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## GCARD3 GLOBAL EVENT TO BE HELD IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Global Event for the [Third Global Conference on Agricultural Research and Development \(GCARD3\)](#) will be held in Ekurhuleni near Johannesburg, South Africa, from 5 to 8 April 2016.

The meeting, organized by the [Global Forum on Agricultural Research \(GFAR\)](#) and the [CGIAR](#), and hosted by South Africa's [Agricultural Research Council \(ARC\)](#), will be a landmark event in the future of agri-food research and innovation in developing countries.

"Agricultural research and innovation have the potential to change lives - to reduce hunger and malnutrition, to increase food security, and to lift rural communities out of poverty. But we need to be doing much more to generate and deliver new agricultural knowledge and technologies to those who need them most – resource-poor farmers in the developing world," says [Organizing Committee](#) Co-Chair Dr Mark Holderness.

The GCARD process was created to promote investment, partnership, capacity-building and mutual accountability in national agricultural systems to meet the needs of resource-poor farmers and their communities. Past GCARD events have contributed significantly to international agricultural development. [GCARD1](#), in Montpellier in 2010, resulted in the "[GCARD Road Map](#)", a six-point plan for transforming agricultural research for development around the world. [GCARD2](#), in 2012 in Punte del Este, identified pathways to impact, which led to new commitments around partnership, capacity development and foresight in the CGIAR – the international agricultural research system and the development of a range of new Collective Actions between national and international partners.

GCARD3 is a longer-term engagement process that is providing a range of opportunities for stakeholders to positively influence the direction and activities of agricultural research for development over the next decade. It's about establishing a forward-looking research and innovation agenda, starting from the grassroots up and ensuring that national and regional systems have the resources, expertise and capacities to deliver. GCARD3 brings together the wide range of actors who are generating, accessing and using agricultural and food system knowledge around the world, working together to make these systems stronger and more effective, enabling greater impacts in sustainable development.

GCARD3 also aims to align international research priorities with the needs of resource-poor farmers and their communities, as articulated in documents like CGIAR's new [Strategic Results Framework](#). Dr Frank Rijsberman, CEO of the CGIAR Consortium and Co-chair of the GCARD3 Organizing Committee, explains: "The Global Event in 2016 is a key milestone in an intensive engagement process. The overall result will be a clear understanding of what's needed for national and regional systems to be effective and accountable, and how international agricultural research can be a better partner in national development outcomes."

Dr Shadrack Moephuli, Chief Executive of the ARC Council, says his organization is excited and honoured to be hosting the Global Event. "South Africa has a significant interest and investment in agricultural research and development. The ARC, as our nation's principal agricultural research institution, is delighted to be hosting an event of this calibre, especially in our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We see it as a unique opportunity to celebrate our achievements with the international agri-food research and innovation community. We look forward to working with the Organizing Committee to make the GCARD3 Global Event a great success."

In acknowledgement, the South African Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Honourable Mr. Senzeni Zokwana said, “it is a fitting tribute to the ARC’s global stature to be awarded the right to host the GCARD3 Global Event. This event is expected to be an inclusive, participatory process and will be an opportunity to shape the future of global agricultural research. I wish the organizers all the success to achieve the intended outcomes”.

**For more information about GCARD3, contact [gfar-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:gfar-secretariat@fao.org); or [consortium@cgiar.org](mailto:consortium@cgiar.org) or [mokgoathengJ@arc.agric.za](mailto:mokgoathengJ@arc.agric.za) or visit the [GCARD website](#) (also at [CGIAR](#)).**

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