

## Introduction

EIARD is a permanent policy coordination platform on Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) which aims to promote and implement coherent European policies at international, regional and sub-regional levels in order to increase the impact of ARD on poverty reduction, food security and sustainable management of natural resources in developing countries.

## EIARD activities

***EIARD follows four main areas of activities as outlined in the EIARD strategy 2009-2013:***

1. Coordination of European ARD policies in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
2. Coordination of European investments to the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR),
3. Coordination of European investments in strengthening ARD organisations at global, continental and sub-continental levels, especially in Africa, and
4. Coordination of European investments in ARD and investments in rural development in the pursuit of the MDGs.



## Summary of activities for 2009-10

### ***EIARD supports CGIAR reform***

In recent years, as the largest grouping of donors who contribute around 40 percent of total funding to the CGIAR, EIARD has strongly advocated the need for change within this international system. During the recent radical CGIAR reform process, EIARD has taken an active role, championing the European vision for a more unified and cost-effective international system, which is more demand driven, more focused on achieving the MDGs, and adding value to the efforts of other ARD stakeholders through complementary and effective partnerships.

Throughout the process, EIARD members have established pan-European consensus - known as the EIARD "positions" - on strategic issues, and EIARD has actively participated in all the key CGIAR governance meetings. Many of the European views have been accepted by other stakeholders and subsequently included in CGIAR reform documents. Members of the CGIAR Fund Council and CGIAR Fund Office have greatly appreciated EIARD efforts, as the "positions" have enabled greater efficiency in meetings and subsequent negotiations. As a result, European views are well represented in the new CGIAR and its objectives are in line with European priorities.

### ***EIARD support to GFAR and the GCARD process***

In 2009/10, EIARD has reinforced its institutional and financial (through its members) support to the GFAR (Global Forum for Agricultural Research). This was especially done in the context of the preparation, realisation and follow up to the first ever Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) held in Montpellier in March 2010.

EIARD played a key role in the lead up to this event by participating and financially supporting the GCARD process. EIARD supported and contributed to the preparatory EFARD (European Forum for

ARD) e-consultations and reports for the event, sponsored the participation of non-research stakeholders from developing countries and participated in the debates during the conference.

In continuing its historical support to GFAR, EIARD has been particularly satisfied to see that GFAR is now recognised as the legitimate apex global organisation in ARD, which was a clear outcome of the CGARD conference. EIARD will continue to support GFAR and the GCARD process in the implementation of the Montpellier Road Map, which will inform the next GCARD conference in 2012.

#### ***EIARD thematic studies and policy briefs***

Working with other key institutions, such as the Global Donor Platform on Rural Development (GPRD), EIARD aims to raise awareness to decision-makers of the key contribution of ARD to food security and poverty elimination. To provide evidence on ARD and increase donor alignment, in 2009/2010 EIARD commissioned a number of thematic studies and policy briefs, thanks to financial support from the Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) of the EC.

In November 2009, a paper on 'Maximising the contribution of agricultural research to rural development' was published for discussion at a joint EIARD-GDPRD meeting. One outcome of this discussion was the GDPRD decision to join the 'research' community and provide its rural development perspective at the GCARD conference in Montpellier.

Another study on 'The impacts of climate change on food security in Africa: A synthesis of policy issues for Europe' formed part of an event organised by EIARD and partners at the Copenhagen Climate Summit (COP 15). The study and this event helped to put agriculture, and especially agricultural research for development, back into the climate discussions.

Further studies on a number of topics selected by EIARD members in 2010 will provide opportunities for better coordination and alignment between members and also for publications, advocacy materials and policy recommendations. These studies and policy briefs will be published in 2011.

#### **EIARD aims and ongoing challenges for 2011**

During 2011, EIARD members will continue to provide continuous and careful attention to the implementation of the CGIAR reform, particularly as the first CGIAR Consortium Research Programmes are approved and launched.

The EIARD Executive Secretariat is also working closely with the EC and member states, directly and through the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research, to follow the development of a joint programming initiative between European countries on research on 'agriculture, food security and climate change' as this new instrument could be of very significant relevance for ARD.

#### **For further information please contact**

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