

Key achievements of EFARD in 2010 include the coordination of the European input to GCARD, providing a set of consultation-based reports that outline European ARD priorities both in Europe and globally. With support from AGRINATURA, EFARD is coordinating the European side of the Platform for African – European Partnership on ARD (the PAEPARD project), an innovative mechanism intended to involve a wider range of stakeholders, including farmers, civil society and the private sector, in developing research proposals and increasing access of African institutions to European research funding.

A number of Civil Society Organisations' platforms and coordination mechanisms, such as CONCORD, as well as farmers and private sector organisations have evolved in Europe with a focus on agriculture, food security and rural development. These organisations have recently shown a growing interest in ARD, as evidenced by increasing involvement with EFARD members on programmes such as PAEPARD.



More information
For definition of used acronyms and further information, please consult the following web sites or web links:

www.agrinatura.eu
www.asareca.org
www.cgjar.org
www.coraf.org
www.eiard.org
www.era-ard.org
www.icipe.org

For GFAR,
 see: www.egfar.org

For FARA,
 see: www.fara-africa.org

For CARBAP,
 see: www.carbapafrika.org

For SCAR,
 see: http://ec.europa.eu/research/agriculture/scar/index_en.html

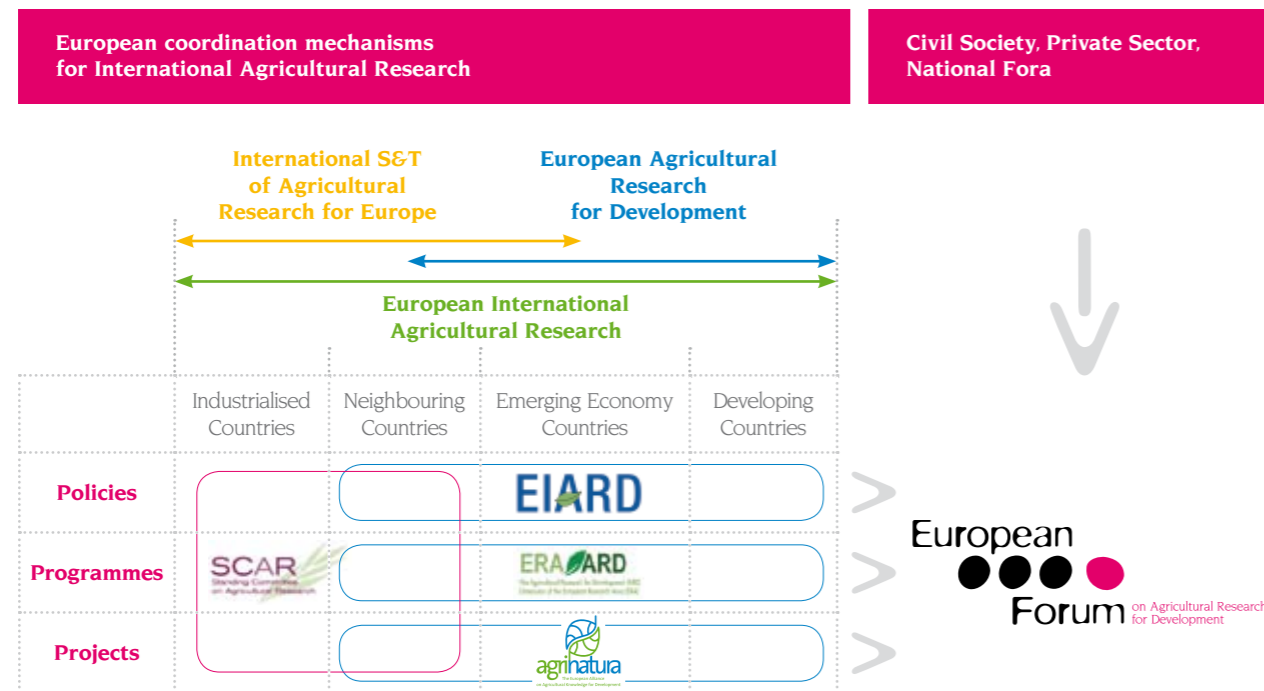
For CONCORD,
 see: www.concordeurope.org

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European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development

Objectives and principles of European investment in ARD



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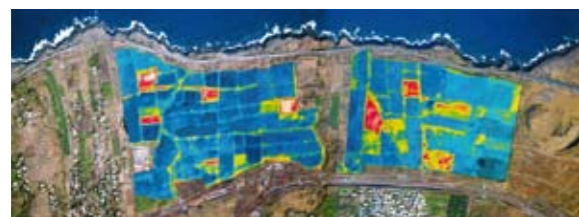
Over one billion people today are hungry. The World population is projected to grow to nearly 9.2 billion by 2050, and the demand for food is then expected to increase by 70%. By far the largest increases in demand will come from developing countries, many of which are already food insecure. Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals has been poorer than expected and it is extremely unlikely that the 2015 target on hunger will be achieved.

The 2008 food price spike re-focused attention on agriculture, where development investments had seriously declined over the preceding two decades. The role of agricultural research for development (ARD) is highlighted by the fact that the increases in food production (not forgetting reductions in field and post-harvest losses, and improved nutritional value) must be achieved from land and water resources that are declining in quantity and quality, a challenge made more complicated by the impacts of climate change which are largely adverse in developing and emerging economy countries (DEEC). Some of the Green Revolution technologies are approaching their limits in terms of sustainable yield increases and ARD needs to focus on new paradigms, such as ecological efficiency, in rising to these new challenges.

●●●● Europe is the largest contributor of global ARD

Agricultural Research for Development is one of the three corners of the knowledge triangle, together with education and innovation. ARD produces national and international public goods in the form of technological, economic and institutional knowledge and innovations contributing to sustainable development.

Europe has a long history of agricultural research and of development cooperation. It is well placed to play a key role in ARD strategy, technology development and capacity strengthening at the global level and, through partnerships, in developing and emerging economy countries, as well as in its own constituency. Europe is the largest contributor to global ARD funding supplying, for example, 40% of the total funding to the CGIAR in 2008. Europe is also home to World class ARD expertise, educational institutions and research capacity. At the same time Europe is a beneficiary of international ARD for the 'one-world issues', such as knowledge generation and sharing including new information technologies, climate change, plant & animal diseases and pandemics, as well as changing patterns of demand for food which are reflected in increasing competition for natural resources and energy.



●●●● European support to ARD is based on the following guiding principles:

- > **Smallholder farmers and the rural poor** in Developing and Emerging Economy Countries are the target beneficiaries.
- > **Stakeholders** (directly or through their representatives) should be involved in all stages of ARD, from priority setting to evaluating results.
- > **Balanced Partnerships:** between stakeholders, and between developed and developing countries
- > **For optimum impact,** ARD should be accompanied by other measures like a facilitating institutional, social, political and economic environment
- > **European ARD donors** have adopted the principles of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness (ownership, alignment, harmonization, mutual accountability, management by results).

●●●● Europe has developed a specific approach and original instruments:

- > **Support to ARD through three pillars:**
Development aid to beneficiary countries, regional & sub-regional organisations (like FARA, CORAF or ASARECA); contribution to UN institutions (e.g. FAO, IFAD, etc.). GFAR and the CGIAR; provision of European expertise for a balanced, fair and true partnership
- > **Platforms of bilateral dialogue:**
Between European ARD stakeholders and ARD stakeholders in other continents
- > **Support to regional/sub-regional platforms of excellence:**
Research & higher education platforms of excellence on priority areas (like CARBAP or ICIPE).

In order to enhance synergies between EU member states' research investments, Europe has also recently created a new instrument, the 'Joint Programming Initiative' (JPI). Coming just after the first Joint Initiative (on health, initiated in 2009), a second JPI dedicated to research on 'Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change' will be launched in 2010, strengthening European investment in ARD.



European coordination mechanisms on ARD

The European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development, EFARD, was founded in 1997 in Montpellier. EFARD's mission follows the principles of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), and contributes to GFAR's Global Plan of Action, in partnership with the other regional fora. At present, EFARD is an informal and voluntary mechanism without its own financial resources, all activities are supported through specific initiatives or by voluntary work by the Chair and Steering Committee members. EFARD serves as an umbrella for three major networks and coordination mechanisms on agricultural research for development in Europe, EIARD, ERA-ARD, and AGRINATURA, while SCAR (the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research) furthers the attainment of a coherent European Agricultural Research Agenda:

- > **EIARD**
The European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development - a donor policy coordination mechanism, dealing mainly with support to ARD at the global and regional levels.
- > **ERA-ARD**
The Agricultural Research for Development dimension of the European Research Area - furthers the integration of national ARD programs into the European research area.
- > **AGRINATURA**
The European Alliance on agricultural knowledge for development - represents the main public providers of ARD and specialised education in Europe, with 35 universities and research organisations from 18 countries.

EFARD plays an important advocacy role to help maintain Agricultural Research for Development as a high priority in political agendas, at European and International levels.