

# GFAR Impacts

2008-2018

**A brief review  
highlighting  
10 years of impacts:**

**Transforming AR4D  
systems**

Opening out  
agricultural data

Advocating for  
Farmers' Rights  
to genetic resources



## What is GFAR?

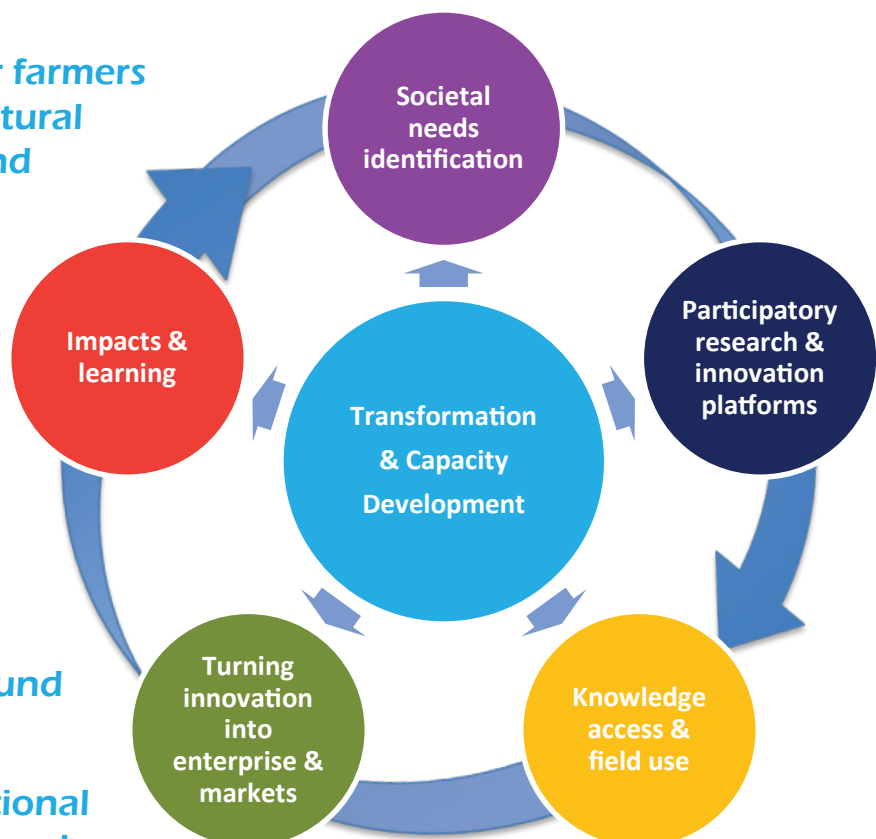
- 🍃 A unique collective movement shaping a new, sustainable future for agriculture and food
- 🍃 The catalyst of networked actions in agri-food research and innovation, for greater development impacts at all levels
- 🍃 600+ partners from all sectors working together for change

## Why the need?

- 🍃 Our world faces environmental degradation, climate change, gender discrimination, youth unemployment, political instability and mass migration
- 🍃 Our systems of agricultural research and innovation are often fragmented, out-dated and under-resourced
- 🍃 Achieving the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires collective action

## How does GFAR work?

- 🍃 GFAR puts smallholder farmers at the centre of agricultural innovation, shaping and delivering the opportunities and futures they desire
- 🍃 The Partners in GFAR bring their own commitments and resources, joining together in exciting Collective Actions that create change and impact on the ground
- 🍃 Learning from GFAR's actions enables institutional change and impacts at scale

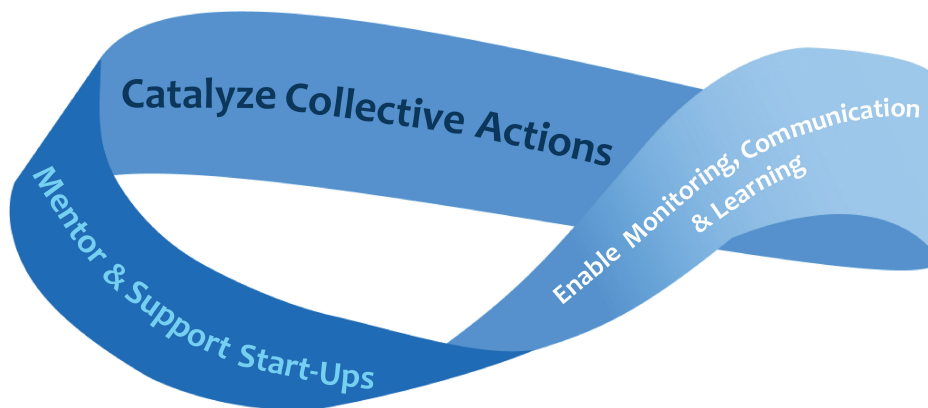


# How does GFAR catalyze change?

GFAR plays vital catalytic, mentoring, learning & knowledge sharing roles that mobilizes the Partners in GFAR to deliver greater impact together than each can alone.

GFAR catalyzes change by:

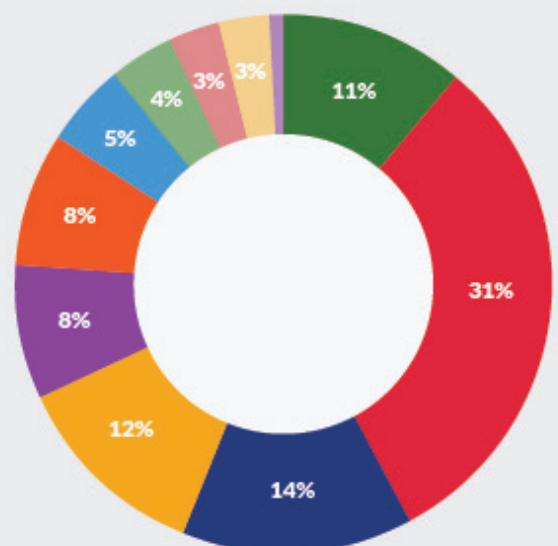
- 1) Fostering new thinking and breaking down institutional walls among diverse partners, tackling complex issues together
- 2) Mentoring start-ups and supporting Collective Actions into practice, overcoming blockages and developing new capacities as required
- 3) Monitoring, communicating and sharing learning from networked actions and their implementation by Partners in GFAR



**A GFAR Collective Action** is a multi-stakeholder programme of work at local, national, regional or international level, initiated by three or more partners and prioritized by GFAR Partners, always including producers and with a particular focus on women and youth.

## Who makes up GFAR?

National Agriculture Research and Policy Institutions	■
Civil society and NGOs	■
Higher education	■
Private sector networks	■
Farmer and agricultural worker organizations	■
International public sector agricultural research	■
Youth	■
Regional Representation	■
Rural advisory services	■
Women's associations	■
Consumer organization	■



"We agree to strengthen agricultural research and innovation and support results-based agricultural research for development through our national agricultural research systems, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the **Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)**. We welcome the "Montpellier Roadmap" coming from the first **Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development of 2010 (GCARD)**. We also insist on the need to enhance the transfer of the research results and technologies to farmers and to ensure that research activities respond to their needs and concerns and involve farmers in that process..."

– Point 14 of the 2011 G20 Agriculture Ministers' statement

An external review published in 2018 found that **GFAR is very successful** in stimulating the emergence of multistakeholder collaborative initiatives. GFAR has directly fostered change in Regional Fora and in stakeholder networks, e.g. Prolinnova, GFRAS, GCHERA, YPARD, EAT Forum, GACSA.

"**GFAR therefore has a critical contribution to make towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda**"... "[GFAR] helps create enabling conditions for bringing technological innovation to scale and to render Agri-Food and Nutrition Systems more inclusive and more sustainable."

**21%** of GFAR actions have directly changed the way institutions function.

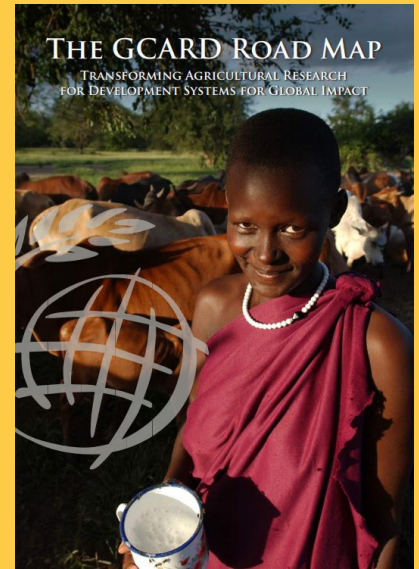
**74%** of takeaways from GFAR actions are put into practice.

**95%** of interviewees insist GFAR is relevant or extremely relevant to their constituency:

**"If GFAR didn't exist, they would create it."**

# GCARD Processes

Over **4,000** people have taken part in the **GCARD processes**, which undertook to rethink, strengthen and transform agricultural research for development systems around the world. Through extensive national and regional consultations, participants developed and applied the **GCARD Roadmap** for system change.



“I really think that the GCARD Conference is absolutely necessary because there is no place in the world where we can bring farmers and scientists together looking at institutional building, at knowledge sharing, at building platforms, other than at GCARD.”

– Alexander Müller, FAO



## GCARD Conference (2010)

A new dialogue on effective AR4D partnership which mobilized more than 2000 stakeholders through e-consultations, allowing many who had previously been excluded – most importantly the farmers themselves – to have their say.

Brought together more than **1000 invited delegates**, drawn from all regions and sectors, from farmers to Ministers. 250 stakeholders from developing countries were able to attend.

The outcome document was the **GCARD Roadmap**, whose aim is to transform AR4D globally by putting the needs and aims of resource-poor farmers at the center of the AR4D system, using a demand-driven approach.

Decisive input to CGIAR’s Strategic Results Framework, its research priorities and approaches, was produced.



## GCARD 2 (2012)

The regional consultations and conference of GCARD 2 focused on implementing the principles for action identified in the GCARD Roadmap, with special attention to “Foresight and partnership for innovation and impact on small-holder livelihoods”.

**630** people from **101** countries participated in **GCARD2 Conference**

**1,000** people joined on-line

**20** GFAR-supported pre-conference sessions held

**20** themes of global importance discussed

**220** speakers presented their work



Impact pathways of **11** of the **CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs)** were discussed among a wide range of stakeholders resulting in

**15** new commitments to partnership, capacity development and foresight in the CGIAR

**Collective Actions committed to reshape AR4D systems** to better reflect women’s perspectives and enable their direct access to innovation products and services

**80%** of respondents to a survey evaluating GCARD2 Conference said the **sessions were useful or very useful to their work**

**79%** reported that the knowledge acquired was likely to change the design or implementation of their AR4D programs and activities



**“The GCARD3 Global Conference was a phenomenal success on many counts articulated and perceived by those who attended it.”**

**–Agricultural Learning and Impacts Network (ALINe)**



## **GCARD3 (2015 - 2016)**

Even more than the preceding two GCARDs, the GCARD3 Process was oriented towards getting a full picture of needs on the ground. The organizers set out to re-align research for development priorities and investment opportunities with the resource-poor’s own development needs and country/national processes, and with the **Sustainable Development Goals**. The goal was to promote effective, targeted investment and build partnership, capacities and mutual accountabilities at all levels of the agricultural system, with ‘No One Left Behind’.

The GCARD3 Process was designed to include a 12-month run up period including consultations at national and regional level. **National dialogues** were a pivotal new addition to the process; they were organized to trigger greater integration of the CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) with national programs and greater alignment of CGIAR efforts with national priorities. The dialogues also provided input to the development of the SRF 2016-2030. GCARD3 was conceptualised, planned and organised by a joint Organising Committee with equal representation between CGIAR and GFAR.

More than **400** participants in the Conference from **83** countries

Proceedings webcast to **579** viewers



**Youth actively engaged** throughout GCARD3 process:

**428** proposals received via the GFAR Blog as part **Youth**

**Agripreneurs Project (YAP)**, read by over **120,000**

people and receiving over **60,000** comments

**6 YAP Finalists** were sponsored to attend the Global Event for the social media bootcamp, pitch their projects and kick off their ongoing technical mentoring support, business development training, and coaching in new ways to network

**157** blogposts published by **114** onsite social media trainees + YPARD members

**93%** of respondents to a survey evaluating GCARD3 made connections at the conference with future partners

**94%** of respondents took up new ideas into their work following the Conference

**83%** of respondents left the conference with **specific actions to take forward**

GCARD Processes



6th-8th April 2016  
**500 participants**  
from 83 countries

Online boot camp training  
for **152 trainees**

**35X** increase in blog traffic  
**169,000** visitors  
**64,100** comments



Monthly page views  
up **%3500**

Monthly comments  
up from **6 to 40**



Pageviews up **27%**  
Visitors up **29%**



Twitter followers  
UP **32%**



LinkedIn subscribers  
UP **26%**



Facebook likes  
UP **74%**



Monthly views  
UP **236%**



# Open Data & ICTs

**Open data and ICTs** show tremendous promise as the next revolution that can transform agriculture and food systems around the world. The expected impact is that data-empowered agri-food value chains will be more efficient and transparent and will benefit farmers and all actors participating in innovation systems and along value chains.

The Partners in GFAR consider collaboration on improving data and information sharing to be a central key to addressing many of the challenges around food security, rural development, fair markets, risk management and sustainability in general. GFAR has fostered common initiatives for better sharing and use of data for many years, starting from the **Global.RAIS** and **IISAST initiative** in 2005 to **CIARD** in 2008, **AgriVIVO** in 2013 and **GODAN** since 2014.



## CIARD and AgriVIVO

The Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) created in 2008, was supported by providing technical standards expertise and hosting by GFAR Secretariat. The CIARD movement established a common Manifesto and set of Core Values around opening knowledge and data; a Checklist for assessing institutional status/readiness in information management; a set of Pathways as good practices for achieving “openness”; a global registry of open data resources of various types; and case study evidence of how organizations have achieved “openness”.

CIARD included its own **Route map to Information Nodes and Gateways (RING)**, a digital registry which signposts existing information services in AR4D. It indexes and describes these such that they can be more easily cross-linked digitally with other services and so derive new data combinations tailored to meet local needs. **CIARD-RING is now the biggest global dataset catalogue for food and agriculture.**

In April 2013, **AgriVIVO**, managed by the GFAR Secretariat and developed jointly with Cornell University and FAO, was launched to enable better networking and collaboration in agriculture. AgriVIVO is a search portal built to facilitate connections between all actors in the agricultural field, bridging between separately hosted directories and online communities.

### Key CIARD Results 2008-2013:

**437** partners **22** publications **40,069** visitors to the website

CIARD RING open dataset directory contains **3,206** datasets

**16** global and regional meetings convened with over **500** participants

“**Framework for Data and Information Sharing for ARD**”, one of the first frameworks to focus on issues of “interoperability” in the AR4D context.



## GODAN

Making open data work for agriculture and nutrition requires a shared agenda. The **Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)** was announced at the Open Government Partnership Conference in October 2013, to support global efforts to make agricultural and nutritionally relevant data available, accessible, and usable for unrestricted use worldwide. GFAR has been contributing and supporting GODAN by providing the equivalent of up to 50% of a full-time staff member to GODAN.

**Through extensive input from GFAR Secretariat, GODAN publications on data ownership and responsible data now provide a good basis from which to develop voluntary guidelines for equitable systems.**

## Key GODAN Results 2014-2018:

**765** partners

**60** publications

More than **30** events convened/sponsored with over **1,200** participants

**233,336** website visitors **10,000** downloads of material

**2,700** people reached through MOOCs, webinars, trainings, face-to-face meetings and expert consultations

**7** African countries pledging in August 2017 to open their data (Nairobi Pledge)

An Expert consultation on “**Ethical, legal and policy aspects of data sharing affecting farmers**”, held in Bonn in July 2018 by GFAR, GODAN and CTA, informed by a one-year awareness-raising and consultation process

Vision paper for a **Collective Action on “Empowering farmers through**

**equitable data sharing**” written and endorsed by **24** experts

from **20** institutions

**6** GFAR/GODAN/CTA webinars on farmers’ rights to data

A white paper co-authored by **9** experts: “**Digital and Data-Driven Agriculture: Harnessing the Power of Data for Smallholders**”



Open Data & ICTs

**P**lant genetic resources are the raw material for crop genetic improvement, food and nutrition security. Their conservation and management are essential and depend on the rights of farmers, especially those in the centers of origin and diversity, to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds and propagating material. Farmers must be enabled to safeguard their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and participate in decision-making in order to benefit from the use of seeds and knowledge. Rural development policies and practices do not always reflect the interests, aspirations and rights of smallholder farmers, despite the fact that they are the main beneficiaries of agricultural and rural development and are themselves the source of innovation in sustaining rural environments and agricultural resources. National governments are obliged to implement Farmers' Rights, but minimal progress has been made.

Since 2012, GFAR has been working in the area of Farmers' Right to Genetic Resources in influencing policy, building capacity and raising public awareness of the issues at stake.



## Public awareness and capacity building

GFAR's support to the organization and realization of **National Meetings on Farmers' Rights** has brought together different constituencies that were previously barely communicating. The national meetings have been able to build trust among farmers, private sector, policy makers, and UN agencies to come to a common understanding on what Farmers' Rights are, how they can be implemented in practice, and how they can work together in a more coordinated manner.

Each of the national meetings held in the different countries have resulted in recommendations to increase the public awareness on Farmers' Rights and promote the exchange, conservation, use and sale by farmers of their farm saved-seeds; the protection of traditional knowledge; the right to participate in decision-making and to benefit from the use of their resources and knowledge. The recommendations included specific elements to improve the legal and policy framework at national level.

**In Guatemala, Costa Rica and Malawi,** recommendations have been sent to the Minister of Agriculture and other policy makers as a result of these GFAR-supported national meetings:



**42** people representing different stakeholder groups attended the First National Meeting on Farmers' Rights in Guatemala in 2013.

**72** stakeholder representatives were mobilized at a national meeting in Malawi

**53** stakeholder representatives were brought together in Costa Rica, including farmers' organizations and the National Seed Office. Half of the participants in the GFAR/UNDP/FAO supported meeting were women.

**30 National Coordinators of UNDP Small Grants Programmes** from all over the world assembled in Costa Rica for a workshop introducing GFAR's work on farmers' rights as a key and strategic area of work to complement **GEF/UNDP projects**. This led to conversations with the GEF/UNDP National Coordinators in Peru, Costa Rica and Indonesia regarding GFAR support in the development of capacity building activities on Farmers' Rights.

In addition:

More than **100** people – including farmer leaders, researchers and decision-makers assembled in Honduras

**25** parliamentarians and **30** technical advisors on farmers' rights have taken part in capacity building activities to enable them to implement farmers' rights at national level.

More than **100** students of agronomy and staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture of Ecuador participated in farmers' rights training sessions.



## Capacity Building Materials

In 2014 GFAR facilitated the development of capacity building material on farmers' rights for farmers and farmers' organizations; researchers; students, decision-makers and the general public of Guatemala.



In 2017-2018 ASOCUCH distributed **300** sets of the material to smallholder farmers, printed with the financial support of the Development Fund of Norway.

GFAR support resulted in the empowerment of ASOCUCH to now lead capacity building activities on farmers' rights with smallholder farmers and other stakeholders in Guatemala.

**313** smallholder farmer leaders (186 men and 127 women) received the materials and were instructed in their use

**546** smallholder farmers (282 men and 264 women) from 11 farmers' organizations in 5 localities of Huehuetenango, Guatemala attended capacity building workshops

**40** members of the National Committee on Plant Genetic Resources of Guatemala were capacitated.

**300,000** smallholder family farmers were reached by radio spots on Farmers' Rights in Maya languages and Spanish

**100** sets of the Capacity Building Material were distributed to national stakeholders and decision makers.

Capacity development materials were also developed for **Honduras and Costa Rica. In Malawi**, they were translated into two local languages: Tumbuka and Chichewa.

GFAR has, upon request, provided comments and suggestions to draft seed laws and policies of **Guatemala, Honduras and Malawi** to ensure a holistic approach of the relevant legal and policy frameworks.

## Farmers' Rights Videos

Two videos on Farmers' Rights and the importance of informal seed systems for food security and poverty reduction were developed in 2017 with GFAR Partners: **"Farmers' Rights to Seed – Experiences from Malawi"** and **"Farmers' Rights to Seed – Experiences from Guatemala"**.



In Malawi:

**100** DVDs have been distributed to young people in villages and training centers

**600** people are reached weekly through 10 District Agriculture Extension Coordinating Committee (DAECC) WhatsApp groups.

**200** DVDs were distributed to members of Parliament

Over **100** community hubs, community radio stations and other partners received DVDs, and audio tracks are freely downloadable

During the World Food Day 2018, **71** smallholder farmers saw a

screening of the video and **1,000** more farmers were reached by Feed the Future



## Policy Influence

In 2015, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its sixth meeting, decided to launch and implement a Joint Capacity Building Programme on Farmers' Rights with GFAR and other organizations. Governments of 140 countries around the world recognized the key role of GFAR to increase the capacity and awareness of various actors on Farmers' Rights. During the 2017 meeting of the Governing Body, countries recognized the positive impact of GFAR's work for the implementation of the International Treaty at national level, particularly its provision on Farmers' Rights.

# The Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation

*Together, we're shaping the future of agriculture*



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