

THE GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH'S GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES

Collaboration among the global community in Agricultural Research for Development

What is a GPP?

In the globalized knowledge society of the 21st century, there is recognition of the importance of supporting and facilitating *networks* and *networking*, and various forms of partnerships and collaborative arrangements. Two very important elements are the empowerment of people through knowledge and the support to decentralized initiatives.

Global Partnership Programmes (GPP) are a mechanism used by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) to foster the development of collaborative efforts addressing strategic ARD issues of global relevance that are jointly developed, carried out and owned by a set of diverse stakeholders.

The purpose of a GPP is to facilitate agricultural research for development (ARD) stakeholders to set up collaborative initiatives where they feel there is an advantage to do so. These stakeholder-driven forms of collaboration are an integral part of the global science agenda and should build on what stakeholders are already doing individually. They are therefore intended to mobilize and commit participating stakeholders around a common agenda. GPPs emerge from themes identified through regional priority setting processes, where the added value in working together is evident and where partners can gain from participating in processes of co-innovation, and the sharing of experiences and research results. A GPP is inter-regional in nature, and addresses an issue important to two or more developing country regions.

What are a GPP's guiding principles?

The guiding principles of Global Partnerships Programmes are the same as those espoused by GFAR itself. These are:

Complementarity. GFAR strives to promote a global agricultural research system that draws on the complementary strengths of all stakeholders involved. A GPP is the manifestation of this principle at the different levels - national, regional and inter-regional - at which the GPP operates.

Partnership. Truly integrated national agricultural research systems in both developed and developing countries, together with their respective regional and sub-regional forums, are considered the cornerstones of the global agricultural research system that GFAR aims to foster. GPPs are a means by which national and regional agricultural research institutions and forums can participate in and learn about multi-stakeholder partnerships as means of more effectively achieving their goals.

Additionality. GPPs aim specifically to add value to what each stakeholder is able to do on its own.

Involvement of all stakeholders. GPPs endeavour to operate with the involvement of all stakeholders and should mobilize them in the planning and execution of the program's activities.

Subsidiarity. GPPs are planned and managed at the lowest level at which they can be effectively executed. GPPs are expected to include activities that will enable them to show measurable impact on the ground.

How are GPPs developed and implemented?

GPPs are collaborative efforts among stakeholders that emerge through a bottom up approach to needs assessment and build on activities already being carried out by the partners involved. Effective involvement of stakeholders is of great importance in order to ensure a close link between the social and technological innovations that are required for research products to achieve their development objectives. Therefore, NARS, NGOs, the private sector, farmer organizations and potential donors should play a role in all phases of the program, from a GPP's conception and design, through its implementation and evaluation. If required, the GFAR Secretariat can play a convening and facilitating role, accompanying the program up to the beginning of its implementation phase.

What is the approval path of a GPP?

Conception	Stakeholders interested in developing a Global Partnership Programme (GPP) are guided by a set of 'GPP Principles and Guidelines' and the priorities established by Regional and Sub-regional Forums to translate an idea into a preliminary GPP Concept Note (CN). The CN should be submitted to the GFAR Secretariat following the GPP CN format provided by the GFAR Secretariat.
1st Screening	Feedback will be provided by the GFAR Secretariat to the initiators of the GPP idea for their consideration and appropriate action.
Consultation	Consultation with Regional and Sub-regional Forums is undertaken to ensure that the GPP meets the specific needs and demands of their respective stakeholders and to foster a sense of ownership. Initial contacts with donors are established to gauge their interest in supporting the proposed GPP. Depending on the circumstances, the GFAR Secretariat can provide targeted support for this preparatory phase, which leads to the preparation of a definitive GPP Concept Note.
2nd Screening	The definitive GPP CN is submitted to the GFAR Secretariat which will forward it to the GFAR's Programme Committee (GFAR-PC) ¹ for review. In addition to the set of approval criteria, the GFAR-PC will specifically look at the relevance, potential benefits and the value-added of the proposal at an inter-regional level.
Approval	The PC will forward the GPP Concept Note to the GFAR Steering Committee (SC) ² with a recommendation as to its approval or otherwise.
Initiation	GPP Concept Notes approved by the GFAR-SC will receive start-up resources to establish an interim governance structure and further develop the concept note into concrete proposal(s) for submission to donors. The GFAR Secretariat will assist in identifying possible sources of financing for the approved GPP.
Implementation	GPP proponents will report the progress of their respective GPP implementation to the GFAR PC annually. The GFAR Secretariat will support the GPP in monitoring and evaluating partnership quality and its relation to the effectiveness of meeting the desired outputs and outcomes of the GPP.

¹ The GFAR Programme Committee has the function of overseeing the planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of agreed GFAR programmes at global, regional and/or sub-regional level.

² The Steering Committee is GFAR's governing body, made up representatives of its seven stakeholder groups: farmer organizations, non-governmental organizations, international agricultural research centres, the private sector, donors, the five developing country regional forums and two developed country regional forums.