

FARA Annual Report 2003



Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

PMB CT 173 Cantonments
2 Gowa Close, Roman Ridge
Accra, Ghana

2004

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FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa), 2004. *FARA Annual Report 2003*. Accra, Ghana. 72 pp.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français, sous le titre : Rapport annuel de FARA 2003

Photographs: M. Myra Wopereis-Pura

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ISSN 1727-7477

BluePencil Infodesign
Hyderabad, India
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Pragati Offset Pvt. Ltd.
Hyderabad, India
www.pragati.com



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Message by the FARA Chair

Papa Abdoulaye Seck

The year 2003 has opened opportunities for Africa to build new partnerships and formulate actions to implement endorsed visions and strategies. Several global conferences and meetings have assisted in refocusing agendas for Africa. FARA held its own second plenary meeting, with about 250 participants attending. This show of interest from donors and international organizations in assisting Africa to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals through agriculture as its engine of growth has been a welcome surprise. Added to this are the motivation and interest of Africans themselves for change and achievement of the African vision. The meeting endorsed FARA's strategic plan and implementation framework. It identified three main functions that the Secretariat should focus on, namely, advocacy and constituency building, promotion of partnership, and dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge. Two programs were endorsed as priorities, namely the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program and the Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Program.



Another major achievement was the endorsement, by the Ministerial meeting in June 2003, of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to serve as Africa's framework for agriculture. Production of this document involved input from several organizations, including FARA's contribution to the fourth pillar on 'Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption.' Moving ahead to implement this pillar, FARA signed an agreement with NEPAD for FARA to act as the technical arm for its implementation.

As a start in taking this assignment of Chairmanship, I have co-organized (with the Vice-Chairwoman) a Retreat with the Sub-Regional Organizations (SROs) to emphasize the importance of the role that the SROs play in making FARA a success. We strongly believe that FARA's strength depends on strong SROs, which in turn depends on strong national agricultural research systems (NARS). It is therefore crucial for FARA's program to focus on strengthening the NARS. We also recognized that the NARS are made up of the national agricultural research institutes, universities and NGOs working on agricultural development, agricultural extension agencies, civil societies (such as farmers' organizations), and the private sector. To strengthen FARA's foundation, the Retreat identified priority issues, namely, improving ownership, governance and efficiency within the NARS. There is a need to have an overview of what the SROs are doing in order to make sound

judgments and to identify common areas for collective action. The SROs and FARA could work together to strengthen sharing of information, create feedback mechanisms and sustain resources for research and development.

In strengthening FARA, we should recognize that FARA operates at different levels, thus its plans of action are developed on the basis of various interventions. It is recognized that FARA acts as the professional technical body to advise political leaders on agriculture; however, at the same time FARA is the coordinator-facilitator for SROs, NARS and other international organizations working in Africa. The basic aim is to achieve effectiveness and efficiency in using Africa's limited resources.

We strongly believe that FARA is in a very strong position to coordinate, facilitate and advocate for agricultural research for development based on the strong support from its stakeholders that is achieved through extensive consultation.



Message by the Executive Secretary

Monty P. Jones

The second year of operation of the FARA Secretariat brought good opportunities for partnership building—the main reason why we focus this year’s report on partnership. FARA’s approach is to increase and sustain funding to agricultural research and development in Africa, but at the same time to enhance political thrust in programs through NEPAD.

Several initiatives, programs, networks and projects have been introduced in Africa to eradicate poverty and increase productivity by foreign donors with the cooperation of some national programs. But still Africa’s economic performance remains way behind the rest of the world. A recent study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) indicates that Africa is likely to fall well short of achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals. A more disturbing trend is the increase in the proportion of people who are hungry.



In trying to reverse these trends, Africans need to act themselves and acquire ownership and responsibility in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Creating NEPAD has been a big step. FARA was therefore proud to be chosen as its technical arm in implementing its fourth pillar on ‘Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption.’ FARA itself was created in response to the need to have a body that is Africa owned, African led and Africa based. It was therefore fitting that FARA was recognized by the Ghanaian Government as an international body with its headquarters in Accra, Ghana. The agreement between FARA and Ghana has given FARA the leverage to be flexible and responsive, and to be an autonomous

body that can act towards the achievement of the African Vision for Agricultural Research.

The FARA General Assembly in May 2003 endorsed that FARA should focus on three main functions, namely, advocacy and constituency building, information and knowledge sharing and dissemination, and promotion of partnerships. To be able to build the confidence of its constituency, FARA focused on building partnerships based on existing programs, networks and organizations, in order to create economies of scale and necessary critical mass. One of the programs considered worth pursuing was the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program. Although, this program was rejected by the Science Council of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR–SC) a few years ago, FARA believes that it has high potential to create solid partnerships and to develop a common research agenda among its stakeholders without creating animosity. Another

program pursued was the Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Program (MAPP) with the main objective of strengthening African institutions.

As FARA pursues the implementation and success of its programs, it makes sure that its founding organizations—the SROs—are highly active in all project inception. To clear out any differences, an SRO–FARA Retreat was held. It identified key issues that would strengthen FARA.

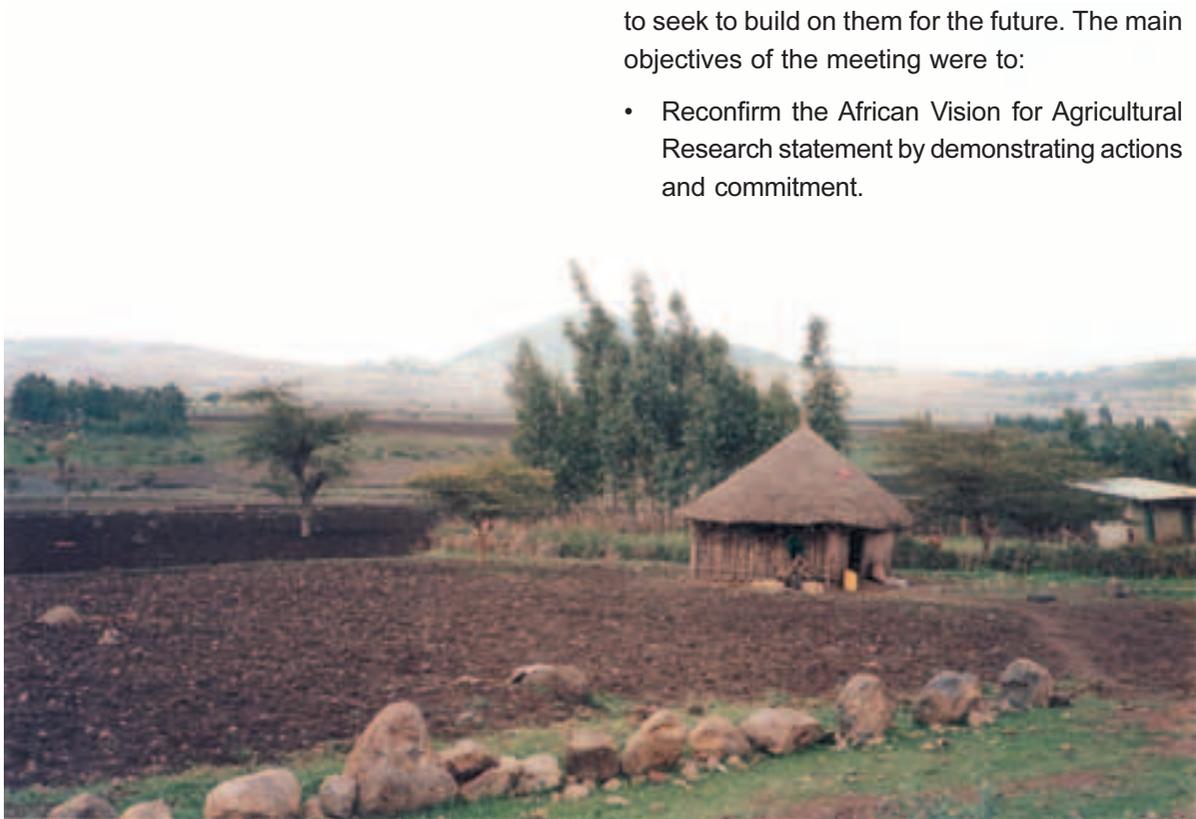
In fulfilling its openness and transparency, any organization may participate in FARA's programs as long as its objectives are similar to those of FARA. The 'Stakeholders' profiles' in this Report highlights positive outcomes of initial discussions and activities between FARA and other organizations. FARA believes that in creating functional partnerships and strategic alliances, the African Vision for Agricultural Research can be achieved.



The Second FARA General Assembly

FARA's Second General Assembly, which was hosted by the Government of Senegal in Dakar on 19–20 May 2003, was attended by almost 250 participants. This was the first opportunity for FARA stakeholders to assess FARA's progress, by looking at actual achievements, and to seek to build on them for the future. The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Reconfirm the African Vision for Agricultural Research statement by demonstrating actions and commitment.



- Clarify and define FARA's mandate, specific roles, and organizational structure.
- Agree on priority activities for FARA.
- Endorse FARA's agenda for the next 3–5 years.

The primary outcome sought from the Assembly was a declaration articulating the response of Africa's agricultural technology coalition to the African development agenda, which would set out clearly defined principles and guidelines on the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in their contribution to the agenda and a three-year rolling work-program for implementing it. This was formulated and agreed and became known as the 'Dakar Declaration.'

The General Assembly had four sessions: an opening ceremony, a plenary session with the theme 'Vision to action,' parallel sessions on 'Good news from Africa,' and a session for concluding statements from the participants. The plenary session discussions included:

- Reconfirmation of the Durban Statement 'The way forward for agricultural research and development in Sub-Saharan Africa' (otherwise known as the African Vision for Agricultural Research).
- Building consensus on FARA's functions, operational modalities and agenda.
- Discussions on FARA's initial partnership-building activities in connection with the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program (SSA-CP), the MAPP, and developing capacity for biotechnology.
- Articulation of the roles and perspectives of FARA's stakeholders.
- FARA's linkages and contribution to international initiatives such as the UN Secretary

General Kofi Annan's Agricultural Productivity in Africa study, the World Bank's Science and Technology (S&T) Assessment, the Africa–Caribbean–Pacific Dialog on Science and Technology, International Dimension on the European Commission 6th Framework Program, and USAID's Initiative to End Hunger in Africa.

The session on 'Good news from Africa' focused on the positive outcomes of work of the NARS and the SROs in the areas of natural-resource management, genetic-resource management, capacity building, institutional reform, policy and trade.

Opening session

The General Assembly was opened by H.E. Mr Christian Diatta, Senegal's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock. He stressed the need for joint efforts by the national, regional and international organizations to help African farmers. He emphasized Senegal's firm commitment to increased agricultural productivity and recalled that H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, was one of the four heads of state who had initiated the NEPAD. He reiterated the importance of agriculture as an engine of economic growth as recognized in NEPAD. The use of advances in science and technology through collaboration would, he believed, lead to enhanced agricultural productivity, improved livelihoods and sound natural-resource management. He stressed the need for African governments and other stakeholders to communicate and share experiences and information that would lead to technological innovation and in turn realize FARA's Vision.

Professor Joseph Mukiibi, Chairman of FARA, welcomed the participants. He retraced the processes leading to the establishment of FARA, starting from its conception in 1997 through its formal launching on 6 April 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the First General Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique in March 2002, culminating with the establishment of the Secretariat in Accra, Ghana in July 2002.

Dr Papa Abdoulaye Seck, Director General, *Institut sénégalais de recherches agricoles* (ISRA), welcomed the participants as head of the host institution and highlighted the activities of the national agricultural research community in Senegal.

Dr Emmy Simmons, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, USAID, gave the keynote address. She lauded the transition from dependence on donor leadership of African agricultural research to the establishment of a viable inclusive Africa-based and African-led coordination mechanism. She stressed the importance of science and technology in bringing about improved agricultural productivity, economic growth, poverty alleviation and better nutrition. She reconfirmed the donors' commitment to helping the African scientific community to meet the challenges in making the transition from Vision to action. FARA, through partnership building, could bring out innovative ideas and technologies. The private sectors and other stakeholders have their roles to play in helping African scientists improve productivity, motivate capacity building, reduce poverty and hunger, and realize the African Vision for Agricultural Research.

To achieve these objectives and bring about a Green Revolution in Africa, she called on FARA



to aim for convergent goals in Africa's agricultural research, to build consensus on feasible targets, to promote professional competence through capacity strengthening, and to put African scientists in control. FARA should also motivate farmers, processors, marketers, consumers and policy-makers to be involved in setting the agricultural research agenda. In summary, she identified four factors that could guide the plenary discussions:

- Are FARA's programs meaningful in terms of improving the lives of the poor?
- Is FARA generating progress towards the goal of achieving 6% per annum growth in agricultural productivity?
- Is FARA providing conditions in which stakeholders can maximize their professional competence and skills to develop new technologies and enabling policies?
- Will FARA's programs enable stakeholders to achieve environmental sustainability?

Status of FARA's initial program components

The General Assembly is FARA's highest decision-making organ. It provides guidance and makes decisions aimed at making the best use of the

available resources to catalyze and coordinate agricultural research for development through FARA's primary functions, namely, advocacy, promotion of functional partnerships, and facilitating information and knowledge dissemination and exchange.

Dr Monty Jones, FARA Executive Secretary, reported on the Secretariat's progress since July 2002. The major accomplishments were the establishment of the Secretariat and preparation of the documents essential to FARA's own orderly development, including its strategy, implementation framework and rolling medium-term plan. FARA's outputs included a Manual for Competitive Grants [based on a template provided by the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)] endorsed by the European Union through the European Consortium for Agricultural Research in the Tropics (ECART); significant contribution to developing chapter 5 of NEPAD's CAADP; and, the working draft proposal for the SSA-CP for which FARA has overall responsibility. The FARA Secretariat held frequent meetings with the SROs and many other African and non-African institutions, which represented the major stakeholders in Africa's agricultural development. Memoranda of Understanding were currently being negotiated with the African Union, NEPAD and the Economic Commission for Africa.

Dr Francisco Reifschneider, Director of the CGIAR, stated that Challenge Programs were conceived to fill critical gaps in agricultural research. They were major experiments in a new way of organizing and promoting research for development. He reconfirmed that the CGIAR was pleased to be a partner in the process of

developing a common agenda for collaborative research to achieve African development.

Dr Njabulo Nduli, Deputy Director General of the Department of Agriculture in South Africa, presented the major components of the MAPP. It was designed to address NEPAD's goals from the perspective of NARS institutional development. Its aim is to induce innovation in African agriculture with improved policies, investment in science and technology, and strengthening the capacity of African researchers. It will focus on small-holder systems, with special attention to the needs of women and vulnerable groups. It will forge synergies among NARS, SROs and the CGIAR. It proposes innovative funding arrangements, including a multi-donor trust fund.

Dr Ed Rege of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) reported on the outcome of a side-event that had been held to consider the role of biotechnology in Africa's development and FARA's role in relation to other players (see 'Reports on side-events at the Second FARA General Assembly' below).

Dr Peter Matlon of the Rockefeller Foundation, as Chairman of the session on FARA's initial program components, noted that FARA was operating in a fundamentally changing environment. In his view, it was a compliment to FARA that it had been approached by several agencies that wanted it to take over and develop their projects and schemes. He cautioned, however, that whatever FARA undertakes should fit with its priorities and resource availability and over which FARA could assert African ownership. He praised the working draft of the SSA-CP, saying that it was an elegant document that defied the rule that committees cannot produce well-written proposals.

Summary of discussions and recommendations

There was general consensus on FARA's roles—advocacy, partnerships and knowledge management. It was noted that FARA has an important role to play in facilitating sharing of experiences and best practices among SROs. However, the diversity across the region should be recognized and FARA should not attempt to create unwarranted forms of harmonization.

The complementarities and synergies between FARA–SROs and SROs–NARS must be clearly defined and the principle of subsidiarity should be maintained to ensure the most effective and efficient decision-making and collaboration. FARA should be careful not to set up overly heavy and costly structures.

The General Assembly was satisfied with the progress and accomplishments made by the FARA Secretariat. It was pleased that FARA's program planning process had involved a wide range of actors [research scientists from national agricultural research institutes (NARIs), universities, international agricultural research centers (IARCs), advanced research institutions (ARIs), regional organizations, NGOs, farmers' organizations and the private sector].

FARA's Strategy and Implementation Framework were endorsed, but the Secretariat was advised to keep the Implementation Framework flexible so that it can be modified as experience is gained through implementation. The Assembly also reconfirmed that FARA should keep to its Vision and Mission. However, it directed that benchmarks should be set by which the attainment of FARA's objectives could be assessed and revised. The activities should be prioritized to achieve an African agenda and with a clear focus

that would ensure that FARA's resources are not dissipated in too many directions. The Assembly endorsed the recommendations of FARA's Executive Committee on three priority programs, i.e., advocacy and constituency building, information and knowledge management, and building partnerships such as the SSA–CP and the MAPP.

The Assembly approved the process by which the SSA–CP proposal was being developed and encouraged the Secretariat to complete its development in consultation with stakeholders and the CGIAR Secretariat. It concurred that the working draft proposal was well written and an excellent reflection of the outcomes of the Program Formulation Workshop held in Accra in March 2003. But it noted that, because the SSA–CP represented a new approach to agricultural research for development, it should be subject to questioning and scrutiny, but this should not impede its development as an urgent step towards increasing the impact of agricultural research.

The FARA Executive Committee and Secretariat work hand in hand to meet with African political leaders in advocating for increased investment in agricultural research. Below: FARA meeting the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Industry of Uganda.



On biotechnology, FARA was advised to:

- Continue consultations within the FARA community, NEPAD and other partners to build consensus on mechanisms for the design and implementation of the concept of networks of centers of excellence in biosciences—these networks should be designed to effectively meet the needs of all SROs, facilitate discussions on biosafety and ensure complementarities with national and sub-regional initiatives.
- Consider mechanisms for sharing up-to-date information on the progress achieved by a few leading countries and for assisting other countries to develop balanced and appropriate regulatory frameworks.

The Plenary recommended that FARA should initiate a broad and imaginative set of capacity-strengthening activities within and in addition to the SSA–CP. It was noted that without adequate human capacity in and across Africa, FARA's programs cannot succeed.

The roles and perspectives of FARA's stakeholders

At this early stage in FARA's existence, it was especially important for FARA to hear its stakeholders' expectations and their suggestions for effective mechanisms to accomplish them. The following is a summary of the highlights and action points that emerged from the discussions, with special attention to ideas, comments and suggestions about FARA's interactions with different categories of stakeholder.

Dr Bongiwe Njobe, Director General of the South African Department of Agriculture, as Chair-

woman of the session noted that the “roles of and perspectives from FARA's stakeholders” included a challenge to the participants to think carefully about the accurate definition of various stakeholders (e.g., NARS) and their constituencies. With reference to Dr Simmons' keynote address, she advised that the different motives for making partnerships should be taken into account.

SROs for agricultural research

Representatives from the SROs—the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA, Dr Adiel Mbabu), the West and Central African Council for Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD, Dr Ndiaga Mbaye) and the Southern African Development Community's Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (SADC–FANR, Dr Keogile Molapong)—outlined the membership, goals and objectives of their organizations. All three devoted significant time to the priorities that had been identified for their sub-regions and the SROs' modes of operation, including networking. Though tailored to the respective sub-regions, they indicated significant convergences which could benefit from sharing information and experiences. They envisaged FARA having an important role in coordinating and catalyzing activities at continental level, such as advocacy for investment in agricultural research by African governments and Africa's development partners. However, they had difficulty in articulating the ‘added value’ that SROs bring to NARS and which FARA brings to the SROs. This indicated a topic for further discussion and definition.

IARCs and ARIs – International Agricultural Research Centers and non-African Advanced Research Institutions

Two presentations were made by the international research organizations—the IARCs of the CGIAR were represented by Dr Kanayo Nwanze, Chairman of the CGIAR Center Directors Sub-Saharan Africa Sub-committee and the European ARIs were represented by Dr Wim Andriesse of the ECART. The major issues that they addressed included the ‘comparative (or collaborative) advantage’ of the IARCs and ARIs, and the nature of their partnerships with FARA, the SROs and NARIs, and how they could be most productive and add value.

Dr Nwanze reported that the CGIAR was adopting a more integrated mode of operation embracing strategic alliances between centers. He foresaw FARA having an important role in this process, just as the SROs already have in their own sub-regions.

Dr Andriesse noted that the ARIs could provide expertise in modern science in topics that are needed in Africa. This would be facilitated by the trend towards greater coordination among the European institutions—for example, *Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement* (CIRAD) and *Institut de recherche pour le développement* (IRD) are forming strong interdisciplinary teams that could respond to needs identified by their African colleagues.

Farmers’ organizations, private sector and NGOs

Presentations were made on behalf of the private sector, a continental women-farmers’ group and African regional NGOs. They each had specific

concerns, but were at one in their strong interest in being members of the FARA family and being able to participate in and influence the integration of agricultural activities in Africa.

Africa’s development partners

Representatives of Africa’s development partners—the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the European Union, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Rockefeller Foundation, USAID and the World Bank—welcomed the opportunity to present their perspectives. Though these extend beyond FARA’s mandate, they wish to see a consensus on how best to support the key objective of establishing effective systems for advancing the African Vision for Agricultural Research.

They noted that there have been tremendous changes in science over the last 15 years, which FARA should help exploit for Africa’s development. FARA had made impressive progress towards this, but there was a lot of pressure on FARA to respond to too many demands, even in its inception phase. This would have to be handled delicately to avoid loss of confidence.

Looking ahead, they foresaw difficulties with implementing FARA’s medium-term strategy, especially in regard to funding. To be positioned



to help address this, they wanted to be seen as able and active members of the coalition within FARA's governance arrangement and to continue discussions on their interactions with FARA. They reconfirmed their commitment to the founding principles of FARA.

Summary of discussions and recommendations

The General Assembly concluded that FARA should define the position and roles of all its stakeholders and where they fit into its structure and activities. The stakeholders include the SROs, NARS, farmers, NGOs, the private sector, CGIAR and non-CGIAR IARCs, and the ARIs. A particular issue for continuing debate was what is really needed to turn the concept of NARS into an operational reality.

In forming partnerships, which is an important role for FARA, the Assembly recognized that partnerships are often unbalanced in terms of expertise, resources and needs, necessitating innovative institutional arrangements and capacity strengthening so that all partners (including the IARCs and ARIs) could contribute most effectively. In this regard, the Assembly noted that the partnerships that function best are those that are formed in response to mutually recognized priority problems, while those formed for more general reasons rarely succeed. This should guide the processes of integration. The Assembly reiterated that neither FARA nor the SROs were research-implementing organizations and their activities should be confined to coordination and facilitation of research.

FARA and the SROs are committed to demand-driven research, but since farmers often do not have the ability to articulate their demands (needs) they require capacity building.

Dr Bongiwe Njobe, as Chairwoman of the session, emphasized that FARA has to make a difference and that this required careful thought on how various parties could sequence challenges and work together as a single FARA family. She stressed the point by noting that if the action needs to happen at the farmer level, let it happen there. There was still a lot to do, but the fact that farmers, NGOs and others were so interested showed that FARA was moving in the right direction. The required future actions included:

- Correct definitions of partners, e.g., are donors defined as partners?
- Contact farmers may not represent all farmers, but representation could bring valuable inputs.
- Identification and articulation of the key factors for sustaining innovations.
- The great number of initiatives creates challenges—some may be too costly and should be prioritized accordingly; South Africa, for example, had set up many good partnerships, but only the strong ones worked—there is a special challenge for FARA to identify the potentially strong and weak partnerships.
- How will FARA know when it is succeeding? That will require indicators that are not dependent on publications and presentations, but are found in the quality of life of the poor.
- The stakeholders had been asked to speak and those present had spoken, but there were still some missing, including the consumers and youth.

In applying the subsidiarity principle in its relationship with the SROs and NARS, FARA should avoid duplicating activities or mechanisms and procedures that are already handled by others.

The Assembly recommended that the SROs and NARS should be the focal point in the imple-

mentation of the SSA–CP and eventually in the MAPP.

It urged FARA to review the request from the NGOs for a seat on the Executive Committee and the request from the private sector in Africa to be more involved in the research agenda and how it could contribute more to funding agricultural research for development. FARA should also continue to engage with farmers' groups so that their voices will be heard in planning and implementing research. Finally, the FARA Secretariat was urged to urgently advance the Memoranda of Understanding with the African Union, NEPAD and the Economic Commission for Africa to completion and signature.

Linking and integrating international initiatives into FARA-facilitated programs

Representatives from the Inter-Academy Council, the World Bank, the European Commission and USAID shared with the FARA General Assembly their experiences from their own initiatives for food security in Africa.

Summary of discussions and recommendations

Concerns were raised about the lack of integration between institutions within countries, i.e. the failure of NARIs to form truly cohesive national agricultural research 'systems'—although it was acknowledged that considerable progress had been made at the level of partnerships, even if there had not been the required formal institutional changes. This concerned FARA because, if integration is still lacking within countries, it would be difficult to promote it continent-wide.

FARA was asked to facilitate an examination of the outcomes of international initiatives—such as

the UN Kofi Annan's initiative made by the Inter-Academy Council Panel on Science and Technology, the USAID Initiative to End Hunger in Africa, the EU Initiative on International Dimension of the 6th Framework Program, ACP Dialog on Science and Technology, and the World Bank's Science and Technology Assessment—to find the common lessons and ways of applying them to Africa's agricultural research agenda.

Good news from Africa

As an antidote to the persistent pessimism about Africa's development, four parallel sessions were devoted to 'Good news from Africa.' The topics were grouped into SRO and NARS successes, and positive outcomes of research and development in natural-resource management, genetic-resource management, capacity building, institutional reforms, policy and trade issues. Each group presented their recommendations for FARA's agenda.

SROs and NARS

The SRO and NARS working group identified the following topics for further review by FARA:

- Ways to improve the capture and sharing of lessons learnt across the sub-regions.



- The adjustments needed to ensure that advances in research and development paradigms are scaled up and out.
- The reasons why coping mechanisms in countries under hardship are not functioning well.
- The reasons why the long-term sustainability of research for development is vulnerable.

To address these issues, it was recommended that FARA and the SROs should work together to:

- Capture and widely share emerging good practices within and across the sub-regions.
- Produce an inventory of validated innovative approaches and technologies that can be scaled up and out.
- Develop a better understanding of national coping mechanisms and how supporting measures can complement and reinforce them rather than weaken their ability to preserve human and scientific capital and to promote fast national recovery.
- Advocate for sustained support for long-term research for development efforts with convincing propositions for conventional and innovative financial mechanisms.

Natural-resource management and genetic-resource management

The working group that addressed the management of natural and genetic resources stressed that traditional and local cultivars should be maintained as a source of future innovations and added that, since the focus tends to be on plant genetic resources, there is a particular need to ensure that the role of farm animals is not neglected, especially in small-holder farming systems where environmental adaptation is

critical. The national governments should, at the policy level, re-examine variety release approaches to align them with the participatory varietal selection (PVS) approaches that have been successfully employed in the development of the New Rice for Africa (NERICA).

Researchers should be encouraged to adopt participatory approaches involving multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder teams to work with farmers in addressing their multiple strategies for coping with common constraints. These teams should have decentralized decision-making at the local level. They should also be inclusive, recognizing that participatory research is now a mainstream approach no longer limited to social scientists. Research design should incorporate scaling up from the outset to ensure that the required impact will be achieved. This will require flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances over the longer term taken to achieve significant impact.

Capacity strengthening and institutional reform

The working group on capacity strengthening and institutional reform concluded that the design of capacity strengthening programs should be based on demand expressed by research institutions and other stakeholders, such as development/extension agencies and farmers' organizations, that are expected to benefit from them. African universities should take the lead in responding to the demands with assistance from 'northern' universities, IARCs and ARIs.

The group recommended that FARA should:

1. Identify the core problems of Africa, taking a holistic approach that would include socio-

- economic aspects, incentives (not only salaries but also job satisfaction) and recruitment processes.
2. Consider three principal components of capacity strengthening:
 - (a) individual skills that are required not only by researchers, but also by development agents, NGOs and farmers' organizations,
 - (b) institutional capabilities in which individuals should complement and reinforce each other,
 - (c) organizational arrangements that facilitate the full expression of combined institutional capabilities.
 3. Not concentrate on numbers of trained Africans, which have been increasing, but on the quality of training they receive. In addition to traditional topics, their training should include:
 - (a) leadership skills and team-building,
 - (b) entrepreneurship,
 - (c) systems approaches.
 4. Analyze and synthesize the current data collected by various institutions and launch an information system that would facilitate monitoring and strategizing of capacity strengthening in Africa. Information systems, such as the CGIAR Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI), should be linked by FARA to government policy-makers to inform their decisions on reforms of agricultural research and development.
 5. Develop policy dialogs that demonstrate the 'value for money' obtained through investment in agricultural research.
 6. Identify innovative low-cost ways of capacity strengthening.

7. Promote the various competitive grant schemes that exist for African agricultural research, but should not encourage over-dependence on them—the core functions and tasks of research in states should be funded on more certain and sustainable bases and FARA should continue to look for new and additional sources of such funds.
8. Facilitate collaboration among institutions involved in capacity strengthening aiming for consistency and mutual advantage in the efforts of FARA, the SROs and NARS.

Policy and trade issues

The working group on policy and trade issues discussed conditions required for promoting trade, generating incomes and alleviating poverty. Table 1 summarizes their recommendations.



Table 1. Summary recommendations of the Policy and Trade Working Group.	
Identified constraints	Recommendations for action
General	
Low production and productivity (supply)	Development and adoption of technologies to improve productivity
Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quality Standards – Productivity – Local transformation (added value) – Price policies
Deficient information system	Develop information system for both producers who know production but not the market, and authorities who know the market but not production
Low demand	Diversifying the use of agricultural products
Weak expertise	Capacity building, training
Key entries for research programs	Should be market driven rather than technology driven
In regional and international markets	
Very high cost of transport Heavy bureaucracy at borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Transformation – Cost structures for information – Comparative analysis of costs – Pressure on authorities
Monopoly of government in international trade negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Define mechanisms of consultations with the private sector – Legitimacy of the private sector
Deficient regional organization to link production and trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use planning as a tool – Link SROs and FARA with regional trade organizations (COMESA, SADC, etc.) – Commodity approach
Lack of comprehension of agricultural problems by politicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Information – Capacity building – Impact of subsidies

Continued

Table 1 continued

Identified constraints	Recommendations for action
To linking farmers to local markets	
Production, productivity, competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New research programs – Information on existing knowledge and technologies
Organization of producers' access to markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Professional organization for local (internal) markets – Partnership with private sector – Quality of products – Regulation mechanisms – Subsidies
Information system for producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Information about diversification – Opportunities and prices
Environmental risks	Following of impacts of production systems on environment

Concluding statements in support of FARA's agenda

The Second FARA General Assembly was closed with an encouraging statement by H.E. Christian S. Diatta, Minister of Scientific Research and Technology, Senegal. In his statement, which is reproduced on the next page, he commended the interdisciplinary work that had been accomplished during the two days of the Assembly, but emphasized the need for continued discussions. He informed the Plenary that President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, who is a strong believer in local actions to address Africa's challenges, pledged his full support to FARA.

In his closing remarks (see next page), Dr Kanayo Nwanze, Chairman of the CGIAR Center

Directors Sub-Saharan Africa Sub-committee assured the Assembly that the CGIAR Centers wished to continue to be engaged with FARA, especially with the SSA-CP.

Prof. R. Rabbinge, co-chair of the Inter-Academy Council (IAC), in his closing remarks (see page 20), spoke about the interests of the European Centers in regard to FARA itself, the SSA-CP and the commitment of the European centers to advocacy for agricultural research for development. He also offered some conclusions relevant to the then on-going IAC study on the role of science and technology in development.

Closing statement by the Minister for Scientific Research and Technology, Senegal

Mr Chairman of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Regional Directors of international institutions, Representatives of development agencies, Dear participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is quite a paradox to close this meeting of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa. But since I have to conform to the norm of this day marking the temporary end of your work, I would like to stress the honor given to Senegal in hosting this gathering of your research and action networks in the field of agriculture and related areas.

During this meeting, you have been given the opportunity to analyze different issues and scientific answers that are necessary to respond to the challenges of agricultural productivity in Africa.

It is in this regard that this debate will continue.

The obvious linkages among agriculture, animal husbandry, marine science, meteorology, teledetection and biology at the international level can also be applied in scientific laboratories. These interdisciplinary linkages result in quality research outputs that should increase agricultural production. This can be made through innovative or cycle-based experiments tested in the local environments in response to questions posed by African scientists.

Africa is privileged to have a remarkable amount of biodiversity. In order for Africa to sustain and profit from this biodiversity, frequent exchange of information and knowledge is required among agricultural scientists. Countries from the same region (e.g., tropical or equatorial zones) will profit from these exchanges if relationships are built up around commercial or industrial value.

Before the new meteorological phenomenon, that man has encouraged, comes to jeopardize natural balances, science should provide the answer to the heartbreaking display of population migration in Africa due to climatic reasons, seasonal calls for food relief and unexpected upsurges of scourges resulting from break in the balance of biodiversity.

Following the path of H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade—untiring advocate of the opinion that Africa's main challenges should be addressed by global answers coupled with local actions—, Senegal fully supports the scientific approach in agriculture which is being implemented by FARA.

There is a need to state that, in order to guarantee the survival of plant and animal species in Africa, we should continually support FARA. Our Government will do just that.

I would like to thank you once again for choosing our country to host this meeting, and on behalf of the President of the Republic of Senegal, the Prime Minister, the entire Government and on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry who has invited me to this Forum and whom I represent today, I would like to invite you to come back to Senegal for your future meetings.

I hereby declare this meeting of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa closed.

Prof. Christian S. Diatta
Minister of Scientific Research and Technology

Closing statement from the CGIAR

Excellence M. le Ministre, M. le Président du FARA, M. les Présidents des organisations sous régionales, M. le DG de l'ISRA, Honorable Participants, Mesdames et Messieurs,

The CGIAR Future Harvest Centers welcome the developments and progress that have been made in the few months since the inception of the FARA Secretariat with the aplomb of Monty P. Jones as Executive Secretary. We welcome and appreciate the healthy and fruitful dialog that has occurred since then between the FARA Secretariat, the CG Secretariat and the Centers. We will continue to pursue and support this healthy relationship as demonstrated by the presence of eight CGIAR Future Harvest Centers' Directors General and several senior management staff at this plenary.

We have been, and continue to be, actively engaged in the development of the Challenge Program (CP) for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The Centers feel that it is entirely appropriate that FARA should take leadership in the development and coordination of this SSA-CP. We remain committed to that decision and will support—will not and cannot control—the process. It is unfortunate that as the SSA-CP unfolds it is being misinterpreted and equated with the overall FARA agenda. It is only natural that as the first active FARA-led proposal, FARA Secretariat's human resources appear to be devoted solely to the SSA-CP.

The SSA-CP is being developed. It has some way to go. We will continue to support its development to ensure that it is focused, adds value to existing activities, fully captures the potentially powerful approach of pilot learning sites, and that this very innovative initiative leads to important cultural change in the African research institutions. From my personal experience, the SSA-CP is a train on the move. It will not stop for those who remain undecided or who are reluctant to get on board. In short, we are fully supportive of the way the process is going with a buy-in from all stakeholders.

The Centers have invested in building vibrant partnerships with the NARS and lately with the SROs. We believe that this existing relationship is our entry point into the FARA coalition. We will remain consistent in ensuring that our priorities are a reflection of those of the NARS and SROs with whom we work.

The CGIAR Future Harvest Centers are encouraged by the renewed focus on Africa and the commitment of the international community to pursue this renewal through increased investment in agriculture and science and technology, particularly agricultural research. We hope, however, that this renewal will not lead to a proliferation of uncoordinated programs and projects—initiatives that will not only stretch but disrupt the absorptive capacity of Africans and marginalize the NARS who are central to the region's development.

It is also in this regard that we applaud the renewed focus on Africa including strengthening and reinforcing individual and institutional capacities on a long-term basis; institutions aiming to stem the African brain drain, and institutional reforms aimed to ensure that the outputs and products from research impact on the livelihoods of resource-poor farmers as tangible outcomes in improved economic well-being.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we congratulate FARA, its Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary for the progress that has been made in the last year. The transformation of FARA is no longer a dream, but a reality. We are privileged to have been and to continue to be engaged in this process. The second FARA plenary has been a successful event and is indicative of a bright and vibrant future. We are committed to remain pro-active partners in that future.

Dr Kanayo Nwanze

Chairman of the CGIAR Center Directors Sub-Saharan Africa Sub-committee

Closing statement by the European Centers

Your Excellency, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the European Centers present at this second FARA plenary meeting in Dakar, Senegal, I would like first of all to congratulate and thank the Government of Senegal and the organizers of the plenary for the excellent way in which this has been done.

I should also like to use this opportunity to congratulate the new Chairman and Deputy Chairlady of FARA on their election to these important positions, and to wish them much success in the further shaping and implementation of FARA's agenda, as the apex organization for agricultural research for development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

We have three sets of statements, and they are directed at FARA, the Africa Challenge Program, and ourselves, respectively.

On FARA

The European Centers present at FARA's Second Plenary Meeting will continue to support the roles specified in FARA's strategy document on facilitating advocacy of agricultural research for development, promotion of partnerships and alliances, accelerating sharing and exchange of knowledge, and stimulating development and dissemination of new technologies and methods.

In the implementation of these roles, the European Centers emphasize the importance for FARA to work through, and where necessary, to strengthen and provide institutional support to the respective individual positions and roles of FARA's main stakeholders and partners, being the NARS in their widest sense and the Sub-Regional Organizations.

We should also like to stress the importance for FARA to contribute to, and benefit from, inter-regional interactions through active participation in GFAR.

We would like to repeat our willingness to also contribute formally to the implementation of FARA's agenda by taking a seat on FARA's Executive Committee, if FARA would invite us to do so.

On the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program

The European Centers observe the distinct progress made in the further shaping and substantiation of the Sub-Saharan African Challenge Program. We are proud that we have been able to contribute to this process through submitting position papers (ECART and ICRA), participation in the Accra Workshop (ECART), membership of the drafting committee (ICRA) and secondment to the FARA Secretariat (CIRAD).

We observe that the Challenge Program, as presently formulated, provides challenging openings for ARI's to collaborate with African stakeholder organizations in order to build and implement scientific partnerships around Agricultural Research for Development and to further our objective of actively supporting institutional capacity building in Sub-Saharan Africa.

We will follow with interest the on-going discussions between FARA and the other African stakeholders in the SSA-CP (NARS and SROs) on the issue and structure of governance of the Program.

On Ourselves

We would like to express our continuing commitment to one of our main roles, namely the one on advocacy for agricultural research for development, with particular emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa, in the relevant European fora and beyond. These include: the European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD), the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD), the European Union at large, as well as our national ministries and institutions responsible for, or involved in, agricultural research for development. Special attention will be given to the forthcoming G8 Sustainable Development Initiative, to which we will also contribute through advocacy for Agricultural Research for Development.

Conclusions relevant for the IAC study

The Inter-Academy Council (IAC) Panel is delighted to participate in the FARA meeting and appreciates the contributions and discussion at this meeting. FARA and, more specifically, the Chair and Executive Secretary are congratulated on the achievements and progress made during the last year. It is impressive and will be very useful for the development of agricultural research in Africa. That will help to overcome the enormous problems of stagnating productivity rise, decreasing food security and increasing unsustainability in agro-ecosystems. The IAC Panel has made ample use of the willingness and very constructive collaboration with national agricultural research systems and FARA. The bottom-up process coordinated and facilitated by the regional organizations has helped to identify the key issues, which will be addressed by the IAC Panel in the strategic plan which is being developed. The coordination of various activities and initiatives in Africa's agricultural research should be handed over to FARA.

Scientific agenda

The needs of the scientific community need to be taken into account. Fora are needed for discussions among stakeholders, especially with the private sector and marketers. Technologies should be developed with the people, rather than developing it for them without their involvement; indigenous knowledge needs to be molded with modern science.

Private-sector issues are given insufficient attention (e.g., agro-processing); how can researchers help to commercialize technology? The private sector is frustrated with public-sector researchers. Farmers can diversify if new opportunities are presented to them.

On-going research

- *There have been many achievements in Africa in the last 20 years and these should be recognized in these studies.*
- *There is excessive attention to science and technology outside of Africa and not enough to science and technology in Africa.*

Future

FARA has an enormous responsibility for the coordination, stimulation and initiation of research, science and technology. The challenges are enormous, the increasing commitment is reassuring and the way FARA has developed during the last year is promising. The IAC Panel strongly supports the further development of FARA.

Prof. R. Rabbinge

Co-Chair, IAC Panel, Dakar, Senegal, 19–20 May 2003



FARA's 2nd Plenary meeting held in Dakar, Senegal, 17–19 May 2003, was attended by around 250 FARA constituents.

Reports on side-events held at the Second FARA General Assembly

Biotechnology side-event

Agricultural biotechnology is a subject of on-going discussions and debate within Africa and between Africa and the international community. The context of the debate is broad, covering a wide range of issues and presently engaging a larger group of constituencies than perhaps any other area of agricultural research and development (R&D). At the same time, many African regional organizations and national governments and institutions are already engaged in research and policy development, taking steps to establish or implement strategies for integrating biotechnology into agricultural and economic development. This is reflected in the Science and Technology Platform of NEPAD, which calls for action to harness biotechnology to improve agricultural productivity. In their 2001 Durban Statement on 'The way forward for agricultural research and development in Sub-Saharan Africa,' FARA's constituency calls for the utilization of emerging technologies, including the safe use of biotechnology for Africa's development. In addition to a focus on

opportunities and constraints related to the conduct of agricultural biotechnology, the debates are increasingly dominated by the concerns and threats posed by biotechnology. There is much to be done if Africa is to benefit from the opportunities available through wise use of biotechnology in agriculture.

In planning to fulfill its mandate, FARA will have to define and articulate how it will contribute to the judicious application of agricultural biotechnology in Africa. The goal of the one day 'Biotechnology Side-Event' was to begin building consensus on FARA's strategy for biotechnology. Among the questions addressed were:

- How will FARA add value as an advocate for further support to on-going biotechnology initiatives?
- How will FARA leverage its relationship with the Science and Technology Platform of NEPAD?
- How, if at all, can FARA add value to its evolving relationships with the CGIAR Centers and its relationships with new potential partners such as the Africa Agriculture Technology Foundation (AATF)?
- Should FARA play a role in facilitating complementarities with the private sector?
- Should FARA tackle the lack of investments in human capacity and institutional infrastructure for biotechnology research, through NEPAD or the SROs?

The Meeting

A total of 37 participants from a range of institutions attended the meeting, which was organized by FARA and USAID, with Dr Josette Lewis of USAID serving as the process facilitator.

In his opening address, Dr Monty Jones:

- Reminded participants of FARA's mission and vision.
- Referred to opportunities provided by biotechnology in agriculture and the current constraints to its application, including concerns about biosafety.
- Referred to NEPAD and CAADP initiatives, including the concept of Centers of Excellence and how this might contribute to agricultural biotechnology in Africa.
- Reminded participants that FARA was looking to them to provide recommendations to be put to plenary sessions of the General Assembly regarding the appropriate role for FARA in agricultural biotechnology research for development.

The meeting had five sessions that provided the following conclusions.

1. Reaffirming the role of biotechnology in African agricultural development

Dr Marnus Gouse from South Africa reported on experiences with farmer adoption of biotech crops (especially Bt cotton and maize) and concluded that, whereas there were clear advantages of biotech, it should be treated like any other tool or technology—e.g., with the expectation of improving efficiency, but not of being a panacea. The meeting recognized the need to increase farmer awareness about the technologies, so that they could make their own informed decisions.

2. Review of on-going research and technology development in Africa

Dr Christopher Ngichabe presented the recently developed ASARECA Biotechnology Initiative, focusing on the processes and criteria used to



determine the contents of the program. Then Dr Walter Al Hassan summarized a recent survey of the state of agricultural biotechnology in West Africa, which concluded that, other than tissue-culture technology in crops (which is widely applied in Africa), the sub-region remains relatively weak in biotech applications. In his summary of the Challenge Program on Biofortification of Crops, Dr Mathew Blair of *Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)* pointed out that the program will initially focus on improving human nutrition and health by improving the content of selected crops in terms of iron, zinc and vitamin A through a combination of conventional breeding and transgenic approaches. In his presentation on 'Intellectual property rights and food security,' Dr Eugene Terry pointed out that the absence of commercial incentives for the private sector necessitated proactive development of public-private partnerships; he also shared the vision of AATF, central to which is acquiring, through negotiations with the private sector in the 'North,' proprietary technologies and making these available to Africa. Dr Kinyua M'Mbijewe of Monsanto provided a private-sector perspective.

He talked about the value of 'sharing' in the context of corporate social responsibility and of 'delivery' to ensure acceptance over time—i.e., that the private sector can only survive on the basis of success. He referred to the need for the private sector to be selective (in terms of products, partners, countries) and that constraints include mistrust and protection of reputations, as well as regulations. The current lack of coordination among government ministries/departments—for example, in regard to national positions on important issues related to agricultural bio-technology—was a source of confusion.

3. Defining the role of agriculture in biosafety policy agendas

Presentations in this session focused on the need for biosafety policies, what it takes to develop them and a case study (from Kenya) of an on-going activity in the development of biosafety legislation. Dr Peter Ewell of USAID summarized ASARECA and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regional developments in biosafety. In a presentation made by Dr Todd Barker of the Meridian Institute, a proposal for an 'African Biosafety Initiative' was made, with potential partners being AATF, NEPAD, the Meridian Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation and FARA. Its objective was to help with the development and implementation of biosafety initiatives and action plans. There was discussion about the lack of African capacity for biotech research and the question of whether it was actually possible or even practical to develop country policies and legislation when there is no substantive biotechnology research actually going on in the country concerned. It was recognized that the absence of biosafety regulations or legislation

may hinder access to some forms of biotechnology by African institutions. However, with work already being conducted by a multiplicity of stakeholders beyond the agriculture sector (environment, health, trade, science and technology, etc.) and the international initiatives (largely funded by UNEP/GEF) at national and sub-regional levels, FARA must carefully consider its role in this area; the potential role of FARA in catalyzing capacity strengthening and facilitating the development of policy and legislation was subject to much discussion.

4. Linking national to sub-regional efforts

This session had two national reports on the status of agricultural biotechnology activities (in Kenya and Nigeria) and a presentation (made by Dr Ed Rege on behalf of John Mugabe of NEPAD) on NEPAD's initiative on the concept of Centers of Excellence, with the latter being the focus of the subsequent discussions. Aware that individual countries could neither produce the necessary capacity for cutting-edge biosciences research nor afford the expensive equipment and infrastructure, NEPAD has proposed the establishment of sub-regional hubs or Centers of Excellence in biosciences. Around these centers will be a network of laboratories and facilities each to be strengthened or upgraded as appropriate. The proposal will start with a pilot center for East and Central Africa and then gradually build similar hubs for Southern Africa, West Africa and North Africa. In the ensuing discussions, participants felt it would be important that the pilot hub be available and equally accessible to all the sub-regions of Africa, even as the other hubs are being considered. Otherwise, participants pointed out, delays in developing the other hubs would continue to deny the remaining regions access to an important facility and services.

5. Building consensus on recommendations for FARA's strategy

This session on building consensus and making recommendations for FARA's strategy was chaired by Dr Emmy Simmons with Prof. Joseph Mukiibi serving as a panel member.

Recommendations: The Role of FARA

As FARA moves forward in developing its biotechnology strategy to fulfill the vision established at its first meeting in Maputo, it should be a voice for the constituency it serves. Informing the substance of its voice will be the issues emerging out of consultations with its members such as this Side-Event organized as part of the FARA General Assembly. In addition, by virtue of FARA's relationship with African leadership (such as through NEPAD and the African Union) and the donor community, FARA is in a position to bring issues to the attention of those who can make decisions. In this way, FARA will add value by advancing the national and sub-regional biotechnology initiatives.

Consistent with its mission "to enhance and add value to the effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural research systems in Africa in order to contribute to agricultural development and economic growth and sustainable use of natural resources," FARA's role in promoting the development of effective and safe use of biotechnological applications in agriculture will include the following.

1. Adding value to the services, efficiency and effectiveness of the SROs through *advocacy* as a unified voice at continental and global fora to support continental and sub-regional efforts to address constraints that may impede bio-technological innovations and

application for the benefit of Africa. Examples may include the following:

- Raising awareness of the critical role of science and technology in general and opportunities offered by biotechnology in particular, and helping build the necessary political support at continental level—e.g., in African Union fora directly (in technical meetings) or through NEPAD.
 - Facilitating informed debates at appropriate levels (e.g., sub-regional and regional) to ensure that Africa capitalizes on opportunities offered by biotechnology, while also mitigating potential negative impacts that the technologies may pose.
 - Raising commitments (e.g., through NEPAD, the African Union and other fora) of African governments to investments in human capacity and infrastructure development in support of agricultural biotechnology research for development.
2. A *catalytic* role in bringing the various stakeholders together and encouraging them to negotiate and cooperate in *effective partnerships* to promote biotechnological innovations or to address issues related to safe use of bio-technology in agricultural development. Examples may include:
 - Facilitating the development of agricultural biotechnology capacity by assisting countries and sub-regions in identifying strong potential partners in specific areas and helping negotiate collaborative arrangements for training or joint projects—a specific example could be the sharing of experiences on 'crop transformation technology' by institutions in East or Southern Africa with those in West

Africa, where the technology has yet to be applied.

- A strategy to access and develop biotechnology applications in the medium term, while building capacity for the longer term, will depend upon fostering new partnerships within and outside of Africa—FARA can catalyze such partnerships with key institutions, such as:
 - advanced research institutions in developed countries,
 - reaching beyond the traditional agricultural R&D community within Africa to, for example, universities and ministries of science and technology,
 - considering the role of the private sector both to focus on complementary priorities where the private sector may have comparative advantages in some crops or technologies, and to establish collaborative partnerships where the private sector can add value to public efforts;
- Convening a process to analyze case studies across Africa among the few countries that have developed or are currently developing biosafety legislation or biotechnology policies,



as a basis for a template that other countries can use as they start work on similar legislation or policies in order to speed up these processes and make them less costly for these countries.

- Helping identify opportunities for public-private partnerships and facilitating inter-institutional linkages for agricultural biotechnology R&D, especially where these cut across sub-regions.
- Catalyze the development of frameworks for priority-setting by SROs.
- Promote increased availability of proprietary technologies to Africa, for example, by advocating negotiations with private-sector partners as are being conducted by AATF.
- Catalyzing the development of sub-regional Centers of Excellence in biotechnology and fostering collaborative arrangements to ensure that scientists from any sub-region can negotiate access to such facilities and techniques or procedures that they need to use in critical national and sub-regional projects, even if the facility or capacity is physically located in another sub-region.
- Facilitating integration of new priorities for agricultural biotechnology not limited to productivity improvements—one important emerging area is the linkage between nutrition and health, specifically the development of nutritionally enhanced food crops, such as through the 'Harvest Plus (Bio-fortification) Challenge Program'; the impact of HIV/AIDS on biotechnology research capacity and agricultural productivity was also considered to be an area in which FARA could catalyze interventions at appropriate levels.

3. *A knowledge hub* for Africa on biotechnology applications in agriculture and a facilitator for *capacity building*:
 - Providing a forum for dialog and increasing awareness of sub-regional, regional and global issues concerning biotechnological applications in agriculture.
 - Identifying opportunities for funding and new international partnerships for Africa in agricultural biotechnology innovations and applications.
 - Providing mechanisms (e.g., pan-African networks and databases) for sharing information on agricultural biotechnology R&D across Africa—databases (or a single database) may include compilations of agricultural biotechnology case studies, institutions engaged in biotechnology research, directory of African biotechnologists.
 - Building greater support among African leaders for investment in human capital and research infrastructure in the area of biotechnology.
 - Working with NEPAD and other partners to develop strategies of how the proposed initiative on Centers of Excellence in biosciences will complement and add value to national and sub-regional efforts not only in helping implement specific research projects, but also in contributing to the overall capacity building for Africa.

Specific actions for consideration by FARA

1. FARA should facilitate discussions on its role in biosafety:
 - Analyze its complementarities with national and sub-regional initiatives.

- Consider mechanisms for sharing information on progress made by, and lessons learnt from, the few countries that have developed or are developing regulatory frameworks and biotech policies.
2. Consultations within FARA and with NEPAD and other partners to build consensus on the design and implementation of the concept of networks of Centers of Excellence in biosciences, ensuring that such networks are, from the outset, designed to meet the needs of all the SROs.

The role of entrepreneurs in building African common market — an agro-based industrial strategic approach for public and private sectors in Africa

The private sector, led by Mrs Gisèle d’Almeida, Chairwoman of the Network of African Agro-Food Industry Professionals (INTERFACE), met to define their role in FARA and to give feedback to FARA on their contribution towards achieving FARA’s agenda. Their observations and re-recommendations were that FARA, its stakeholders, or both, should:

1. Work out and implement a common agricultural policy for Africa by developing synergy with the existing sub-regional integration organizations, taking the different national, regional, pan-African and international levels into consideration.
2. Take the concerns of all actors into account—especially those of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—so as to draw up a common African position within the framework of international trade negotiations, which could lead to civil society and SME network lobbying actions with the aim of

- establishing a real pressure group in order to assert the ultimate interests of Africa.
3. Create a commission, at the level of the African Union, for consultation with SMEs and with a network in each member country, which will:
 - a. improve the operational environment of SMEs at the legal, fiscal, statutory, technical, scientific and financial levels to promote national, regional, pan-African and international entrepreneurial development,
 - b. encourage all types of partnership likely to develop SMEs, particularly commercial, industrial, agro-industrial, technical and financial partnerships, which could lead to cross-participation in the segments of the value-added chain,
 - c. promote the social responsibility of the enterprise notably by linking ethics to tax deductions (charter or code of good conduct),
 - d. encourage the establishment of financing, savings guarantee and investment structures adapted to SME needs with a monitoring mechanism involving SME and SMI (small and medium-sized industry) organizations and associations,
 - e. influence the establishment of industrial zones with facilities and incentives to encourage the emergence of SMEs and SMIs,
 - f. establish a Supreme Council for SMEs, made up primarily of members from SME organizations and associations, open to regional and international SME partners, i.e., the real actors in the field, resource persons, etc. It would be a kind of 'SME-SMI intelligentsia'

to serve their own development. The mission of the Council would be to reflect on SME-SMI development, on the production and marketing of agricultural produce, drawing inspiration from other successful experiences, but based mainly on socio-cultural realities. The predominance of the informal sector in African economies is proof that there is no model to be found in any manual and that, consequently, they have to make up their own model to set up specific strategies, to develop national, regional and international markets by diversifying activities and, above all, by making use of science and technology, to develop local resources, while protecting natural resources and public health.

4. Undertake a study to implement the INTER-FACE Network Plan of Action for the African Common Market, based on the following strategies:
 - a. supply and demand for better market access,
 - b. agro-business strategy to profit from agricultural research conclusions,
 - c. strategy for developing regional trade of agricultural and agro-industrial products.

The NGO and farmers' group workshop

Representatives from NGOs and farmer-based organizations (FBOs) met on 17 May 2003 as a side-event during the Second FARA General Assembly in Dakar, Senegal. Participants were from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau and Mali. The Executive Secretaries of CORAF/WECARD (Dr Ndiaga Mbaye) and FARA (Dr Monty Jones) made short opening presentations.

The objectives of this side-event were:

- To inform and help familiarize participants with the agricultural research institutions at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.
- To have a common view-point on the functioning partnership between FARA and NGOs and FBOs.
- To provide information about the different programs based at FARA.

The meeting had three parts:

- The presentations on agricultural research structures and the West and Central African Network for the promotion of Participatory Agricultural Research (WECANPAR).
- Recommendations from discussions on the partnership between FARA and NGOs and FBOs.
- Information on the different programs of FARA.

West and Central African Network for the promotion of Participatory Agricultural Research (WECANPAR)

For a better understanding of the agricultural research institutions and their coordination, participants were provided with an organigram showing that FARA is neither a donor nor a research-implementing body, but rather it is a facilitating and coordinating body.

Dr Sonni George, the NGO representative in the Executive Committee of CORAF/WECARD, introduced WECANPAR. It was formally launched in October 2002 during a sub-regional workshop held in Bamako, Mali, organized by the Association for the Development of Activities

on Promotion and Formation – Galle (ADAF/Galle), a national NGO in Mali with the support of the NGO Committee of the CGIAR (NGOC), GFAR, the International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development (IFDC) and CORAF/WECARD. The theme of the workshop was strengthening the participation of NGOs and FBOs in agricultural research in West and Central Africa. The workshop endorsed the following.

The Vision on partnership:

“To have effective partnership among NGOs, FBOs and institutions for agricultural research and development in West and Central Africa and to ensure environmental sustainability, food security and poverty alleviation in the sub-region.”

Strategies for its achievement:

- To facilitate the identification and prioritization of national, regional and sub-regional constraints in agriculture.
- To contribute to the generation, transfer and utilization of appropriate and sustainable technologies.
- To build capacities of NGOs and FBOs, and stimulate extension, evaluation and feedback of agricultural technologies.
- To contribute to the collection of appropriate data and dissemination of research results.
- To establish an effective structure to better coordinate and disseminate research results at national and sub-regional levels.
- To increase networking and exchange visits among countries.

The General Assembly agreed to name the network the ‘West and Central African Network

for the promotion of Participatory Agricultural Research' (WECANPAR)—*Reseau Ouest et Centre Afrique pour la recherche participative agricole* (ROCARPA) in French.

Nine members were elected to serve on the steering committee, comprising 4 NGOs and 5 FBOs. Two members from the steering committee were elected to represent the Network at CORAF/WECARD.

Recommendations

The group commended the achievements made at the Bamako workshop and requested FARA's assistance in the implementation and functioning of its institutional structures at the national and sub-regional levels:

1. To build and promote an information and communication system among researchers, NGOs and FBOs.
2. To assist in the development of its strategic and implementation plans.
3. To help mobilize funds for implementing its action plan.
4. To help the Network to protect farmers' rights in the area of the plant genetic resources and indigenous knowledge.
5. To provide information to the Network on GMOs.
6. To identify and prepare a directory of NGOs and FBOs that are capable, reliable and can work with researchers.
7. To help the Network to contribute towards changing the attitudes of NGOs and FBOs on present research and development approaches and procedures.
8. To create an additional seat exclusively for NGO representation on the FARA Executive Committee—this seat for the NGO and FBO on the FARA Executive Committee should be rotated among the three sub-regional networks, i.e. WECANPAR and its equivalent bodies in East and Southern Africa.



Secretariat Activities

NEPAD–FARA partnership

To facilitate its primary functions of advocacy and promoting partnerships, FARA has been recognized by NEPAD as its technical arm for agricultural research. An agreement to this effect was signed in November 2003 by NEPAD and FARA, underscoring their collaboration towards the achievement of the African Vision for



Agricultural Research. NEPAD values the role that FARA plays in linking NARS and SROs to international agricultural research institutions, but at the same time sees a need to make African leaders more aware of the value of agricultural research for development. It is crucial, therefore, for FARA and NEPAD to work together to advance the CAADP long-term pillar on agricultural research.

FARA perceives its responsibility under the agreement as being to promote a cohesive approach to agricultural research in Africa. Recognizing that the sub-regional plans and strategies developed by FARA's founding SROs—ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD and SADC-FANR—are based on national plans, FARA will promote synchronization and mutual reinforcement of plans at all levels from national through NEPAD's CAADP, up to the African Union's continental strategy. This is aimed at ensuring that the African research community has a common and focused purpose to which actors at all levels can contribute most effectively.

The partnership with NEPAD will strengthen the Africa-based, African-led programs already involving FARA, such as the SSA-CP and the MAPP. The SSA-CP is intended to change the way research is conducted for solving problems faced by African small-holders to a more participatory, multi-institutional innovation systems mode; MAPP is intended to provide the financial resources required for institutional change and reinvigoration of the NARS. FARA has also responded to a request from NEPAD for a program that will promote proven technologies that have high potential for short- and medium-term impact in improving food security and alleviating poverty by proposing a program for 'Dissemination of New Agricultural Techno-

logies in Africa' (DONATA). DONATA's immediate objectives are (1) to disseminate 'African model crops and improved technologies' (i.e., NERICA rice, improved cassava varieties, tissue-culture bananas and imidazolinone-resistant [IR] maize technology for controlling *Striga*) in four regions of Africa—West, Central, East and Southern; (2) to build the capacity of NARS to disseminate new technologies; and, (3) to institutionalize linkages among major stakeholders—regional, sub-regional and national—in scaling out and scaling up promising new technologies.

Africa Group meeting

The Africa Group meetings at the CGIAR Annual General Meetings are important occasions for African stakeholders to discuss issues related to the role and functions of the CGIAR Centers in Africa. Discussions usually cover developments in African agricultural research for development and how they relate to the process of integrating the CGIAR and SRO programs, which was initiated during the 2001 CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting in Durban, South Africa. This year, FARA chose the topic 'Increasing African investment in agricultural research for development,' which is considered crucial to sustaining agricultural research in Africa. The alternative—which is to rely on external funding—is fraught with uncertainties due to changing donor priorities, and requires evidence that African governments are themselves committed to the programs they want donors to invest in. Forty-four participants from FARA's key stakeholders attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr Pape Seck, FARA Chairman, with assistance from FARA Vice Chairwoman, Dr Bongiwe Njobe. Dr Monty Jones made a presentation on 'Mobilizing resources for African agricultural research: Establishing

ownership and sustainability and the need for African investment in agricultural research for Africa's development.' The second presentation was made by Dr Nicholas Mateo, Executive Secretary of the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO) on 'FONTAGRO's model of developing countries' investing in regional agricultural research.'

The meeting agreed on the importance of the issues discussed and their relevance to Africa's development partners, such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), who are seeking to improve the quality of their investments in agricultural research. Investments should be linked to the recipients' absorptive capacity and ability to achieve impact. Participants also agreed that raising the impact of present investments is the most effective means of attracting sustainable financing in the future. Ministries of Finance and Agriculture should work together to ensure that agriculture is included in the national budgets. FARA could assist in this advocacy, together with the departments of the African Union that give technical advice to the Ministers.

Concerns were raised about the number of studies on sustainable financing that were not linked to strategies for action. In this regard, FARA must retain its credibility at the highest levels where it can stimulate action. It must not be seen as yet another network.

Incentives should be sought to encourage greater private-sector investment in agricultural research for Africa's development. Among the suggested incentives were tax holidays and sound Intellectual Property Right management that would avoid conflicts when private-sector research products are released.

FONTAGRO's willingness to share its experience was much appreciated. It provided a contrast to a

similar endowment fund established for West Africa that had not succeeded because of insufficient commitment and poor communication between the Ministries concerned.

FARA has demonstrated that advocacy can be very effective. The African Union invited FARA to the Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture in Maputo, Mozambique, at which FARA helped catalyze lobbying for greater investment in agriculture and agricultural research. From being entirely off the agenda, the proposal for greater investment in agriculture was taken up by the Ministers and presented to the following Heads of State meeting. This culminated in the Heads of State committing their governments to investing 10% of their national budgets in agriculture. The Ministries of Finance have yet to work out how to fulfill this commitment, but there have been positive actions in several countries.

The meeting supported the contention that African agricultural research for development could not continue to be dependent on donor support. Africa should own the research on which its future depends. African governments should be convinced that agricultural research is a public good with high returns to investment in poverty alleviation and food security, making their people more productive. In that light, a strategy should be developed in which requests for donor support are matched by investment by African governments and development agencies such as the African Development Bank. FARA should take the lead in forging such a concerted strategy for increasing African investment in agricultural research involving national, sub-regional and regional bodies such as NEPAD and the African Union. To achieve that, FARA should convene a virtual workshop to provide a forum for interested participants to share their ideas on this vital topic.

SRO-FARA partnership

The three sub-regional organizations had a common purpose in founding FARA. However, they function differently in accordance with the systems that are most applicable to their particular sub-regions. They are also at different stages of development and hence have different points of emphasis and strategic foci. In the past year, CORAF/WECARD has had a management change; ASARECA has forged ahead and obtained significant funding from, among others, the European Union and USAID; and the mandate and functions of the Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural and Natural resources Research and Training (SACCAR) have been assumed by SADC-FANR, which is being restructured as part of a broader SADC restructuring process.

Added to these circumstantial differences, their programs are prioritized according to the needs of their corresponding stakeholders. As their apex organization, FARA encourages programs that link the three SROs together and give their

One of the first major activities initiated by the new Chairman and vice Chairwoman to the Executive Secretary was to invite the SRO leaders to a retreat, which took place in the newly established FARA Secretariat offices in Accra, Ghana, 26–27 August 2003.



work continental perspectives. It has identified programs that add value and strengthen the SROs, but at the same time avoid duplicating their work. FARA's programs are focused on enhancing effective and efficient use of resources, building critical mass and active involvement of key stakeholders from program inception, through planning, implementation and monitoring, to evaluation.

FARA's activities fit in one or other of the three functions endorsed by FARA's General Assembly in May 2003, namely, (1) advocacy and constituency building, (2) dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge, and (3) promotion of partnerships and strategic alliances. The projects that promote partnerships include the SSA-CP, the MAPP and the African Biosafety Initiative (ABI).

One of the first major activities initiated by the newly elected FARA Chairman and Vice Chairwoman was to convene an SRO-FARA Retreat. The objective was to forge a common sense of mission between the parties and develop an understanding and trust that would allow efficiency-enhancing flexibility in how they work together. The Retreat set out where FARA had come from in the transition from the Special Program for African Agricultural Research (SPAAR) and where it is headed as an organization that is expected to take a lead in African agricultural research.

The relationships between the NARS and the SROs were clarified so that the value-adding chain NARIs-NARS-SROs-FARA could be expressed as a truly African concept. In doing that, it was understood that strong NARS are the goals of strong SROs and strong SROs are the goal of a strong FARA. Achieving these goals

will require effective channels of communication. A membership mechanism should be well articulated and included in the budget of each organization. FARA has member organizations, while SROs have member NARS. The official directors of the NARS of countries in the sub-regions form the Committees of Directors that govern the SROs and thereby provide the essential authority to the African agricultural research system as a whole.

The SROs agreed that the responsibilities and modes of operation of the different partners should be clearly defined to avoid overlaps and conflicts. Ownership, governance and efficiency are the key issues. It was agreed that efficiency could be improved through more regular communication between the SROs and FARA. Programs related to FARA's three functions should be flexible, light and pragmatic. It was reiterated that neither the SROs nor FARA are implementing bodies, but they share responsibilities of resource-mobilization, advocacy, information exchange and promotion of partnerships for the conducting of agricultural research by the NARS.

Operational modalities were discussed, and terms—notably facilitation, coordination and implementation were defined. *Facilitation* is initiation, leadership in planning until actions are articulated and resources are in place. *Coordination* is working together for efficiency, while *implementation* is carrying out actions. Implementation is usually done by the NARS. Clear responsibilities for aspects of these different actions are required to enable follow-up and accountability. FARA has the continental perspective and links up with NEPAD and the African Union. SROs have similar responsibilities at the sub-regional level and they link up with

the regional economic communities. The African agricultural research agenda is developed with input from all key stakeholders from farmers' organizations, community-based organization, NGOs, private sector, national agricultural research institutions and extension agencies to international institutions and investors. The SSA-CP development process was highlighted as a good example of extensive and effective consultation.

It was also agreed that advocacy requires constant repetition to succeed and requires one African message based on simple policy statements with which everyone is comfortable. This is especially needed in biotechnology, conservation of biodiversity, and raising investment in agricultural research. A good strategy is needed for engaging policy-makers.

FARA's coordinating role should focus on gathering and disseminating agricultural information on research activities, including the priorities of donors and the programs and projects that they fund. Successful outcomes and methodologies should be identified and shared among stakeholders. A directory of African experts, projects and institutions should be kept.

Dr Monty Jones with Dr Paco Sereme (CORAF).



A strategic framework for SRO–FARA relationships was discussed that would set out the basis for the NARS–SRO–FARA continuum. Twenty-one conditions were enumerated under four major blocks—governance, finance, scientific capacity and management, and partnership—for assessment, which should be initiated by FARA.

FARA at the 2003 Annual General Meeting of the CGIAR

The 2003 CGIAR Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Nairobi, Kenya, brought together approximately 1000 international and Kenyan policy-makers, agricultural research experts, scientists and development specialists.

The proceedings focused on new ways for the diverse stakeholders to work together to ensure that science continues to promote sustainable development by facilitating agricultural growth, reducing hunger and protecting the environment, while delivering real benefits to the poor.

The FARA delegation comprised Pape Seck, Bongiwe Njobe, Monty Jones, Ralph von Kaufmann and Myra Wopereis-Pura. The meeting provided them with the opportunity to meet FARA and GFAR stakeholders and donors, and brief them on the progress that FARA had



made since the plenary in Dakar in May 2003. It also provided an environment in which to meet key partners to chart the way forward for FARA's priority activities.

In addition to the side meetings held with individual delegations, two major meetings were organized by FARA—one with FARA's Investors and one with the Africa Group. The FARA-donors meeting was a follow-up from the Dakar Pre-Plenary meeting in May 2003, and the Africa Group meeting was organized to brainstorm on how to increase investment in African agricultural research.

The discussions indicated much greater awareness of, and interest in collaborating with, FARA than there was at the previous CGIAR AGM (in 2002 in Manila, The Philippines). Numerous action points were identified that will guide FARA in pursuing its mandate.

FARA also took part in the exhibition alongside displays from each of the 15 CGIAR Centers and many partner organizations.

Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program status report

Faced with the urgent need to raise the impact of agricultural research in improving the livelihoods of resource-poor small-holders and pastoralists, FARA took the leadership of developing a proposal for a Challenge Program for Sub-Saharan Africa. Initial proposals for this date as far back as the 1990s and the early days of FARA itself. However, as the FARA Secretariat became effective under its Executive Secretary, Dr Monty Jones, the proposal took on a new shape. A revised pre-proposal was re-submitted to the CGIAR in August 2002 and was reviewed by the Interim Science Committee (ISC) in October 2002. Their initial comment was:

“The Challenge Programme pre-proposal on Improving Livelihoods and Natural Resources Management in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) aims at a very ambitious but very fundamental objective: breaking the unsustainability spiral that dominates agricultural development in the SSA at the individual farmer’s level, local level and regional level. This lack of sustainability is related to a number of widely recognized constraints that limit agricultural growth in the region: declining soil fertility, poorly functioning markets, in-adequate infrastructure, weak institutions, labour constraints, poor health, and so on. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to contribute to the eradication of food insecurity and poverty through research, policy support and capacity building and, as such, it is highly consistent with the goals of the CGIAR.”

However, a number of challenges were identified, including:

- The need for a clearly focused research program drawing on the CGIAR’s regional priority assessment activities.
- The need to explain current work in Africa on soil-management research—who is doing what at national, SRO and CGIAR levels.
- The need to set out specific research methodologies stressing heterogeneous solutions and participatory approaches to research.
- The need to coordinate research priorities with other regional interventions at the policy level to secure cheap and reliable access to modern inputs by farmers.
- The need to include social management of natural resources by involving producers and farmers.

The pre-proposal was approved for full proposal development, for which funding was provided by the CGIAR and the Rockefeller Foundation. Taking the above comments into consideration, FARA set out a full proposal development process involving all interested stakeholders. It called for position papers updating research done in the region, a task force was formed to guide the process, and finally a Proposal Development Workshop was held in March 2003 in Accra, Ghana, attended by over 100 participants representing major stakeholders in Africa. The Workshop discussed the proposal’s history, defined its goal, ways for strengthening it, current problems and opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa, the conceptual framework of integrated natural-resources management (INRM), adding value, sub-regional priorities, governance and linkage with other programs. The Workshop concluded that the SSA-CP should be based on the new paradigm ‘Integrated Agricultural Research for Development’ (IAR4D). It should be owned by the stakeholders, but will build on and add value to INRM by emphasizing research on the interactions between intensification, natural-resource management, markets and policies that constrain improving the livelihoods of small-holders and pastoralists.

Based on these extensive consultation processes, the full proposal was developed and submitted to the iSC in August 2003. The iSC made the following comments on the full proposal:

“The proposal has many strong elements, including having basic goals in line with CGIAR priorities, a strong emphasis on participatory processes, wide stakeholder inclusiveness, and its consideration of the priorities of NEPAD and

of the Sub Regional Organizations and of the many potential participants. The procedure used for building consensus has been extensive. The intended use of a competitive process for site and partner selection is in keeping with CGIAR intent for CPs. The proposed CP has potential for capacity building and for impact on both poverty and natural resources if it moves forward in an effective manner.

“The process for CP formulation of this proposal was in a conceptual stage at the time of initial submission to the iSC. Procedures and management structures were described. The proposal does not specify any actual Pilot Learning Sites (PLSs), the partnerships for those

sites, the identification of specific constraints to be addressed, the role of CGIAR Centres and the science to be used.”

Continuing with the multi-step process of development and approval, and encouraged by indications of support from several donors and stakeholders, FARA organized a one-day brainstorming meeting as the final preparatory step. The spirit of the group was to move the SSA-CP forward as quickly as possible so as not to lose momentum. The outcomes of this meeting were guidelines for the SROs to form the task forces that will select the first pilot learning sites. Criteria and process of selection were also set out to facilitate the work of these task forces.

The Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program

Executive brief of the proposal submitted in August 2003

The purpose of the SSA-CP is to improve rural livelihoods of Sub-Saharan Africans, by changing the agricultural research for development system to have more impact than in the past. It will have an integrated agenda and an innovative approach that will add value and increase the impact of agricultural science. It will support research that integrates productivity enhancement, natural-resource management, market access and agricultural policies. Multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional teams will implement the Program. The research will build social capital through capacity development, and improved management and use of agricultural information and knowledge. To ensure that the new approach is taken up, the research will be supported by competitive grants that will be structured to provide incentives for scientists and organizations to fundamentally change the way they do business.

The Program will advance the agricultural research priorities of NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the objectives of The Durban Statement of FARA, the SROs and the CGIAR Centers. The 'integrated agricultural research for development' (IAR4D) approach includes capacity building required for wide-scale out-scaling and up-scaling. It will have a short inception stage to permit review of the processes and science before committing to full implementation. Program resources will be allocated through competitive grants open to all stakeholders in African agricultural research for development.

The Program Steering Committee will be comprised of representatives of FARA, the SROs, the CGIAR and the principal stakeholders. The SROs will assume responsibility for components appropriately managed at sub-regional level.

In summary, the SSA-CP will catalyze and promote changes in the region's agricultural research, without which the already dire prospects for Africa's children will continue to deteriorate.

Hopes are high that the proposal will be approved during the CGIAR AGM 2004. If approved, this will be the first Challenge Program developed by a CGIAR partner organization.

Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Program status report

Institutional reform and sustainable financing in African agricultural research are essential for achieving the African vision of 6% annual growth rate in agriculture. They are also crucial for achieving the objectives of NEPAD's CAADP and the Millennium Development Goal for reducing poverty and hunger. In response to these challenges and to achieve its own mission, FARA—together with the World Bank—has initiated a program entitled the Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Program (MAPP).

The first draft concept note was prepared by the World Bank and presented to the Africa Group at the 2002 CGIAR AGM in Manila, The Philippines. At that meeting, the FARA constituency endorsed the concept and requested the World Bank to elaborate and define the financing instrument. Since then, there have been various consultations with key partners, including the NEPAD Secretariat, the World Bank and the FARA Secretariat. The aim was to foster systems that are responsive, flexible, competitive, that support innovation and have priorities in line with FARA and NEPAD's agreed priorities. The revised version of MAPP was adopted by FARA as a working document during its Second General Assembly held in Dakar, Senegal, in May 2003.

As these consultations were going on between NEPAD, the World Bank and FARA, the Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture was held in

Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003, where NEPAD's CAADP Action Plan was adopted by the Ministers of Agriculture. During this meeting, a Maputo Declaration on NEPAD was made by the Ministers of Agriculture, committing their governments to increasing their investment in agriculture to 10% of total government expenditure.

To put this into action, FARA and NEPAD are working on an extensive consultation to raise awareness and buy-in for MAPP among the regional economic communities, SROs and NARS, as a means of implementing the fourth pillar of CAADP.

Africa has been on the sideline of the world-wide agricultural revolution, largely as a result of declining public investments in technology generation. This has gravely eroded the competitiveness and profitability of Africa's agriculture. Key issues to be specifically addressed by MAPP include (1) Africa's participation in the agricultural revolution, (2) investments in agricultural technology development, and (3) the effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption systems.

MAPP will provide the following.

- *Funding support to end-users.* This is intended to support end-users' full



participation in setting research agendas and dissemination programs, and funding producer associations' and other rural entrepreneurs' participation in adaptive research activities and advisory services.

- *Funding of National Advisory Services.* This will support efficient, responsive and sustainable services; identifying and scaling-up of 'best-bet' technologies; farmers' access to markets, and private-sector participation in value-adding processing and marketing.
- *Funding of NARS.* This will catalyze and underpin increased investment from national budgets and donor grants and loans; and cost recovery from clients through contractual research.
- *Funding of Sub-Regional Research Institutions.* This will leverage funding for the core and program activities of the three SROs and FARA from direct donor grants and member NARS' contributions. It will cover the marginal cost of regional research programs and capacity-building activities undertaken under contract at NARS' requests, and fund research programs of a regional interest that will be awarded through competitive mechanisms to NARS and international centers.
- *Funding of international centers.* This will provide grants for core activities of the CGIAR, including system-wide initiatives and challenge programs. In addition, funds will be provided for FARA, the SROs and NARS to commission research and capacity-building from IARCs.

The central goal of MAPP is to achieve sustained reduction in rural poverty through broad-based growth in agricultural productivity and incomes, with focus on small-holders and vulnerable groups. Its main objective is to strengthen the

African agricultural technology system. Its specific objectives are:

1. To strengthen the capacities of the African agricultural research systems to effectively and sustainably generate and promote the adoption of pro-poor innovations that will enhance the productivity of African agriculture.
2. To link national programs into sub-regional and regional networks with strong international partnerships.

MAPP has two components to address these objectives, namely the country-specific component and the regional component. The *country-specific component* is focused on technology generation and dissemination, with demand-driven operations based on priority programs funded under the International Development Association's (IDA) country-based support. The *regional component* addresses priority technology development and related institutional and capacity-building activities to be financed by grants from a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF).

The challenge is long term and country-specific, MAPP would be phased over 13 years, progressing 'horizontally' with a growing number of countries meeting eligibility criteria, and 'vertically' along long-term programs:

- Phase I (2003–06): Each of the 10 to 12 country-specific operations approved during this period would be supported through IDA-financed Adaptable Program Lending (APL).
- Phase II (2006–09), based on the review of Phase I achievements, would support (i) phase I of new country-specific programs; (ii) continuation of phase I country-specific programs to phase II; and, (iii) continuation of grant funding of regional activities through the MDTF.

- Phase III (2009–12): Indicators and triggers for the overall MAPP, country-specific operations and regional activities would be developed to track progress in institutional reforms and development.

Exchange and sharing of information and knowledge

Information exchange and knowledge sharing: An important component in agricultural research for development activities

Sharing knowledge and exchanging information has always been an important human activity that has enabled human societies to progress. Traditionally, information is passed on locally from generation to generation along well-defined cultural pathways, while modern information systems cross cultures, using different media. The phenomenon is therefore not new. What has changed in recent times is the volume and diversity of information, as well as the speed with which both traditional and modern information is disseminated, shared and processed by end-users into knowledge, thanks to the information and communication technology (ICT) revolution.

Possession of knowledge is often seen as possession of power, and the acquisition of knowledge is empowering. Not surprisingly, therefore, there is much concern about the digital divide that separates those who have regular and functional access to general and specific sectoral information through modern ICT, and those who have limited, unreliable access to such information and cannot build the knowledge they need in order to function effectively and in the absence of which they feel vulnerable and ‘disempowered.’

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) is currently carrying out a set of activities

designed to contribute to bridging the digital divide in agricultural research for development and thereby empowering researchers and other stakeholders.

One such activity is the Global Alliance of the Regional Agricultural Information System or GLOBAL.RAIS. The goal of the GLOBAL.RAIS initiative, which started in 2003, is first to assist regional and sub-regional fora in the development of their own Regional Agricultural Information Systems (RAIS), and then to e-connect the resulting five RAIS—FARA, Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA), Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Central Asia and Caucasus Agricultural Research Forum (CAC) and *Foro de las Americas para la investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario* (FORAGRO)—through the development of a compatible system that will enable them to exchange information, share knowledge, collaborate and work together on common problems and cross-cutting issues.

The GLOBAL.RAIS initiative intends to carry out five regional workshops—one in each of the five fora indicated above—, followed by an inter-regional workshop. During each of the regional



workshops, information collected on the status, strengths and weaknesses of national agricultural information systems (NAIS) will be presented, discussed and used to develop a regional strategy to develop or strengthen the RAIS. The strategy will include activities to correct weaknesses and address identified needs of the NAIS. The outputs from each regional workshop will then be collated, discussed and used as input for the development of a global strategy for sharing agricultural information and technology.

The initiative is progressing satisfactorily and three regional workshops have already been held in the AARINENA, APAARI and CAC regions. The other two workshops in FARA and FORAGRO will be held on 20–22 April and on 5–7 May 2004, respectively. Shortly thereafter, the inter-regional workshop will be held in June 2004 in Rome, Italy.

The FARA workshop, like those of the other regions, will address the following objectives:

- Analyze, discuss and endorse the outputs of a diagnostic study on the strengths and weaknesses of NAIS in the FARA region.
- Use the outputs to develop a regional strategy for RAIS.
- Develop a plan of work and establish an ad-hoc committee to follow up and monitor the implementation of the strategy.

The work will only be half done by the end of the FARA workshop. The next steps will be the development of a GLOBAL.RAIS strategy, to link all the RAIS, followed by the implementation of all the strategies—the five RAIS and the GLOBAL.RAIS.

GFAR, through its Regional Fora, is committed to carrying out this initiative to its logical conclusion and thereby contributing to em-

powering not only agricultural scientists in Africa and other developing regions, but also other stakeholders involved with AR4D (especially civil society and NGOs) and associated with the Regional Fora as full-fledged members.

Profiting from the APAARI–GFAR experience in information and communication technology

FARA recently participated in the ICT Expert Consultation organized by APAARI as part of GFAR's project on strengthening the role of information and communication technology (ICT) in agricultural research for development. The meeting drew 65 participants from Asia and Pacific nations and Regional Fora, GFAR and FARA and international research organizations.

APAARI has surveyed the status of ICT in the Asia–Pacific region through its Regional Information System (APARIS) program and in collaboration with the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR). This identified four groups of countries:

- Most advanced countries and territories, including Australia, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan.
- Advanced countries, including China, India, Pakistan, The Philippines and Thailand.
- Less advanced countries, including Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.
- Slowly developing countries and territories, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar and New Caledonia. By the same criteria most African countries would be in this group, indicating the need for urgent action.

FARA intends to identify the advantages offered to African scientists through access to the information systems such as those demonstrated at the meeting, including:

- FAO ICT program, World Agricultural Information System (WAICENT), such as its AGRIS (the international information system for agricultural science and technology) at www.fao.org/agris.
- MARK (Information Management Resource Kit) at www.fao.org/imark.
- VERCON (Virtual Extension and Communication Network) at www.fao.org/sd/2003/KN10053_en.htm and the virtual library at www.fao.org/waicent/portal/virtualibrary_en.asp.
- The new ICT-KM program of CGIAR.
- ISNAR's Information and Communication Management System found at www.isnar.org.
- ICRISAT's Virtual Academy for Semi-Arid Tropics (VSAT).
- The Asia Pacific Advance Network (APAN).
- Distance education Initiatives for AR4D strategy of the Asia Pacific Regional Technology Center (APRTC).
- The Worldfish Center's program www.fish.org and www.reef.org.

GFAR would like to follow-up on the regional consultation to be hosted by FARA on strengthening ICT in Africa as part of the RAIS project.

Establishing virtual workshops

As its name implies, FARA is a 'forum' that has been established to provide opportunities for all stakeholders in African agricultural research to enter discussions on any aspect of agricultural

research. One means of accomplishing that is through convening conferences on important topics. However, the cost in personnel time and money of ever-increasing numbers of conferences limits the scope for wide participation.

FARA is, therefore, developing a capacity for convening communities of practice and virtual workshops that would exploit the latest advances in ICT. An example of the potential of this approach is provided by EIARD's InfoSys¹ software called Phprojekt for sharing information with limited groups of people. This provides registered groups with facilities such as summary of information, calendar, contacts, forum, files, projects, timecards and email. The *summary of information* includes all the information that can be accessed by the group. *Calendar* gives events that are common to the group, *contacts* are the addresses of the group members, *forum* is a list of on-going discussions that any group member can participate in. *Files* list files accessible to the group members. *Projects* give the list of projects that are on-going for the group. *Email* is a facility to contact other group members. *Timecards* gives records of when a group member has worked on a project. Readers are encouraged to suggest topics for urgently required consultations that could be subjects for future workshops.

¹ EIARD InfoSys is the web-based information and communication system of the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development.



Stakeholders' Profiles

FARA-CGIAR partnership gathers momentum: Moving from vision to action

The year 2003 proved that the spirit of goodwill and partnership that led to the birth of FARA is more than ever present among the multiple stakeholders of the agriculture-related sector in Africa. Significant progress was made in translating into action the shared vision for the resurgence of African agriculture within NEPAD's framework.



The year saw strong support for an integrated approach to address food-security and poverty-alleviation challenges in Africa, as exemplified by the development process of the Challenge Program for Sub-Saharan Africa, which is led by FARA with the active involvement of several CGIAR Centers and national agricultural research systems in Africa.

Reaffirming the continuing support of the CGIAR to FARA, Dr Kanayo F. Nwanze, the Incoming Chairman of the Center Directors Committee (CDC), stated at the 2003 Annual General Meeting, the “CGIAR is deeply committed to the success of FARA.”

Complementary roles

CGIAR’s allegiance to FARA and the sub-regional organizations (SROs) in Africa has three main bases:

1. *Common challenge:* FARA’s call for 6% annual growth rate in agricultural productivity in SSA to halt and reverse the decline in food production and incomes of the rural poor—a formidable challenge that requires a concerted effort of all partners.
2. *Shared vision:* A revitalization of African agriculture led by Africans for Africa, by harnessing cutting-edge science and technology.
3. *Complementary roles:* As the catalyst for partnership among all institutes involved in agricultural R&D in Africa, FARA is the ideal strategic entry point for the CGIAR’s technological interventions in the region.

In its turn, FARA benefits from the CGIAR’s experience as a producer of international public goods, its breadth and scope of expertise and contacts.

Recent impacts in Sub-Saharan Africa

Although the work of CGIAR Centers is targeted to developing countries across the world, over the last few years, its focus and impacts have been increasingly felt in Africa. The following examples of some of the recent impacts of their work in Sub-Saharan Africa testify to the concerted effort carried out by CGIAR scientists and their partners, in harmony with FARA’s vision and NEPAD’s goal.

Improving agricultural productivity and farmers’ income

- In Ghana and Malawi, new initiatives to integrate fishponds into small-scale farming systems are paying rich dividends to farmers. In Ghana, this has led to a 180% increase in net income and in Malawi to a six-fold increase. If the yields achieved in Malawi (1500 kg/ha per year) can be replicated on only 1% of the 250 million hectares identified as suitable for aquaculture in Southern Africa, almost 4 million tonnes of fish could be produced each year.
- Improved cropping systems, such as maize–soybean rotations and dual-purpose–cowpea–sorghum systems have increased the gross income of farmers in West and Central Africa by 50–70% compared to that from continuous maize cultivation.
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- In central Ethiopia, a high-yielding and disease-resistant lentil variety is transforming the lives of farmers who are growing it over thousands of hectares. As lentil is a source of

- high-quality protein, it contributes to improved health and livelihoods of the rural poor.
- The phenomenal impact of the successful biological control of the cassava mealybug continues to be felt in Sub-Saharan Africa. Minimum benefits to farmers from this technology are estimated at US\$2.2 billion. Good progress has also been made in developing biological control of other important pests of cassava and cowpea.
 - NERICA helped Guinea save over US\$13 million in rice imports in 2003. Convinced that large-scale dissemination of NERICA is critical to reducing poverty and increasing food security, the African Development Bank launched a \$30 million project in 2003 to support national programs in the dissemination of NERICA over a five-year period in seven West African countries.

The NEPAD Steering Committee has identified NERICA as one of Africa's "best technologies worth up-scaling," and has endorsed its expansion across the continent as part of a wider effort to boost agricultural production and food security in SSA. Several donors and NGOs are helping NERICA's expansion in East Africa. In Uganda, about 6000 ha are planted to NERICAs, which are gaining popularity and demand for NERICA from Ugandan farmers is increasing.

- Thanks to improved technology, the increase in bean production in Africa is estimated at US\$26 million. Today, over 15% of the bean area in East and Southern Africa is sown to improved varieties. Bean germplasm from Latin America, its center of origin, has been transferred to Africa by CIAT, where it has generated an extensive and quick impact.

- Improved soil-fertility management options are being developed with farmers to raise crop productivity through the integration of participatory on-farm research approaches and simulation modeling.
- Over 200,000 farmers in East and Southern Africa, especially women and poor farmers, are using improved agroforestry innovations.
- Community-based approaches are being successfully adopted in the Miombo woodlands that are spread across seven countries in Southern Africa, so that millions of people who depend on these woodlands can efficiently use and manage the resources.
- There is greater buy-in from NGOs and local communities in East Africa for low-cost innovative water-management technologies. Rain-water harvesting, drip irrigation, and treadle pumps are becoming increasingly popular with small-holders.
- One exciting development is the public-private partnerships for pro-poor research, illustrated by the collaboration between several partners—including the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), The Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR), and the CGIAR's ILRI—to develop a vaccine against East Coast fever, a fatal disease of cattle that is particularly important to small-holders who do not have the purchasing power required to stimulate solely private development of the vaccine.

Improving health

- The CGIAR System-wide Initiative on Malaria and Agriculture (SIMA) is fighting malaria through the development and promotion of better land, water and farming practices across Africa.

- The growing HIV/AIDS pandemic threatens to compromise the economic, social and democratic gains made in Africa in recent decades. At the request of the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the System-wide Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Agriculture (SWIHA-West Africa) provided technical expertise to a multi-sectoral program on HIV/AIDS in West Africa in 2003. The Regional Network on HIV/AIDS, Rural Livelihoods and Food Security (RENEWAL Network) in East and Southern Africa is enabling agricultural organizations to contribute towards mitigation of the effects of HIV/AIDS.
- The conservation and use of hundreds of nutritious African leafy vegetables consumed by rural populations in SSA are being promoted, improving the livelihoods of farmers and boosting the health of urban dwellers.
- Studies conducted by the 'Vitamin A for Africa' program have shown that a few spoonfuls of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes per day are enough to replenish liver stores of vitamin A in undernourished children. These sweet potatoes were developed through conventional technology.
- FAO projections indicate that the numbers of chronically undernourished people in SSA will rise to nearly 300 million by the year 2010. Adding vitamins and minerals to common staples is one way to improve their health. The recently launched Bio-fortification Challenge Program will lead research in this area, as part of a holistic approach involving biosafety, food safety, and ethical and cultural aspects.

Providing benefits of biotechnology with biosafety

- Efforts are being made to ensure that the benefits of new science reach resource-poor farmers and consumers, particularly in areas where private-sector investment is unlikely.
- Transgenic rice and maize with resistance to insect pests, and transgenic groundnuts resistant to the devastating rosette disease in Africa are being evaluated with promising results.
- Biotechnology and biosafety go hand in hand. Many CGIAR Centers are now members of the Program for Biosafety Systems, an international consortium, and taking the lead in helping NARS develop biosafety guidelines and policies.

Improving research capacity of NARS

- In October 2003, the CGIAR-supported ILRI, based in Nairobi, Kenya, signed an agreement with NEPAD to host a Biosciences Facility for East and Central Africa, that will apply frontier science for agriculture in, by and for Africa. The facility will be shared by the region's research community.
- The strategic move of relocating major functions of the former International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR), which have been taken over by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), to Ethiopia has been made to further strengthen NARS' capacity in Africa.
- A pre-requisite for a revitalized African agriculture is the existence of a cadre of qualified, experienced, dedicated and motivated African researchers and policy-makers.

Thousands of African researchers trained by CGIAR Centers now form the nuclei of NARS across Africa, putting their international training to the service of their countries.

Areas where FARA can support CGIAR activities

- Strengthen collaboration of Centers with SROs and help Centers contribute to relevant eco-regional activities implemented by the SROs in their respective countries.
- Reactivate earlier dialog between the CGIAR and the SROs and NARS on programmatic integration of regional planning and how best to optimize resources in SSA within the framework of NEPAD.
- Assist in informing the governments of African countries and the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) of the high priority for effective agricultural water management. Currently, this sector is neglected and only 3–4% of the available water is used for agriculture, the lowest percentage of any continent by far.
- Assist in NERICA's expansion "to other parts of the continent in urgent need," as expressed by African leaders at the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD) III Conference.



- Strong NARS in Southern Africa are accepting responsibility for regionalized plant variety development programs, such as for sorghum. FARA should facilitate a broader testing and evaluation of this sort of regionalized plant-breeding model. This would help address issues, such as (1) the prospects for releasing varieties on a regional, as opposed to a national, basis; (2) how can national research incentives support regionally focused research? (3) regionalized breeding *vis-à-vis* application of Intellectual Property Rights.

Conclusion

It is increasingly clear that agricultural development in Africa should be addressed as part of a broader landscape that encompasses political, economic, social and ecological dimensions with links to health and educational issues.

As Dr Nwanze emphasizes, "Agricultural technologies cannot alone solve the challenges in Africa. Complementary factors such as favorable agricultural policies, trade liberalization, encouragement of the private sector, access of farmers to credit, and political support at the highest levels of government will lead to more competitive domestic and regional markets, so that Africa can take its rightful place in the world's economy."

It is also clear that the notion of a single paradigm or reform agenda that will fit the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa would be counterproductive and of little value for the complex task of creating innovative systems.

The few examples listed above of impacts of activities carried out by the CGIAR Centers and their partners with support from visionary donors, attest to long-term commitments of global partnerships and of investments in the future of Africa. They are bringing hope to small-holders, particularly women, who provide up to 80% of the staple food in SSA.

*ICRA–African partnerships:
Enhancing capacities for effective,
efficient and relevant agricultural
research for development in
Africa*

**Meeting the growing demand for
capacity enhancement in AR4D in
Africa**

In response to an expanding demand for capacity-enhancing services in innovation systems, the International Centre for Development Oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA) created in 1981 by the European CGIAR donor group, has adopted a Global Partnership Strategy, which aims at making more effective use of its limited resources through expanding capacity-building partnerships and networks with research, development and education organizations in the ‘South,’ and particularly in Africa. This aims at broadening the field of service-providers in the short and medium term, which will help to meet the growing capacity-enhancement needs of mid-career R&D professionals and other stakeholders in rural innovation systems in Africa. For the longer term, partnerships between ICRA and educational and training institutions in the ‘South’ will contribute to needed change in these institutions and help them to supply the human resources needed in the future, and to narrowing the ‘gap’ between the R&D and the education sectors.

**“New and alternative ways of doing
business”**

The goals and aspirations of agricultural researchers and development professionals, and the expectations that governments and civil society have of them, continue to change and the problems that they are called upon to help

resolve have increased in complexity. Today, professionals and institutions engaged in agriculture are called upon to contribute directly to resolving high-order, large-scale and complex issues such as alleviating poverty and sustaining development. As a response to these changing circumstances, different institutional arrangements are evolving that better respond to the complex needs of development, and increased attention is being paid to multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder partnerships as a means of tackling expanded and more complex agricultural research for development (AR4D) agendas. Today’s research and development professionals and institutions must become more effective and efficient in the advancement and application of knowledge to the resolution of complex problems—an alternative way of doing business. This requires practitioners to adopt approaches and develop skills over and above those acquired through formal disciplinary education and training.

Capacity-building needs

The growing awareness among agricultural and rural development practitioners of a need for “new and alternative ways of doing business”—alternative integrated innovation processes—is creating an increased demand for capacity development in how teams and partnerships are formed, plan, operate and are managed—what ICRA has labeled ‘ARD’ approaches and procedures. ARD is a generic approach which is inclusive of other research for development paradigms such as farming systems research (FSR), farmer participatory research (FPR), integrated natural-resources management (INRM) and integrated agricultural research for development (IAR4D).

Developing the capacities and attitudes of individuals and institutions that are needed for effective and efficient team-work and partnerships to adopt innovative processes is complex and is not readily achieved through simple conventional training programs. In particular, the teams and partnerships in question include multiple stakeholders, use participatory and systems approaches to resolve complex problems, and need to contribute to integrated and sustainable rural development.

ICRA, for more than two decades, has provided learning programs in ARD thinking and approaches from its bases in Wageningen (The Netherlands) and Montpellier (France), together with field work undertaken jointly with partner organizations in the 'South.' These programs have additionally been supplemented with in-country and regional tailor-made events. By working together in interdisciplinary, multi-institutional teams together with partner institutions in the 'South,' professional participants learn through hands-on experience to work with a broad range of stakeholders to address complex problems defined by partner organizations, to negotiate, plan and implement solutions, and generate the knowledge needed through joint action learning. The focus of such learning programs is on processes, approaches and attitudes—building effective and efficient interdisciplinary teams and multi-institutional partnerships to resolve complex problems.

The ARD approach provides ICRA and its African partners with a framework and set of procedures around which to arrange, in a logical manner, the many learning modules and tools that are used in capacity-strengthening programs. The ARD approach also recognizes both spatial and temporal scales and interdependencies, multiple

effects and trade-offs of different options, and the need to involve a wide range of stakeholders, often with conflicting interests, in collective action. Equally important as traditional technical, economic and biophysical disciplinary skills in such a multifaceted approach to research and innovation, is the social component including negotiation between differing perspectives, policy formulation, institutional change and development, land use and planning, and conflict and information management.

Collaboration between ICRA, FARA and African partners in 2003

1. Advocacy for “New ways of doing business”

The Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program.

During 2003, ICRA was extensively involved in the participatory approach adopted by FARA for the formulation of the CP for Sub-Saharan Africa (the only CP to focus on the needs of a geographic region), and was encouraged by the commitment of stakeholders to discovering a “new way of doing business” so as to achieve a greater impact from agricultural research and development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D), an approach similar to the ARD approach and procedures that ICRA uses, has been adopted as the umbrella paradigm to provide an overall structure and to bring coherence to the program. The SSA-CP thus endorses and complements the ICRA approach to tackling complex issues, and provides an opportunity for ICRA partners and alumni in Africa, together with other advocates of such approaches, to join together in consortia to participate in and fully support the implementation of the essential capacity building and mentoring components of the program.

The Africa, Caribbean and Pacific group of states.

FARA and ICRA made complementary and coordinated presentations to the 2nd meeting of the ACP Informal Working Group on Science and Technology with emphasis on Agriculture, held in The Netherlands in December 2003, to stress the need for supporting capacity building for and with African organizations through both 'North-South' (N-S) and S-S collaborative partnerships. The FARA presentation was titled 'Building Africa's scientific and institutional capacity' and the ICRA presentation was on 'Developing capacity in agricultural research for development: The ICRA Initiative.' Both presentations were well received and follow-up visits to the ACP Secretariat are planned for 2004.

Participation in FARA and GFAR annual meetings.

ICRA was represented by its Director and Deputy Director at the 2003 annual meetings of both FARA and GFAR held in Dakar in May 2003.

1. Capacity building in ARD

African participation in ICRA core programs

Africans continued to dominate participation in the ICRA learning programs held in both Wageningen and Montpellier during 2003, illustrating the continuing strong demand from Africa for such individual and team capacity-enhancing programs. In 2003, 40% of the participants in the Anglophone program in Wageningen were from Sub-Saharan Africa, compared to 33% in 2002; and 48% of the participants in the Francophone program in Montpellier were from Sub-Saharan Africa, with a further 48% from North Africa, compared to 55% and 40% (respectively) in 2002. The high

demand from Africa continues and 67% of the applicants for the 2004 Anglophone program were from Africa, and the Francophone program is again dominated by African participants: 55% from Sub-Saharan Africa, 10% from Madagascar and 25% from North Africa. African alumni contribute significantly to institutional change and development in Africa and to the expanding collaboration and partnerships between ICRA and a range of African institutions.

ICRA field studies in Africa

During 2003, six of the eight ICRA field studies conducted as part of the learning programs took place in Africa—three in Sub-Saharan Africa and three in North Africa. These studies are undertaken at the request of African partner institutions and involve a range of stakeholders concerned with the selected problem. The titles of these team studies, which produced comprehensive reports and suggested action plans for the host partner institutions in Africa, are listed below:

Ghana: Combining mechanization with conservation of agriculture.

South Africa: Improving attractiveness of dryland crop production.

Burkina Faso: *Diffusion des stratégies de gestion intégrée de la fertilité des sols dans le Zoundweogo.*

Morocco *Systèmes de production oasiens et sylvo-pastoraux: interactions, complémentarités et développement durable.*

Morocco: *Reconvertir un système d'irrigation: le pari difficile du périmètre irrigué du Tadla.*

Tunisia: *Valorisation de savoirs et savoir-faire: perspectives d'implication de la biodiversité du palmier dattier dans les oasis du Djerid.*

3. Moving the center of gravity of ICRA south

The ICRA–NATURA initiative

The ICRA–NATURA initiative on ‘Mobilizing a Partnership of Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa to develop and diffuse methodologies for Agricultural Research for Development (ARD),’ funded by the European Commission’s INCO-DEV program, was launched in 2003. It has the general objective of strengthening collaboration between European and Sub-Saharan African agricultural research and training institutions in the development and diffusion of ARD. During 2003, a survey was conducted to assess the state of the art among European and SSA institutions in the development, use and diffusion of ARD. This was followed by a bilingual e-forum, hosted by EIARD InfoSys+, to reaffirm the need and demand for capacities in ARD and in which 276 participants from a broad range of African and European institutions registered. The initiative culminated in a workshop in Wageningen, The Netherlands, in December 2003. The workshop was attended by 65 participants from 11 SSA and 9 European countries representing different stakeholder groups, including FARA, CORAF/WECARD and ASARECA, research organizations, universities, public development agencies, NGOs, farmers’ organizations, information systems and donors. The workshop aimed at reaching a common understanding of the ARD (IAR4D) concept and practice, identifying the capacities needed for ARD, and at formulating strategies to meet the challenges of diffusing and strengthening capacities in ARD through collaborative partnerships. The workshop agreed on a number of concrete steps to move the initiative forward, support each others’ efforts, exploit synergies and bring partners together. These actions

include: networking and information exchange; synthesizing experience and developing the IAR4D concept to stimulate policy dialog, mobilize stakeholders and initiate learning processes; showing impact based on well-documented success stories and best practices resulting from participatory monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment; stimulating institutional developments such as formation of stakeholder platforms and promoting recognition of IAR4D in academic and scientific circles; stimulating the development and piloting of new innovative training and learning approaches, programs and materials; lobbying with policy-makers, educational institutions and other stakeholders, and mobilizing resources for pilot initiatives.

Establishing ICRA–African collaborative partnerships

During 2003, significant progress was made in establishing several collaborative partnerships between ICRA and institutions in SSA as part of the implementation of the ICRA Global Partnership Strategy and in response to specific requests for assistance in strengthening capacities in ARD from the SSA partners. For example, and in response to requests, visits by ICRA staff were made to Ghana, South Africa and Uganda, and follow-up discussions held during the ICRA–NATURA workshop, in which representatives from all three countries participated. In all three cases, plans for ICRA to provide some immediate assistance to capacity development in ARD and to use these initial in-country efforts as nuclei for expansion into more comprehensive national and sub-regional ‘centers’ for capacity building in ARD are well advanced and resources have been identified to initiate activities in 2004. During

2004, tailor-made capacity-building programs in ARD for the staff of the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) will commence in Uganda and South Africa, respectively, and will include the participation of national universities. The University of Kumasi, Ghana, has sent two senior staff members to participate in the 2004 ICRA Anglophone program and additional support will be given to them to help them incorporate ARD into university curricula and to enable them to provide short learning programs in ARD. Similar partnerships are also being developed in Francophone West Africa, North Africa and Madagascar.

Future working roles for FARA and ECART

The members of ECART—the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) and Natural Resources International of the UK, *Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) of Germany, *Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare* (IAO) of Italy, the Institute of Scientific and Technical International Cooperation (ICCTI) of Portugal, CIRAD of France and Wageningen University of The Netherlands—each have a long history and a long-term commitment to the need for agricultural research within the developing world. Central to that interest is Sub-Saharan Africa, and ECART members have enjoyed close working relationships with the SROs.

ECART has been aware of the need for a continental-wide representation of research interest to act as a bridge between the national and sub-regional structures on one hand and the global context through GFAR on the other, in order for Africa to get adequate attention and

resources. ECART was particularly supportive of the FARA-led Challenge Program on Sub-Saharan Africa 'Securing the future of Africa's children'; and attempted to provide a critique of the early drafts, since all member organizations appreciated the importance of the program and the need for a much broader approach to research and development in the future. As was made clear in the proposal, past research has been too fragmentary and has rarely addressed the whole gamut of problems facing the farmer.

ECART is aware of FARA's important central advocacy role in promoting agricultural research for development. This is at a time when the European governments, although actively supporting the UN Millennium Development Goals, do not necessarily have the strength of purpose with respect to the role of agriculture and agricultural research in meeting the goals. ECART would therefore look increasingly to FARA to maintain the pressure on the EU and national governments and institutions to maintain funding of agricultural research and to emphasize the need for strong 'North–South' links.

Furthermore, ECART would look to FARA as a key source for prioritizing the research needs of individual countries or sub-regions, and for

UN–Millennium Development Goals meeting.



providing a data bank on those regional research staff currently working on specific problems and willing to work on cooperative ventures.

ECART fully appreciates FARA's close ties with NEPAD and in particular the CAADP that has been produced. ECART would welcome initiatives between the 'North' and 'South' for developing research agendas, and would hope that FARA will be able to keep European partners aware of policy changes and ensure that they are offered opportunities to contribute to the policy formulation process.

Supporting young scientists in developing countries: The IFS model

The development context

The international community is committed to reducing global poverty by half during the period 2000–2015. However, policy-makers often give priority to short-term projects trying to alleviate the immediate symptoms of poverty. Science is often considered to be a luxury not deserving priority. The International Foundation for Science (IFS) claims the contrary—there will be no long-term sustainable development in the poor regions of the world without a considerable investment in science. Food insecurity, environmental degradation, emerging diseases and other development challenges cannot be addressed without a scientific understanding of the root causes of the problems and the development of appropriate technology to address the issues. There is a gigantic research agenda to be accomplished in order to transform rural Africa from a state of resource degradation and dwindling livelihoods to sustained growth,

environmental stability and prosperity for the inhabitants.

The scientific landscape in less-developed countries

In the 1980s and 1990s, most low-income countries suffered from general economic decline, while at the same time growing cohorts of secondary school leavers put pressure on the universities. Undergraduate training was given priority, while research dwindled. Research institutes saw their budgets cut severely. The numbers of research positions and scholarships were restricted. Researchers left their institutions and moved overseas or into consultancy and business.

As the low-income countries—notably those in Sub-Saharan Africa—enter the 21st century, there is a glaring deficit of researchers in the age range 25–35. African universities and research institutes are moving towards a generation shift. The present population of professors and senior researchers is a 'graying' lot!

Who is going to generate the knowledge needed for development? 'Northern' expertise as well as the 'Southern' academic *diaspora* can play a role, but only a limited one. The scientific foundations for future sustainable development must be built, nurtured and reproduced in national institutions.

The need for research funding

Studies undertaken by IFS have shown that the major complaint by scientists in developing countries is non-functioning laboratories and lack of scientific equipment, which reflects the general problem of the lack of research funding. The great challenge is now to provide an enabling and meaningful environment for the young generation of university graduates. Given the

right support, the new generation of scientists could provide the scientific underpinnings for sustainable development technologies while at the same time narrowing the global scientific gap.

The IFS model for supporting young scientists in less-developed countries

The IFS is a research council with international operations. Its Secretariat is located in Stockholm, Sweden, and it is supported by 20 governmental and non-governmental donors. Its mandate is to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to conduct relevant and high-quality research related to the conservation, management and sustainable utilization of biological and water resources.

IFS achieves its mission by supporting, through a competitive research-grant scheme, promising young scientists from developing countries with potentials to become science leaders. To qualify for support, researchers should preferably be below 40, at the beginning of their scientific career, and undertake their research in a developing country. Since its start in 1972, IFS has provided over 5000 research grants, which can be used to buy equipment and supplies required to carry out the project, and to cover local costs. The recipients can also benefit from additional resources for participation in conferences, networking and access to literature searches.

IFS Impact Studies² show that the IFS capacity-building model, i.e. providing support to well-targeted young scientists at the beginning of their research careers, has proved successful in retaining them as active and productive members of their national scientific communities, thus reducing the likelihood of brain drain. IFS grant recipients publish more frequently and more often in mainstream scientific journals, and they are more successful in accessing additional research funding, compared to their peers.

IFS places the greatest emphasis on directing resources to institutions and countries with vulnerable research infrastructure. As researchers in such situations typically have less access to the Internet and are relatively marginalized from the international scientific discourse, they face difficulties when competing with researchers from developing countries with relatively strong scientific infrastructure. IFS has therefore initiated a series of supporting activities to enhance the competence of applicants from marginalized academic environments. Among these are workshops to conceptualize and prepare research proposals, as well as different types of mentorship.

IFS acts in collaboration with 126 Affiliated Organizations and other national, regional and international institutions. IFS looks forward to collaborating with FARA for agricultural research

2. **Gaillard, J.**, 2000. Monitoring and Evaluation System for Impact Assessment (MESIA), Conceptual Framework and Guidelines. The International Foundation for Science (IFS), *MESIA Impact Studies*, Report No. 1, Stockholm, 38 pp.

Gaillard, J. and **A. Furó Tullberg**, 2001. Questionnaire Survey of African Scientists, IFS Grantees and INCO beneficiaries. The International Foundation for Science (IFS), *MESIA Impact Studies*, Report No. 2, Stockholm, 92 pp.

Gaillard, J., **J.M. Russell**, **A. Furó Tullberg**, **N. Narvaez-Berthelemot** and **E. Zink**, 2001. IFS Impact in Mexico: 25 years of support to scientists. The International Foundation for Science (IFS), *MESIA Impact Studies*, Report No. 3, Stockholm, 152 pp.

Gaillard, J., **E. Zink** and **A. Furó Tullberg**, 2001. Strengthening Science Capacity in Tanzania: An Impact Analysis of IFS Support. The International Foundation for Science (IFS), *MESIA Impact Studies*, Report No. 4, Stockholm, 104 pp.

in Africa, by providing funding opportunities for the young generation of scientists. It is suggested that a partnership whereby FARA and IFS combine resources to identify and fund high-quality demand-driven research in priority areas has considerable synergistic potential.

More information on IFS can be found at www.ifs.se.

Building partnerships and developing capacities: contributions from GFAR in 2003

Introduction

Founded in 1996 with a mission to mobilize the scientific community and all stakeholders in their efforts to alleviate poverty, increase food security and promote the sustainable use of natural resources, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) group has pursued this mission through the provision of space, forum and opportunities for the various stakeholders to meet and form strategic alliances and cost-effective partnerships around common issues. GFAR strongly believes that it is only through such partnerships and the resulting economies of scale that the global community will find rapid and long-lasting solutions to triple scourge of poverty, food insecurity and resource degradation. The concept of partnership is therefore of crucial importance to GFAR—it is its *raison d'être*. GFAR also holds strongly to the view that partnerships can only be fruitful and long lasting if all partners have the capacity to contribute actively and participate fully in the governance and management of the partnership business. Hence, the importance accorded by GFAR to providing institutional support and developing capacity of its various stakeholders,

particularly deserving Regional Fora and civil-society organizations.

These two activities—building partnership and developing stakeholder capacities—were addressed in 2003, and we briefly present some examples pertinent to the FARA region (below).

Capacity in Management Information Systems

Discussions started in October 2003 between the GFAR and FARA Secretariats on FARA's participation in the GLOBAL.RAIS project, an initiative designed to provide assistance to Regional Fora for the development of their own RAIS, and then linking these to those of the other Regional Fora, through the development of a compatible system that will enable them to exchange information, share knowledge, collaborate and work together on common problems and cross-cutting issues. Discussions on the GLOBAL.RAIS initiative led to the planning of a regional workshop, preceded by an electronic discussion, in April 2004, with outputs expected to contribute to the development of Information Communication Management (ICM) capacities in the FARA region. Thereafter, an inter-regional workshop on ICM will be organized in June 2004 to compare regional experiences, define a global ICM agenda for AR4D, and develop strategies to implement this agenda.

Strengthening Civil Society Organizations

It was also in 2003 that the development of a GFAR-initiated activity on strengthening functional linkages between civil society organizations (CSOs) and national agricultural research institutions for effective agricultural research for sustainable development was completed and funding for implementation

secured. The thesis of this project, which will be implemented by CSOs in Sub-Saharan Africa, is that active participation of CSOs at all stages of AR4D is essential if the resulting technologies are to be usable and utilized, but that this participation cannot be either active or meaningful if CSOs lack the capacity to influence other partners. They therefore have to be endowed with the capacity to influence decisions and policies, and also to actively participate in ground-level activities. The ultimate goal of the project is to contribute to the development of better-organized and stronger CSOs, capable of working and collaborating with research institutions, and taking their rightful place in decision-making bodies where they can influence AR4D activities at all levels. The first component of this two-part initiative focuses on capacity building of participating farmers' organizations and NGOs involved in AR4D in SSA, and will comprise a participatory institutional self-diagnosis and needs assessment, followed by appropriate capacity-building activities to address the diagnosed needs. Such activities may include: sharing experiences, knowledge and information at seminars, workshops, and other group activities; formal and informal training programs on project-management capabilities, including development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects; communication and information sharing strategies and advocacy capabilities. The second component is aimed at reinforcing the involvement of the participating beneficiaries in AR4D activities and decision-making processes at the national and regional levels. This may entail networking activities,

information exchange and knowledge sharing, active participation in AR4D agenda-setting processes, and the implementation of collaborative action-research activities supportive of regional research priorities and community needs. Implementation of the project co-ordinated by FARA is scheduled to start by mid-2004.

Inter-regional collaboration

In October 2003, the Executive Secretaries of all the Regional Fora and GFAR met in Nairobi, Kenya, during the GFAR Statutory Meetings, to discuss the important issue of inter-regional collaboration—considered as GFAR's main value-adding niche. One of the main outputs of their deliberations was the identification of a number of collaborative and partnership-building activities among the various Regional Fora, which demonstrates the importance of the GFAR platform for partnership building at various levels.

Two of those that involve FARA are: (1) a FARA–AARINENA collaboration within the context of NEPAD and the SSA–CP. It is noteworthy that following the discussions in Nairobi, the geographic coverage of this CP, initially conceived to cover only SSA, may now be expanded to include North Africa. As such, FARA invited AARINENA to take part in shaping the CP, and also invited a North African representative to sit in on the FARA Executive Board as an observer. This proposal was welcomed by the AARINENA Regional Forum, which highlighted its unique position of being geographically located between two continents, i.e. Asia and Africa. Some important steps, which are highlighted elsewhere in this Annual Report, have already been taken to address the issue of

how to ensure that the North African sub-regional grouping of AARINENA participates fully in the activities of FARA, including this CP initiated by FARA, since FARA is now recognized as the forum for all of Africa. (2) Potential collaborative efforts between APAARI and FARA on information communication management, private-sector engagement, biotechnology and biosafety research activities were highlighted. In the coming years, the GFAR Secretariat will facilitate the development and implementation of some of these partnerships by the concerned Regional Fora.

Finally, there is an important partnership and exemplary collaborative efforts between the GFAR and FARA Secretariats in the organization of both GFAR and FARA General Assemblies, held one after the other in May 2003 in Dakar, Senegal. Not only did the two Secretariats organize these events on a cost-sharing basis (such as in the provision of Internet access to participants, and co-sponsoring participants), some special sessions were organized in a complementary fashion. For instance, FARA organized a session on private-sector engagement in AR4D, while GFAR organized a pre-conference workshop among CSOs. Pertinent outputs and information from the two sessions were shared for the benefit of the various stakeholders without costly duplication of effort.

As indicated earlier, the concepts of partnership and capacity development are central to GFAR, and these will continue to feature prominently in all of GFAR's activities for the foreseeable future. We have reported on some of the activities that were carried out in the FARA region during the year 2003. The GFAR Secretariat will continue to look for opportunities for partnerships and inter-

regional collaborative efforts between FARA and other institutional or regional stakeholders associated with GFAR, in order to promote the ultimate goal of improving the contribution of agricultural research to sustainable development.

FARA's assistance in forming a farmers' network in Ghana

The Farmers Organisation Network in Ghana (FONG) is a result of international summits and conferences involving farmers' organizations and NGOs. Initial ideas came after the World Food Summit held in June 2002 in Rome, Italy. The farmers' organization representatives who attended this meeting (Ken Kinney and Lydia Sasu) later met with FAO officials to organize a meeting at which they could share their experiences with other farmers. The ideas were later reinforced after the FARA and GFAR General Assemblies in May held in Dakar, Senegal, and a proposal was submitted to FARA to launch FONG in September 2003.

FARA supported the proposal to facilitate collaboration between researchers and farmers, and to create a platform for farmers to share information and knowledge. This was followed by a preparatory meeting held with representative farmers from all the regions of Ghana on 6 January 2004. Members of FONG were excited to hear news from other African regions and were interested to know how they too could work together to increase their productivity. They are increasingly aware that their active participation in meetings opens up new opportunities, such as working with researchers and government ministries. They realize that their voice can be heard if they have the critical mass. Currently, they are very keen to learn more about NEPAD's programs and how they could benefit and assist.



Financial statement

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
(Incorporated 19 May 2003)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE **For the period ended 31 December 2003**

	<u>Note</u>	2003 US\$
Income		
Unrestricted	1	658,362
Restricted	1	558,106
Total Grant Revenue		<u>1,216,468</u>
Other Income		<u>1,375</u>
		<u><u>1,217,843</u></u>
Expenditure		
Personnel		283,595
Conference/Workshop/Meetings		371,545
Consultants		137,797
Travel		101,005
Services & Supplies		343,200
Depreciation		23,533
Indirect Cost Recovery		(48,154)
		<u>1,212,521</u>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure transferred to Accumulated Fund		<u><u>5,322</u></u>
ACCUMULATED FUND		
From Income and Expenditure Account		<u><u>5,322</u></u>

Forum For Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

(Incorporated 19th May, 2003)

BALANCE SHEET

As of 31 December 2003

	2003 US\$
Fixed Assets	83,371
Current Assets	
Stock	1,819
Debtors & Prepayments	139,639
Bank and Cash Balances	82,034
	<u>223,492</u>
Current Liabilities	
Creditors & Accruals	301,541
Net Current Liabilities	<u>(78,049)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>5,322</u>
Represented By:	
Accumulated Fund	<u>5,322</u>

1/ Forum For Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

(Incorporated 19th May, 2003)

REVENUE AND GAINS	2003 Total receipts	Donor receivables	Advance contributions	2003 revenue
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Unrestricted				
World Bank	300,000	–	–	300,000
African Development Bank	558,362	–	200,000	358,362
	<u>858,362</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>658,362</u>
Restricted				
CGIAR–SSA–CP	200,000	–	–	200,000
Rockefeller–SSA–CP	218,000	21,800	–	239,800
USAID/World Bank–FARA Plenary	100,000	18,306	–	118,306
	<u>518,000</u>	<u>40,106</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>558,106</u>



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Acronyms and abbreviations

AATF	Africa Agriculture Technology Foundation
AARINENA	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa
ABI	African Biosafety Initiative
ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific region
ADAF/Galle	Association for the Development of Activities on Promotion and Formation – Galle
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AGRIS	international information system for agricultural science and technology (FAO)
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMCOW	African Ministerial Council on Water
APAARI	Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
APAN	Asia Pacific Advance Network
APARIS	APAARI Regional Information System
APL	Adaptable Program Lending (World Bank)
APRTC	Asia Pacific Regional Technology Center
ARD	agricultural research for development (as defined by ICRA)
AR4D	agricultural research for development
ARC	Agricultural Research Council (South Africa)
ARI	advanced research institution
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
ASTI	Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (CGIAR)
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (NEPAD)
CAC	Central Asia and Caucasus Agricultural Research Forum
CDC	Center Directors Committee (CGIAR)
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CGIAR-SC	Science Council of the CGIAR
CIAT	<i>Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical</i>
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIRAD	<i>Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (France)</i>
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CORAF	<i>Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la recherche et le développement agricole (French of WECARD)</i>
CP	Challenge Program
CSO	civil society organization
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DONATA	Dissemination of New Agricultural Technologies in Africa (FARA program proposal)
ECART	European Consortium for Agricultural Research in the Tropics
EFARD	European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development
EIARD	European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FBO	farmer-based organization
FONG	Farmers Organisation Network in Ghana
FONTAGRO	Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology
FORAGRO	<i>Foro de las Americas para la investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario</i>
FPR	farmer participatory research

FSR	farming systems research
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GLOBAL.RAIS	Global Alliance of the Regional Agricultural Information System
GMO	genetically modified organism
GTZ	<i>Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i> (Germany)
H.E.	His Excellency
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAC	Inter-Academy Council
IAO	<i>Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare</i> (Italy)
IAR4D	integrated agricultural research for development
IARC	international agricultural research center
ICCTI	Institute of Scientific and Technical International Cooperation (Portugal)
ICM	Information Communication Management
ICRA	International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
ICT	information and communication technology
ICT-KM	Information and Communication Technology Knowledge Management (CGIAR program)
IDA	International Development Association (World Bank)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFDC	International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IFS	International Foundation for Science
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IMARK	Information Management Resource Kit (FAO)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INCO-DEV	EU's programs 'in collaboration with developing countries'
INRM	integrated natural-resources management
INTERFACE	Network of African Agro-Food Industry Professionals
IR	imidazolinone resistant
IRD	<i>Institut de recherche pour le développement</i> (France)
iSC	Interim Science Committee (CGIAR)
ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research (<i>now part of IFPRI</i>)
ISRA	<i>Institut sénégalais de recherches agricoles</i>
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
MAPP	Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Program
MDTF	Multi-Donor Trust Fund
NAIS	national agricultural information system(s)
NARI	national agricultural research institute
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization (Uganda)
NARS	national agricultural research system(s)
NATURA	Network of European Agricultural Universities and Scientific Complexes Related with Agricultural
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NERICA	New Rice for Africa (rice varieties)
NGO	non-governmental organization
NGOC	NGO Committee (CGIAR)
NRI	Natural Resources Institute (UK)
PLS	pilot learning site
PVS	participatory varietal selection

R&D	research and development
RAIS	Regional Agricultural Information System(s)
RENEWAL	Regional Network on HIV/AIDS, Rural Livelihoods and Food Security
ROCARPA	<i>Reseau Ouest et Centre Afrique pour la recherche participative agricole</i> (French of WECANPAR)
S&T	Science and Technology (WB)
SACCAR	Southern African Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Training (former SRO for Southern Africa, <i>now replaced by SADC-FANR</i>)
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC-FANR	SADC's Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources
SIMA	System-wide Initiative on Malaria and Agriculture (CGIAR)
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SMI	small and medium-sized industry
SPAAR	Special Program for African Agricultural Research
SRO	Sub-Regional Organization
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
SSA-CP	Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program
SWIHA	System-wide Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Agriculture (CGIAR)
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development
TIGR	The Institute for Genomic Research
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VERCON	Virtual Extension and Communication Network (FAO)
VSAT	Virtual Academy for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
WAICENT	World Agricultural Information System (FAO)
WB	The World Bank
WECANPAR	West and Central African Network for the promotion of Participatory Agricultural Research
WECARD	West and Central African Council for Research and Development (English of CORAF)

FARA's Subregional Organizations



