

GCARD3 Organizing Committee

Meeting #2: Friday 22 May 2015, 12.00 GMT, Virtual

Final Minutes

(approved on a no-objection basis 9 June 2015)

Participants:

Frank Rijsberman (co-Chair, CGIAR Consortium Office),
Mark Holderness (co-Chair, GFAR Secretariat),
Sigismundo Bialoskorski Neto (International Cooperative Alliance)
Tom Randolph (CGIAR Research Program – Livestock and Fish)
Irene Annor-Frempong (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa)
Fiona Chandler (GFAR Secretariat, *ex-officio*)
Alain Vidal (CGIAR Consortium Office, *ex-officio*)
Nadia Manning-Thomas (Consortium Office technical support)

Apologies:

Kwesi Atta-Krah (CGIAR Research Program – HumidTropics)
Esther Penunia (Asian Farmers Association)

1. Welcome and Introductions

With apologies to those who have been waiting, the Chair welcomed the Committee members and asked for any other agenda items. None were added to the agenda.

2. Matters Arising from Minutes of OC Meeting #1

Minutes taken as accepted. The Chair went through the list of actions from the Minutes of the first meeting to check what had been done. All actions had been completed.

3. Update on GCARD3 related matters arising from (1) the CGIAR Fund Council Meeting #13 (28-29 April 2015) and (2) CGIAR Centers meeting in London (11-13 May 2015)

Frank Rijsberman informed the Committee that the Fund Council (at its meeting 28-29 April 2015) had approved, in principle, the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework. At this same meeting there was bottom line agreement on the overall process of developing the next generation of CRP proposals. The decision at the Fund Council meeting was for a targeted call for the CRPs, coming from the CGIAR Centres rather than an open call.

The CGIAR Centres, through a meeting in Windsor, UK (11-13 May) have developed a CRP portfolio that is intended to balance continuity with some changes. These changes include integrating systems' activities with eight Agri-Food System CRPs and with four integrating CRPs (3 of which directly relate to Grand Challenges) plus one more on Genebanks. Additional cross cutting issues will be addressed through a call for expression of interest on coordinating platforms on gender, capacity development, youth and big data/ICT. Most importantly, as advised by Consortium CEO and the CRP representative on the Committee, is that the portfolio is designed as a whole and to facilitate CRPs working more closely together e.g. in those geographies where the CGIAR can expect impact at scale. More information on the SRF, the portfolio and the guidance on the development of the CRP proposals is being put online by the CGIAR (<http://www.cgiar.org/our-strategy/>).

The importance of consultation, partnership, integration and alignment with national priorities and the role of the GCARD process in developing the CRP proposals were also emphasized at the Fund Council meeting and at the Center Directors Windsor meeting. The Centers indicated their commitment to the principle of site integration as part of the systems thinking in the proposed portfolio.

Comments from non-CGIAR members of the Organizing Committee indicated that there will be a need to use the GCARD3 process to link CRP research with rural producers' needs and priorities and to include the required strengthening of rural institutions (e.g. rural producer organizations, business systems).

The Committee were advised that CRP Portfolio document is now available and the call for CRPs is expected to be announced on 15 June. At this point there are no expected changes to the structure of the portfolio as has been laid out by the Centers at their Windsor meeting. The Centers will develop pre-proposals on this portfolio until August so further comments and feedback (other than on the structure) can be incorporated into the GCARD3 consultation process.

4. Planning of GCARD3 consultations

The updated paper "GCARD3 Process: Principles and Implementation Ideas" was reviewed by the Committee and noted that discussion and verification of many of the points will be done during the meeting of CRP leaders in the first week of June in Montpellier. Included in this meeting will be the identification of the list of countries for national consultations (and site/country integration plans) both for pre-proposals and for the full proposals. The meeting will also serve to refine the guidance for how to effectively engage all relevant actors in the national consultations.

It was suggested that the first 5 national consultations and the regional consultations would be undertaken to "road test" the pre proposal consultations (learning and verification) and then rolled out to other national consultations for the formation of the full proposals. As pointed out, the national consultations would not be starting from scratch in that some of these national dialogues are building on ongoing consultations.

Tom Randolph informed the OC that he had discussed the plans set out in the last OC meeting with the CRP leaders in Windsor, but they were awaiting outcomes from the Windsor and June planning meetings to see how best to approach the process.

Points made by the Organizing Committee, which were asked to be brought to the attention of the CRP leaders meeting in June:

- Tabling with the CRP leaders, the paper "GCARD3 Process: Principles and Implementation Ideas"
- The CRPs were asked, through the Organizing Committee, to note that the GCARD3 consultations should be linked to engagements around other relevant processes where changes are taking place (e.g. the CAADP process; the FARA science agenda process).
- Again it was emphasized by the non-CGIAR members of the Organizing Committee to include small holder cooperative alliances/organizations into the national consultations as well as those actors that can contribute to the delivery of the research at the national level.
- Countries suggested by Organizing Committee for the first five national consultations (based on criteria of having existing multiple CRP presence; strong national processes linked to CRP processes, and where significant impact at scale is possible) include Bangladesh, Nicaragua, Ethiopia (links to AU office as well). Other suggestions (coming from FARA) include Benin, Cameroon, Uganda Ghana, Zambia, and Rwanda.
- The Organizing Committee recognized a gap in East and North Africa and suggested the possibility of including Morocco (as it has strong national interest and 4 CRPs engaged there) and Egypt (five CRPs but not necessarily relevant to dry land agriculture).
- The priority list, matching different needs was suggested as: Bangladesh, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco/Egypt. Others cited as particularly relevant were Rwanda, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
- Timetabling of regional consultations with the note that any regional consultations will be linked to existing meetings (not stand alone)
- After the CRP meeting in June, there is a need for immediate planning for the implementation of the national consultation meetings with a template for these consultations to be prepared by the GCARD Support Team and agreed by the Organizing Committee.

ACTION: Bring the points noted by the GCARD3 Organizing Committee to the attention of the CRP Directors meeting in June for their consideration and comments (Tom Randolph)

ACTION: Develop a template for planning and reporting on GCARD3 national consultation meetings aligning with the outcomes of the CRP leaders meeting in June (GCARD3 support team)

5. Selection of GCARD3 Host Country

The Expression of Interest was endorsed with the following comments:

- Scope for the location is Africa
- Ensure the presence of good internet facilities; staff with good command of English, French, Spanish in hotels and venue sites

In regards to process it was suggested that the proposed September 20, 2015 submission was too tight for a meeting to be held in the first quarter of 2016. In addition it is critical to get high level national endorsement as the resources provided at the national level can be significant.

It was decided by the Organizing Committee that:

- There will be an open call (noting the scope is limited to Africa) launched on the GFAR and CGIAR website
- At the same time, the Committee will follow up on previous expressions of interest from the agriculture ministries of South Africa and Senegal to determine if the commitment is still there, giving them six weeks (mid-July to respond)
- In addition, a letter will be sent (signed by the co-Chairs of the Organizing Committee) to the Ministers of Agriculture in other countries where there is an indication that support could be forthcoming: Rwanda (the government has agreed to host FARA science week in 2016), Nigeria (strong support from the current Agricultural Minister, if he is still in the position given the change in government), and Ethiopia (strong support from donor community).

ACTION: Finalize Expression of Interest with comments as noted by Organizing Committee (GFAR Secretariat)

ACTION: Explore informally with Ethiopia their interest in hosting GCARD3 milestone event (Tom Randolph)

ACTION: A letter to explore interest to host GCARD3 milestone event prepared and sent to Agriculture Ministers (Ministries) in South Africa, Senegal, Rwanda, Nigeria (based on Agricultural Minister still in place) and Ethiopia (subject to informal approach by Tom Randolph) (GCARD Support team)

ACTION: Prepare and place general announcement on GCARD3 and CGIAR websites (GCARD Support team)

ACTION: FARA to follow up with countries once letters are sent (Irene Annor-Frempong)

6. Moving forward – next steps

With much of the next steps reliant on the outcome of the CRP Directors Meeting in June (action items noted in Agenda Item #4), the Organizing Committee decided that the following additional actions should take place as next steps

ACTION: Prepare an integrated timetable of GCARD-linked events for the next 18 months and template for capturing the outcomes of these events (GCARD Support team)



ACTION: Create a GCARD3 online presence with a proposal developed for Organizing Committee approval (GCARD Support Team)

7. Next Meeting

The Organizing Committee decided to have their next meeting (OC Meeting #3) in the second half of June in order to consider the feedback on CRP leaders meeting; scope of regional consultations; the proposal on the GCARD3 online presence; any forthcoming interest on the hosting GCARD3 milestone event.

ACTION: Set up a Doodle poll to determine availability (GCARD3 Support Team)