

**THE SUB-SAHARA AFRICA NGO  
CONSORTIUM IN AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

**ENTEBBE, UGANDA**

**06-07 JUNE, 2005**

Facilitated by:  
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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The inspiration for an International NGO consortium in ARD can be traced back to the *Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) 2003* conference, in Dakar. The conference brought together 33 NGOs from the 7 regions of GFAR<sup>1</sup>. One of the outputs of the meeting were the nominated Regional focal points, that were mandated to help facilitate communication, coordinate activities and linking NGOs to the regional and sub 'regional forums. The meeting also identified key priority areas that fed into the *GFAR Business Plan 2004-2006*.
- 1.2. *GFAR Secretariat* convened a follow up Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) meeting in October 2004 in Mexico during the *GFAR 2004 Statutory Meetings*. The main objectives of the meeting were: a) to provide an opportunity for the civil society constituencies of GFAR to consult and exchange information on recent developments in agricultural research at global, regional and sub-regional level; and b) to strategize constituencies' participation/involvement in the ARD at all level within the context of *GFAR 2004-2006 Business Plan*.
- 1.3. **International NGO Consortium in ARD:** The meeting on NGOs in Mexico comprised of NGOs from the 5 regions of GFAR constituency, and they deliberated mostly on the role (added value) of NGOs in ARD and how to enhance NGO participation. The group identified *a niche* they perceived as the most appropriate for NGOs (in view of their staff size and their own programmatic demands). The main outputs of the meeting are highlighted below:
  - i. **The niche:** Covers four interrelated activities
    - Mobilize and recommend NGOs to represent and participate in partnership programmes with other actors at all levels from national to International.
    - Facilitate field to global level learning, documentation and publications of experiences from partnership programmes in AR4D
    - Monitoring and evaluation of field level impact and providing feed back to research

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<sup>1</sup> Sub-Saharan Africa (FARA); Western Asia and North Africa (AARINENA); Asia Pacific (APAARI); Caucasus (CACAARI); Latin America and Caribbean (FORAGRO); Europe (EFARD); and North America (NAFAR)

- Packaging lessons, good practices and challenged to inform decision-making and policy formulation/revision processes.
- ii. **Vision:** NGOs playing an active role, utilizing their comparative advantages and adding value at all levels of ARD.
- iii. **Priority areas:**
- Developing an International NGO Consortium in AR4D.
  - Developing/ strengthening partnerships.
  - Developing and participating in joint programmes with other stakeholders
- iv. The meeting also revised the **mandate of the Regional focal point (RFP) to Regional Facilitators** with a specific mandate to mobilize, catalyze and facilitate NGOs Constituency building.

1.4. **Sub-Saharan Africa NGO Consortium in ARD:** Subsequently, GFAR Secretariat carried consultations with GFAR Stakeholders, particularly NGOs and some members from GFAR Steering Committee, on how to best proceed with this initiative. It was decided that during the current year, GFAR should assist NGOs in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to organize themselves and establish their own regional consortium, for a number of reasons, which include:

- i. There is a clear evidence that most of NGOs involved in ARD in SSA are far apart, less coordinated, and working in isolation, and there is no effective mechanisms for them to relate with the other NGOs;
- ii. Previous attempts to involve NGOs in FARA, ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa) and SADC-FARN (Southern Africa Development Community-Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources ) have been on ad-hoc basis and partnership dominated by researchers<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> CORAF/WECARD (Le Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le developpement Agricoles / West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development) is the only SRF that has NGOs and Farmers Organizations in its executive committee as full-fledged members

- iii. There has not been ample buying in from NGO constituencies as most “representatives” are selected on individual merit, based on past relationship with FARA and its SRF or individual researchers or Centers in the region
- iv. FARA has recently launched a SSA CP in which NGOs can play an active and important role

1.5. In light of this, FARA in conjunction with GFAR, supported the convergence of 32 NGOs from national and sub-regional networks, from 15 countries of Eastern Africa, Western Africa, Southern Africa and central Africa: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sudan, Mali, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Senegal, Ivory Coast, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Other NGOs representatives from the other regions of GFAR also attended the meeting, as observers, to mainly support their counterparts in Sub-Saharan Africa region.

## 2. OUTPUT

The Entebbe meeting deliberated on the development impact NGOs in SSA desired to see the consortium deliver, and came up with the following vision, mission and objectives:

2.1. **Vision:** An inclusive ARD system, generating appropriate innovations that result in sustainable livelihoods.

2.2. **Mission:** NGOs involved in ARD in Sub-Saharan African region collectively influencing agricultural research, policy and priority setting, and promoting innovative partnership approaches.

2.3. **Objectives:**

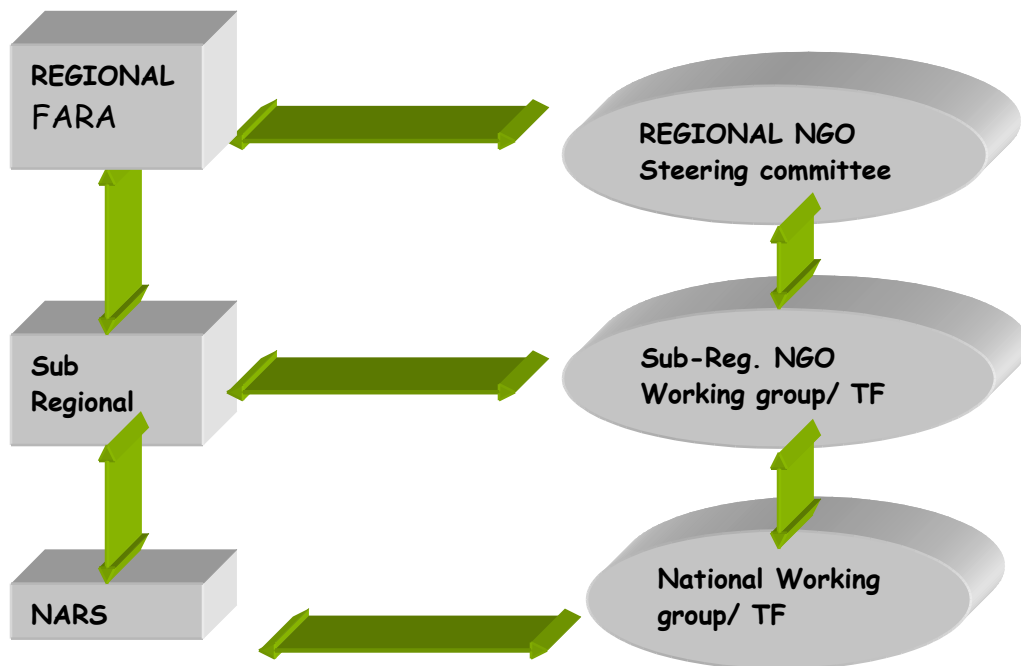
- Mobilize NGOs at different levels into a strong consortium with the capacity to engage in policy dialogue with the formal research systems, with the aim of achieving sustainable livelihoods;
- Facilitate access to and exchange of relevant information to influence agriculture research policies and priorities;

- Develop and promote a code of practice for ARD in SSA that protects farmers interests and secure their benefits;
- Build the capacity of NGOs to collaborate and participate more effectively in AD process and in resource mobilization.

**2.4. Values/Principles:** When relating and in partnership with other stakeholder institutions, the SSA-NGOs-C shall be guided by the following core values:

- Participate only in research that empowers research users;
- Transparency in strategic decision making;
- Participate only in research that maintains the human and eco-system integrity and safety;
- NGOs and their representatives to uphold and maintain accountable to their constituency; and
- Respect for diverse knowledge and innovations system.

**2.5. Structure: The SSA-NGO-C in ARD**



## 2.6. The mandates of the SSA-NGO-C in ARD

- Monitor and provide feedback on progress, impact, and challenges to research, through documentation, studies, and systematic M&E;
- Develop effective communication sharing mechanisms amongst NGOs on the one hand, and NGOs and regional research institutions/fora on the other hand;
- Provide technical support and capacity building to NGOs to enable them play their role more effectively; and
- Convene meetings of all stakeholders for shared learning, documentation and to feed into decision-making at operational and policy levels.

2.7. **Draft roles and responsibilities:** A draft Memorandum of Understanding of NGOs in the consortium was developed to provide the preliminary provisions of roles and responsibilities as captured below:

**Article 3:** That the National structure shall be run by a National Coordinating Committee comprising of three (3) elected representatives to occupy various positions as the National structure may deem fit.

**Article 4:** That the sub-regions shall be made up of West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, and South Africa; and that each zone shall be coordinated by a two-member (2) elected sub-regional Committee.

**Article 5:** That the two-member elected sub-regional Committee shall constitute an eight-member (8) SSA Regional Steering Committee.

**Article 6:** That the above mentioned Regional Steering Committee shall among them in turn elect three (3) members and nominate aside it two (2) Ex-Officio members to form a five-member (5) Regional Executive Committee with the following designations, to wit;

- i. The Chairman
- ii. The Vice Chair,
- iii. The General Secretary or Communications Officer, and
- iv. Two (2) Ex-Officio members

**Article 7:** That each of the present Committees at all levels shall be in office for a period not more than four (4) years.

**Article 8:** That the roles of the Chair shall include:

- i. Presiding over the Regional Executive Committee (REC) meetings,
- ii. Convening meetings after consultations and agreement with the REC,
- iii. Representing the Consortium at the FARA,
- iv. Nominating Task forces to be ratified by the REC to work in different areas of need to the Consortium, especially at the Regional level.
- v. Coordinating all projects geared towards regional policy dialogue.
- vi. Ensuring compliance with the values of the Consortium

**Article 9:** That the roles of the Vice Chair shall include:

- i. Ensuring the coordination and oversight of sub-regional structures and projects in collaboration with the various sub-regional committees.
- ii. Working towards guaranteeing that the consortium maintains a stronghold and memberships within the grassroots.
- iii. Coordinating all capacity building activities that are targeted at the regional level.
- iv. Coordinating projects or activities geared towards promoting code of conducts for ARDs.

**Article 10:** That the roles of the General Secretary or Communications Officer shall include:

- i. Maintaining the Consortium's secretariat and ensuring timely circulation of information and communication flows among member organizations at the various structures and levels.
- ii. Maintaining communications and correspondences between the consortium and her partners and potential partners and allies.
- iii. Liaising with Research Institutes
- iv. Drafting and generating inputs for Proposals from the various structures when the need arises.
- v. Documentation of project and annual reports.

- vi. Coordinating projects geared towards dissemination of research results

**Article 11:** That the roles of the Ex-officio members shall include and not limited to:

- i. Resource mobilization for the Consortium.
- ii. Creating publicity and positioning of the Consortium for visibility.
- iii. Assisting in the coordination and preparation of proposals for the Consortium
- iv. Assisting in the overall facilitation of the Consortium's activities.
- v. Playing a general advisory role to the consortium.

**Article 12:** That after due consultations, the following persons (representing their national organizations) were elected to occupy the above created positions:

## 2.8. Nominees at the regional and sub-regional levels

### i. Regional representation:

- **Chair:** Dr. Eusebius Mukhwana (Kenya)
- **Vice Chair:** Ms. Sylvie Christel Mbog (Cameroon)
- **Communications:** Mr. Ken Ukaoha (Nigeria)

### ii. Sub-regional (Steering Committee)

- East Africa:
  - Ahmed Hanafi.A; African Dry Land alliance of NGOs- (Sudan)
  - Eusebius Mukhwana; PELUM-KENYA and SACRED AFRICA (Kenya)
- Southern Africa:
  - Tafadzwa Marange; CPHP (South Africa)
  - Joseph Ssuna; PELUM Association (Zambia)
- Central Africa
  - Sylvie Christel Mbog; ODECO (Cameroon)
  - Sylvain Mapatano; Diobass Platiform in Kivu (DR of Congo)



- Western Africa
  - Ibrahima Seck; CIRPED (Senegal)
  - Ken Ukaoha; Nigerian Trade Network (Nigeria)

### 3. WAY FORWARD

**3.1. Sub-regional and national mobilization:** The meeting mandated the Sub-regional representatives with the task of mobilizing and creating awareness among the NGOs at the national and regional levels about the consortium.

**3.2. Representation on Regional Fora:** The meeting strongly recommended the nominated Chair and vice chairpersons to be officially introduced to FARA as official NGO representatives, and that FARA recognizes the chair as the legitimate NGO representative on FARA's Executive Committee.

**3.3. Next meeting steering committee meeting:** The meeting identified FARA as the most appropriate institution to host its steering committee meetings. GFAR will be requested to co-sponsor the follow up meeting to finalize the strategic plan and programme of work of the consortium. The meeting is proposed for the last quota of 2005, beginning September.

## List of Participants

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