



Meeting Summary

13th MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN COORDINATION GROUP (ECG)

FLORENCE—ITALY, 11 & 12 NOVEMBER 2007.





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ACRONYMS:

AAPARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
AARINEA	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa
AGM	CGIAR Annual General Assembly
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DEEC	Development & Emerging Economy Countries
DG AIDCO	European Commission – Direction General EuropeAid
DG DEV	European Commission – Direction General Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States
DG RTD	European Commission – Direction General Research
EC	European Commission
ECG	EIARD – European Consultative Group
EFARD	European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development
EIARD	European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development
EPMR	CGIAR Centers – External Programme and Management Review
ERA	European Research Area
ERA-ARD	ERANET - The Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) dimension of the European Research Area (ERA)
ERANET	FP - European Research Area - Networks
EU	European Union
ExCo	CGIAR Executive Council
FAAP	Framework for African Agricultural Productivity
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FORAGRO	Foro de las Américas para la Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario
FP	DG RTD - Framework Programme
FP7	DG RTD – 7 th Framework Programme 7
FSTP	Food Security Thematic Programme
GDPRD	Global Development Platform for Rural Development
GFAR	Global Forum for Agricultural Research
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
ICIPE	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PAEPARD	Platform for African European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development
SAG	ERA-ARD Southern Advisory Group
SCAR	Standing Committee for Agricultural Research
TF	EIARD Task Force
ToR	Terms of Reference
WECARD/CORAF	West and African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
WG	EIARD – Working Group

PARTICIPANTS:

Belgium

Joseph KALDERS

Check Republic

Karel Jan STOLC

Cyprus

Costa GREGORIDU

Denmark

Hanne CARUS

European Commission

Roberto RIDOLFI

Jean-Luc KHALFAOUI

Isabel FARIA de ALMEDIA

Paolo SARFATTI

Finland

Marja-Liisa TAPIO-BISTROM

France

Pierre FABRE

Germany

Wolfgang KASTEN

Germany

Tünde HAGYMASI

Ireland

Deidre CORCORAN

Tony SMITH

Italy

Enrico BACCIONI

Gabriella DELIA

Marina PUCCIONI

Gioacchino CARABBA

Lithuania

Andrius SASNAUSTAS

Netherlands

Sander van OPSTAL

Norway

Ruth HAUG

Portugal

Ana RIBEIRO

Spain

Maria-Teresa DOBAO

Sweden

Håkan MARSTORP

Staffan WIKTELIUS

Switzerland

Katharina JENNY

United Kingdom

Jonathan WADSWORTH - EIARD Chair

GUESTS:

François CONSTANTIN (**SCAR** Secretary)
Christian HOSTE (**ERA-ARD** Coordinator);
George ROTHCHILD (**EFARD** Vice-President)
Michael WALES (**GDPRD** Co-Chair).

0. **Opening Session**

0.1. **Opening and welcome**

Marina Puccioni, EIARD Chair, opened the meeting and Gioacchino Carabba, from the Ministero Affari Esteri, welcomed participants on behalf of Italy.

0.2. **Introduction of ECG participants**

The participants briefly introduced themselves. 18 EIARD Members (29 delegates) were represented, which is in line with previous ECG meeting attendances (16 in 2006, 17 in 2005, 16 in 2004, and 15 in 2003).

0.3. **Adoption of the Agenda**

The annotated agenda in Annexe 1 was adopted.

0.4. **Formal Adoption of the Minutes of the 11th ECG meeting**

Minutes of the 12th ECG Meeting in Dublin, on 30 and 31 October 2006, were formally adopted.

1. **EIARD Issues**

1.1. **Review of EIARD during the last twelve months**

The Executive Secretary (ExSec) informed the ECG on the progress to date with the 2007 EIARD Work Programme (Annexe 2), ECG Action Points (Annexe 3), and current Task Forces and Leads (Annexe 4).

The Executive Secretary updated the ECG Members on the state of EIARD membership. In particular:

- Belgium, Cyprus, France, The Netherlands and Sweden have significantly renewed their representation in the ECG
- Since the ECG12 meeting in Dublin, 9 new representatives have joined the ECG, which represents a lower than usual turn-over of about 16% (24% in 2006, 25% in 2005).
- Currently, there are 54 EIARD representatives in the ECG, the same as in 2006, compared with 46 in 2005. It should be noted that EIARD Members have still very different approaches of their representation in the ECG, some Members nominating up to 5 representatives, while other only 1.

The ECG list was circulated and participants updated information provided.

Discussion:

- One ECG member suggested that the contributions of the WG, Chair and Executive Secretary during the year could be better illustrated.
- Concerning EIARD Leads and Task Forces, it was suggested to add a column to the tables in order to indicate for each name the state/organisation/body which are represented.

Action 1:

ExSec to add a column to the EIARD Task Force and Lead tables in order to indicate for each name the state/organisation/body which they represent.

1.2. Main challenge for the next twelve months

For the coming year, the Chair, Marina Puccioni, highlighted:

1. The finalisation of the new EIARD strategy;
2. The reform of the CGIAR in which EIARD should be very active.

Finally, she stressed the need to launch an action at the level of the European policy makers in order to increase their commitment for ARD. Feasibility should be explored in 2008.

1.3. Election of the new EIARD Chair

The EIARD Working Group had identified Jonathan Wadsworth as possible candidate for the replacement of Marina Puccioni as EIARD Chair. He was then proposed to the ECG and elected unanimously as the new EIARD Chair, with immediate effect.

Decision 1: Jonathan Wadsworth is elected EIARD Chair:

1.4. Membership of the Working Group

The current Members of the Working Group are EC, Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. All expressed their interest to continue to serve in the Working Group.

Germany & Ireland requested to join the WG.

Decision 2: The ECG endorsed for one year the following Working Group membership:

- Belgium,
- EC,
- Finland,
- France,
- Germany,
- Ireland,
- Italy,
- Norway,
- Spain,
- Sweden,
- Switzerland,
- United Kingdom.

1.5. Information by EIARD Members on new major initiatives

Three initiatives were presented:

- Hungary, which is a new member of the CGIAR, is supporting new partnerships between Hungarian research laboratories and CGIAR, in particular, as a starting point, concerning the Generation Challenge Program.
- Ireland is supporting new partnerships between Irish universities and universities in developing countries in the area of research for development, not only ARD. Ireland has also launched a task force, led by a former ministry of agriculture, to review its support to ARD, and more broadly to research for development.
- Denmark is developing a new approach with Tanzania and Vietnam to identify their research needs before mobilising Danish universities. Denmark would welcome other donors in this initiative.

1.6. EIARD Strategy 2008-2012

The current EIARD Strategy and Logframe 2005-2010 have been endorsed by the European Coordination Group during its annual meeting in Helsinki on 30 September & 1 October 2004. In the EIARD Logframe 2005-2010, it is planned (activity 2.1) that the strategy and the logframe will be regularly reviewed and discussed. Since the implementation in early 2005, significant new internal and external (to Europe) elements have occurred that affect EIARD Strategy and Logframe 2005-2010. Therefore, the revision of the EIARD Strategy and Logframe was included into the EIARD Work Programmes 2006 & 2007.

A task force nominated by EIARD Members has been set up to prepare this revision, and a workshop among EIARD Members on the revision of the strategy, hosted and facilitated by Germany (GTZ), took place in Bonn on the 13 & 14 September 2007. The objective was to build the relevance and ownership of the new strategy.

Based on the outcomes of the Bonn Workshop, a Version 1 of the new EIARD strategy has been prepared by the Task Force, with the support of an expert, Janice Jiggings, who was involved in the ERA-ARD foresight study.

During the current ECG13 meeting, Members discussed and commented in detail each section of the Version 1. Based on these comments the task force will review the draft of the new EIARD strategy into a Version 2 that will be provided for final comments from EIARD Members, and also for external consultation.

The final version of the EIARD Strategy 2008-2012 will be officially endorsed by the ECG during its next meeting (ECG14) in November 2008..

2. Session 2: European ARD Area Issues

2.1. EFARD

George Rothschild, who has been nominated EIARD Chair since the previous ECG meeting in Dublin, updated the ECG Members on the reflection of EFARD on its way forward, following the EIARD-commissioned and EC-funded independent External Evaluation of EFARD in 2006. His report is presented in Annexe 5.

In summary, concerning EFARD's role, the main elements are to:

- Provide a platform (forum) for strategic dialogue among European stakeholders, thereby helping to establish a more coherent European ARD stakeholder community.
 - In doing so, EFARD's focus will be at the European level.
 - Additionally, EFARD will not represent the apex body for national fora, but will provide a "bridge" for the latter to link with European-level government and non-government bodies.
 - Stakeholder membership of EFARD will be increased to include European-level non-research entities, including CSOs, NGOs, and the private sector and research and development donors. EFARD has a schedule of meetings in train to begin this process...
 - Additionally, EFARD will help link European-level stakeholders with Southern regional / sub regional counterparts.
 - EFARD will aim to ensure that there are clear benefits and incentives for the broader stakeholder community to engage with the Forum.
- Place greater emphasis on the development context of agricultural research to ensure greater participation of non-research stakeholders
- Help initiate, promote and foster research partnerships between European-level as well as national- level institutions and southern counterparts, but not to fund and/or manage projects / programmes.
- Promote research partnerships between European and Southern research communities

- Play an advocacy role to raise the profile of ARD with European decision and policy makers at the political and senior government levels, and, as appropriate their southern counterparts. To do this in association with GFAR and other regional fora.

Concerning EFARD activities:

- The triennial conference has previously been the principal core activity of EFARD, but has now been 'de-linked' from the forum's main agenda. While still keeping the option of triennial conferences open, EFARD will explore other options as platforms for multi-stakeholder dialogues. These may be built around themes of major regional / global significance.

Concerning EFARD Governance and funding

- The highest current priority is to attain secure funding for a permanent EFARD secretariat. Options for achieving this objective are still under review.
- The current researcher-dominated composition of the EFARD Steering Committee will be changed to reflect the broader stakeholder community.
- EFARD will not seek legal status in the near future, but will keep this under review

Discussion:

- It was stressed that this proposal constitutes a significant repositioning of EFARD, not anymore as the apex of national European ARD fora but as a bridge at EU level between European ARD actors beyond researchers.
- Some EIARD Members felt that they were no need for EFARD since they have active national ARD fora, or because they think other coordination mechanisms exist.
- Others Members consider that EFARD has still a major role to play as a platform to involve European non-scientist ARD stakeholders, and facilitate the link with southern ARD stakeholders as successfully illustrated by the Platform for African European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD).
- At this stage, no Member foresaw core funding opportunities to support EFARD, in particular the secretariat function. Project funding opportunities still exist.

2.2. ERA-ARD

Christian Hoste, coordinator of ERA-ARD, presented a progress report to the ECG. The main elements are the following ones:

- The mid-term conference, organized in Brussels in June 2007, has been a success.
 - o It took place back to back with the SCAR conference on "Toward the challenge of Agricultural Research in Europe" and showed interesting convergence of interest (See item 2.4 below).
 - o More than 150 participants attended the conference from 38 countries (including 8 European countries not yet members of ERA-ARD, four of them having expressed interest of joining the project). The European Commission was committed with 14 senior and high-level representatives. There were also 23 representatives from the South –Latin America, Asia, and Africa - who actively participated. There were representatives from various global, regional and sub-regional fora, from ministries, NGOs, and universities as well as representatives from Civil Society Organisations.
- The establishment, with the support of DFID, of a Southern Advisory Group composed of representatives of regional and sub-regional ARD fora: AARINEA, AAPARI, ASARECA, WECARD/CORAF, FARA, FORAGRO, whose function is to :
 - o Provide information of information/advice to/from the ERA-ARD programme about southern regional, sub-regional and national ARD policies, strategies, capacity etc.
 - o Offer feedback on draft reports and proposals prepared by ERA-ARD
 - o Challenge established Northern ERA-ARD thinking
 - o Validate demand for the ERA-ARD joint and trans-national programmes;

- Provide the basis of a longer-term collaboration between Southern ARD programmes and ERA-ARD
- Choose specialists from the South for participation in ERA-ARD as required by workpackage leaders

Christian Hoste proposed exploring how this SAG could also support the activities of EIARD.

- 8 out of 14 current members of ERA-ARD will contribute to a transnational research programme, with joint call, on Bioenergy.
- Joint activities on "Agrifood chain safety " and "ARD Capacity Development" are in the identification phase.

Discussion:

- The EIARD Chair suggested consulting the ERA-ARD SAG on the new EIARD Strategy.
- I was recommended that the joint programme on Bioenergy be well connected with the activities of the SCAR Collaborative Working Group on "Agriculture & Bioenergy.

Action 2: ExSec to see with ERA-ARD Coordinator how to consult the ERA-ARD Southern Advisory Group on the new EIARD Strategy

2.3. GDPRD

Michael Wales, Co-Chair of GDPRD, informed ECG about the donor platform and its activities. Created in 2003, GDPRD (www.donorplatform.org) is an initiative of leading international development partners engaged in increasing aid effectiveness in agriculture and rural development with the ultimate goal to eradicate poverty. Its secretary is hosted by GTZ. The platform believes in the power of ARD to eradicate poverty and hunger, and is interested to work on how to improve the dissemination of research results. Therefore, a collaboration with EIARD would be interesting.

The platform is currently developing a charter in which the status of Associated Member for partner institutions is foreseen. The interest for EIARD to become Associated Member of GDPRD could be explored.

Discussion:

- It was stressed that one of the outputs of the new EIARD strategy is an "Effective coordination between EU investments in ARD and investments in rural development". Collaboration between EIARD and GDPRD, as a starting point, would then make a lot of sense.
- Several EIARD Members questioned how the non-donor stakeholders, in particular from the South are involved in GDPRD. They are involved through consultations, lessons learnt from studies on specific issues, and, at political level, by a direct partnership with Southern organisation like AU.

Decision 3: The ECG agreed to explore collaboration between EIARD and GDPRD.

Action 3: ExSec to contact the GDPRD Secretariat to explore EIARD and GDPRD collaboration.

2.4. SCAR

François Constantin, Secretary of SCAR, updated ECG Members on the developments of SCAR's activities since the presentation of Laurent Bocheau, former Chair of SCAR, during the ECG11 meeting in Kew. He highlighted in particular the result of the foresight study on "Future Challenges of Agricultural Research in Europe". In June 2007, the two back-to-back conferences "Towards Future Challenges of Agricultural Research in Europe" 26-27 June 2007 organised by SCAR, and

"Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) in Europe: towards a shared vision" 28-29 June 2007 organised by ERA-ARD clearly showed that:

- Some of the emerging global challenges for Europe identified by both conferences are the same, e.g. climate change, bioenergy. They both stressed the need for international agricultural research (AR) activities and cooperation to address them.
- The two conferences also questioned the way AR is implemented in order to improve its impact for Europe and developing and emerging economy countries (DEEC). In particular, how to improve the involvement of the farmer organisations, private sector, and end-users in the definition, implementation and monitoring of research activities.
- There is a progressive convergence of AR for DEEC and AR for Europe.

As a consequence, Europe should improve coordination between its AR agendas for Europe and for DEC that are not sufficiently linked together. Addressing this issue is precisely the objective of the ERA concept which the Commission is actively promoting. Therefore, the European Commission proposed to SCAR, EIARD and ERA-ARD to explore how Europe and DEC could benefit from synergies in the area of international AR.

Decision 4: The ECG agreed to set up a task force formed by representatives from SCAR, EIARD & ERA-ARD to elaborate recommendations to foster complementarities and synergies between AR for DEEC and AR for Europe

Action 4: ExSec to work with SCAR Secretary and ERA-ARD Coordinator to draft the ToR of a Task Force SCAR / EIARD / ERA-ARD.

2.5. EC Issues

Paolo Sarfatti, from DG DEV, updated ECG Members on 4 major EU and EC initiatives related to ARD:

- The Communication on Advancing African Agriculture¹, which recognises a shared institutional and programmatic framework for action between EU and Africa, which is aligned on African programming (CAADP, FAAP).
- The Joint Africa-EU Strategy², which will be adopted in Lisbon in December 2007, provides a long-term vision for a strategic partnership between Africa and the European Union. One objective is to make substantial progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Objective of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition by the year 2015 in all African countries. Expected outcomes include issues such as better access to food, increased agricultural growth rates, improved agricultural productivity and reduced rural poverty, improved governance in the agricultural sectors, enhanced intra-Africa trade in agriculture, reduced malnutrition, reduced maternal and child mortality, improved food-security early warning systems, wider application of safety-net / social transfer systems, reduced vulnerability in food-insecure communities.
- The upcoming EU Communication on Research for Development, in which ARD should appear as a "success story".
- EC guidelines for supporting ARD, an internal document to harmonise approach through different financial instruments, which is going to be developed based on the orientations of the new EIARD Strategy.

Isabel Faria de Almeida, from DG AIDCO, updated ECG Members on the Continental & Regional ARD components of the Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP):

¹ COM (2007) 440. - *Advancing African Agriculture- Proposal for continental and regional level cooperation on agricultural development in Africa. July 2007*

² http://ec.europa.eu/development/services/events/eu-africa-summit-2007/index_en.cfm?CFID=110566&CFTOKEN=69371775&jsessionid=243073f74e453f6a1929

- The objective of the FSTP is "to improve food security in favour of the poorest and the most vulnerable and contribute to achieving the first MDG, through a set of actions which ensure overall coherence, complementarity and continuity of Community interventions, including in the area of transition from relief to development". It addresses two geographic levels: Global & Continental/regional
- Three components of FSTP are directly related to ARD:
 - Support the delivery of international public goods contributing to food security: research and technology, which would support CGIAR, ARD fora, e.g. FARA and sub-regional African ARD fora, and ARD initiative, e.g. PAEPARD, ICIPE.
 - Promoting innovation to combat food insecurity;
 - Fostering advocacy and advancement of the food security agenda, harmonisation and alignment with development partners and donors, which could support EIARD coordination efforts.

3. **CGIAR Issues**

3.1. **EC and Member States funding to the CGIAR**

Jonathan Wadsworth (UK) presented the final recommendations of the ad-hoc ExCo Committee he is chairing, on funding the systems priorities, which have been approved by ExCo13. They will be presented to CGIAR Members during AGM07, as part of the change management process. The objective is to identify the members who are ready to form the first group of donors adopting the new funding mechanism, and those who are willing to join the group later, according to their internal constraints, and their possibilities to do so. As far as the European donors are concerned, UK and Portugal have already expressed their strong interest for the new funding system.

Action 5:

EIARD Members are invited to consider joining the group of donors willing to adopt the ad-hoc ExCo Committee recommendation on coordination of the funding of the system priorities.

Wolfgang Kasten (Germany) presented a proposal of a code of conduct for EIARD Members supporting the CGIAR. The drafting of such a code has been decided by the EIARD WG when discussing how to improve the coordination of the funding to the CGIAR, and is part of the recommendation of the ad-hoc ExCo Committee, on funding the systems priorities.

Decision 5:

The ECG endorses the WG proposal to develop a code of conduct for EIARD Members supporting the CGIAR.

Action 6:

The WG to elaborate a proposal for the code of conduct that will be submitted to the ECG for comment and approval

Roberto Ridolfi (EC), Chief of DG AIDCO Unite F3 - Central management of thematic budget lines, is in charge of EC funding to the CGIAR. He presented the EC positions and proposals concerning two important issues regarding the support to the CGIAR.

- EC has carried out in 2007 an external independent evaluation of the CGIAR for the period 2002 to 2005. The report has been sent to EIARD Members and the EC would be very interested to receive comments. One of the recommendations is to give a stronger voice to EIARD within the CGIAR system.
- EC will soon launch the procedure for the formulation of the new funding phase of the EC to the CGIAR covering 2008-2010 which take the form of the call for proposals sent to CGIAR centres and Challenge Programmes, As usual, EIARD Members will be consulted during the selection process.

3.2. EC and Member States joint monitoring of the CGIAR

As part of the monitoring of the CGIAR activities, and following the experience of previous years concerning the coordination of missions from EIARD Members, Roberto Ridolfi proposed to members to move ahead with the setting up of a joint European monitoring that would improve the M&E of the CGIAR, while further reducing the burden on the Centres and Challenge Programmes. The support that EIARD would receive on FSTP could facilitate this joint EIARD monitoring.

Discussion:

- EIARD Members welcomed the proposal to set-up a joint European monitoring of the CGIAR. It should take into account the diversity of members' supports to the CGIAR and national reporting requirements, and should not come in addition, but in subtraction to the current M&E system.

Decision 6: The ECG agreed to explore the feasibility of a joint EIARD monitoring of the CGIAR.

Action 7: EIARD WG to launch a study to develop a joint European monitoring of the CGIAR.

3.3. AGM 2007

3.3.1. EIARD's participation in AGM07

The ECG Members prepared the following meetings.

1. EIARD ad-hoc meeting (closed meeting)
 - Schedule: Sunday 2 December, from 14:00 to 20:00
 - Agenda:
 - Finalising EIARD positions for the AGM07 Business Meeting.
 - Preparing the meeting with the CGIAR Chair (see Point 2.)
2. Meeting with the CGIAR Chair and Director.
 - Schedule: Tuesday 4 December, from 14:30 to 15:30
 - Agenda:
 - CGIAR Change Management Process.

Discussion:

- One Member questioned the best use of EIARD common positions versus EIARD Members' national positions
- They were a consensus that EIARD positions 1/ avoid repeating national positions and 2/ give a stronger voice and influence to EIARD than individual national positions.
- European national positions are useful to support common position, and bring additional elements. In any case they should contradict EIARD positions.
- All these elements were already detailed in the Decision 5 of ECG12, last year in Dublin.

3.3.2. EIARD positions during the AGM07 Business Meeting

The draft agenda of the business meeting served as the basis for the ECG discussion.

Decision 7: The ECG Members identified the following set of issues for common positions during AGM07, began to discuss their content, and allocated tasks for the drafting:

1. The Change Management Process
2. The External Review

3. EPMR of IWMI, WARDA, ILRI, IITA, CIAT, CIP.
4. The Challenge Program External Reviews of HarvestPlus and Water and Food.
5. The second round of Challenge Programmes.
6. The SSA Challenge Program: Progress Report
7. The report of the Genetic Resources Policy Committee (GRPC)

4. Dates and venues for the next EIARD meetings

4.1. Ad-hoc ECG meeting at AGM07.

See Item 3.3.1

4.2. 2008 ECG meeting (ECG14).

Portugal kindly proposed to host ECG14 in Lisbon.

Decision 8:

ECG was pleased to accept the invitation of Portugal to host the ECG14 meeting in Lisbon, around the same date as this year, which appears to be the right timing for the preparation of AGM.

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ANNEXE 1

13th EUROPEAN COORDINATION GROUP MEETING

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12 & 13 November, 2007, Firenze, Italy

IAO

ANNOTATED AGENDA

November 11, 2007, Sunday

Arrival

Check in at the Hotels

Informal dinner at local restaurant

20:00

November 12, 2007, Monday

Opening Session

8.30 - 9.00

☒ **Welcome by Host Country (Italy)**

☒ **Chair's opening**

☒ **Introduction of EIARD Members**

☒ **Adoption of the Agenda**

Document :

- *Doc 1 - ECG13 Annotated Agenda*

☒ **Formal Adoption of the Minutes of the 12th ECG meeting**

Document :

- *Doc 2 - ECG12 Meeting Summary*

Session 1: EIARD issues

1.1. Review of EIARD during the last twelve months

9.00 - 9.45

Objective :

- *Reviewing EIARD's achievements since the last ECG meeting in Dublin in Nov. 2006.*
- *Up-dating ECG on EIARD Membership.*
- *Up-dating ECG on EIARD Tasks Forces, Leads and EIARD representatives in third party governing bodies and task forces.*

Document :

- *Doc 3 - EIARD Work Programme 2007 - Progress Report.*
- *Doc 4 - Progress report on ECG Action Points by Oct. 2007.*
- *Doc 5 - ECG Table*
- *Doc 6 - List of EIARD Task Forces, Leads and Representatives*

Action :

- *Executive Secretary : Briefing*

1.2. Main challenge for the next twelve months

9.45 - 10.00

Objective :

- *Highlighting the key challenges for EIARD in the year ahead.*

Action :

- *Chair : Briefing*

1.3. Election of the new EIARD Chair

10.00 - 10.15

1.4. Election of the Working Group Members between ECG13 and ECG14 10.15 - 10.30

Objective :

- *Current Members of the WG (Belgium, EC, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Finland & Norway) will express their intention regarding their WG Membership between ECG13 and ECG14..*
- *Other EIARD Members should consider joining the WG for 2008.*

Action :

- *Chair : Briefing*

Coffee Break: 10.30 – 11.00

1.5. Information by EIARD Members on new major initiatives 11.00 – 11.30

Objective :

- *Mutual information by ECG Members on new major initiatives in ARD policies at their level.*

1.6. EIARD Strategy 2008-2012 11.30 - 13.30

Objective :

- *Discussing the 1st version of the EIARD Strategy 2008-12*

Document :

- *EIARD Strategy 2008-12 - Version 1*

Action :

- *Executive Secretary : Briefing*

Lunch: 13.30 – 14.30

Session 2: European ARD Area Issues

2.1. EFARD 14.30 - 15.15

Objective :

- *Discussing the result of EFARD thinking on its future*

Document :

- *EFARD Way Forward*

Action :

- *EFARD Chair: Briefing*

2.2. ERA-ARD 15.15 - 16.00

Objective :

- *Updating ECG on ERA-ARD progress*

Action :

- *ERA-ARD Coordinator : Briefing*

2.3. GDPRD 16.00 - 16.30

Objective :

- *Presenting GDPRD and discussing partnership between EIARD & GDPRD*

Action :

- *GDPRD Co-chair : Briefing*

Coffee Break: 16.30 – 17.00

2.4. SCAR 17.00 - 17.30

Objective :

- *Presenting SCAR international scope & activities, and discussing partnership between SCAR, EIARD & ERA-ARD*

Action :

- *SCAR Secretary: Briefing*

2.5. EC Issues

17.30 - 18.00

Objective :

- *Updating ECG on EC initiatives regarding ARD*

Action :

- *P. Sarfatti, I. Faria de Almeida, JL Khalfaoui: Briefing*

Official dinner hosted by Italy

20.00

November 13, 2007, Tuesday

Session 3: CGIAR Issues

3.1. EC and Member States funding to the CGIAR

08.30 - 09.15

Objective :

- *Discussing how to improve the coordination of the European funding to the CGIAR.*

Action :

- *Executive Secretary : Briefing*

3.2. EC and Member States joint monitoring of the CGIAR

09.15 - 10.00

Objective :

- *Discussing how to improve the joint monitoring of the CGIAR*

Action :

- *P. Sarfatti: Briefing*

Coffee Break: 10.00 – 10.30

Session 3: CGIAR Issues (cont'd)

3.3. EIARD's participation in AGM 2007 (3 – 7 Dec.)

10.30 - 11.00

Objective :

- *Discussing EIARD participation in AGM07 (meetings, ...)*

3.4. Major AGM07 Items (to be defined)

11.00 – 12.30

Objective :

- *Preparing EIARD positions for AGM07 Business Meeting*

Lunch: 12.30 – 13.30

Session 3: CGIAR Issues (cont'd)

4.4. Major AGM07 Items (to be defined)

13.30 – 14.15

Session 5: "any other business"

14.15 - 14.45

☒ **ECG14**

Objective :

- *ECG Members consider hosting the 14th meeting in 2008*

Closing Session

14.45 - 15.00

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ANNEXE 2

Progress Report with the EIARD WORK PROGRAMME 2007 by October 2007

EIARD Logical Framework: Objectives & Activities	Actions (grey highlight → action needing substantial preparation & work) (bold → first priority action)	Status	Results/Comments
"Transversal"	<u>2007:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSTP Request to support EIARD activities 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Action fiche" finalised and approved by EIARD Members • Next step: Delegation agreement between EC and GTZ
Objective 1: Effective exchange and management of European ARD information in support of policy making and research partnerships.			
1.1. EIARD Members regularly exchange ARD information.	<u>Permanent:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information on monitoring and funding of the CGIAR. • Share information on support of NARS & Fora <u>2007:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to test in 2007 the sharing of information on EIARD Members' intentions regarding their funding to the CGIAR, as a decision making tool. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table on detailed contributions in progress • Second year of joint monitoring → Will be discussed at ECG13 Item 4.1 & 4.2 → Will be discussed at ECG13 Item 4.1.

<p>1.2. EIARD Members support and fund the EARD-InfoSys+.</p>	<p><u>2007:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the progress of InfoSys+ after the 2004 external review, including activities 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5. activities, plus potential sources of funding (end 2007) Work at securing 2007 and beyond funding of InfoSys+ according to the review. 	<p>Postponed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No time and mean for the moment to do the review of InfoSys+. Could be done in 2008 if FSTP fund to support EIARD become available. A contribution has been included in the FSTP request
<p>1.3. EIARD Members utilise tools and services of EARD-InfoSys+.</p>	<p><u>Permanent</u></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be part of the InfoSys+ review
<p>1.4. EARD-InfoSys+ incorporates needs of broader European ARD community, including EFARD, ECART, NATURA, ICRA and ARD networks such as ETRN and BUROTROP.</p>	<p>Permanent</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>idem</i>
<p>1.5. EARD-InfoSys+ and WISARD increase cooperation and sharing of information, tools and services.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>idem</i>
<p>1.6. Other activities under Objective 1</p>	<p>Permanent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain EIARD website (www.eiard.org). Exchanges of information with SCAR for ad-hoc co-actions. <p><u>2007</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the interest of the EIARD public website and close forum for the EIARD Members. 	<p>Postponed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No time and mean for the moment to actively update the EIARD site. Could be done if FSTP fund to support EIARD become available. <p>➔ Will be discussed at ECG13 Item 2.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No time and mean for the moment to do this review. Could be done in 2008 if FSTP fund to support EIARD become available.

EIARD Logical Framework Objectives & Activities	Actions (grey highlight → 2007 action needing substantial preparation & work) (bold → 2007 first priority action)	Status	Results/Comments
Objective 2: European positions on ARD issues, policies and strategies formulated and endorsed by EIARD Members.			
2.1 Regularly review and discuss the EIARD Logframe and Strategy and seek agreement by EIARD member	<u>2007:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the EIARD Strategy • Contribute to the revision of the EC ARD Strategy 	Ongoing Postponed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Version 1 released → Will be discussed at ECG13 Item 1.5 • Will follow the release of the new EIARD strategy
2.2 EIARD Executive Secretary, Working Group, Task Forces and Leads on specific issues actively facilitate the development of EIARD positions.	<u>Permanent:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue existing Task Force and Leads <u>2007:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force to revise the EIARD strategy 	Done	→ See Doc 6 in ECG13 background documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TF on the EIARD strategy formed and active.
2.3 EIARD National Contact Points effectively coordinate the contributions of National EIARD Networks to the formulation of EIARD positions.	<u>Permanent:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and facilitate effective National Contact Points, and representative National EIARD Networks in all EIARD Member countries. • Ensure timely distribution of information to National EIARD Networks, actively follow-up requests for feedback, and compile feedback to Exec Sec. <u>2007:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage full European Membership of EIARD by facilitating the membership of Poland, Latvia, Malta and Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Romania. 		→ See Doc 5 in ECG13 background documents

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on the joint monitoring of the CGIAR activities by EIARD Members. • Follow the selection and appointment of the CGIAR Director and representatives in ExCo. • Contribute to the ad-hoc ExCo Committee on funding the system priorities. • Continue to reinforce coordination with North-American donors. • Follow the EC evaluation of CGIAR Impact 	<p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Terminated</p>	<p>4.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIARD WG actively followed the process in coordination with European member of the search committee • EIARD WG regularly interact with European member of the committee → Will be discussed at ECG13 Item 4.1 • Meeting with North-American donors at AGM06. • What about AGM07 ? • Up to now, limited interaction with EIARD Members for this evaluation.
<p>2.6 Formulate coherent EIARD positions on GFAR, Regional and Sub-Regional ARD organisations, the EU Research Framework Programmes, and ARD issues generally and seek endorsement by EIARD Members</p>	<p><u>Permanent:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the governance of GFAR. • Support EFARD and its National Fora • Contribute to the governance of EFARD. • Contribute to the governance of ICRA as Board Members. • Promote and facilitate the coordination of European national ARD programmes in support of national and regional ARD institutions. <p><u>2007:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate actively in the Berlin Forum on Rural Development 	<p>Done</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIARD side-even • Two key notes and one report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute, involving ARD actors, to the priority setting for the next FP7 calls. • Review the IAASTD reports • Follow the External Review of EFARD • Follow the appointment of the GFAR Exec. Secretary • Help EC to develop a Strategy for Biotechnologies and Developing Countries. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Terminated</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>for plenary for the Working Groups on research for development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good visibility of RAD and research for development in the Forum report. • EFARD-FARA workshop through PAEPARD planed in January 2008 to identify research priorities for the FP7- Food Agriculture Biotechnology thematic and synergy with FSTP for Calls 2009 and beyond. • Limited scope for coordinated action between EIARD Members. Only exchange of EIARD comments. • External Review report + answer from the EFARD Steering Committee released. • Review funded by the EC on EIARD request. ➔ Follow-up to the review will discussed with the EFARD Chair at ECG13 Item 2.1 • Appointment completed • Marina Puccioni member of the appointment committee. • Two names of experts sent by EIARD Members after ECG12 provided to the EC. Expertise not yet launched.
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EIARD Logical Framework Objectives & Activities	<p align="center">Actions</p> <p align="center">(grey highlight → action needing substantial preparation & work)</p> <p align="center">(bold → first priority action)</p>	Status	Results/Comments
<p>Objective 3: ARD-related decision making by EIARD Members, and global, regional, sub-regional and national organisations facilitated.</p>			
<p>3.1 Communicate European positions on ARD to decision making bodies of EIARD Members.</p>	<p><u>Permanent:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult regularly with colleagues in appropriate ministries and government departments. • Coordinate positions of various ministries and departments in order to improve policy coherence. • Promote increased funding for ARD. 		
<p>3.2 Present coherent European positions on ARD issues at relevant global, regional and sub-regional meetings (including CGIAR ExCo & AGMs) in an effective manner.</p>	<p><u>Permanent:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile EIARD positions for each agenda item for CGIAR ExCo & AGM <p><u>2007:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate actively in the FARA General Assembly 	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIARD Declaration during the opening session of the plenary • Side event on PAEPARD • Active participation to side-events
<p>3.3 Members represent EIARD on relevant committees and task forces of CGIAR, GFAR, and Regional and Sub-Regional ARD organisations.</p>	<p><u>Permanent:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote, coordinate and support EIARD representatives on relevant committees and task forces, including • CGIAR ExCo, Genetic Resources Policy Committee, Programmatic and Structural Realignment Task Forces; 		<p>→ See Doc 6 in ECG13 background documents</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GFAR Steering Committee and Donors' Support Group;• EFARD Steering Committee and Programme Committee.		
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ANNEXE 3

Progress Report by October 2007 from previous ECG Meetings

(In grey, actions done since the last meeting)

Reference	Action	By whom	Status	Results/Comments
ECG11/1	Send to the Executive Secretary information concerning their current initiatives in the area of agricultural biotechnologies for Developing Countries	ECG	Cancel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No information received
ECG12/2	As part of the implementation of the revised EIARD Strategy, the WG to study how the work processes could be improved in EIARD, in particular the use of Task Forces and Leads.	WG	Postponed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be included into the EIARD Work Programme 2008, following adoption of the revised EIARD Strategy ➔ Will be discussed at ECG13 Item 1.5 (Way forward)
ECG12/3	Study the interest to set up a Task Force on harmonisation of the financial instruments used to channel European ARD funding to the CGIAR	WG	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific task force set-up on financial instruments. Rather concentrate at this stage on coordination of funding.
ECG12/4	Send the questionnaire on the National Network functioning to EIARD Members who did not attend the ECG12 meeting.	ES	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As a result, 75% from EIARD Members answered.
ECG12/5	Present the results of the questionnaire on the National Network functioning to the Working Group which will draw recommendations to the ECG.	ExSec	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report provided to the WG ▪ Conclusions and recommendations will feed into ECG12/2 action in 2008
ECG12/6	Redraft the ToR of the revision of the EIARD strategy and Logframe that will be finalised by the WG.	ExSec	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ToR finalised
ECG12/7	Finalise the composition of the Task Force for the revision of the EIARD Strategy & Logframe.	WG	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TF in place
ECG12/8	Contact the CGIAR Secretariat to organise the reporting of the European financial contributions for the current and past year (i.e. 2006 & 2005).	ExSec	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial tables received from the CGIAR secretariat. ➔ Will be discussed at ECG13 Item 4.1
ECG12/9	Send a request to EIARD Members to get their intentions concerning their financial support to the CGIAR for the coming year (i.e. 2007).	ExSec	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Will be discussed at ECG13 Item 4.1
ECG12/10	Potential EIARD candidates for hosting the ECG13 meeting to confirm their interest to the Executive Secretary by January 2007 at the latest.	ExSec	Done	Florence - Monday 12 & Tuesday 13 Nov. 2007

ANNEXE 4

TASK FORCES

	Status	ECG Members
TF on EC Funding to the CGIAR	<i>To be revised</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Debois* • JL. Khalfaoui • other ECG Members on a voluntary basis for each evaluation
TF on the revision of the EIARD Strategy	<i>Active</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Baccioni • P. Fabre • J. de Haas • JL. Khalfaoui • G Poulter • P. Sarfatti
TF on the "ICIPE case study" for coordination of funding	<i>Active</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W. Graf • W Karsten • H. Marstorp

* Chair

LEADS

	Lead
Genetic Resources IP Issues	• C-G. Thornström
Generation Challenge Program	• G. Apostolatos

ANNEXE 4 (cont'd)

**EIARD REPRESENTATIVES/ECG MEMBERS
IN THIRD PARTY GOVERNING BODIES**

Institution	Body	EIARD Representative and ECG Members but not EIARD representative in the body
CGIAR	ExCo	ExCo Member: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Puccioni • J. Wadsworth • K. Jenny Alternates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Haug • ML. Tapio-Bistrom • <i>to be filled</i>
	Programme Committee of the Challenge Programme Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>M. Debois</i>
GFAR	Donor Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL. Khalfaoui • <i>JF Giovannetti</i>
	Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>M. Debois</i>
EFARD	Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL. Khalfaoui • <i>P. Sarfatti</i> • <i>I. Faria de Almeida</i> • <i>P. Fabre</i> • <i>A. Sorensen</i>
ERA-ARD	Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL. Khalfaoui (observer) • <i>MT. Dobao</i> • <i>P. Fabre</i> • <i>S. van Opstal</i>
ICRA	Board of Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL. Khalfaoui* • <i>S. van Opstal</i>
PAEPARD	Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL. Khalfaoui (observer) • <i>P. Sarfatti (observer)</i> • <i>A. Sorensen</i>

* Chair

ANNEXE 4 (cont'd)

**EIARD REPRESENTATIVES/ECG MEMBERS
IN THIRD PARTY TASK FORCES**

Institution	Task Force	EIARD Representative
CGIAR	Ad hoc ExCo Committee on CGIAR priorities Implementation	• <i>J. Wadsworth*</i>

* Chair

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ANNEXE 5

EFARD - A WAY FORWARD: DISCUSSION PAPER FOR EIARD COORDINATION GROUP

A. Background

1. As a consequence of the EIARD-commissioned and EC-funded independent External Evaluation of EFARD in 2006, it was proposed that a draft strategy and business plan for the Forum be developed and submitted to the EFARD Steering Committee in September, and with further revision for this document to be presented to the EIARD Coordination Group in mid-November. This proposal stemmed from the need, highlighted by the External Evaluation, for significant changes in EFARD's strategy, organisation and funding, if the Forum was to remain viable and relevant in the rapidly changing international development scene. The External Evaluation as well as the EC and EIARD provided in-principle endorsement for the concept of EFARD, but a range of key issues remained unresolved. It was therefore decided to put the development of the draft EFARD strategy and business plan on hold, until these key issues were brainstormed at the EFARD Steering Committee meeting in September.
2. The EFARD SC Chair produced a draft 'think piece' to highlight these issues and provide some structure for the 'brainstorming session'. Feedback was received from a number of EFARD SC members who were unable to participate in the session. A copy of the 'think piece' is included as Annex 1, as this provides fuller background to the discussion leading up to the present summary of a way forward for EFARD.
3. The key issues considered were:
 - a) Apparent lack of clarity of role of EFARD and perceived overlap with EIARD and other European-wide initiatives, including ECART- EEIG and NATURA.
 - b) EFARD's involvement in development and not solely research.
 - c) Extent of EFARD's relationships with other stakeholders, including international, regional and national ARD fora, NGOs, CSOs and the private sector.
 - d) The status and role of national fora in Europe. and of EFARD triennial conferences.
 - e) EFARD's structure and governance,
 - f) Requirement for secure funding to maintain a permanent EFARD Secretariat.
4. It is clear that all six issues above are interdependent, not least that of secure funding. The latter depends on individual European donors' perceptions of EFARD's role and performance, the extent to which EFARD provides a platform for the broad community of stakeholders and so on.
5. The outcomes of the EFARD SC discussion of all six issues are summarised below, and drawn upon to explore EFARD's future roles, structure and funding. The proposed role may have to be modified significantly when EIARD's role and strategy for the future is finalised early in 2008.

B. EFARD's role

6. This remains the most important issue in the eyes of many stakeholders, not least donors. There is a prevailing external perception of a lack of focus in EFARD's activities and failure to highlight its comparative advantages. Many perceive that European-level entities such as ECART-EEIG and NATURA, as well as EIARD as the main donor consortium, are undertaking very similar activities.

Current status

7. To re-iterate how EFARD's role has been described up to now:

Its mission is stated to be: Strengthening the contribution of European agricultural research for development (ARD) to poverty alleviation, food security and sustainable development in developing countries. Whilst its objectives to achieve this mission, include:

- a) Providing a platform (forum) for strategic dialogue among European stakeholder groups, thereby creating a coherent European ARD community
- b) Promoting research partnerships between European and Southern research communities
- c) Developing a demand-led research agenda
- d) Raising the profile of ARD on the European regional and international political agenda through advocacy, as an active partner of GFAR and other regional fora
- e) Using triennial conferences to underpin all four objectives above.

Future prospects

8. In looking at these existing objectives in terms of a 'Way Forward', it remains clear that, although they are all valid, there is still inadequate distinction between the roles of EFARD and those of the other European-level entities mentioned above.

9. The EFARD Steering Committee proposes that the Forum's role should be re-defined along the following lines:

- a) EFARD's focus should be at the Europe-wide level. The Forum can not, and should not attempt to be the apex body for European national fora. The latter vary greatly in strength, and many are researcher-driven advocacy entities, with relatively few having a multi-stakeholder base.
- b) EFARD should however provide a facilitating "bridge" between national fora and European organisations, especially the European Commission, but also the European parliament and its relevant standing and ad hoc committees. National fora from new member states may derive particular benefits from this role of EFARD. As noted below, EFARD must also bring in the broader European-level stakeholder constituency, i.e. CSOs, NGOs, research and development donors, the private sector and others. It is probably true to say that currently, at a European level, the strongest and most engaged stakeholders are those involved in research
- c) Special emphasis must be given to EFARD's potential comparative advantage in providing a forum for meaningful dialogue between the European-level agencies and all key stakeholders, both researchers and non-researchers, as just noted. This role is not the primary focus of any of the other European-level agencies at present. EFARD can therefore provide stakeholder perspectives to the EC in its framework planning and other strategic activities, as well as to EIARD and others. It should go without saying that the dialogue will also include key stakeholders from the South. In all cases, however, the challenge will be to ensure that participating stakeholders are truly representative of their respective bodies.

Multi-stakeholders

10. In highlighting the potential comparative advantage of EFARD in bringing together all relevant stakeholders, it is however clear that this will not simply happen. There have to be clear benefits and other incentives for stakeholders to participate in EFARD, especially those from non-research agencies; these will usually have development - rather than research-driven interests. It is recognised that EFARD has still to face the challenge of developing such incentives. Some national fora have been successful in developing multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the *Agri-Pro-Focus* initiative in the Netherlands; these could serve as a model for EFARD at the European level. An important component of the dialogue will be for EFARD to help link European-level stakeholders with their counterparts in the South

11. As a start in the process of mobilising multi-stakeholder engagement, the EFARD SC will contact representative European-level stakeholder confederations drawn from the CSO, NGO, and private sectors. This process has begun, focusing on stakeholders that are well organised, and that network and collaborate effectively.

12. Although EFARD is perceived by some as European regional ‘arm’ of GFAR, it is clearly very different from that global body and from other fora such as FARA, which fund and manage programmes. Other European-level organisations such as NATURA and ECART-EEIG manage projects and programmes, but do not fund them. The EFARD SC considers it important that EFARD does not do this, but rather that it focuses on facilitating and fostering partnerships by providing ‘market places’ for dialogue and planning. In this regard, the triennial EFARD conferences have been the principal venues for such activities, as summarised below

Triennial conference

13. The triennial EFARD conferences have been regarded as the core activity of EFARD, representing the main platform for dialogue, planning and forging partnerships between European and Southern stakeholders. However, the conferences have become increasingly costly (upwards of €300,000) and funding has been increasingly difficult to come by. Donors seek returns on their investments in these events, and some have judged that the conferences have not been cost effective. Nevertheless, they have yielded some valuable projects/programmes such as ERA-ARD, PAEPARD and Y-PARD. but again some have been argued that these initiatives stemmed largely from the great commitment of a few individuals.

14. The EFARD SC has now ‘de-linked’ the triennial conferences from its regular activities, and plans to look towards alternative options as multi-stakeholder platforms. These include back-to-back or joint events with other major meetings both in Europe and where appropriate in partner regions. The EFARD SC considers that greater value will accrue from multi-stakeholder dialogues if these are built around major themes of regional and global significance. However, the option to hold triennial conferences will be retained.

Additional roles – Advocacy, knowledge sharing and shaping agendas

15. The EFARD SC considers that the Forum should also contribute ideas to the European-wide research and development agenda, but not get directly engaged in strategy and planning/process matters, which are more properly the domain of other national, regional and global bodies. However based on feedback from, for example, the EC, EFARD could, in selected instances, contribute towards strategy development, as in the agriculture component of EC’s research for development strategy. It should also play an advocacy role for agricultural research and development through engagement decision and policy makers, especially at the European level. It could be argued that this role should be accorded particularly high priority.

16. To fulfil this role, EFARD will need to develop a meaningful communication strategy for promoting knowledge exchange through networking and other channels. The Forum also needs to develop a good website, which adequately reflect its roles and multi-stakeholder linkages

Engagement in development as well as research

17. Even though research is an integral part of mainstream agricultural development, there is a major disconnect between the two, both programmatically and in the organisational structure of most national, regional and international organisations.

The EC itself is beginning to lead the way at the European level by the joint support given to research and development activities by the DG for Research and DG for Development, respectively. This was highlighted at June’s ERA-ARD conference. In a further example, the European international ARD community has been urged by the EC to look for opportunities to form closer linkages with the EC’s Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR)

18. If EFARD is to have any success in creating a forum for a significantly broader constituency of stakeholders, and in retaining the commitment of the non-research community, it will have to become less research-dominated and place greater emphasis on development issues, particularly in terms of the interdependence and need for policies that integrate research and development. Perhaps a simple name change may help change perceptions: the European Forum on Agricultural Research and Development. The acronym would remain the same!!

C. EFARD's Governance

EFARD Secretariat

19. A permanent dedicated secretariat is vital if EFARD is to continue to exist, and more importantly broaden the scope of its activities to encompass a wider group of stakeholders. NATURA has a rotating secretariat amongst its members, with each hosting the secretariat for a three year period. For EFARD this could pose problems in terms of sustainability, given the likelihood of variable commitment of in-kind and financial support. In the past, this function was linked with the organising group for the triennial conference, but with the de-linking of this event from mainstream EFARD business that is no longer a viable option. Costs of secretariats can often be high which leads to sustainability problems – as ECART-EEIG noted last year. This has inevitably meant heavy “over-reliance” on those members who have a track record of providing sustained support, especially France.

20. EFARD currently has an interim arrangement with the EC and the Italian government that may continue for a further 12 months. However, the Forum will in the meantime explore a range of options for establishing and funding a dedicated secretariat on a permanent basis.

EFARD Steering Committee

21. EFARD does not have a formal constitution or general assembly governance structure of the kind adopted by some international / regional other fora such as GFAR and FARA. It does, however, have a charter. Currently, EFARD has a Steering Committee (SC), whose members are largely drawn from national fora, most of which emphasise national research interests rather than those of the broader stakeholder community. Given the requirement to represent the broader stakeholder community, it is necessary for this to also be reflected in the composition of the SC. Having said this, the SC needs to be of a workable size, and cannot represent all potential; stakeholders. Having a triennial general assembly with full stakeholder representation, rather than a full-blown conference may be one option to help address this issue, although funding will still be an issue. This option will receive further consideration by the EFARD SC.

Legal status

22. The EFARD SC considered the issue of whether, as in the case of the African regional forum – FARA, EFARD should have legal status as a non-profit international organisation, recognised by public international law. In contrast to FARA, EFARD does not coordinate and harmonise programmes and policies or manage significant amounts of funding or issue calls for programmes/projects throughout its region. The EFARD SC considers therefore that there is little to be gained by acquiring legal status at this stage. - although this issue will be kept under review.

D. Funding

23. As noted above, the key issue relating to funding is to find secure funding for the EFARD secretariat, ensuring that transaction costs are kept as low as possible. The challenge will be to generate income when the forum does not itself manage projects or programmes. Options such as membership contributions will require that there are clear benefits and incentives for stakeholders in order to attract them as members or affiliates. Conversely, there should also be some obligations associated with membership. The EFARD SC will be holding further discussions with the EC and other stakeholders to progress this issue..

E Summary

24. A summary is included as a ‘Box’ at the beginning of this discussion paper.

G Some key questions for EIARD members

There are obviously many issues in this paper for EIARD potential consideration, but from EFARD's perspective, it would be particularly valuable to highlight the following:

- 1. What does EIARD believe should be the role of EFARD – given the context of what EIARD intends to do in the future? In particular, does EIARD endorse the principle of EFARD being a facilitating platform for all European ARD stakeholders (not only research institutions) rather than as the apex body for the European ARD system? Does EIARD endorse the “Research and Development approach for EFARD proposed in the paper?*
- 2. More specifically, what comparative advantages and value-adding should EFARD focus upon to fulfil the role that EIARD identifies for the Forum? In particular, does EIARD endorse the principle that EFARD operates at the European- rather than the national-level, thereby relying on active engagement of stakeholder confederations of NGOs, CSOs, producers and others in the private sector?*
- 3. What thoughts do EIARD members have on funding options for EFARD to ensure that a permanent dedicated secretariat can be established and maintained?*
- 4. What kinds of benefits and incentives would EFARD need to provide to secure ‘buy-in’ and commitment from the broadest range of European-level stakeholders?*