

GFAR

GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Newsletter

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GFAR Triennial Conference SPECIAL



In This Issue

This issue of the Newsletter is focused almost exclusively on the GFAR 2006 Conference that was held in New Delhi, November 8 to 11 2006. You will find what we refer to as a short report of the Conference in this issue. The report comprises a succinct summary of what transpired during the Conference and some outputs from each of the various sessions of the Conference programme, with links to sites or documents where additional details could be obtained if desired. News from the Secretariat takes up the other part of this special issue. In this section readers are reminded that December 2006 marks the end of the three-year business plan cycle period which started in 2004. A short report on GFAR Statutory Meetings in December 2006 is provided as well as links to the progress report prepared by the Secretariat during each year of the business plan period.

This issue of the newsletter will be the last one in which I will write this editorial as the Executive Secretary of GFAR. In "my maiden issue" in 2004 I indicated that my predecessor had taken GFAR to the cruising altitude and that my task was to maintain the GFAR craft at that altitude without loss of height or speed. I believe that when all is considered that task was accomplished, and the craft was not only maintained at the cruising altitude but also accelerated and driven with some additional speed towards its destination and goal of contributing to sustainable development.

The four years that I served at GFAR have passed rather quickly and I have met with and interacted with many representatives of GFAR stakeholders, a number of whom have become good and personal friends. I urge you all not to abandon the GFAR ship which is speedily moving towards its destination, and to remain dedicated to its unique modus operandi of forming cost effective partnerships to tackle the many daunting challenges facing the agricultural research for development sector. I strongly believe like many of you that providing opportunities for the poor to exit from poverty and food insecurity is one of those undertakings beyond the scope of any single institution, hence the appropriateness of GFAR's focus on partnership.

Please keep the GFAR flag flying.

O.S.

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GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference

GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference

The GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference at New Delhi from 9th-11th November 2006 was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, President of India. The theme of the Conference was "Reorienting Agricultural Research to meet the Millennium Development Goals". The theme implicitly questioned the ability of current approaches to agriculture to meet the MDGs, especially those concerned with the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, by 2015, and the maintenance of the world's natural resources integrity.

The goal of the Conference was to formulate recommendations that would ensure effective and efficient contribution of the agriculture sector towards meeting the MDGs and provide guidelines for the development of research and development activities that GFAR stakeholders will carry out in order to contribute to eradicating hunger and alleviating poverty and ensure sustainability of natural resources.

The Conference theme was discussed through three sub-themes: i) New paradigms for the generation and access to agricultural research results; ii) Innovations in Institutional arrangements; and iii) Technologies for emerging societal needs and opportunities

Within each theme, discussions centred around three major issues for reorientation: the systems, the Institutions and the technologies that were a product of agricultural research. These had to become more biased towards the poor and the small holder producer, farmer, pastoralist, forester and those involved in fishing and aquaculture if the goals of eradicating hunger and reducing poverty were to be met.

The Conference Program included a Keynote address, a Panel Discussion, Sessions that presented and discussed some global ARD related initiatives, presentations on the sub-themes of the Conference, Working Group discussions on some key ARD topics, stakeholder consultations and plenary sessions that discussed and deliberated GFAR's future action.

A poster competition and an exhibition to highlight ARD contribution to meeting MDGs were also organized during the Conference. A Conference Declaration was made at the end of the Conference.

The Conference also had pre-events such as the India-GFAR-APAARI day, the CSO consultation, a dialogue of the European Initiative and financial support to ARD. Two initiatives, the New International Partnership to Support Information and Knowledge Systems in Agricultural Science and Technology and the Young Professionals' Platform for agricultural research for development, were launched at the Conference.



His Excellency Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam lighting the Indian traditional lamp at the inauguration ceremony of the GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference

The proceedings of the Conference revealed a rich tapestry of new concepts, ideas that ARD can use and direction it may take to effectively and efficiently contribute towards meeting the MDGs. The most important message from the Conference was that ARD has to urgently reorient itself towards becoming more pro-poor and contribute to satisfying the needs of the small producer and the rural poor. The change required is not only in technology and the processes that generate it but goes beyond to the systems that are now in place for agricultural research and Institutions that foster them. There is a need to rethink agricultural development. The paradigm needs to shift from increased production and productivity to how to enable entire agricultural systems to respond to



markets, creating sustainable livelihoods in rural areas and conserving valuable natural resources.

A.M.

The President of India inaugurates GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference

The GFAR 2006 Triennial conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, President of India. The President, who is also a well known scientist, presided over the opening ceremony. In his address to the delegates, he focused not only on the importance of science and technology in achieving the MDGs, but also on the importance of scientific magnanimity. He also discussed the role of agricultural research and its contribution to India's economic growth and development. He identified several areas including ICT, biotechnology and material science that have potential to contribute to agricultural growth and development.

"While taking multi-dimensional approach to agricultural research towards second green revolution, it is essential to capture the traditional knowledge of farmers and their experiences for developing appropriate technologies."

The full text of the President's speech is available on the web (http://pib.nic.in/release/rel_print_page.asp?relid=21884) and in PDF on the GFAR 2006 website (http://www.egfar.org/egfar/gfar2006/proceedings/President_Speech.pdf).

Millions of people in the world are hungry. We have to act as we do not have time. If we do not, generations to come will hold us accountable.

To reduce poverty, what we need is appropriate technology-its origin, basic applied or indigenous, is irrelevant.

GFAR creates partnerships that bring together stakeholders to reduce poverty and hunger.

Dr. Adel El-Beltagy, Chair of GFAR, Opening Ceremony of the GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference

Sir Gordon Conway's Keynote address at the GFAR Conference

Sir Gordon Conway (Chief Scientist, Department for International Development, UK Government) gave a keynote presentation on the conference theme. He said green revolution technology focused initially on reducing lodging in cereals, was successful but it was limited to 'ideal environments', relied heavily on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, and as a result by-passed Africa. He called for new public-private-community partnerships for agricultural growth and development.



Sir Gordon Conway presenting the conference's Key Note Address

India-GFAR-APAARI Day

The INDIA-GFAR-APAARI (Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions) day as a pre-event to the Conference gave an overview of ARD in India and Asia.

Mangala Rai (Director General, Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Government of India) described ICAR as an "apex national organization for conducting and coordinating agricultural research & education". This inclusive organization tries to ensure food security by research in biodiversity,

From left to right: S.P. Tiwari, Adel El-Beltagy and Mangala Rai during Questions and Answers Session of India-GFAR-APAARI Day





biotechnology, plant and animal breeding, conservation agriculture, fisheries (including pearl farming and ornamental fish), within a framework for technology development and delivery system. The Indian NARS is among the largest in the World with more than 30000 scientists and technicians.

Adel El-Beltagy (Chairman, GFAR) described that enhancing interregional partnerships was an important GFAR activity:. GFAR fostered collaborative research partnerships like DURAS (a competitive grant scheme), and PROLINNOVA (to promote local innovations) and manages a communication platform for all ARD stakeholders (www.egfar.org).

Raj Paroda (Executive Secretary, APAARI) described the medium term regional priorities of APAARI, set after ten years of participatory consultation, as natural resource management, genetic resources and biotechnology, enterprise development, post harvest and value addition for LFM, as well as 2 cross cutting issues policy and institutions and capacity building. On the long term, climate change, biofuels and crisis management will have to be taken into account.

CSO Consultation at GFAR 2006 Triennial Conference



A Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) consultation was convened on 8th November prior to GFAR Conference 9th-11th November in New Delhi India under the theme "Reinforcing CSOs Role in ARD: How CSOs can better inform Policy and Practice". About 35 CSO representatives from all over the world participated in the event.

The workshop addressed the question of "how to reinforce the CSOs role in agricultural research for development?" It examined the CSOs-Research-Policy linkages and identified practical tools and

methods that CSOs could use in order to contribute to and influence ARD policies at all levels and hence increase the effectiveness of the systems. The workshop also reviewed achievements and lessons learned in the past three years, since the previous GFAR conference in 2003, by providing CSOs with ample time to share information draw lessons during this period and identify action priorities, and provided an opportunity for CSOs to learn about the theory and practice of bridging research and policy and identify appropriate tools for policy advocacy and the role of civil society organizations.

Dialogue on European Initiative and financial support to ARD

The Dialogue on European Initiatives and Financial Support to Agricultural Research for Development gave information to stakeholders about the funding priorities of the European Union (EU).

Young Platform for ARD: the launch of YPARD

The launch of the Young Professionals' platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) during the GFAR 2006 Conference was attended by more than 100 people. The event was chaired by Mr. Ola Smith (Executive Secretary, GFAR). The need for YPARD was demonstrated by Mr. Lennart Page (Head of the External Relations in Uppsala, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) who underlined the fact that key issues, like sustainable use of natural resources, were of greater concerns to young professionals who will have to live with decisions taken today for the next 50 years. Further, YPARD may help in reversing the current trend of young people dwindling interest in agricultural research. Also, young professionals are more likely to cross disciplinary borders which can result in more



YPARD Launch



innovative approaches and YPARD can encourage them down that road. Finally, young professionals, often more up-to-date about the realities of ARD problems as they produce a large part of the work that seniors later report, are rarely able to participate in meetings; it is hoped that YPARD can help change that. Moreover, a video illustrating support for the organization by several stakeholders and professionals was showed.

YPARD will serve as a global platform through which young professionals can express their ideas and realise their full potential towards a dynamic agricultural research for development. The objectives are to facilitate the exchange of information among young professionals and the access to capacity building opportunities, to broaden opportunities for young professionals to participate to strategic ARD debates, and to promote agriculture among young people. The website (www.ypard.org) was launched, with a user-friendly interface to become member, and the members of the steering committee and of the senior advisory committee were presented. The registration offers a facility to post resume and exchange ideas about ARD, as well as network among young professionals. Finally, the commitment tree filled by participants was an interactive and symbolic way to demonstrate support by ARD stakeholders to the YPARD initiative.

Panel Discussion on Reorienting Agricultural Research to meet the MDGs

The panel discussion during the Conference was initiated by **Adel El-Beltagy**, the Chairman of GFAR Steering Committee. Gordon Conway, Uma Lele and Christian Patterman participated in the discussion.

Uma Lele (World Bank) argued that poverty should be put at the centre stage of ARD by using tools like poverty mapping. She also was of the opinion that the impact of partnerships should be independently assessed. She pointed out opportunities for South-South knowledge exchange and the importance of multi-disciplinary research.

Some specific aspects that **Christian Patermann** (European Commission) discussed were: 1. A knowledge based bio-economy was emerging and agricultural was a key component of this economy; 2. The competition among feed, food, fibre, and fuel could result in



Uma Lele making her presentation during the Panel Discussion

new income generation or decreased food security depending on how it was managed; 3. Consumers lifestyle in developing countries was changing and it is important to consider consumer preferences in agricultural production.

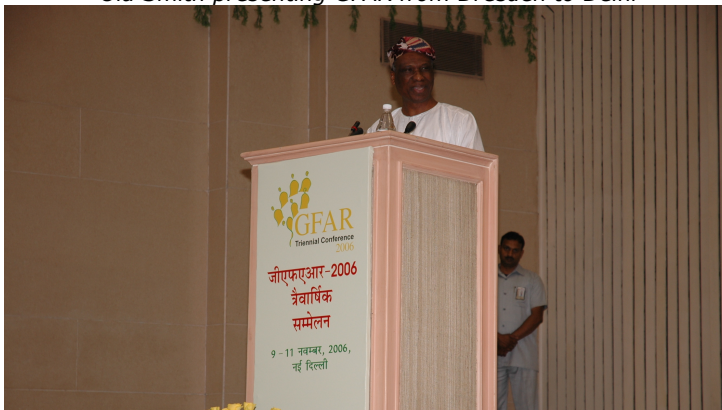
After initial presentation of their positions, the discussion was opened to the floor.

Global Initiatives in ARD and their progress

Several Global Initiatives in ARD were discussed at the Conference. **Olanrewaju Smith** (Executive Secretary, GFAR) described the evolution of GFAR from Dresden (2000) to Delhi (2006). GFAR was born after a 2 years consultation period (1994-96), and was a radical shift in paradigm as it encouraged a multi-stakeholder partnerships approach.

He distinguished the phases of GFAR's development as: 1. An intense period of institutional and constituency building (1996-2000); 2. The Dresden Conference (2000) validated the basic principles of GFAR and led to the addition of an inclusiveness principle; 3. The Dakar Conference (2003) was a participatory

Ola Smith presenting GFAR from Dresden to Delhi





business plan development exercise. The current business plan developed based on outcomes from the Dakar Conference identified 5 pillars for action which include: advocacy, public awareness and strategic thinking, management information systems, interregional collaboration and collaborative research partnerships. Two cross-cutting pillars are active involvement of civil society organizations and engagement of the private sector in GFAR and ARD activities. GFAR was especially successful in organizing global partnerships programme and innovative and competitive grants. He hoped that the Delhi Conference would give clear and loud answers as to who should do what in ARD to reach the global development goals of eradicating hunger and alleviating poverty.

Stephen Rudgard (FAO) summarized the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/>) and stressed that challenges were not only agronomic but also that there were significant social and economic issues so that multi-disciplinary approaches are needed to tackle problems. For example, a better understanding of agro-ecosystem thresholds vis-à-vis response to damage and provision of services, and a focus on indirect drivers of agro-ecosystem change (people and policies) are needed to ensure sustainable use of resources.

William Dar (Director General, ICRISAT, representing the CGIAR) described the roles of the CGIAR Alliance in achieving the MDGs. CGIAR's objectives are to generate and share public goods to increase agricultural productivity and to foster strategic alliances. The priorities of the CG centres have shifted from commodity based to a more problem-oriented and holistic approach over the last 30 years. He saw several areas of complementarity between the GFAR and CGIAR Alliance priorities. The new priorities of the CGIAR include sustaining biodiversity, producing more and better food at lower cost through genetic improvement, reducing rural poverty through crop diversification and emerging markets, encouraging sustainable use of natural resources, and improving policies and facilitating institutional innovation.

Carl Greenidge (representing the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, IAASTD) described how this organization aims to broadly assess agricultural knowledge, science and technology for policy makers and enhance local capacity to

design solutions to problems. Challenges in this endeavour include integrating local and institutional knowledge, dealing with uncertain information, and differentiating between evidence-based findings and different value systems and ideologies.

Conference Deliberations

Deliberations among delegates around the Conference were kicked off by **Arnold Van Huis** (Professor, University of Wageningen) who discussed "New Paradigms for the generation of and access to agricultural research results"

He stressed that a technology focus in ARD was not likely to improve livelihoods, and that innovations needed to be scaled up. A complete metamorphosis was necessary to encourage an interactive learning model with farmers. To develop innovations with farmers, factors described as hardware (technical knowledge), software (change mindsets), and orgware (different organizational arrangements) must be organized to create a 'space for change'.

The Plenary Session on November 10th



Andy Hall (LINK Co-ordinator, United Nations University-MERIT) in his presentation on "Innovations in institutional arrangements" defined institutional innovation as enabling new ways of working within an organization. Two changes have been at centre stage in pressing for institutional innovation in ARD: stronger client orientation and greater use of partnerships. Further innovation in ARD Institutions is necessary to reach the development goals. It is more sensible to enable institutional change to cope with an evolving situation in a specific context than prescribe changes. He stressed that there was a need to focus on transition rather than on destination in institutional arrangements. He concluded by saying that institutional change started at home.

Andrew Bennett (President, Syngenta Foundation) in his presentation on "Technologies



for emerging societal needs" analyzed consensus building among actors of society at large that are engaged in ARD. Scientists, policy makers and society need a platform like GFAR so that they can discuss and agree on priorities and standards. He discussed that ARD needs to adapt to several changes such as the changing societal needs (change in lifestyle, population growth, urbanisation, etc.), climate change etc. To answer to the challenge, a greater coherence among research, policy makers and consumers is essential. For example genomics holds great promise, but this technology needs to win confidence and support of society so it is essential to keep consumers informed and engaged. The impact of research will be increasingly global and there is a need to develop local solutions. GFAR is a global discussion forum that cross-cuts all these issues.

Conference Working Groups

The GFAR Triennial Conference deliberated, through working groups, on 9 important topics related to agricultural research for development. These topics were:

- Balancing income generation and household and community food security
- Re-orienting agricultural education and support systems
- Blending knowledge systems for an inclusive approach to innovation
- From NARIs to NARS: Towards multi-disciplinary and cross-sectorial approaches
- Demand-led partnerships and mechanisms to generate and promote access to knowledge and technology
- Mobilizing financial resources and improving their allocation
- Future energy needs for agriculture with a special emphasis on bio-fuels: Implications for Farming Communities
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Markets
- Harnessing biodiversity for sustainable livelihoods

For each working group, there was a lead discussant who provided a well researched background to the topic, highlighted the issues for ARD and provided direction to the group discussions. The working groups' deliberations, which were very rich in content, resulted in recommendations for further action by all ARD and GFAR on the topic. The GFAR Triennial Conference Proceedings will reflect in greater detail the discussions of the Working Groups.

In general, the working groups recommended that GFAR takes up advocacy about the importance of these research topics for action by ARD stakeholders, enables new partnerships to pursue research and innovation around these topics and contributes to mobilizing sharing and dissemination of information and knowledge on these topics.

What GFAR Stakeholders had to say

The following are some of the observations of stakeholders after their consultations.

Regarding partnerships

GFAR needs a larger portfolio of inclusive partnerships within and across regional forums and at the global level. It should further put more emphasis on farmer organizations, NGOs and private sector participation in its activities. GFAR should become more proactive in facilitating a progressive scaling up of partnership building.

Regarding stakeholder participation in ARD

GFAR needs to mobilize and create more awareness of NGOs role in ARD. It should contribute to building NGO capacity to contribute to ARD.

GFAR needs to add new stakeholders such as consumer groups and energy companies

There must be incentives for the Private Sector to participate in GFAR activities. Effective interface between GFAR and the private sector needs to be built. GFAR must create awareness about itself among the private sector.

GFAR must foster more dialogue between the NARS as also between ARD policy makers.

GFAR must foster greater participation of Universities and other research and training Institutions in its activities at regional and global level.

GFAR must help improve institutional arrangement for young scientists.

Regarding agricultural research

GFAR should facilitate multi-stakeholder involvement in design of research.

NGOs should participate actively in ARD priority setting.



GFAR needs to monitor and assess the contribution of Agricultural Research Institutes towards development goals.

Decentralized funding with emphasis on CSO and farmers' organization participation in the funding mechanism is a potential solution to make ARD deliver outputs to farmers.

GFAR should facilitate innovations in ARD to bring in better results for farmers

Exhibition

The booth exhibition was organized around the theme: "Agricultural Research for Development (ARD): Contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals". Sixteen organizations, representing a range of stakeholders, and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research hired 30 booths and showed their work and achievements:



Adel El-Beltagy and Ola Smith at the Exhibition

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Indian National Agricultural Research Systems
- European Consortium for Agricultural Research in the Tropics
- European Research (European Community)
- Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
- CAB International
- GFAR: Secretariat, CACAARI, APAARI, AARINENA, etc.
- FARA
- Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems (DURAS)
- Global Facilitation Unit for Underutilized Species
- TeleSupport
- Research Into Use Programme
- AVRDC-TheWorld Vegetable Center

- Horticulture For Development (International Society for Horticultural Science)
- International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)
- International Development Research Center
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

Poster session

A call for posters with the theme "Agricultural Research for Development: Evidence of Contributions to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals" was realized.

More than 40 abstracts were submitted and selected based on the following criteria: (1) Evidence of tangible contribution to MDGs; (2) Activities coherently and clearly described; (3) Lessons learnt well spelled out; and (4) Follow-up activities credible and feasible. The poster session included 15 competitive posters and 7 non-competitive ones. A panel of three judges was appointed, and they selected the best three posters based on: (1) Involvement of multiple stakeholders; (2) Purpose clearly defines; (3) Coherent and detailed activities; (4) Innovativeness; (5) Impact and spill-over effect presented; (6) Lessons learnt clearly expressed; (7) Follow-up activities credible and feasible; (8) General appearance harmonious and balanced; (9) Good balance between text and pictures; and (10) No grammatical and typographical errors.



The Poster Competition

After deliberations, the posters winners were:

Authors: PG Bezkorowajny, VL Prasad, K Gurava Reddy, VK Mahesh and D Romney

Title: *Institutional Innovation in Small Farmer Dairying: A Case Study of Napier Fodder Scale-Up, India*



Authors: P. Parthasarathy Rao, Gurava Reddy, BVS Reddy, C. Ravinder Reddy, and CLL Gowda
Title: *Enhancing livelihoods of small-scale sorghum producers in India: Innovation through a coalition approach*

Authors: Chianu J N, OhiokpehaiO, Vanlauwe B, Adesina A, and Sanginga N
Title: *A model for promoting a versatile crop that has remained minor: the case of soybean in Kenya*

PDF versions of the winning posters are available on the GFAR 2006 website (www.egfar.org/egfar/gfar2006) on the [Poster Competition Page](#)

Conference Outcomes

The expected outputs from the Conference were: 1) The voice and perspectives of GFAR stakeholders are added to the current global debate on the Millennium Development Goals; 2) Enhanced profile of agriculture and agricultural research sector by highlighting its contributions to the alleviation of development problems related to poverty, food insecurity and natural resources degradation in order to stimulate increased policy, political and funding support commensurate to the contributions; 3) Provision of guidelines for the development of an ARD agenda (GFAR Business Plan for 2007-2009) that will be implemented by GFAR stakeholders and their partners taking into consideration the urgent need to reorient agricultural research and development in order to meet the most pressing of societal needs encapsulated in the MDGs.

The proceedings of the conference revealed a rich tapestry of new concepts, ideas that ARD can use and direction it may take to effectively contribute towards meeting the MDGs. The most important message from the conference was that ARD has to urgently reorient itself towards becoming more pro-poor and contribute to satisfying the needs of the small producer and the rural poor. The change required is not only in technology and the processes that generate it but goes beyond to the systems that are now in place for agricultural research and Institutions that foster them. There is a need to rethink agricultural development. The paradigm needs to shift from increased production and productivity to how to enable entire agricultural systems to respond to markets, creating sustainable livelihoods in rural areas and conserving valuable natural resources. To generate the most appropriate technology and foster innovation for agricultural and rural development, there is a need to imbibe learning

not only from biological and physical sciences but also the understanding from the sociology, politics, economics and environmental impact of generating technologies and promoting innovations. Reorientation of ARD will require that technology generation and innovation now have a holistic approach inculcating all the dimensions required for development and not only the "hard" sciences. The Conference reiterated that GFAR is one of the appropriate platforms for advocacy, action and assessment of the contribution of agricultural innovation to achieving development goals. The actions required from GFAR are:

- GFAR has to advocate the need to change systems, institutions and technology generation processes so that they become more pro-poor and biased towards satisfying the development needs of small producers and the rural poor.
- GFAR has to strengthen all the stakeholder constituencies so that they can, through an inclusive process, contribute to agricultural research and innovation that contributes to alleviation of poverty and elimination of extreme hunger as also social, economic and political deprivation.
- GFAR has to enable, build, foster and strengthen partnerships that contribute to agricultural research and innovation and, in turn, contribute to agricultural and rural development that leads to elimination of hunger and alleviation of poverty.
- GFAR has to mobilize and enable sharing and exchange of knowledge, information, experience, skills and resources that contribute to agricultural research and innovation globally, regionally, nationally and at local levels

Complete report of the Conference will be soon available for download from GFAR's website at www.egfar.org

Delhi Declaration

The Conference produced a final Declaration whose full version can be downloaded from the GFAR 2006 website at: http://www.egfar.org/egfar/gfar2006/proceedings/Delhi_Declaration.pdf

Here is the first part of the Delhi Declaration:

"We, the stakeholders of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), representing the following groups: Southern and Northern National Agricultural Research Systems, regional and Sub-Regional Organizations, farmers' organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector, international agricultural research



centres and the donor support constituency, assembled during the 3rd GFAR general conference in New Delhi India, from 8th to 11th of November 2006, do hereby:

- Restate our commitment to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which have been endorsed by governments as a framework for measuring development progress and which currently constitute the focus of development efforts
- Reiterate our commitment to overcoming the challenges facing the global community, especially those related to poverty, food insecurity and the unrelenting degradation of our natural resource heritage.

- Acknowledge and commend current efforts to address these challenges at local, national, regional and global levels
- Realize that despite these on-going efforts recent reviews indicate that globally, the set targets are not likely to be reached by 2015
- Convinced that the growth of agricultural sector contributes significantly towards meeting the MDGs and affirm our commitment to reorienting ARD so that it contributes more effectively to meeting the targets.
[...]"

News from the Secretariat

Statutory Meetings

GFAR Statutory Meetings

The GFAR Program Committee and Steering Committee for 2006 were held in Washington, US from Nov. 30th to Dec. 3rd 2006.

Program Committee

The GFAR Program Committee met during 30th November and 1st December 2006 at Washington. It reviewed the progress of various GFAR activities, including those of the Regional Forums, Global Partnership Programs (GPP) and GFAR Secretariat. A new Global Partnership Program on Non-Timber Forest Products led by International Network by Bamboo and Ratan was given a green light to go-ahead. The Linking Farmers to Markets Global Partnership Program was presented to the Steering Committee. The Interim GFAR Work Plan and Budget for 2007 was also approved by the Program Committee and recommended for approval by the GFAR Steering Committee. The revised GFAR Work Plan and Budget for 2007 will be considered by the Program Committee after the GFAR Triennial Business Plan for 2007-2009 has been prepared.

Steering Committee

The GFAR Steering Committee Meeting was held from 2nd December 2006 to 3rd December 2006 at Washington. Among its agenda were considering the Global Partnership Program Review Report, draft 2nd GFAR External Evaluation Report, the recommendations of the Program Committee, activities of the GFAR Secretariat and strengthening further linkages

between GFAR-CGIAR. The CGIAR Chair, Katherine Sierra and CGIAR Director, Francisco Reifschneider, also participated in the meeting in the morning of 3rd December 2006. During the deliberations on strengthening GFAR-CGIAR linkages, the CGIAR Chair recognized the contributions of GFAR especially in organizing the CSO Forum, the Stakeholder Committee of Generation Challenge Program and in initiating YPARD. Future areas of linkages such as GFAR Stakeholder participating in CGIAR research priority setting were also deliberated upon.

Donor Support Group

The Donor Support Group (DSG) of GFAR met in the afternoon of 3rd December 2006 at Washington. Dr. Ola Smith, Executive Secretary, GFAR presented the progress made by GFAR during 2006. Rodney Cooke, Chair of the DSG presented the draft 2nd GFAR External Evaluation Report. Dr. Adel El-Beltagy requested the Donor Support Group to further support GFAR, especially through core contribution for the GFAR Secretariat so that GFAR can with vigour pursue its objectives to strengthen ARD, especially through global and regional inclusive partnerships of all stakeholders.

Minutes of the Statutory Meetings and full reports will be soon available on the EGFAR website (www.egfar.org).



From the Secretariat

The Global Partnership Programs Review Report

The Global Partnership Programs Review Report has been considered by the Steering Committee. The report assessed different dimensions of the GPP program. It stated that the original premises for GPPs remain more relevant today than when GPPs were first conceived. GFAR's involvement in GPPs should be viewed as a knowledge generating and sharing function. The report is available here: http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload/218253/GPP_Review_Final_Report_July_2006.pdf

From the Secretariat

2nd GFAR External Evaluation Report

The 2nd GFAR External Evaluation Report has been submitted by the evaluators and placed for consideration by the GFAR Steering Committee. The evaluators in their report state that GFAR has made a remarkable move in the right direction and it is largely recognized that the vision which led to the creation of GFAR, and which was confirmed by the 2000 review, is still valid today. They also indicate that because of the activities undertaken within the framework of GFAR, there is greater acknowledgement of the relevance of a regional and global approach to research. The recommendations from the report are now being considered by the GFAR Steering Committee and the GFAR Secretariat. The report is available at: http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//222708/Second_GFAR_Review_Report.pdf

From the Secretariat

GFAR Secretariat 2004-2006 Progress Reports

In February 2004 GFAR Secretariat organized a Retreat, involving all categories of stakeholders to fine tune the recommendations of GFAR 2003 Conference and based on that develop a new GFAR Business Plan for the period 2004-2006. The retreat was professionally prepared and convened in close collaboration with a team of two facilitators over a two months period. In December 2006 the Secretariat concluded the implementation of the GFAR 2004-2006 Business Plan. The Business Plan comprised four pillars i) *Inter-Regional Collaboration*; ii) *Collaborative Research Partnerships*; iii) *Advocacy, Public Awareness and Strategic Thinking*; iv) *Management Information System for Agricultural research for sustainable development (ARSD)*; and two Cross-cutting Activities: i) *CSOs full involvement and participation in ARD activities* and ii) *private sector engagement*.

We are pleased to share with you the GFAR Secretariat annual progress reports to GFAR Steering Committee on activities and outputs achieved. For complete GFAR Secretariat annual reports click the links below:

- [Progress Report 2004](#)
- [Progress Report 2005](#)
- [Progress Report 2006](#)

People at the GFAR Secretariat

Nur Abdi
Rupert Best
Leighla Bowers
Gianna de Cesare
Ajit Maru
Valeria Pesce
Antonio Schiavone
Ola Smith