize the communication strategy this year for implementation in 2006.

5. GFAR management-related activities

5.1 GFAR 2006 Conference

Following the acceptance by the Steering Committee of the offer of India to host the GFAR 2006 Conference, the Secretariat initiated discussions with the host country in order to decide on the venue and timing of the conference. The venue (New Delhi) and dates (9–11 November 2006) were approved by the Steering Committee, and a first announcement of the conference was posted on EGFAR in June 2005. The Secretariat was also mandated to constitute a Conference Working Group (CWG) that will work with

the Secretariat to identify a conference theme, sub-themes, keynote and main speakers, and develop the conference programme. The CWG was constituted and comprises the representatives of our stakeholders shown in Table 1 below.

The CWG has started working on its mandate and the outcomes will be presented in a separate report to the Steering Committee during the 2005 Marrakech meeting.

Table 1. Members of the GFAR 2006 Conference Working Group

Stakeholder Group	Representative
The host country	Mangal Rai, DG Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
Southern RF represented by APAARI	Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary of APAARI
Northern RF	Jochen de Haas
NGOs	Dominique Hounkonnou
Farmers Organizations	Raul Monte Mayor
IARCS	Steven Omamo, IFPRI
Donor Support Group	Shantanu Mathur, IFAD
FAO	Isabel Alvarez, FAO
Private sector	Andrew Bennett, Syngenta Foundation
GFAR Secretariat	Executive Secretary

5.2. GFAR Secretariat staffing

Staff recruitment has now been completed with the two P-2 and the P-4 NARS liaison officer positions filled. Jean Francois Giovannetti, the Information Communication Management Officer seconded to the Secretariat from CIRAD has been recalled to France and now works at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CIRAD has indicated it will in due course second another person to the Secretariat, but not necessarily an information communication specialist. The Secretariat is currently negotiating for such a replacement. Meanwhile the newly recruited NARS liaison Officer, Dr Ajit Maru who brings with him a lot of expertise in the ICM area has taken over the ICM portfolio. Steve Crittenden joined the GFAR Secretariat team as a volunteer in September for a six-month period and will work on the literature review and issues of research partnerships.

5.4. Charter Review

The process of reviewing the Charter, which started in 2004, was concluded in June during the Steering Committee meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda. The Management Team has proposed two amendments which will be discussed and agreed upon during the December 2006 Steering Committee meeting in Marrakech. After this last deliberation on the Charter, the new one will be printed and distributed extensively.

5.5. Assessments and evaluations

The Business Plan calls for an in-depth assessment of Global Partnership Programmes (GPPs) as a tool for partnership building (see progress reported above) as well as the 2nd External Evaluation of GFAR as a whole, to be carried out in 2006, and for the outcomes

to be presented during GFAR 2006. In addition, the Secretariat received approval, during the October 2004 Steering Committee meeting, to undertake a review of guidelines for the development and implementation of GPP. The review of guidelines for the development of GPP and their assessment are currently going on and will be completed early in 2006. An interim report will be presented to the Steering Committee during the Marrakech meeting.

Preparatory activities for the second external review of GFAR are currently being carried out. A separate report on these activities, which include the drafting of the terms of reference and identification of potential reviewers, will be presented to the Steering Committee during the Marrakech meeting, and following its approval, the review will start in January 2006.

5.5. Financial management and resource mobilization

Financial management. The summary financial outcome for 2005 is shown in Table 1 below. Total available resources for 2005 were US\$ 3,189,094, of which US\$ 212,274 were from 2004 carry-over and US\$ 2,076,820 of donor income. US\$ 900,000 of these resources have been set aside as reserves and US\$ 2,289,094 were made available for operations. Total expenditures in 2005 amounted to US\$ 1,565,520. Of these expenditures, US\$ 703,308 covered the operating expenses of the GFAR Secretariat and US\$ 862,211 were invested in the implementation of the Business Plan's four pillars and GFAR management-related activities (see above). This left an operational balance of US\$ 723,575 for carry-over to 2006.

Resource mobilisation. Additional efforts were made during the year to broaden the donor support base of the Secretariat for the short and medium term as indicated in the work plan, and received favourable and promising responses from the following donors:

- i) **IFAD:** IFAD confirmed it will support the Secretariat on a project focused basis. On the basis of preliminary discussion with IFAD, a proposal focused on partnerships and their added value will be submitted to IFAD for funding for the period 2006-2007.
- ii) **DFID:** DFID confirmed it will support the Secretariat in the form of restricted core, targeted to a particular project. Project focus should be in the general area of building and strengthening Civil Society Organization involvement and participation in research activities and promoting research results utilization. A concept note along these lines has been submitted to DFID.
- iii) **IDRC:** The proposal submitted to IDRC on facilitating research partnerships for improved agricultural research for development was not successful, but we are examining other options.
- iv) **Rockefeller Foundation:** Discussions are still going on with the Rockefeller Foundation on the possibility of receiving funds to organize a competitive funding scheme on a specific area of the post-harvest sector along the lines of the DURAS project.
- v) **WB/CGIAR:** With support from the Chair, we have started to examine possibilities of obtaining core funding from the WB/CGIAR funds. Initial

discussions have not been too promising, because while the group appears ready to provide funds to the Secretariat on a project basis, it has only promised to support us to approach potential donors for core funding. We will continue with these negotiations.

- vi) **EU:** Negotiations with the European Union on the Civil Society Organisation project for Africa have continued, with two visits being made to Brussels during the year. It is hoped that all hurdles have now been overcome and final agreement on the proposal will be made early in 2006.

Naturally, we continued to nurture our relationships with our current donors all of whom have positively expressed interest to continue supporting GFAR.

Table 1. GFAR Financial Situation December 2005 (USD)

Description	Operating resources	Strategic reserves	Total
Income in 2005			
Balance Carried Forward from 2004	212,274	900,000	1,112,274
Income in 2005	2,076,820		2,076,820
Total available resources 2005	2,289,094	900,000	3,189,094
Expenditure in 2005			
1. Operational Costs			
<i>Professional staff and salaries</i>	591,705		591,705
<i>General services salaries</i>	98,882		98,882
<i>Communications and supplies</i>	12,721		12,721
Sub-total Operational costs	703,308		703,308
2. Programme Costs			
<i>Support to RF to promote inclusiveness and foster Inter-regional collaboration</i>	229,440		229,440
<i>Collaborative research partnerships</i>	181,617		181,617
<i>Advocacy and public awareness</i>	139,561		139,561
<i>Management Information Systems</i>	165,187		165,187
<i>GFAR Management</i>	146,406		146,406
Sub-total Programme costs	862,211		862,211
Total expenditure 2005	1,565,519		1,565,519
Balance to carry forward to 2006	723,575	900,000	1,623,575

Annex 1. GFAR Secretariat: Achievements and progress toward indicators in 2005

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator in 2005
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
1. Inter Regional Collaboration					
BP Objective: 1.1. To promote inclusiveness and participatory decision making within Regional Forums (RF)					
1.1.1. Improved representation of CSOs within RF/SRF	1) Opening up of RF to new stakeholders 2) Support to the less represented stakeholders in governance structures of RF/SRF	a) Facilitate and support the involvement of farmers and NGOs in RF	N. Abdi (lead) O. Smith O. Oliveros	a) CSOs participation in RF activities supported	All regional forums invited CSOs representatives to their meetings, and planning workshops, and participated in CSOs meetings as well. Each group covered its own cost – an indicator of commitment. FARA and FORAGRO now have representatives of NGOs, FOs and Private Sector on their apex decision making bodies Committee was established as planned and has drawn up a programme of work for the near future Consortium was established and has also drawn up a medium term plan. FARA spearheaded a multi-stakeholder dialogue among these groups and its own sub-regional organization and IITA to start the process of establishing functional linkages and collaboration.
		b) a policy paper on building partnership with CSOs	N. Abdi (lead) R. Best O. Oliveros	b) Balanced representation of stakeholders in governing bodies of some RF/SRF by the end of the year	
		c) Support and facilitate the establishment of NGO consortium in SSA	N. Abdi (lead) O. Smith O. Oliveros	c) IFAP Committee on Research Established	
		d) Develop plan of action for IFAP based on on-going dialogue and facilitate the development of IFAP's Committee on Research	N. Abdi (lead) O. Smith R. Best	d) SSA NGO Consortium established	
BP Objective: 1.2. To draw attention to, and address neglected Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) issues of regional importance					
1.2.1. Concrete inter-regional collaborative research activities including networking built around dynamic and updated regional priorities	Strengthen functional relationship of RF through collaborative research efforts based on common interest and built on existing and emerging initiatives	a) Support APAARI's efforts to carry out sub-regional research priority assessment	O. SMITH (lead) N. Abdi	Regional Priorities in APAARI updated and/or revisited	Regional priorities revisited in South -East Asia and the Pacific sub-regions. Outputs will soon be disseminated and expected to form the basis of intra and inter-regional research activities

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator in 2005
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
BP Objective: 1.3. To promote inter-regional collaboration through networking, exchange of expertise, knowledge and information					
1.3.1. A regular exchange of experiences, information, and knowledge, among RF executive Secretaries	Enhance RF/SRF capacity to respond to regional needs and stakeholders demands	Organize and service RF Executive Secretaries meetings	O. Smith (lead) other GFAR Sec Staff RF Executive Secretaries		Meetings held in Panama and Entebbe
		b) Support FORAGRO's efforts to develop conceptual framework in advancing inter-regional collaboration on Policy Management and Institutional Development (PMID)	N. Abdi (lead) O. Smith FORAGRO	Inter-regional working paper on Policy Management and Institutional Development (PMID) by FORAGRO produced	Activity started late but on-going. Results will be shared widely with other RF
		c) Support/ organize a special event on key thematic issues during RF annual meetings in 2005	N. Abdi (lead) other GFAR Sec staff RF Executive Secretaries	Prospective inter-regional collaboration themes prioritised and a plan of action developed for execution in 2006	Inter-regional collaborative themes identified but not prioritized. Provision has been made for a planning workshop that will move the idea forward towards prioritization of themes and the development of a plan of action.
2. Collaborative Research Partnerships					
BP Objective 2.1. To promote, facilitate, develop and implement research partnerships on key ARSD issues that are of regional and/or global concerns, and identified by stakeholders in a participatory manner					
2.1.1. Up to date and useful information on on-going and pipelined GPPs made available to all stakeholders via EGFAR and other appropriate	2.1.1.1. Create an information system that will allow the exchange of experiences and of lessons learnt	1. EGFAR website a) Organise existing information on the various on-going and pipeline GPPs	A. Schiavone (lead) ICM4ARD: JF. Giovanetti GPhI: R. Best	EGFAR has up-to-date information on the past (PROMUSA, PROCORD) on-going (DMC,	The web pages of EGFAR in the section on 'Research Partnerships' have been updated and modified. Access to information on all the GPPs (PROMUSA, PROCORD, PROLINNOVA, Underutilized Species, GPhI, DMC, ICM4ARD) has been facilitated and, where available, links provided to those GPP that have web pages.
		b) Select appropriate information and synthesize for the EGFAR website	A. Schiavone	PROLINNOVA, UUS) and pipeline GPPs (ICM4ARD and GPhI), with links to individual GPP websites	

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator in 2005
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
communication media		c) Up-load to EGFAR relevant information and links to GPP websites	A. Schiavone (lead) J.F. Giovannetti EGFAR Consultant		
		d) Place guidelines for GPP development and implementation on EGFAR website	A. Schiavone (lead) J.F. Giovanetti EGFAR Consultant	Guidelines on EGFAR website	The GFAR Chair, in response to observations by a member of the Steering Committee, proposed to merge the development of GPP guidelines and the GPP evaluation. This decision was endorsed by the Steering Committee in its June 2005 meeting in Uganda. For this reason no guidelines were developed and therefore placed on EGFAR
		2. On-going GPP websites a) Support the development of web-sites or web pages for those GPP that do not have websites	A. Schiavone (lead) EGFAR Consultant	Web-pages/site created for DMC	Together with the Agricultural Support System division of the FAO we have created a new web site for the GPhI, so as to make available the substantial information generated during the development of this initiative. Regarding other initiatives such as DMC, web pages already exist. The Secretariat will support the update of these as soon as the initiative is reactivated.
		b) Link such sites and/or pages to each other and with EGFAR	J.F. Giovanetti		
2.1.2. Two or three new GPP ideas already in the pipeline developed and being implemented by stakeholders	2.1.2.1. Continue to convene and support proponent stakeholders in the development of GPP proposals	1. Information and Communication Management. (ICM4ARD) a) Complete proposal preparation	J.F. Giovannetti (lead)	Proposal finalised	Proposal finalized as planned after carrying out an Inter-regional workshop (Cairo) and a follow up expert consultation (Bonn) The output is the ICM4ARD document.
		b) Contact and promote the proposal among donors	J.F. Giovanetti (lead) O. Smith R. Best	Proposals sent to donors	ICM4ARD shared informally with IFAD and IDRC; feedback is to repackaging document into fundable and smaller components will be done in 2006. Meanwhile in-house funds have been earmarked as seed funds to jump start implementation of the ICM4ARD by the RF
		c) Initiate activities with existing resources, based on project work plan	J.F. Giovanetti (lead) O. Smith	See 4.2.1. & 4.2.2	See above
		2. Global Post-harvest Initiative (GPhI) a) Undertake further public awareness and sensitization on the GPhI	R. Best & A. Schiavone (lead)	Presentations made at key events, and brochures on Strategic Plan distributed to key actors	The initiative as been widely publicized in many key events, among others the FARA, EFARD and FORAGRO Meetings and the HVAP Workshop, through the distribution of brochures and delivery of presentations or the organization of <i>ad hoc</i> meetings and workshop sessions. For example a pre-plenary Session during FARA meeting n Uganda, 2006, which reported to the plenary session.

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator in 2005
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
		b) Develop a specific plan of action for the APAARI region based on the outcomes of the Expert Consultation in December 2004	R. Best & A. Schiavone (lead) Exec. Sec. APAARI, lead institutions in prioritised themes, IFAP, ANGOC.	Up to 4 regional project proposals have been developed and presented to donors for funding	An attempt was made to convene an ad hoc Steering Group meeting for June, but the timing was not convenient for the members. During the year it became clear that developing independent regional projects under the GPhI framework is too ambitious.
		c) Develop plan of action for the AARINENA region, based on the existing Commodity Networks	A. Schiavone & R. Best (lead) Exec. Sec. AARINENA, olive, date, cotton and medicinal plant networks, FAO/AGS, IFAP and their rep in WANA	1 cross commodity project proposal developed to increase the effectiveness of post-harvest, marketing and enterprise development research	A workshop was held in Antalya, Turkey in March The main output was the prioritization of 3 out of 9 project ideas presented. These were: (i) Market-orientation for the AARINENA networks and their members; (ii) Innovative and effective market-oriented and demand-driven extension services; (iii) Organic production of olive, cotton, dates and medicinal and herbal plants For each of the selected idea a draft project profile was developed. These have been subsequently transformed into concept notes that will be used as the basis for further project proposal preparation.
		d) Liaise with FARA and FORAGRO on process for these regions in 2005.	R. Best (lead) A. Schiavone Exec. Secs. FARA and FORAGRO	Programme of work agreed upon for 2006	Information has been gathered from meetings organised around the FARA and FORAGRO General Assemblies. With FARA, a pre-plenary workshop was organised to inform potentially interested stakeholders about the GPhI initiative and to discuss possible areas of synergy with the Sub-Saharan Challenge Programme. A series of recommendations were presented to the FARA General Assembly.
		e) Brainstorming meeting with selected experts on enhanced private sector engagement in GPhI	R. Best (lead) A. Schiavone	Strategy for achieving enhanced private sector participation in GPPs, with emphasis on GPhI	The strategy has not been finalised although efforts have been put into attracting always more private sector stakeholder to GFAR activities. Partial use was made of the funds assigned to this activity to ensure the participation of four private sector participants at the HVAP workshop held in Colombia, October 2005. Views and expectations were discussed for a greater involvement with GFAR. The general and increasingly accepted opinion is that private sector participation has to be formalised around concrete projects, and in particular those related to supply chains in which the private sector is active.

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator in 2005
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
2.1.3. Implementation of Phase 2 of one or two on-going GPPs started, with full or partial funding secured	2.1.3.1. Liaise and plan with Facilitating Units of on-going GPPs that have indicated the desire for a Phase 2	Direct Sowing and Mulch-based Systems and Conservation Agriculture (DMC) a) Support the completion of second phase proposal	R. Best (lead) O. Smith	Second phase proposal drafted and submitted to donors	Activities carried out as planned, but slightly behind schedule. A revised plan indicated that by March 2006 a concept note on next steps or second phase for GPP will be finalized for discussion with donors. The elements of such a proposal were agreed upon during the recent International Workshop on CA in Nairobi.
		b) Work with the DMC coordinator to contact and promote proposal among donors	O. Smith (lead) R. Best DMC coordinator		
		2. Underutilised Crops (UUS) a) Work with the UUS GFU to contact and promote innovation case studies proposal among donors	R. Best (lead) O. Smith	Innovation case studies proposed funded and project initiated	Proposal developed as planned, and submitted to Syngenta Foundation, IDRC, the Swiss Development Agency and Ford Foundation. No positive outcome yet. Proposal recently modified to take account of comments from donors, and will be resubmitted to other donors as well.
		b) Participation in UUS Steering Committee	O. Smith	GFU is effectively operational and GFAR principles are maintained	GFU is functional, with an active website, and is increasingly engaging GFAR Stakeholders. GFU was particularly active this year with the organization of the Chennai dialogue on biodiversity and the MDGS and follow up actions with the EU on the Novel food legislation
		3. Promoting Local Innovation (PROLINNOVA) a) Support PROLINNOVA FU in contacting and promoting PROLINNOVA proposals with donors	O. Smith	Discussion for funding are in advance stage	PROLINNOVA was linked with CIDA in Ethiopia, and a proposal submitted to IDRC in Ottawa., but with no positive outcome yet.
		b) Participation in PROLINNOVA Steering Committee	O. Smith	FU of PROLINNOVA is effective and GFAR principles are maintained	The PROLINNOVA Oversight Committee (POG) is active as reported by the representative of GFAR on the POG, Dr Betty del Rosario from the Philippines, who was elected co-Chair of POG. GFAR supported the first Country Programme coordinators meeting held in Entebbe in June, where one of the main focus' was the development of a participatory monitoring and evaluation framework.
		c) Support to PROLINNOVA evaluation on effectiveness of the initiative	R. Best (lead) A. Schiavone		
2.1.4. A number of new GPP ideas that respond to stakeholders demands featured in the pipeline	2.1.4.1. Solicit new ideas and thematic areas from stakeholders	1. Review status and potential for wider stakeholder interest and involvement in the following GPP ideas: Putting Knowledge to Work, Non-Timber Forest Products, Policy and Institutional Strategies for SARD	R. Best (lead) GFAR-Sec team	One new GPP idea has been selected for development and stakeholder consultation is underway	A new GPP idea, on NTFP has been encouraged by the GFAR Steering Committee meeting in 2004 to undertake regional consultations. The International Network on Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) has led these consultations in the APAARI, FORAGRO, AARINENA and FARA regions. Preparations are underway for an initiation workshop that will be held prior to the CGIAR AGM in Marrakech in December.

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator in 2005
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
		2.. Develop plan of action with stakeholder proponents, if decision is taken to move forward one of the GPP ideas	R. Best (lead) A. Schiavone		
2.1.5. Recommendation on the continued relevance and adequacy or otherwise of GPPs as a tool for partnership building	2.1.5.1 Deepen understanding of partnership relations and undertake evaluation of pat and on-going GPP processes	1. Development of GPP guidelines a) Conform team, programme activities, and review existing information and develop principles.	R. Best & A. Schiavone GFAR Sec. team	Guidelines for the development and implementation of GPPs prepared and approved by GFAR-SC and placed on EGFAR website	As mentioned previously the GPP Guidelines will be prepared as a result of the ongoing GPP Review process as decided by the GFAR Steering Committee in Uganda, June 2005.
		b) Develop draft guidelines			
		c) Submit to Steering Committee (SC) and others for review			
		d) Finalise guidelines for SC approval in June			
		2. Evaluation of GPP mechanism a) Prepare background materials for GPP evaluation and undertake literature review of agricultural research partnerships.	A. Schiavone (lead) GFAR Sec. team	Literature review placed on EGFAR website	The literature review has started with the arrival in late September 2005 of a consultant supported by the Canadian Farmers' Association. All background materials have been collected and the major structure of the literature review has been developed.
		b) Undertake electronic conference on collaborative research partnerships	A. Schiavone & R. Best (lead)	Output of electronic conference place on EGFAR website	For this e-conference to take place the Secretariat needs the results of the literature review; this will be concluded in April 2006. In the planning meeting in September 2005 the two consultants engaged for the GPP Review, together with the Secretariat decided to organise an information gathering and experience-sharing workshop as a more substantive method to achieve the final objective. Should the undertaking of an e-conference be supported by this workshop, it will be organised in 2006.
c) Prepare ToR for evaluators and submit to SC for approval in December	R. Best (lead) A. Schiavone, GFAR Sec team	ToR for GPP evaluation prepared and approved by GFAR-SC in their December meeting	This activity was brought forward (see under GPP guidelines above). Terms of Reference were developed and endorsed by the Steering Committee at their meeting in Entebbe in June. Consultants were identified and contracted. The review is currently underway.		
b) Contact and commit evaluators to initiate in January 2006					

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator in 2005
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
2.1.6 Robust mechanism for fostering South-North collaborative partnerships in place and operational	2.1.6.1. Put into place and consolidate a competitive grant scheme for bringing together developing and developed country research and development institutions	1. DURAS competitive grant scheme a) Complete 1 st selection process and award grants	O. Oliveros (lead) O. Smith	Pre- and full proposal submissions; Up to 8 grants awarded and projects underway; and Letters of Agreement signed between parties	12 projects (6 per Call for Proposal) were selected for funding under the DURAS Competitive Grants. The projects, with award size varying from Euro 90,000 to Euro 150,000, will run for two years. The 12 projects are being implemented in about 22 countries in Africa and Asia. Three projects are spearheaded by NARIs, two by African regional research organizations and three projects by African universities. Two NGOs are spearheading two projects and one project each is being led by a farmer-producer organization and by an agri-SME.
		b) Initiate 2 nd call and selection process and award grants	O. Oliveros (lead) O. Smith	Pre- and full proposal submissions; Up to 8 grants awarded and projects underway; Letters of Agreement signed between parties	Project implementation started in late October 2005.
		c) Organize DURAS Project Manager's Workshop	O. Oliveros	Workshop Proceedings; Standardized Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (MRE) format for DURAS-financed projects	All the 12 projects will be using a common Progress Reporting Framework. These progress reports will basically cover four critical success factors of project implementation namely: (1) Meeting the stated project objectives; (2) Timeliness of project implementation; (3) Functional involvement of stakeholders; and (4) Scientific outputs. Also, the 12 projects will be using a common Financial Reporting framework. During the workshop Project Coordinators have started discussing how to measure the potential contribution of their respective projects to sustainable development (SD) and what indicators could they use to measure it. As they were not able to conclude on this, Project Coordinators agreed to continue this exercise by revisiting their respective project documents and consulting with their other partners and together define no more than 15 indicators covering the economic, ecological and social dimensions of SD. An electronic workspace among Project Coordinators and their European counterparts has also been developed. Project Coordinators will submit their respective Progress Reports using this e-workspace. It will also serve as their e-discussion platform.
		d) Monitor and support the execution of awarded grants.	O. Oliveros (lead) O. Smith	Project Monitoring Reports starting in December	1 st Quarterly Progress Report will be submitted by 8 December 2005.

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator in 2005
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
3. Advocacy, Public Awareness and Strategic Thinking					
BP Objective 3.1. To raise the profile of agriculture and ARSD by adding the voice and perspectives of GFAR to global debates and initiatives on relevant policy and institutional issues					
3.1.1 New liaison, linkages and functional collaboration established between GFAR and other global, regional initiatives	3.1.1.2 Formulate and disseminate GFAR perspective to targeted decision makers at global and regional levels	a) Participate in EFARD 2005 and contribute a GFAR perspective to the debate on: "Responses to changing ARD needs", and Finding solutions to global needs through ARD partnerships	O. Smith (lead) R. Best, N. Abdi	Activities carried out and outputs documented and disseminated as appropriate	Activities carried out as planned, and one of the outputs, a paper on research agenda of RF has been published as a feature article on EGFAR
		b) Organize a GFAR day at FAO with the theme: GFAR in action in collaboration with FAO to further strengthen linkages and collaboration	JF. Giovanetti (lead) O. Smith A Schiavone	Outputs documented and used for future sensitization and internal advocacy	Activity postponed to early 2006. Nevertheless a high powered meeting between the Deputy Director General of FAO and the GFAR Management Team has set the process in motion with positive results for the Secretariat which received the full amount pledged for 2005 following this successful meeting.
BP Objective 3.2 To promote holistic, integrated approaches to ARSD within the context of rural development with emphasis on small and medium enterprises using the agribusiness approach					
3.2.1 Strengthened demand driven research for the benefit of small scale producers and enterprises and problems of marginal producing areas addressed with priority		Organise and realise an international workshop on High Value Agricultural Products for Smallholder Farmers	R. Best, A. Schiavone.	This activity was not programmed	The workshop took place in October. 37 persons participated representing a wide range of stakeholder groups. One global issue and four regional situation papers were commissioned. The workshop was fully documented and a synthesis report is available, which details the major results and next steps

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator in 2005
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
BP Objective 3.3 To identify and draw attention to critical emerging issues that shape and affect ARSD and are of concern to GFAR stakeholders					
3.3.1. 2-3 issues of global concern identified and discussed leading to informed and updated stakeholders able to take appropriate decisions and policy actions	3.3.1.1 Solicit proposals from stakeholders on issues of global concern	a) Organize and participate in high level panel discussion on the role of biodiversity in achieving the MDG on freedom from hunger and poverty	O. Smith (lead) R. Best	Panel held and recommendations and outputs fed into the MDG review	Panel was held as planned, and the output the Chennai Declaration was presented to the UN MUG review process in September 2005 in New York. The declaration contained ten action plans that we hope will have an impact on national governments and international organizations with respect paying more attention to biodiversity and implementing policies that will enhance their utilization and hence contribute to the achievement of the MDs but also their conservation for future generations.
	3.3.1.2	Facilitate implementation of GFAR stakeholder committee of the GCP work plan	N. Abdi (Lead) O. Oliveros O. Smith	Implementation of committee work plan with documented feedback to GCP management	Committee met twice during the year, and developed a work plan which it has started implementing. The outputs of its deliberations are fed back to the GCP management in the form of a report by its chair to the GCP as well as the minutes of its meetings. Committee now in full flight working with their constituencies and the CP management on the four issues it identified as important: consortium composition, communication strategy, product delivery and collaboration with the private sector.

Expected outputs	Road map to achieve expected outputs		Actors	2005 Indicators	Achievement or progress toward indicator
	Strategies	Priority activities	GFAR Secretariat responsible		
4. Information and Communication Management (ICM) Systems					
BP Objective 4.1 To improve access to and regularly update the GFAR website EGFAR (www.egfar.org)					
4.1.1. a) Informative, regularly and widely consulted EGFAR b) Knowledge and information generated by GFAR stakeholders owned and used by them, and shared with other external actors	4.1.1.1. Tap on ICM expertise in both global and regional levels for inputs on technical tools, content monitoring and follow-up activities	1. Set-up an EGFAR Advisory Group (EAG)	J.F. Giovanetti (lead) O. Smith	First face to face EAG Meeting held Regular e-discussion	Issue was discussed during the series of consultation held to develop the ICM4ARD. Consensus was to wait until the components of the ICM4ARD were identified. One of the components was a governance system of the AIS at all levels. The GFAR EAG will now be constituted in 2006 to play its assigned role
	4.1.1.2 Facilitate ownership and utilization of EGFAR as a tool for information exchange and knowledge sharing by all GFAR stakeholders	1. Update regularly and maintain EGFAR, and improve its user friendliness	J.F. Giovanetti (lead) A.Schiavone N Abdi	Number of updates or new web pages in the web site	Update and re-structuring of the "Research Partnerships" section. A web page for GPHI has been designed. Stored information related to stakeholders updated. The Farmers' Organization database was updated with the addition of more than 250 entries. A new webpage dedicated to Farmer Organizations has been established
	4.1.1.3 Improve the reach of EGFAR	1. Carry out electronic-forums discussion in support of GFAR's advocacy role in the area of Agricultural Research Partnerships	R.Best (lead) A. Schiavone JF Giovanetti	Outcome of e-forum documented and shared	A DURAS project facilitated e-discussion on Competitive Grant Schemes is on-going in November. See under GPHI above for potential plans for undertaking the e-conference on research partnerships in 200, following the literature review and GPP workshop in January 2006.

BP Objective 4.2 To establish a global MIS on ARD, Stakeholders, their expertise and activities					
4.2.1 A functional regional MIS is established	4.2.1.1. Take advantage of existing initiatives and strengths of other groups, programmes and organisations	1. Support specific initiatives led by RAIS of the Regional Fora,	J.F. Giovanetti (lead). Consultants O. Smith	Implemented regional initiatives documented (ICM task force and Steering Committees established)	Actions delayed due to departure of JFG. Funding under the ICM4ARD GPP initiated using GFAR internal funds.. LoA are being prepared for all RFs. Steering Committees and Task Forces established for AARINENA, FARA, APARIS. Steering Committee for CACAARI being organised.
	4.2.1.2. Develop a bottom-up approach and a related Plan of Work and Budget (POW&B)	1. Support specific regional consultations in the area of ICM leading to the definition of a POW&B	J.F. Giovannetti (lead) Consultants O. Smith	POW&B developed for the RAIS and the sub-RAIS (sub-regional Organisations, such as CORAF, ASARECA, etc.)	PoW&B of RFs, as discussed at II Inter-regional ICM4ARD Meeting, now available and included in GFAR PoW&B 2006.
4.2.2. A functional inter-regional MIS established	4.2.2.1. Link the various levels (national to global)	1. Conduct a re-engineering process of EGFAR leading to: a) The Launching of the EGFAR web ring mechanism b)The implementation of a gateway function for EGFAR and the RAIS, through a multi-host database search engine	J.F. Giovannetti (lead) Consultant	Functional requirement definition of the re-engineered GFAR web site Availability of the gateway function established	Actions delayed due to departure of JFG. EGFAR restructuring initiated.
BP Objective 4.3 To complement these e-media of exchange with appropriate communication media					
4.3.1. Improved access of stakeholders to GFAR generated information through the most appropriate means	4.3.1.1. Identify appropriate media according to the information to be shared and target audience	Share outputs of GFAR activities (Annual Report 2004, workshop proceedings, donor reports, occasional publications etc.) through variety of media	J.F. Giovanetti (lead) O. Smith R. Best	Publications available and disseminated	The Annual Report was prepared and distributed in October. This year the format was modified with the inclusion of a theme article on Innovative Partnerships.
		Regularly publish the GFAR Electronic Newsletter	J.F. Giovanetti Consultant N. Abdi A. Schiavone	4 GFAR E-Newsletters issued in 2005	Two newsletters have been produced; a third is scheduled for December following the Statutory Meetings in Marrakech.