

VOICES FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE: MAKE SURE YOURS IS HEARD!



**Building from demand:
transforming agricultural research for development**

28-31 March 2010, Montpellier, France

www.gcard2010.net

WHAT IS GCARD 2010?

GCARD 2010 is the first of the Global Conferences on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARDs). These will be held every two years. GCARD 2010 will be held in Montpellier, France, 28-31 March 2010.

By bringing together all those who are actively involved in agricultural development to share their views, the GCARD conference and its associated processes aim to inspire development of new agricultural research systems around the world, driven by tangible results for poor farmers.

GCARD 2010 is important in:

- Reshaping the future of agriculture
- Making sure research meets the needs of the poor, especially smallholder producers in developing countries
- Changing how agricultural research is done
- Making agricultural research more accountable to those it serves

Objectives of GCARD

To help ensure that:

- Agricultural research outputs are accessible and relevant to the poor in developing countries;
- Research is aligned with and driven by the development needs of the resource-poor;
- Knowledge generation through scientific research is embedded in development thinking and practice;
- Funding systems are better aligned between research and development;
- Constructive and effective innovation pathways are developed between diverse stakeholders for the more rapid uptake of new knowledge, tools and technologies; and
- International agricultural research systems are more effectively integrated with regional and national partners (public, private and civil) and are responsive

and accountable for development impact against national and sub-regional demands.

The GCARD processes aim to promote effective and targeted investment at all levels of the agricultural system to ensure that today's agricultural research will meet the needs of the resource-poor end user. The GCARD processes will help to refine regional and global agricultural research priorities, as identified by different stakeholder groups and representatives in each region, in an inclusive way.

WHAT HAS GCARD 2010 GOT TO DO WITH YOU?

Are you:

- A farmer in a developing country, or someone who works in agricultural or rural development?
- An agricultural extension worker or someone who works in a farmer organisation or a department of agriculture?
- An agri-business entrepreneur or someone who works in the private sector?
- A current funder of agricultural development?
- A member of a rural community group or civil society organisation?
- A researcher and concerned about the future of agricultural research and innovation?
- Concerned that agricultural research delivers workable development results that will lessen poverty?

If the answer to any of those questions is 'yes', then you are one of the people we want to help us reshape agricultural research so that it delivers what you want. To really change agricultural research systems globally, we need your input. This means we want to hear your voice in the months running up to GCARD 2010, at the meeting itself, and as we work together after the event to bring about changes.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to be involved in the transformation of agricultural research — in making profound and lasting changes that will really make a difference to the poor.

WHO'S BEHIND GCARD 2010?

Who is organising GCARD 2010?

GCARD is organised by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR). GCARD will replace the GFAR triennial conferences and the annual general meetings of the CGIAR.

What's setting the scene for GCARD 2010?

The GCARD consultations draw on two scene-setting processes: a) regional identification of documented national and regional demands and research priorities and b) proposals from the CGIAR on how international research could help deliver national impacts.

a) GCARD regional reviews of agricultural research needs to meet development objectives

Regional reviews of existing development plans and research priorities are bringing together what has been found by studies, and stated by countries and stakeholders, about the key needs that agricultural research should focus on to help achieve development goals. The main findings will be posted for everyone to see on the GCARD 2010 website at www.gcard2010.net. Here you can check out what is being said about the areas you are interested in.

You will have a chance to voice your opinion on the findings of these reviews in the electronic consultations being held in September. Read on to find out how.

b) Consultations on reforming the CGIAR

The Alliance of CGIAR centres is using surveys and modelling to improve the strategic focus of its research to improve agriculture, forestry, livestock and fish production, and many other aspects related to rural development. The aim is to ensure that CGIAR research has maximum impact on development goals.

The proposals for how these centres can meet the needs expressed by developing countries, how they can become directly relevant to development, and how they can be made accountable to those they serve through the GCARD, will be made available at www.cgiar.org.

HOW WILL THE AGENDA BE AGREED?

Through regional processes

The GCARD 2010 agenda will be agreed through regional reviews, electronic consultations and face-to-face dialogues, organised by the regional research fora:

- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) www.fara-africa.org
- Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) www.aarinena.org
- Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (CACAARI) www.cacaari.org
- Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) www.apaari.org
- Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO) for Latin America and the Caribbean www.iica.int/foragro/
- European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) www.efard.org

The regional research fora represent regional agricultural research for development stakeholders, such as national agricultural research systems, universities and institutes, farmer organisations, non-government organisations, the private sector and investors, and donors and philanthropic organisations. GCARD is delivered through the regional research fora and is also interacting throughout the process with global stakeholders such as the Alliance of CGIAR centres, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), to gather their input to GCARD.

Through the regional processes, you can feed into GCARD your individual, group or organisation's views on the main barriers to lessening poverty in your part of the world and what forms of new knowledge, capacities and skills could best help alleviate poverty, enhance food security and sustain natural resources. The regional electronic consultations and dialogues are your opportunity to make sure that issues that are important to you are on the agenda.

GET INVOLVED NOW!

Regional electronic consultations, September 2009

Regional electronic consultations will take place in September. The consultations give you an opportunity to agree or disagree with the reviews of the main research needs in your region and the recommendations for reforming the CGIAR, and to put forward other points of view.

- What agricultural research does your region need to lessen poverty and boost development?
- What kinds of mechanisms and partnerships are needed to make this happen?
- What is preventing the poor from benefiting more from agricultural research?

The electronic consultations on www.gcard2010.net/econsultations will be open to everyone. Depending on the region, they will be in English, French, Russian or Spanish. You can join in the consultation in your region by registering on the website. Summaries of consultations in the other regions will be posted twice a week so that you can follow these too. Your contribution could lead to an invitation to come to Montpellier in March 2010 to take part in GCARD in person.

Share your experiences and your lessons learned

- How have new knowledge or technologies made an impact on development?
- What made this happen?
- What factors other than research were responsible for success?
- What practical problems were overcome to achieve this?
- What specifically needs to be done to help meet the needs of the poorest?

Your input is vitally important. We want to hear from all those connected with agricultural and rural development in any way. Your input will be taken on board in putting together the regional and global action plans for transforming agricultural research.

Schedule for the electronic consultations

The electronic consultations will take place over two-and-a-half weeks in September 2009. The dates are posted on www.gcard2010.net/econsultations.

- **Week 1** Introductions and sharing of experiences and views on the regional impact of agricultural innovation on development.
- **Week 2** Discussion on the key issues identified from the regional reviews.
- **Week 3** Conclusions that will lead into the face-to-face meetings.

Regional face-to-face dialogues, October-November 2009

The regional research fora will be organising face-to-face dialogues — with farmers, civil society, policy makers, development agencies and researchers — in October and November. The starting point will be the development goals in each region. The face-to-face dialogues will ensure everyone's views as to how agricultural research

and innovation can help meet those goals are considered. If your organisation wishes to participate please get in touch with the forum representing your region or the GFAR Secretariat.

Regional Face-to-Face Meeting Schedule

Region	Facilitating Regional Fora	Dates	Venue
Africa	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) Contact FARA Executive Secretary: mjones@fara-africa.org	5-7 October 2009	Accra, Ghana
Asia and the Pacific	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) Contact APAARI Executive Secretary: raj.paroda@yahoo.com	30-31 October 2009	Bangkok, Thailand
Central Asia and the Caucasus	Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institution (CACAARI) Contact CACAARI Executive Secretary: c/o a.rahmetov@cgiar.org	16-17 October 2009	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Europe	European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) Contact EFARD Chairman: george.rothschild@btopenworld.com	29 September 2009	Brussels, Belgium
Latin America	Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO) Contact FORAGRO Executive Secretary: enrique.alarcon@iica.int	19-20 October 2009	Cali, Colombia
Near East and Northern Africa	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) Contact AARINENA Executive Secretary: ihamdan@link.net	10-12 November 2009	Alexandria, Egypt

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT GCARD 2010?

Summit meeting

GCARD 2010 will be in two parts. The first part will be a summit meeting of invited senior policy makers from governments, international agencies and key stakeholder organisations. The summit will consider the priorities for agricultural research, and what investments and institutions are needed for new knowledge to make more impact on lessening poverty.

Get involved now!

www.gcard2010.net/econsultations

Main session

The second part, the main session, will involve a cross-section of stakeholders from all sectors involved in agricultural research for development. These will include farmers, consumers, civil society organisations, service providers, input suppliers and market representatives. Those directly concerned with research, and subsequent agricultural inputs in the public, private and international sectors, and the funding bodies that support research and advisory processes, will also take part in the main session.

GCARD 2010 programme

- **28 March 2010** On Day 1, participants will look at what investment, policies and changes are needed to transform global, regional and national systems of agricultural research, innovation and knowledge sharing.
- **29 March 2010** On Day 2, participants will look at the key challenges in development and where to focus research so it makes the most difference.
- **30 March 2010** On Day 3, participants will look at the tools and changes necessary to create agricultural research systems that impact more effectively on development. Among other topics, sessions will discuss how to boost North-South and South-South collaboration and what is required to develop and inspire a new generation of researchers to meet the challenges of a changing world.
- **31 March 2010** On Day 4, GCARD 2010 wraps up by pulling together solutions and ways forward, setting out better ways for all concerned — farmers, civil society, policy makers, development agencies and researchers — to work together to achieve development goals.

Plan for action

GCARD 2010 will spell out an action plan and a framework for improving agricultural research globally. These will be the blueprints for developing:

- Closer relationships between all involved and collaborative action for agricultural research and innovation.
- New relationships that push agricultural development forward.
- New tools and information directly relevant to agricultural development.

WHO WILL TAKE PART IN GCARD 2010?

Balanced mix of representatives from sectors and regions

The size of the conference venue limits the number of people who can take part in GCARD 2010. As far as possible, there will be a balance of representatives from different sectors and regions. Those who represent key constituencies or who have made particularly useful contributions to the consultations will receive invitations. There will be some sponsorship for those most in need of support, to ensure their voices are heard at the meeting.

There will also be some places for individuals. If you wish to take part, please pre-register on the website. Places will be offered to selected individuals to help ensure a representative spread of voices is heard.

How to request a place at the Montpellier meeting

1. Register on the GCARD 2010 website to receive further information and updates about GCARD.
2. Declare your interest in attending the Montpellier meeting in the pre-registration section, indicating which sector you represent and whether you would need financial support to attend.
3. If you are selected to represent your sector, please then register for accommodation on the website.

What if I cannot take part in person?

You can still be part of what is happening hour-by-hour and day-by-day. You can visit the GCARD website and watch real-time videos. You can read and watch interviews with all kinds of participants. You can follow blogs and find out what's being said by presenters and discussed in sessions. You can have your say by posting comments. A daily newsletter posted on the website and daily thoughts from key participants will keep you abreast of developments, as well as posts on Facebook and Twitter.

How can I keep up-to-date with what happens before and after GCARD 2010?

You can register for updates to be emailed to you at www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard/pre-registration.

You can also follow the GCARD blog at <http://gcardblog.wordpress.com/>.