



## NGO AND FO PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

Mechanisms and instances at national, regional and  
global level and opportunities for NGO/FO  
coordination

**Summary report of the workshop on May 2nd 2012**

organized within the scope of the PAEPARD project

by **Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires (CSA)**

in collaboration with **INSARD**

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## PREAMBLE

This report sets out to summarize the discussions held during the workshop entitled: « **NGO and FO participation in agricultural research for development: Mechanisms and instances at national, regional and global level and opportunities for NGO/FO coordination** » organized in Brussels on May 2nd 2012, by the CSA within the scope of the PAEPARD project, in collaboration with INSARD.

This was the third consultation of European NGOs under this PAEPARD project, the first having taken place in September 2010 and the second one in September 2011. It was attended by 40 participants, most of whom were representatives of European NGOs.

Chairing this workshop was Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary President of the *Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa* (ROPPA), in collaboration with Marek Poznanski and Julie Flament of the CSA.

This report provides an overview of interventions and discussions during the workshop.

Please note that this report, the program, the list of participants, presentations and photos are available on the CSA website at

[http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=seminaire&id\\_rubrique=12&id\\_mot=188](http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=seminaire&id_rubrique=12&id_mot=188).

## INTRODUCTION

### THE PAEPARD PROJECT

PAEPARD (*Platform for African-European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development*) is a project financed 80% by the European Commission with the objective of consolidating cooperation between Africa and Europe in the area of agricultural research for development (ARD).

The second stage of this project (PAEPARD II, 2010-2013) now under way, aims in particular to foster research partnerships that are more balanced and better targeted to meet users' needs thanks to the inclusion of stakeholders other than researchers, especially farmers' organizations (FOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.

This general objective embraces a number of concrete actions:

- mobilizing researchers and non-researchers alike, both in Africa and Europe, to promote ARD cooperation;
- uniting all stakeholders around pilot partnerships;
- empowering the various stakeholders so that they can work together within research partnerships;
- advocating for support from donors, including the national governments of African countries, in order to sustain inclusive and balanced partnerships.

To meet more specific objectives, the PAEPARD project comprises 7 'work packages' (WPs): WP1 for mobilization of European stakeholders; WP2 for mobilization of African stakeholders; WP3 for information and communication systems; WP4 for capacity-building; WP5 for partnerships; WP6 for advocacy for policy/political framework cohesion; WP7 for coordination and management.

These are taken in charge by members of the PAEPARD consortium bringing together European and African partners from three families of stakeholders, i.e. researchers, the private sector and civil society, and more particularly FOs and NGOs. For further information: <http://paepard.blogspot.com/>

### ROLE OF THE CSA WITHIN THE PAEPARD PROJECT

Within the PAEPARD consortium, the CSA has been authorized by CONCORD (*European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs*) to facilitate the mobilization of European NGOs in order to promote agricultural research for development and partnerships in this area.

The CSA will also be endeavouring to facilitate the involvement of European professional farmers' organizations in the PAEPARD project, primarily via AgriCord.

Further details are available on the CSA website:

[http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=reseau&id\\_rubrique=14&id\\_mot=179](http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=reseau&id_rubrique=14&id_mot=179).

### SUMMARY OF INSARD PROJECT

INSARD (*INcluding Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development*) is an EU-funded project that is working towards making it easier for civil-society organisations (CSOs) – both non-governmental organisations and farmer organisations – to be actively involved in influencing agricultural research systems in Africa.

Involving CSOs in agricultural research for development (ARD) is a great way for scientists to understand the needs of small-scale farmers. Such organisations are important for shaping ARD because, to have a positive impact on small-scale farmers, the research needs to involve them at all stages: in determining needs, identifying problems and opportunities, designing and testing new possibilities, sharing results, and assessing the way the research is done and the results shared.

Incorporating small-scale farmers into ARD in this way will help to better serve their needs and to discover and spread innovations that farmers have been involved in developing.

Some CSOs are already involved in ARD in different parts of Africa, but they know little about what each other is doing. Their efforts to influence the wider research agenda are not well coordinated. INSARD tries to help change that by:

- Designing a method that allows CSOs to participate effectively in regional and international discussions on ARD
- Creating links between European and African CSOs that try to influence ARD policies and practices
- Helping CSOs define research priorities and the best way to communicate these priorities to researchers and policymakers
- Starting to design research interaction between scientists and CSOs, firmly based on small-scale farmers' demands
- Working with key African and European research organisations and donors to strengthen demand-driven ARD and to increase funds for such research.

INSARD is a partnership between:

- ESAFF (Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers' Forum)
- ETC Foundation
- GRET, Professionals for fair development
- PELUM Association
- Practical Action
- REPAOC (Réseau des Plates-formes nationales d'ONG d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre).

## OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP

In this context, the CSA organizes internal consultations for European NGOs and PAOs (Professional Agricultural Organizations) in the form of workshops such as this one with the aim:

- firstly, **to provide input for the PAEPARD project** on the basis of the experiences and considerations of NGOs and PFOs in the area of agricultural research and partnerships;
- secondly, **to generate the interest and commitment of European NGOs and PAOs** in issues concerning agricultural research and the PAEPARD project; and
- and finally, **to foster mutual understanding of the issues at stake** between various families of stakeholders, given that the CSA is striving to open up NGO discussions to others, particularly African farmers' organizations, researchers, and the private sector.

### *Outcomes of the 1<sup>o</sup> consultation (September 2010)*

A first workshop entitled « How can European NGOs reorient research towards more demand-driven approach for African family farmers? » was organized in September 2010 and addressed three main topics:

1. the general conditions for setting up balanced partnerships;
2. the role of NGOs in reorienting ARD; and
3. the inclusion of farmers' organizations in research partnerships.

A summary report of these discussions is available<sup>1</sup>. It is to be noted here that the involvement of FOs in research partnerships had been recognized by the participants as being essential for orienting research towards the needs of African family farmers. Certain factors favouring the participation of smallholder farmers in such partnerships had also been identified, e.g. the presence of structured and professional farmers' organizations, consultation between researchers and FOs as of the initial phases of a project to develop a joint vision of the objectives to be achieved, involvement of FOs in the governance of research projects, capacity-building of FOs to enable such involvement, and the existence of appropriate funding mechanisms.

Some of the conclusions and recommendations arising from this internal consultation, along with the recommendations of similar consultations conducted at research, FO, and private sector levels, served as input for discussions within PAEPARD and contributed towards orienting the activities developed by the project. However, the involvement of FOs in research partnerships under the PAEPARD project itself is still far from being generalized and not without its challenges.

### *Outcomes of the 2<sup>o</sup> consultation (September 2011)*

The aim of the September 2011 consultative workshop was therefore to look more closely at the role of farmers' organizations in agricultural research and at the mechanisms through which they could be included in research partnerships. The two main questions, each addressed in a specific session, were as follows:

- *What role for FOs and what complementarity with other stakeholders for the translation of farmers' needs in terms of research, the dissemination of research findings, and the capitalization and exchange of indigenous knowledge?*

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<sup>1</sup>Please see the CSA website: [http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=collaborer&id\\_article=736&id\\_mot=179](http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=collaborer&id_article=736&id_mot=179)

- *How can partnerships between FOs, researchers and other stakeholders be formalized? What are the mechanisms for funding, governance, and choice of research topics to be put in place?*

The discussions have reaffirmed the need to involve FOs in agricultural research partnerships for development. From African and European experiences, the different roles that can be played by FOs in ARD and associated constraints were addressed. Discussions also focused on the conditions and constraints to the development of partnerships in ARD including producers and integrated manner, on what this means for the different actors involved. A summary of the discussions is available on the CSA website<sup>1</sup>.

Moreover, a third session focussed on ways and means to mobilize all those concerned by agricultural research for development, which is a main thrust of the PAEPARD project.

### **Objective of the 3<sup>o</sup> consultation (May 2012)**

The overall objective of the third consultation was to promote the mobilization of NGOs and FOs in the dynamics of European ARD; raising their awareness and understanding of mechanisms and levels of existing actions, as well as the opportunities and constraints associated with them. The workshop was organized around three levels of participation, by posing the question of the relationship between these levels:

- global (GFAR/GCARD, CGIAR);
- continental/regional (EFARD, FARA, CORAF, ASARECA) ; and
- national (i.e. NARS)

The specific questions asked by the workshop were as follows:

- *What are the existing European and international bodies (forums, multi-stakeholder groups, etc.) and mechanisms for the participation of NGO / FOs to ARD in Africa?*
- *What are the current processes and systems for the involvement of organizations of European civil society (CSOs) in ARD in Africa? - How are they designed, which has been involved and what were the results so far?*
- *What were the lessons learned in terms of opportunities / success? What factors and mechanisms may explain this success?*
- *What were the lessons learned in terms of constraints? What are the factors and mechanisms underlying these constraints?*
- *What is the most appropriate level of participation of NGOs/FOs at the ARD, considering the existing networking of NGOs/FOs and constraints associated with it?*

## SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION

The speakers' presentations, in PDF format and photos, are available on the CSA website: [http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=seminaire&id\\_rubrique=12&id\\_mot=188](http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=seminaire&id_rubrique=12&id_mot=188).

### INTRODUCTION

#### *Workshop presentation by Marek Poznanski (CSA)*

Marek Poznanski welcomed the participants, introduced the PAEPARD project and recalled the objectives of the workshop.

#### *Background by Mamadou Cissokho (ROPPA)*

**Mamadou Cissokho reiterated the need for cooperation and coordination among the actors involved in the development of rural areas and to create the conditions for the dialogue.**

A consultation among stakeholders (NGOs and producer organizations) is necessary since both intend to address rural problems. Equally important is working with international centers of agricultural research for development of the CGIAR and with the national level institutions that are the basis for regional and continental structure (NARS, CORAF, ASARECA and FARA).

The dialogue between actors of civil society and actors of agricultural research can only be done under certain conditions that must be created:

- Means shall be allocated to the various players involved, without which this involvement remains theoretical. Consultation mechanisms between the different levels are longstanding, particularly between research institutions. There is a new willingness to set up formally, using procedures and funds, a consultation with NGOs and FO. In the past, this consultation remained informal;
- Participation must be coupled with shared responsibility and must therefore include the definition of setting priority and planning;
- The declining trend of public research funding by governments, which implies that the institutions of the South have become somewhat of branches of Northern institutions, must be reversed;
- The mandates of each type of players should be specified. For example, the mandate of a public institution to conduct a public research is different from that of NGOs.

## SESSION 1. EXISTING INSTANCES AT GLOBAL LEVEL

### *Presentation of the GFAR and the GCARD by Thomas Price (GFAR Senior Officer)*

Thomas Price presented the GFAR, the context for its establishment, its goals and vision. He also introduced the process of the GCARD, its foundation, objectives and prospects for the second conference to be held late October 2012.

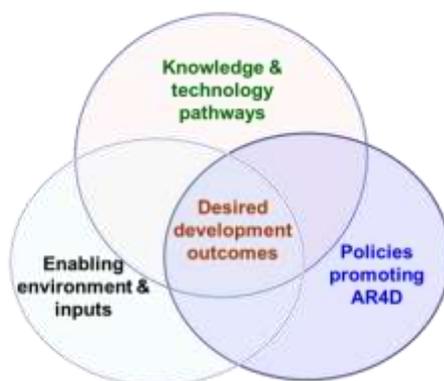
The GFAR, *Global Forum on Agricultural Research*, was created in 1996 and its headquarters were established at the FAO, in Rome-Italy. Its governance is provided by the regional research networks and the CGIAR. The GFAR is a multi-stakeholder platform to promote partnerships and strategic alliances. At origin, the Forum had three objectives: alleviation of rural poverty, food security & sustainable management of the environment.

The creation of the GFAR took place in a context characterized by the following discussions: recognition of the importance of going beyond the aspects of production in agriculture and rural areas, demographic trends, "public" and "private" dynamics, persistent hunger and poverty in "middle income" countries and issues between local knowledge and science.

The GFAR aims to be a catalyst for multi-stakeholder i) advocacy for change, ii) transforming Institutions for the future, iii) inter-regional collective action and iv) knowledge for all. A G8 statement on food security was the follow:

*"We support the fundamental reform processes underway in the global agricultural research system through the Global Forum on Agricultural Research".*

GFAR vision in terms of impact on development is that knowledge and technology are essential but not sufficient, it's necessary also a favorable environment and inputs as well as policies to promote agricultural research for development (see diagram below).



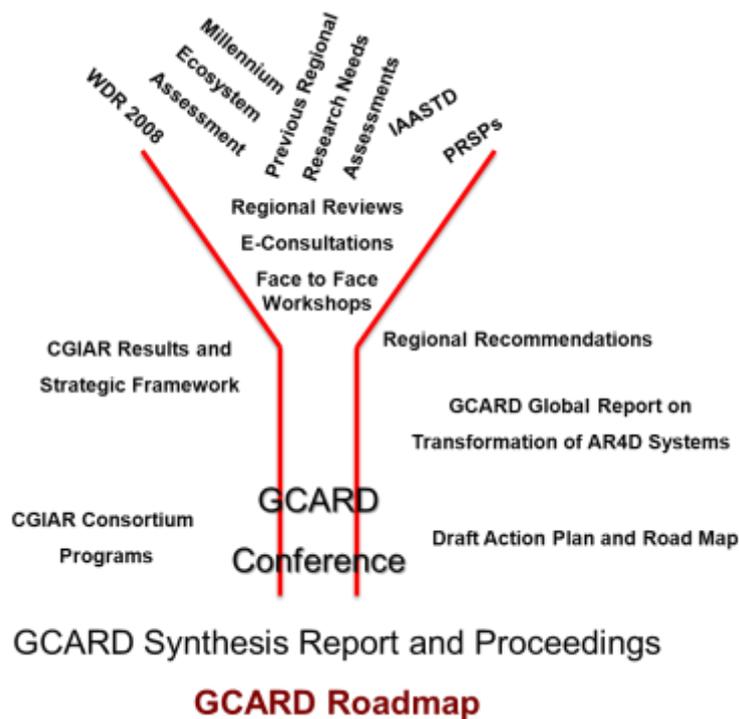
Some outstanding issues led to the development process of GCARD, the *World Conference on Agricultural Research for Development*:

- Why hasn't existing knowledge better benefited smallholder farmers?
- Why have many apparently effective technologies not been adopted?
- Why isn't agricultural innovation better valued in development?
- How can we build more collective action towards systemic and extensive development impacts?

Objectives of the GCARD process:

- Facilitate alignment of the research agenda with development needs of the small-scale and resource-poor ;
- Advocate for more effective investment for ARD ;
- Facilitate dialogue between diverse stakeholders on innovation pathway;
- Promote the integration of the international agricultural research systems with national systems.

The process led in March 2010 at the Montpellier Conference, which brought together 1,000 participants instead of the 200 expected. The figure below illustrates the steps and contributions leading to this conference.



The roadmap resulting from the process define « six essential characteristics for the transformation to well-function of agricultural research develop systems »

1. **Inclusive define key ARD priorities and actions, driven by evolving development :** to mobilize large scale collective action on agro-biodiversity, climate change, etc., Link CGIAR programs with national/regional rural development policy and frameworks, improve foresight mechanisms, link with models and projections and inform from stakeholders perspectives, Gender ("GAP") initiative to develop innovation systems based on robust gender-sensitive analysis tools.
2. **Invest in equitable partnership & accountability among all stakeholders :** to strengthen Regional Fora and their Secretariat functions as inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms, mobilize innovation chain partners (including FOs, CSOs, private sector and other organizations) to engage with large scale ARD programmes, such as CRPs, NAEP, new collective actions mobilizing advanced research with G20 and BRICS nations, including data sharing via CIARD.
3. **Achieve increased investments in resources for ARD to meet development demands:** to track investments & returns with ASTI & other monitoring ARD systems, establish self-sustaining tracking systems; collective advocacy for greater investment in ARD systems,

improve and track determination of impacts, accountabilities & development returns on ARD investments.

4. **Develop required institutional capacities for agricultural knowledge:** to stimulate coordinated action of intra-and inter-regional partners: ARIs (including FGEs), FAO and CGIAR in supporting national capacity development; mobilize new partnerships to bring youth into agriculture and foster local innovation and enterprise/market opportunities; foster sharing use of agricultural information towards innovation and markets; mobilize international learning from role of agricultural knowledge and innovation in rebuilding livelihoods and societies in protracted conflicts/fragile states.
5. **Relate agricultural innovation to development programs and policies:** to organize and lead the GCARD process with the CGIAR; regional discussion of research priorities in relation to development frameworks; link smallholder producers with research-into-use processes and foster and scale-up innovation and enterprise.
6. **Involve stakeholders in demonstration and reporting of outcomes:** GCARD to ensure effective involvement of ARD stakeholders and optimize delivery of Roadmap Objectives; direct end-user feedback informs evolution of CGIAR reform and addresses blockages in innovation pathways.

The conference must be held every 2 years. The next one will be held in Uruguay, Punta del Este from 29 October to 1 November 2012, and is entitled: « ***Delivering the change: Foresight and partnership for innovation and impact on smallholder livelihoods*** ». The aim is to establish how the roadmap can be implemented. It will be structured in plenary sessions on current status of Global ARD: architecture, investments, outcomes as scale. Particular emphasis on gender and woman with 50% women participation;

The participation of NGOs and FO is not framed by a process that would identify those best placed to represent NGOs and FO. Currently, one person represents each category of actors but it is mainly the personal relationships that led to these choices.

### ***Involvement of civil society in the governance of CGIAR/GFAR by Christian Castellanet (GRET)***

**Christian Castellanet recalled the creation of the Committee of NGOs within the CGIAR and its role, including the creation of GFAR, until its dissolution in 2002. He also informed the participants on the current level of involvement of the NGOs within the GCARD.**

The NGO committee of CGIAR, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, was created in 1995, on the initiative of the leadership of Secretary of the CGIAR (World Bank) and the pressure of a few countries, which wanted the participation of civil society through a committee of eight members divided through geographic criteria (1 from each continent + 2 from Europe – invited to two CGIAR meetings per year). The problem of representativeness thus arose from the start, the geographical criteria is not sufficient. The committee was invited to two meetings per year, involving high costs and decisions were made by consensus.

Another problem that arose quickly was the positioning of the committee in relation to certain issues, especially GMOs; the committee was directed towards agro-ecology but the agreements between the CGIAR, large private firms and research centers encouraged private sector involvement in genetic research. This led to debates and disagreements between the committee and NGOs anti CGIAR.

The main positions defended by the NGO Committee were as follows:

- To promote defence an agro-ecology approach, led to the creation of two pillars in the CGIAR: a pillar focuses on increasing productivity and OGMs and another focused on agro-ecology, but the last one in is much shorter if compared to the first.
- The improvement of production to small producers, family farming, in opposition to the mandate of research defined by IFPRI "low food prices to improve food security" (defense of small farmers vs. food production at the lowest cost)
- Promotion of NGO/FO partnership in research and denunciation of risks associated with private partnerships with agro-business.
- Propose farmers representation in CGIAR, two seats and not only one for IFAP. Note that Via Campesina has refused to take its seat.

In terms of results, a certain level of influence at global level (supports from some donors countries; give more weight to « little centers » with ecosystem approaches vs. big mono crop centers). Also no success in getting NGOs and FO more involved in the centers strategy; most research institutions see NGOs as "research assistance"- "extension arm", particularly in the dissemination of research results. In addition, NGOs have failed to be involved in periodic research activities evaluation.

Since 1999, the NGO Committee has been involved in the creation of GFAR. The context was the feeling that National and Regional research organizations were sidelined in CGIAR meetings and the vision was the need to organize multi-stakeholders platforms (forums) at national, regional and global level to design research priorities. At the NGO level, a debate was launched on the issue of representativeness in order to increase their legitimacy. The committee played an important role at this level at the launch of GFAR in 2000; large and open participation of civil society (including anti CG NGOs and FOs), also participation of each region was ensured through the creation of a small executive board with a regional forum and an NGO representative.

The problem of representation of NGOs continued to arise and the means have failed to maintain a return of information between local and regional organizations. In 2002, the committee decided to dissolve as its members saw no more sense to attend these great events without the ability to come together to share information and identify priorities and positions.

Currently, the issue of NGO organization arises again with GCARD. Participation in meetings every two years is open but there is a lack of transparency for the involvement of NGOs since their representation is organized by the regional fora or by invitation of the Secretariat of the CGIAR. This led to the creation of an informal group of NGOs (CSO-GARD), open on a voluntary basis for information sharing and some representation.

At the program level of CGIAR research, the trend is the involvement of NGOs, private sector and FO as multi-stakeholder research has become a criterion of financiers. But these partners are often only "accessories" to top-down programs. At EU level itself, research planning (for domestic purposes) is all but "inclusive" as it is established by experts from research institutions.

### *Discussions*

The discussions addressed the following points:

- **Global governance of NGOs.** Faced with the desire of institutions and processes have a single contact and legitimate, it was recalled that NGOs being created on the basis of ideas, philosophies and different, it is not possible to identify a unique perspective that would worn

by a person speaking on behalf of all. Instead, it is important that dialogue allow different views to express themselves. In the issue of representation and legitimacy of NGOs, it was stressed that the key is transparency, mechanisms for information dissemination and exchange spaces, rather than a formal mechanism for appointment. An email list is one way to ensure these exchanges and communication, networking is a powerful tool in NGOs, but keep in mind that participation is limited to those accustomed to this type of tool; « *ask one FO to participate in online forums, this is like putting a researcher in a field with a hoe!* ».

- **The link between the CGIAR and the CFS within the FAO.** Currently, the CFS (Committee for Food Security) of FAO has not seized the research questions.
- **GFAR governance and organization of NGOs within GFAR.** An assessment of the governance of GFAR will be conducted this year, and some of the questions to be asked are: the role of regions and the role of civil society. Is GFAR still dominated by the search?, Is it important that a mechanism be established to allow transparency in the selection of NGOs participating? ;
- **The role of regional forums for the participation of NGOs and FO in international forums.** It was proposed that the regional fora, such as FARA, have spaces that allow NGOs and FO to prepare large meetings, through local debates on specific issues and defining visions to defend (eg, on production systems). These forums could also provide space for networking of FO at the continental level.
- **The divergence between positioning research institutions involved in the GFAR and CGIAR and NGOs** on the issues of GMOs and privatization of public goods such as research with the potential for patenting was emphasized. Some would debate within these bodies on the right of access to plant resources, models of production (industrial versus smallholder).

## SESSION 2. EXISTING INSTANCES AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

### *Presentation of EFARD by Ann Waters-Bayer (Prolinnova – ETC)*

**Ann Waters-Bayer presented the early years of EFARD, steps taken towards a mechanism for civil society participation in governance forum and the current status and structure.**

EFARD, the European Forum on Agricultural Research and Development was formed in 1997 to provide multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue among European stakeholders to promote Europe-South ARD partnership to achieve food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable use of natural resources.

At that time, several European countries have established national forums (the German forum DFOR example) and the steering committee of EFARD was composed of one representative per country from the public sector organizations (universities or research institutes ); EFARD is an umbrella organization and national forums.

In 2002, a first attempt to involve civil society into governance, Ann Waters-Bayer (as president of a German NGO - Agrecol and member of German ARD forum) was supported by the German government to become engaged with EFARD. Following discussions, the steering committee (SC) structure was reconsidered. The committee then decided to create a seat for each stakeholder group not already represented by members from national fora, either for FOs, NGOs and the private sector. A SC working group was to develop modalities for identifying representatives of these constituencies. But it did not decide on a funding mechanism for the participation in SC meetings to be financed for FOs and NGOs without government funding or commercial profits. Moreover, no mechanism was set up for stakeholder groups representation.

The meetings followed in 2002 and 2005 saw a rise to the idea of mobilizing civil society to develop joint proposals (mobilization before each conference EFARD, YPARD idea, parallel meetings of civil society). But despite this mobilization and participation in conferences EFARD, downstream results were not very visible.

After the 2005 conference, there was a gradual decline on EFARD Secretariat functions, partly due to lack of stable funds (only occasional fund of the European Commission and in kind contributions of countries sending representatives to SC conferences). With a lack of funds, it was no longer possible to organize meetings and conferences. However EFARD continued to represent the European members at the GFAR Steering Committee.

Following an evaluation in 2007, in a context of greater consideration to the impact of development of agricultural research (and therefore for development actors), the role of EFARD was reconsidered. Some national forums have disappeared and no longer the EFARD was considered as a ridge-structure but rather as focusing on the relationship between government bodies and non-governmental bodies in Europe. FOs, NGOs and the private sector are involved although no funds were available for their participation.

In 2009, EFARD has a renewed vigor with the funding of the secretariat by the EC through the PAEPARD project. The new 2011 EFARD strategy was to enhance mobilization of European resources (expertise & funds) to support demand driven ARD to achieve MDGs. The EFARD mission was build partnerships between Europe and South in ARD through various activities:

- Enabling dialogue between European stakeholders in ARD ;
- Improving access to information on ARD ;

- Stimulating more active involvement of European stakeholders in ARD ;
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue at national level in Europe ;
- Integrating Eastern European stakeholders into EFARD ;
- Supporting ARD initiatives within framework of GFAR and GCARD process ;
- Enhancing awareness of decision-makers & public about importance of ARD.

Currently, EFARD have an informal network of stakeholder groups from European countries and EC with interest in ARD (not a legal entity). The members cover costs of EFARD activities themselves. EFARD is composed by: Chair (Coleacp), a vice-chair (SFIAR), and executive secretary (EC) ; a steering committee (SC) comprises 15 people from various organizations committed to developing mechanisms to ensure representation of their stakeholder groups.

At a social civil level, two NGOs are present: ETC, Netherlands and Action Contre la Faim, France. Producer organizations are not directly represented but the AgriCord network (network of NGOs working with FO in the South) is presented through Agriterra, the Netherlands. Communication mechanisms with CSOs are linked with the CSO-GARD e-list which was set up after CGARD 1 and links to networks such as and projects like INSARD.

The objectives of civil society organizations in EFARD are better informed and coordinate European civil society on the ARD and make it able to contribute more strongly to the ARD directed by small producers, in the field at the political level. The main challenges and opportunities for civil society are:

- Opportunities for CSOs to become involved in EFARD activities (depend on own initiative) ;
- Interest in EFARD to have a NGO person chairing SC (current chair : private sector) ;
- Major constraint : time & funds for CSOs to be actively involved ;
- Opportunity for CSOs to be partners in ARD projects, e.g. in response to EU calls;
- Challenge to stimulate European networks of development NGOs (e.g. CONCORD) to give more attention to ARD ;
- Opportunity for anyone interested to join EFARD Open Forum ([www.efard.eu](http://www.efard.eu)).

### ***Example at National level: Swiss National ARD Forum by Martina Graf (YPARD)***

**Martina Graf presented the SFIAR, Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research, its goals, structure, key challenges and opportunities forum.**

The SFIAR is an informal multi-stakeholder group of Swiss institutions and private individuals interested in agricultural research for developing countries. This is actually the continuation of the Swiss Platform on International Agricultural Research launched at the ministerial conference on International Agricultural Research in 1995 in Lucerne.

The forum objectives are

- Promote the visibility of Swiss ARD in the international ARD community and in the public;
- Share information between Swiss stakeholders in ARD and allow dialogue within this community on different views, interests and perspectives related to ARD;
- Promote collaboration and complementarities between the different stakeholders involved in International ARD in Switzerland;
- Play an advocacy role at national and international levels by contributing to shape political decisions about ARD;

- Serve as a national partner in the EFARD and the GFAR and supporting the objectives of these organizations;

The guiding principles of SFIAR are:

- Subsidiary, when other players are not already active or adapted for the execution of specific activities;
- The additional benefits as a result of interventions of SFIAR
- Complementarity and synergies that enhance the current work and existing initiatives;
- Openness to all parties interested and affected by ARD;
- Transparency in the SFIAR activities;
- Collaboration in the form of partnerships based on common interests and mutual benefits;

The SFIAR is composed of a president, a vice president, a Secretariat hosted by HAFL, an institutional memory and working groups (SFIAR Award). The main donors are SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), FOAG (Federal Office for Agriculture) and Syngenta Foundation. The members are research institutions and universities, NGOs, private sector, FOs, public agencies, private individuals and network managers as YPARD.

Activities are the animation of an electronic platform for information on agricultural research for development (this choice is explained by the lack of time for physical meetings), the annual award (SFIAR Award) for scientists working for a Swiss institution in ARD, meetings of SFIAR members to discuss issues related to ARD, the representation of Switzerland in international ARD fora such as EFARD and YPARD (*Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development*).

The success of SFIAR in 2011 was the strong attendance at the meetings, regular visits to the website that contributes to a better outward visibility of activities from all different institutions, the award prized of several interesting and innovative projects. At the same time it gains attention for ARD and contributes to new debates. A great activity on the forum with a wide range of actors and interests supports consistency provided by the Secretariat. The main constraints are to find new members and especially to involve the private sector, to mobilize members within SFIAR, lobbying and time.

### *Discussions*

The discussions addressed the following points:

- The need for reflection on the reorientation of research funding in Africa, research programs are defined by donors who are not listening the civil society;
- The need to ensure a link between the national level, which makes most of the decisions and where the majority of available resources, and regional levels which provide guidance;
- The current difficulty to get in touch with civil society in Eastern Europe;
- The opportunity offered by the tendency of donors to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- The difficulty of mobilizing development NGOs who are not involved, therefore, not interested in the ARD;
- The need to involve and bring together two types of NGOs: NGOs in the field and those involved in advocacy and to link the activities of NGOs and the ARD;
- The fact that EFARD does not have the same status as the regional forums in Africa as FARA and ASARECA, that are working in their own regions and countries;
- **The thinking to be done involving diaspora.**

### SESSION 3. EXISTING INSTANCES AT AFRICAN LEVEL

#### *The ASARECA presentation by Mary Jo Kakinda*

Mary Jo Kakinda presented the results of her study as part of INSARD, sponsored by PAEPARD via CSA. The study focussed especially on the challenges for civil society participation in ASARECA governance and programme implementation and existing ASARECA mechanisms and research partnerships to use technology.

ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa) is a sub-regional, non-profit association of national agricultural research systems (NARS) of 11 countries in Eastern and Central Africa: Burundi, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda.

Functions of ASARECA :

- Develop a shared vision among stakeholders;
- Coordinate collective action for ARD at sub-regional level and empower end users of ASARECA's programmes;
- Contribute to the development of appropriate knowledge, methodologies, information and technologies;
- Facilitate the transfer of knowledge, information and technology;
- Mobilize and allocate resources for agricultural research, training and education;
- Facilitate efficient operation of the NARS at the national level and the sharing of research outputs and benefits among NARS;
- Work towards the conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production.

Challenges for the participation of NGOs and FO within ASARECA mechanisms are on three levels:

- **Governance structures:** At general assembly level – no consultations, no feedback mechanisms and no link between FOs and NGOs in ARD; at board and directors level – FOs that are affiliated to EAFF are represented on board but other FOs are not. There is also no mechanism for the NGO representative to report to NGOs; at business committee level, representatives do not draw their mandate from CSOs in ARD.
- **Planning processes.** The CSOs are not included in the development of ASARECA's overall strategy and in development of research agenda therefore. There is no mechanism for CSOs that do not participate in the program strategy development workshops to give their input
- **Project development and implementation.** Multiple challenges exist : Lack of awareness about ASARECA, Very short deadlines for submission of concept notes (CNs), Lack of qualified scientists to lead research projects, Lack of capacity to develop fundable research proposals, Inadequate structures and systems to meet World Bank/ASARECA's reporting requirements.

The challenges for the establishment of effective partnerships involving civil society are:

- Lack of common interests and shared expectations among FOs, NGOs, NARIs, and training institutions.
- Lack of coordination and collaboration between NGOs and FOs so as to be able to play a meaningful role in ARD, learn from each other's experience and influence ARD towards increased focus on family farming and sustainable agriculture
- Lack of mutual respect, transparency and accountability between researchers and CSOs and between NGOs and FOs.;
- Delays in implementing planned activities due to a large number of partners and due to bureaucracies in the NARIs.
- High staff turn-over among national NGOs that require regular and on-going training in partnership building to get staff on track.
- Lack of experience of CSOs working with NARIs and universities and vice versa.
- Lack of documentation of successful research projects involving CSOs. ;
- Lack of awareness (among ASARECA staff) about the capacity and financial challenges of national NGOs.
- Most scientists attached to research projects are busy and do not delegate their responsibilities when unavailable leading to delays in project implementation.
- Scientists working within the narrow sphere of scientific research and not as development and change agents.
- Scientists having a tendency not to fully share research processes/research outputs.

The challenges for the participation in technology uptake are:

- Lack of strategies for involvement in research and for up-scaling research innovations.
- Inability of national CSOs to provide co-funding for research projects and for up-scaling research innovations.
- Lack of appreciation of the AIS approach that brings together all stakeholders along a production value chain.
- Lack of user-friendly publications and unnecessary delays in developing simple publications that can be used by smallholder farmers.
- Lack of skills in communication, planning, market development and M&E.

The challenges for influencing agricultural policies are:

- Limited CSO engagement with ASARECA's Policy Analysis and Advocacy and Agro-Biodiversity and Biotechnology programmes.
- Lack of an open and constructive dialogue between ASARECA and CSOs on sustainable agriculture.
- ASARECA's extensive involvement in the promotion of GMOs which is not appreciated by CSOs who are promoting family farming and sustainable agriculture.

The study recommendations regarding participation in governance structures and planning processes are: both FOs and NGOs create a coordinating body and be able to speak with one voice; to elect leaders at the sub-regional level to represent the civil society in the governance bodies of ASARECA and engage and agree with ASARECA on the representation of elected leaders in the governing bodies and planning processes.

The recommendations related to participation in research projects are:

- Through the CSO networks, create awareness about ASARECA's mandate, roles and programmes.
- Through CSO representatives on governing bodies, lobby ASARECA to circulate CNs among CSO networks and for more time to develop CNs.
- Mobilise resources and build the capacity of CSOs in developing fundable proposals with hypothesis to be tested and methodology to be used.

The recommendations related to the establishment of effective partnerships are:

- Mobilise resources and train a pool of trainers for building partnerships with various stakeholders in ARD including FOs, NARIs, universities, local and central governments.
- FOs and NGOs need to engage at national and sub-regional levels and come up with strategies for working together and speaking with one voice.
- ASARECA to document and share examples of partnerships that have added value through good collaboration with various stakeholders.
- ASARECA to identify potential partnerships in ARD and nurture these partnerships.
- Create awareness and lobby research institutions for mutual respect, transparency and equality of all partners.
- Initiate the signing of MoUs with ASARECA and research and training institutions for cooperation and capacity building.

The recommendations related to the use of technology are:

- Package research innovations and develop joint proposals for up-scaling such innovations.
- Lobby the European Commission for support towards a comprehensive capacity building programme and long-term support for up-scaling research innovations.
- ASARECA to produce more publications and audio-visuals that meet farmers' needs;
- Document the Catholic Relief Services case study on leading scientific research and circulate it widely.
- ASARECA to establish linkages with CSO networks and work with them to upscale research innovations.

The recommendations related to the influence of agricultural policies are:

- Mobilise resources for training CSOs in advocacy and lobbying skills.
- Deepen awareness of national, sub-regional and international policies and frameworks and work with organisations involved in advocacy on such issues to avoid duplication;
- CSO networks need to engage with ASARECA on issue of GMOs and the possible impact on sustainable agriculture.
- Partner with ASARECA's Policy Analysis and Advocacy Programme to influence policies and frameworks that affect smallholder farmers.

CSOs involvement in research projects contributes significantly to smallholder farmers benefiting from research interventions. There are however major challenges related to partnership between the different stakeholders in ARD which need to be addressed. If the different stakeholders can work as equal partners in research, they will come up with innovations that meet the goal of benefitting smallholder farmers.

### *Presentation of CORAF by Guy Tete Benissan (REPAOC) and Mamadou Cissokho (ROPPA)*

**Guy Tete Benissan, who kindly agreed to replace Mamadou Goita, briefly introduced CORAF based on a study by INSARD. His intervention was completed by Mamadou Cissokho.**

The CORAF is the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development. It was created in 1987 by focusing first on the French-speaking West Africa countries. The headquarters was located in France especially due to financial and strategic location. English-speaking countries were involved in 1990 and the headquarters was then moved from Paris to Dakar.

CORAF participates in initiatives supported by the FARA as the program for capacity building for research and development in Africa and the regional information system and agricultural training (RAILS).

At the governance level, FOs and NGOs meet in the General Assembly within the Administration Committee, but there is no clear mechanism for CSOs to integrate appropriate national processes. The involvement of NGOs and FOs in the steering committee CORAF is of course important, but not enough. It is necessary to develop mechanisms and strategies to assure their fully participation in the ARD.

Representatives of NGOs and FOs who sit in the GA in the CA should do more lobbying for research on smallholders development agriculture and especially to help them to work together at national level.

Within the committee, a difficulty concerns the definition of evaluation criteria related to competitive funds; those criteria differ between researchers and farmers. Researches consider the impact on science and technology and farmers, on the consolidation of smallholder agriculture.

Another general difficulty is related to the difficulty for researchers to consider the individual family farm as a whole and work with different areas of research on it.

An important link between CORAF and FO is that of searching for funding. Thus ROPPA (Network of Peasant Organizations and Producers in West Africa) and CORAF lead in partnership advocacy work with ECOWAS (Economic Community of Africa west) so that finances CORAF.

## **WORKING GROUPS**

### *Issues addressed*

The participants were divided into two groups to facilitate sharing and participation of everyone. A group focused on issues related to the participation of FOs and NGOs in ARD at regional level, the other focused on the global level. Three main questions were asked of each group:

- Main constraints for civil society (NGO and FO) participation in ARD to each level
- What mechanisms for better organize and reinforce links of NGOs and FOs with different levels of participation?
- Consensus on 2-3 actions to be taken

## *Synthesis of the discussion*

The summary below is from the reports presented in plenary by the rapporteurs of each group, respectively Ann Waters-Bayer (ETC) and Patrick Mulvany (Practical Action).

The discussions addressed the constraints and the following points:

- **The legitimacy and representativeness of civil society organizations.** The legitimacy of civil society organizations is often undermined for several reasons: insufficient structuring, difficulty in speaking with one voice because of the diversity of views, difficulty of being taken seriously, difficult to be heard when one is a minority, etc. Concerning the representativeness of organizations over their members, some want the establishment of mechanisms and criteria for representation within organizations, for example through contributions and evaluation mechanisms. The recognition of different levels within an organization, being based on the local and independent organizations is also key factors in the representation. Concerning the representativeness of civil society in the instances, some feel that the establishment of mechanisms, such as elections is necessary; others emphasize that elective representation does not exist within the NGO and that an international organization of NGOs will never exist, but the key is to be liable in relation to other NGOs / its members and provide feedback and transparency by an autonomous process. Autonomy and transparency are cited as essential for legitimacy and representativeness of civil society organizations.
- **Lack of interest of civil society organizations for ARD.** Many organizations do not see any link between their activities and research and so do not envisage their participation in the ARD. It is necessary to mobilize civil society and highlighting these links and the role that CSO can play within ARD. The fact that public funds are invested in research should guide them to that approach. In order to encourage participation is necessary to focus on the debate, on goals and projects. In this regard, work on a local and national basis then increased to higher levels, may be appropriate.
- **Funding and definition of research.** Funding directs research and promotes a certain type of research. This is not always conducive to the participation of civil society. The establishment of "co-financing", the orientation of funds to national research systems and the establishment of a monitoring system budgets for ARD (budget-tracking, Paris Declaration) are trails proposed by the participants;
- **The means of participation.** Opportunities exist at various levels for civil society participation in ARD but this requires means (funds).
- **The shared vision.** The need of shared vision between CSO and research was mentioned. Others insisted on importance of participation and dialogue mechanisms which, beyond shared vision, are based on a common objective: a better participation of producer's organizations.
- **The involvement of civil society at the global level (CGIAR, GFAR).** For some, the main vision in place in these forums is that is too far to participate. For others, the importance that public resources are drained by these instances, developing guidelines to be used by other States, deserves the interest of the civil society.

## ANNEXE 1. PROGRAM

### PROGRAMME –2<sup>nd</sup> MAY, 2012

- 8:30 Welcome of participants
- 9:00-9:30 **Opening and setting the scene**  
Official opening and welcoming remarks by CSA  
Getting to know each other
- 09.30-09.45 General overview of existing instances at different levels by Mamadou Cissokho
- 09.45-11.00 **Existing instances at Global level**  
General overview and historical background by Thomas Price  
Presentation about GFAR/ GCARD by Thomas Price  
Presentation about CGIAR by Christian Castellanet  
Short Table discussion
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee/Tea break
- 11:30 – 12:15 **Existing instances at EU level**  
Presentation about EFARD by Ann Waters-Bayer  
Example of national level: Swiss National ARD Forum by Martina Graf  
Short Table discussion
- 11:30 – 13:00 **Existing instances at Africa level**  
Presentation about ASARECA by Mary-Jo Kakinda  
Presentation about CORAF and challenges at national level by Mamadou Goita  
Short table discussion
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-15:30 **Parallel working groups**  
Group 1: **On Global level**  
Group 2: **On regional / continental level (UE/Africa)**  
Group 3: **On national level**
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee/Tea break
- 16:00-17:30 **Group presentation and plenary discussion**  
Key messages  
Closing

*Debate Moderator : Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary President of ROPPA*

## ANNEXE 2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Surname	Name	Organization	Country
Allaverdian	Céline	GRET	France
Castellanet	Christian	GRET	France
Chancellor	Tim	NRI-PAEPARD	UK
Cissokho	Mamadou	ROPPA	Sénégal
Danau	Alex	CSA-PAEPARD	Belgium
Desgain	Stéphane	CNCD 11.11.11 - PFSA	Belgium
Diop	Jean-Marie	Consultant Indépendant	Belgium
Ewole	Gustave	PROPAC - PAEPARD	Cameroon
Flament	Julie	CSA-PAEPARD	Belgium
Gabor	Eszter	GAIA	Hungary
Gallot	Estelle	AgriCord	Belgium
Goita	Mamadou	ROPPA	Sénégal
Graf	Martina	YPARD	Switzerland
Hanssens	Niels	Eucord	Belgium
Hémeryck	Rémi	SOS SAHEL International France	France
Henin	Vincent	Louvain Coopération	Belgium
Janne	Nathalie	CNCD	Belgium
Kakinda	Mary-Jo	INSARD - consultant	Uganda
Muchiri	Stephen	EAFF	Kenya
Mugabe	Jonas	FARA-PAEPARD	Ghana
Ngwenya	Hlami	Consultant - facilitator	South Africa
Oudwater	Nicolienne	INSARD - ETC	Netherlands
Oumar Ba	Cheikh	IPAR	Sénégal
Peters	Heinz	Deutsche Welthungerhilfe	Deutschland
Poznanski	Marek	CSA-PAEPARD	Belgium
Price	Thomas	GFAR Senior Officer	
Somerhausen	Eric	Oxfam Solidarité	Belgium
Stepman	François	PAEPARD	Belgium
Tete Benissan	Guy	REPAOC	Senegal
Ulmer	Karin	APRODEV	Belgium
Varga	Zsófia	GAIA	Hungary
Warburton	Hilary	Practical Action	UK
Waters-Bayer	Ann	Prolinnova - ETC	Netherlands

