



*ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTIONS IN THE NEAR EAST  
AND NORTH AFRICA  
(AARINENA)*

*Proceedings of the  
11th General Conference of AARINENA  
Damascus-Syria  
12-14 October 2008*

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
Opening Session	2
Election of Reporter & Nomination Officer & Adoption of the Agenda	2
Global & Inter-Regional Collaboration Session	2
AARINENA Activities	3
AARINENA RAIS	4
Network Activities Session	4
Regional Plant Genetic Resources Network (PGRN) in (WANA) Region	5
Research priority	6
Linking Farmers to Market	6
IAASTD Sub-Global Assessment for CWANA Session	7
Administrative Issues Session (AARINENA Members)	7
-Financial statement	8
-Launching of North Africa Sub-Region Organization (NASRO)	8
Election of the New Executive Committee of AARINENA	9
Date and Venue of the 12 <sup>th</sup> General Conference of AARINENA	9
Work plan	9
Main Recommendations	10
Newly Elected Executive Committee Meeting	11
<b>Annex I</b> (List of Participants)	12
<b>Annex II</b> (Agenda)	18
<b>Annex III</b> (NASRO Constitution)	21

## Conference Proceedings

### Opening Session

The 11th General Conference of AARINENA was held in Damascus, Syria during the period of 12 to 14th of October 2008, under the auspices of His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform, Syria

The Conference was cosponsored by FAO, ICARDA, GFAR, and Biodiversity International, in Collaboration with the General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR) in Syria.

The opening session was addressed by Dr. Ahmed El-Bakri, the President of AARINENA., Dr. Abdulla Ben Yehia, FAO representative in Syria, Dr. Mahmoud Solh ICARDA Director General, Prof. Adel El-Beltagy GFAR Chair and Dr. Walid Taweel, Director General of GCSAR on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform, Syria.

Institution representatives from AARINENA member countries participated in the conference: (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen). Representatives of Regional and International organizations also participated in the conference: ( ACSAD, AOAD, APAARI, Arab Society for Plant Protection, Bioiversity International, Bill & Melinda Foundation-(AG), CIHEAM, CIRAD, ERA-ARD, ESOG, FAO/RNE, FARA, FORAGRO, GFAR, ICARDA, ICBA, IFAP, INRA/France, International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), and Global Crop diversity Trust.(Annex I).

### Election of Reporter, Nomination Officer & Adoption of the Agenda

#### **Chairman: AARINENA President**

The conference elected Dr. Mohammad Samir El-Habbab, from Jordan University as Reporter and Dr. Ioannis Papastilianou from Cyprus as Nomination Officer. The agenda of the meeting was adopted by the conference (Annex II).

### ***Global & Inter-Regional Collaboration Session***

This session was chaired by Dr. Beltagy and co-chaired by Dr. S. Barghouti.

The first speaker was Mark Holderness who presented a report on the Global Cooperation in ARD. The report included the establishment, role and the present situation of the Global Forum to neutral platform linking science and society, creating new partnerships to address critical issues determining our future ability to feed humanity, and to create and support effective, demand-driven institutions & innovation systems to meet the complex needs of sustainable agricultural development.

The present situation could be summarized as: Demographic pressures are growing fast, food demands are changing, climates are changing, land use is changing, agricultural water resources are decreasing, soil resources are eroding, urbanization is advancing, indigenous knowledge is disappearing and the poor are increasingly marginalized.

Then the chairman requested Dr. Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI, to present his paper on APAARI Initiatives on "Strengthening Inter-regional Partnerships". The presentation covers a brief institutional history of APAARI's major achievements and efforts made in the recent past towards fostering inter-regional partnerships for ARD. Initiatives undertaken on research consortia, networks and brainstorming sessions on thematic issues

of immediate relevance/challenges would be highlighted in order to emphasize on the importance of various Regional Fora in promoting research collaboration and better understanding of agricultural developments at the national, regional and global levels.

After that, the Chairman requested Dr. Aggrey Agumya Technical Advisor to Executive Director, FARA to present his report on "Inter-Regional Cooperation". He reported about the emerging trends in Africa's development, then he emphasized that FARA welcomes the strengthening of its cooperation with AARINENA, many opportunities for inter regional cooperation with AARINENA exist, and lessons with PAEPARD suggest that establishment of a platform is an effective way to advance inter-regional cooperation.

The fourth speaker in this session was Dr. M. Allegri, who presented a report on "Inter-Regional Cooperation, FORAGRO". In his presentation, he covered the role of FORAGRO in strengthening its Sub-Regional organizations and playing a coordinating role to harness efforts of its Sub-Regional organizations. FORAGRO's lines of action are hemispheric Dialogue, support for a Regional R&D Agenda, capacity building: exchange of experiences, prospective studies, information management for R&D, presence and lobby for R&D in relevant fora, and support of the Regional R&D System.

After that, the chairman asked Dr. C. Hoste to make his presentation; he indicated that to build the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of "Agricultural Research for Development" (ARD), the European Commission has created a favorable policy framework and many different instrument to improve cooperation and coordination between the programs of the European countries. He then highlighted that, as part of this process, a "Southern Advisory Group" has been established in which AARINENA is represented by its Executive Secretary. He then gave an overview of the main EC programs supporting ARD and drew the attention of the participants to several opportunities relevant for the AARINENA region, both under the 7th Framework Program of DG-Research and under the Food Security Thematic Program (FSTP) of DG-Development.

The chairman then asked Dr. M. Dodet to present his paper on ARIMNRT, A cooperative network for Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean. He mentioned that the ARIMNet project, supported and funded by the European Union, has three major objectives:

1) to know better the Agricultural Research programs that are currently run in each Mediterranean countries that participates to the project (six EU Member States and six Mediterranean Partner Countries) and to share largely this knowledge; 2) to set out together the priorities, after a stake holder meeting; and 3) to launch coordinated actions to demonstrate their ability to coordinate their efforts to better achieve their common goals. ARIMNet project will benefit from cooperation with CIHEAM and ICARDA and expects to working with ARINENA on the organization of a stakeholders conference in 2010.

The final presentation of this session was for Dr. Norman E. Looney, President- International Society for Horticultural Science. It concentrated on the "Opportunities for Cooperation and Collaboration between AARINENA and ISHS working groups". This presentation provided a brief introduction to ISHS", its science structure, and its strong support for the Global Horticulture Initiative. The present ISHS leadership team is determined to build membership, identify potential Society leaders, and increase the number of ISHS symposia held in NENA countries. It was followed by suggestions about how AARINENA and ISHS might cooperate to strengthen horticultural science and industry in the Near East and North Africa.

### **AARINENA Activities Session**

The session was chaired by Dr. Al-Bakri. The first speaker in this session was Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan; the Executive Secretary of AARINENA who presented the report on AARINENA activities that was implemented since the 10th General Conference held in Sana'a, Yemen 25-27 June, 2006. He stated that the workplan adopted in the 10<sup>th</sup> general conference include:

1) Strengthening Regional Agricultural Information System (RAIS) through:

- Enhancing AARINENA Web Site
- Publication of AARINENA Newsletter
- Implementation of RAIS Priority Projects:

2) Networks:

- Supporting the activities of commodity networks (Date-Palm, Cotton, Olive and Medicinal & Aromatic Plants)
- Establishing New Networks on Water Use Efficiency and Biotechnology
- Supporting the initiative of the Global Crop Biodiversity Trust for the development of a Regional Conservation Strategy for the WANA Region.

3) Publication of Success Stories

Support the ongoing Global Post Harvest Initiative (GPHI) in linking farmers to markets. He highlighted the achievements regarding strengthening RAIS through capacity building by organizing training courses in collaboration with FAO and GFAR. He listed the activities of AARINENA 6 networks, which became a generic model for the establishment of functional mechanisms for collaboration and enhancement of communication and exchange of experiences among different countries in one region and different regions of the world.

The report highlighted the efforts of AARINENA in promoting interregional collaboration and the actions taken by AARINENA secretariat in response to the recommendations of the Executive Committee meetings in addition to the list of publications, workshops, training courses and future plans.

### ***Regional Agricultural Information System:***

Dr. Mark Holderness presented a report on "Enhancing Information and Knowledge Systems for Agricultural Research and innovation in WANA" region. The focus of this paper is on enhancing information and knowledge systems for agricultural research and innovation in the WANA region. The priorities in this area are to strengthen systems for managing scientific and technical information, research data management, research management information and for linking research and innovation to the needs of producers.

Then Mrs. Ebrahimi presented the AARINENA-RAIS Progress Report. The report showed the history of AARINENA-RAIS and its main Achievements. Then she presented the new version of AARINENA website and its new features which allows to the Sub-regional focal points to interact in the website and to enter their data directly. She has also mentioned that knowledge sharing tools like forums, blogs and wikis will be available through the new AARINENA website. The new version will be released in 2009.

After that, Mr. Latif, presented an overview on NERAKIN-RAIS Network objectives, components, capabilities, benefits for NARS, achieved outputs and online demonstration of the NERAKIN-RAIS virtual platform and national portals for launching.

A brief description on regional thematic knowledge networks and its development status starting with agricultural biotechnology thematic knowledge network in addition to major challenges in 2008/9 was presented.

## **Network Activities Session**

Dr. Mahmoud Solh chaired this session and Dr. Roozitalab was the co-chairman.

Mrs. Gharedaghli to present the report on the Cotton Inter-Regional Network. She reported that the Network activities were the Development of Network Website ([www.cottonnetwork.org](http://www.cottonnetwork.org)), creating two databases on Cotton Research Institutes and researchers, and publishing two issues of electronic Newsletter, organizing Traveling Workshop, organizing Workshop on IPM, publication of IPM workshop proceeding, and organizing 3rd SC meeting in Damascus.

Then Dr. Karray was asked to present the report on olive network. This report aimed at presenting the evolution of AARINENA Olive Network since its foundation in 2004. It presents the structure, the objectives, the approach and the major achievements of this network. He said that the lack of exchange of dynamic information and the lack of financial funds seriously affect the functioning of the network.

The chair then asked Dr. Fayyad to present his report on the medical and Aromatic Plants Network. Four technical groups were established, they are conservation & sustainable use, Agricultural Practices Group, Post – Harvest Processing Group, and Socio – Economic and Commercialization Group. Their functions are collection & dissemination of information through the network secretariat, planning & implementation of training courses and workshops, preparing research & development programs, and providing technical assistance to various member institutions.

After that, Dr. Bahri presented the report on Water Use Efficiency Network. The network main achievement was the review of water-use efficiency across the region, through a series of country papers. The information was compiled in the AARINENA Water Use Efficiency Network proceedings of the expert consultation meeting. Furthermore, an analysis of water use efficiency in the region helped in identifying the main problems associated to water use. Also some recommendations were developed for a better use of agricultural water.

The last network reports was the Agricultural Biotechnology Network presented by Dr. M. Madkour. He presented the objectives of establishing the Agricultural Biotechnology network and the formation of four working groups. The proposal for the establishment of the Regional Agricultural Biotechnology Network in the WANA Region was discussed and adopted.

### **Regional Plant Genetic Resources Network (PGRN) in (WANA) Region**

The report, which was presented by Dr. Ayad, summarizes a draft proposal for the establishment of regional Network for regional network for PGR in WANA developed and prepared by Dr. M. Zehni and Dr. I. Hamdan in April 2008. The proposal includes rationale, objectives, expected outputs, composition and technical working groups and financial requirements. This regional PGR conservation strategy included a recommendation to establish a PGR Network under AARINENA in recognition of the fact that the success of any conservation strategy for the WANA Region hinges on strengthening coordination within and among countries of the region. The conference adopted the establishment of PGRN in which Sudan will host the secretariat for the network and Egypt, Iran and ICARDA will host the technical working groups of the network.

The chair then asked Dr. L. [Guarino](#) to present the report on the Global Crop Diversity Trust collaboration with PGRN. The criteria for long-term support are PGRFA judged important in

the context of regional or crop conservation strategy, Effective links to users Material in Multilateral System of IT PGRFA, Facilities, human resources and management systems adequate to ensure long-term conservation to internationally agreed technical standards, Willingness to act in partnership to achieve a rational system for conserving PGRFA and make them available.

The last part of this session was chaired by Dr. Roozitalab who gave the floor to Dr. Solh, as representative of CGIAR, to present the Change Process proposed for the CGIAR. The rationale for this change is to provide a high-impact response to the food crisis and its long term impact. CGIAR have developed three strategic objectives for the System that will create greater CGIAR focus: Global Vision, CGIAR Vision, and CGIAR Strategic Objectives which includes Food for people, Environment for people, and Policies for People.

### **Research Priority Setting**

This Session was chaired by Dr. Tawil and co-chaired by Dr. Hoste who asked Dr. Mark Holderness to present a paper on Global Priorities and Needs. Dr. Holderness indicated that the primary driver for change in information and knowledge systems across the world is the potential of new information and communications technologies to enable greater availability, access and use of information, then he stressed on the fact that the priorities in information system development are to strengthen systems for managing scientific and technical information, research data management, research management information, and linking research and innovation to the needs of producers.

The next speaker was Dr. Shideed, who presented a paper titled Revisiting CWANA Research Priorities & Needs Assessment. He summarized the priorities which were discussed in 2002 for the future work, and then get the approval of the participants on them. He Emphasized that there is a need for rigorous research to answer the following questions:

- 1) How to address resource use efficiency, productivity and profitability?
- 2) How to ensure sustainability under highly stressed NR base, rapidly changing land use and climate variability?
- 3) What are the alternative options to improve the livelihoods of the farming communities?
- 4) What is the enabling policy and institutional environment to enhance the uptake and impact of improved technologies?
- 5) How to better link farmers to markets, and minimize market risks?
- 6) Expansion in crop area was a major contributor to cereal growth rates in the last 4 decades. This is no longer a viable option given increased water scarcity
- 7) Future growth rates in food production needs to come from productivity enhancement
- 8) Private R&D contribution is expected to stay minimal in productivity-enhancing research of staple crops.
- 9) Publicly funded agricultural R&D will continue as the main source of productivity-enhancing research in NENA.
- 10) Spillovers of agricultural science and technology within and among countries have been a key feature of agricultural development.

The last speaker in this session was Dr. Galal who presented a report on the Expert Consultation on Developing a Small Ruminant Research and Development Strategy for Rural Poverty Reduction in Non-Tropical Dry Areas NENA Region. The SWOT Analysis was carried out during the Consultation, it showed that the top three Strengths were Suitability of small ruminants to environmental conditions; Diversity of breeds and products; Asset of the poor. The top three Weaknesses were Animal diseases; Shortage of feed resources; Lack of veterinary services. While the top three Opportunities were Demand for special products; Possibility of institutional coordination for technical support; Good income for poor and women; and the top three Threats were Climatic change; Diseases and health related issues; Increasing feed cost.

### **Linking Farmers to Market (LFM) Global Partnership Program (GPP)**

Dr. Muharram chaired this session with Eng. El-Kholy as Co-Chairman. It has two speakers, the first was Dr. M. Garcia-Winder, who presented a paper titled: Project Development to Support LFM-GPP. He presented the objectives of the GPP- LFM and how they should be achieved. To achieve these objectives and fulfill its mission, the GPP-LFM has been constructed around three basic strategic lines of action: a) Policy and institutions, b) Capacity building, and c) Market knowledge.

The Second Speaker was Dr. El-Habbab who presented three successful stories related to the LFM from Jordan, Egypt and Yemen. The first success story is from Jordan, where a group of small olive farmers constituted a cooperative for producing high quality organic olive oil. The main objectives of this project are improving the economic, social, and environmental impacts of olive cultivation, Establishing the fair-trade system between farmers group, olive mill and the final market (mainly export market) under project monitoring to obtain appropriate price according to quality, introducing of organic farming techniques, introducing of JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standards) organic certification, introducing of Jordanian organic olive oil to international market, and establishing a pilot farm for olive organic farming for future training. The second success story is from Egypt where small farmers started to produce exportable off-season vegetables in small areas in the reclaimed desert near Qina. The farmers implemented the recent developments in fertigation techniques to improve the desert land which consists of virgin land but very poor in fertility. The third success story is from Yemen, it shows that combining research with traditional farming systems using low cost production and marketing facilities can help the small farmers to increase their income and become more market oriented producers.

### **IAASTD Sub-Global Assessment for CWANA Session**

This session was chaired by Dr. A. Amri who asked Dr. M. Guellouz to present the report on the IAASTD Findings. The IAASTD comprises a global and five sub-global assessments: CWANA, Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA), East and South Asia and the Pacific (ESAP), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and North America and Europe (NAE). Each Sub-Global Assessment is required to hold four meetings with the authors of the assessment. Around 400 independent volunteer Authors contributed in the writing of the chapters.

### **Administrative Issues Session (AARINENA Members)**

The session was chaired by Dr. Abu Hadid and co chaired by Dr. Mark Holderness. Dr. Roozitalab was asked to present the amendments to the constitution that was proposed by the executive committee and distributed for all members 60 days before this conference. The Participants of the conference discussed and approved the proposed Amendments by all participating full 19 members present at this session. The amendments as follows:

#### ***Article VIII***

##### ***The General Conference***

*The General Conference shall elect, in the conditions mentioned in Article IX, paragraph 1, the six members of the Executive Committee including President and Vice President. The term of office of the President and Vice-President will be of three years. They will be eligible for immediate re-election for only one more term for the same office.*

#### ***Article IX***

##### ***Executive Committee***

- 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of 9 members, including the President and Vice-President. The President and the five sub regional representatives are elected at each triennial session of the Conference from amongst representatives of the full*

*members on the basis of their administrative positions. The 3 representatives from CGIAR Centers, GFAR and, CSOs are nominated by their respective organizations. President who represents the whole region is elected from the full members by the majority votes of the full members at the General Conference based on his/her own merit and qualification. Vice President who also represents a sub region in the Executive Committee is elected at the General Conference amongst the representatives of the sub- regions by majority votes of the full members. With the exception of the President, no sub-region will have more than one representative in the Executive Committee. All officers elected for the Executive Committee shall take office at the end of the Conference session in which they are elected until the end of the next triennial session; they shall not be eligible for immediate re-election of the same office for more than two terms.*

6. *If any one Offices of President or Vice -President becomes vacant for any reason, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall select one of their own members to fill the vacancy .If the Office of President becomes vacant for any reason, the Vice President fills his/her position for the remaining period. If the Office of the Vice President becomes vacant, the members of the Executive Committee shall select one of their own members to fill the vacancy.*

The chairman asked Mrs. Hala Hamati to present AARINENA's financial and membership status up to 31st of August 2008. The total expenses during this period, excluding the cost of this conference, were about US\$ 41,780.84. The revenues, in the other hand including the member fees which was received US\$ 77,880. The membership was US\$ 60880 received from 15 member institutions, with three institutions are still in process, and five institutions did pay their membership fees yet. The total membership fees received from member organization was US\$ 17,000; only one organization did not pay the fees. The end balance in 2008 is US\$ 204,395.49.

### **Launching of North Africa Sub-Region Organization (NASRO),..**

The final draft of the NASRO constitution was presented by Eng. A. Gibriel, the conference discussed, amended and approved constitution for establishment of NASRO as fully fledged sub-region at FARA. (Annex III).

Summary of Actions taken:

- i. Dr. Ayman Abo-Hadid, Eng. Adnan Gibriel, Dr. Habib Amamou and Dr. M. Scander: North Africa representatives from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria respectively have met and discussed NASRO, however, Dr. A. Bahri, from Morocco indicated that he is not authorized for any action regarding NASRO; on the other hand, Dr. Azhari Hamada from Sudan expressed Sudan interest to be full member of NASRO.
- ii. The participants modified the draft constitution by deleting AARINENA from the text since they indicated that they are already members of AARINENA according to AARINENA constitution and the NASRO constitution is for the purpose of joining FARA to be in conformity with other FARA sub-regional organizations.
- iii. Representatives of Algeria and Tunisia indicated that they would like to send the draft NASRO constitution to their countries in order to allow their countries fully approved it and will send their confirmation or comments not later than one month, if no comments received , the constitution will be considered ratified.
- iv. NASRO representatives recommended holding a meeting in the near future to elect a Chairman and select a Venue to host NASRO. Dr. Ayman Abu-Hadid, indicated

that ARC-Egypt is interested to host NASRO and will provide all necessary logistics for its operation.

- v. AARINENA General Conference has extended and ratified the appointment of Eng. Adnan Gibriel as North Africa sub-regional Representative to AARINENA Executive Committee and to FARA board. The Executive Committee recommended that Dr. Ayman Abu-Hadid be appointed as NASRO representative on FARA board as a replacement of Dr. Amor Chermiti.
- vi. Upon the establishment of NASRO, the participants are looking forward for stronger link and cooperation between FARA and AARINENA in the future.

### **Election Session for the members of the Executive Committee (2008-2011)**

This session was chaired by the Nomination Officer, Dr. Ioannis Papastylianou and co-chaired by Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan,

The nomination officer declared the results of the election process:

The sub-regional representatives elected five members from their respective sub-regions as follows:

- ❖ Dr. Ayman Abu-Hadeed from Egypt as **Nile Valley and Red Sea** sub-regional representative,
- ❖ Dr. Mohamad Roozitalab from Iran as **West Asia** sub-regional representative,
- ❖ Dr. M. Walid Tawil from Syria as **Mashreq** sub-regional representative ,
- ❖ Dr. Yousif Al-Shayji from Kuwait as the **Arabian Peninsula** sub regional representative.
- ❖ Eng. Adnan Gibriel from Libya as **Maghreb** sub-regional representative.

The conference elected Dr. Ahmed El-Bakri, from Oman, as President of AARINENA and elected Dr. Ayman Abu-Hadeed from Egypt as Vice President.

### **Date and Venue of the 12th General Conference of AARINENA**

The 12th General Conference of AARINENA will be held in Kuwait in October 2011.

### **Work plan(2008-2011):**

The Conference agreed to implement the work plan of AARINENA as presented by the Executive Secretary which includes:

1. AARINENA will continue strengthening RAIS:
  - ✓ Organizing regional training workshop for Capacity building in collaboration with FAO/RNE December 2008
  - ✓ Enhancement of New version of AARINENA Web site (English and Arabic) using Content Management System (CMS)
2. Organize an expert consultation on "Revisiting priority setting for the WANA Region"
3. Supporting and strengthening existing Regional Network activities
4. Support the establishment of GPP for Linking Farmers to Market
5. Strengthening Inter-regional Cooperation.

## **Main Recommendations of the Conference**

1. Send Three faxes, to the President of Syria, the Prime minister, and to the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform thanking them for hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> General Conference and their support to AARINENA
2. AARINENA, as an active regional forum of GFAR, is keen to mobilize all stakeholders in the region to identify priority areas of agricultural development where the generation and use of knowledge can make most difference in sustainable development. To do so will require investment in regional planning and establishing key priorities as essential elements in ensuring that subsequent research delivers development impact.
3. The member national organizations of AARINENA wish to support and ensure effective processes of priority setting in international agricultural research.
4. The WANA region faces enormous challenges: climate change, water scarcity, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and the trauma of regional conflict. AARINENA requests that the CGIAR and donor organizations supporting research and development in the region provide adequate financial support to multistakeholder mechanisms facilitated by AARINENA, GFAR and CGIAR centers, to ensure that these processes provide an effective and valid strategic framework for future research within and beyond the West Asia and North Africa region
5. AARINENA and the other partners are asked to update the assessment study of the National Agricultural Research Systems in West Asia and North Africa Region conducted in 1990 to capture the latest developments in NARSs in this part of the world
6. The participants are welcoming the establishment of Plant Genetic Resources network to harmonize and coordinate efforts for efficient conservation on other components of agro-biodiversity in dry areas. Sudan accepted to host the Regional PGRN network and to provide the necessary logistics and nominate the focal person and the working plan in later time
7. Conduct joint regional research on implementing biotechnology applications to solve the problems of climate change and producing bio-fuel.
8. The WANA region has to enhance its investments in appropriate information and knowledge systems for agricultural research and innovation to keep up with demands for new knowledge for agricultural development.
9. There is a need to strengthen national agricultural information systems (NAIS) as a prerequisite to strengthening the regional agricultural information system
10. Decision-makers of NARS should focus on investing in information and knowledge for development through building capacities of their institutions (Institutional structures, People, Content, and Technology).
11. We are hoping to see that NARS in member countries is fully committed to support the appropriate sustainability for NAIS and IAIS through its regular programme budget.
12. Emphasize on the necessity that farmers participate in designing and implementing the research
13. Concentrate research on Conventional Biotechnologies for Farmers' Benefit
14. Priorities in Information Systems Development are: managing scientific and technical information, research data management, research management information, and linking research and innovation to the needs of producers
15. Promoting research-for-development in developing countries requires due attention to the following:
  - a. Understanding the evolution and identify complementary roles of different research partners, including NARSs, ARIs, and CG centres.

- b. Conducting ex-ante and ex-post research evaluation for accountability and resource allocation purposes to maximize impact and ensure relevance to poverty-targeting.
- c. Revisiting R&D priorities with the aim of factoring the global, regional and national developments that have occurred over the past few years. This includes:
  - i. Assess NARS capacity to address emerging research issues (shifting of research focus toward poverty alleviation, NRM,...
  - ii. Developing an action plan to implement the priorities (funding, resource allocation)
  - iii. Harmonizing and integrating the activities of regional and international organizations within AARINENA research priorities (based on comparative advantages).

16. Water Use Efficiency Network recommended the enhancing or the regional cooperation in the field of agricultural water use management; facilitating cross boundary cooperation, including shared water-shed management; and allowing technology transfer among participating countries.

#### **Newly-Elected Executive Committee Meeting**

The newly-elected executive committee met at the end of the conference under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Al-Bakri and took the following recommendations:

- ❖ ARRINENA is following up the change in Management at CGIAR system and would like to emphasize the role of ICARDA in the CWANA area and in non-tropical dry areas at world wide level.
- ❖ Prepare a plan containing the priorities of AARINENA at the short and long frame in its next meeting.
- ❖ Activate the networks by supporting them financially by allocating seed money from the core budget, after conducting SWOT analysis,
- ❖ The committee renewed the appointment of Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan as AARINENA Executive Secretary as per Article XI of the Constitution.
- ❖ The next Executive Committee meeting will be held at ICARDA in Aleppo-Syria, May 2009.

## Annex I List of Participants

### MEMBER COUNTRY INSTITUTIONS

#### **ALGERIA**

Mr. Mekersi Scandar  
Assistant Director  
National Institute of Agronomic Research  
02, Rue des Frères Ouaddek Hassen Badi  
El-Harrach, Alger- Algeria  
tel +21321521281  
fax +21321521283  
Mob +213771471251  
E-mail [smekersi@gmail.com](mailto:smekersi@gmail.com)

#### **CYPRUS**

Dr. Ioannis Papastylianou  
Director, Agricultural Research Institute  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Natural Resources and Environment,  
P.O. Box 22016,  
1516 Nicosia, Cyprus.  
Tel +357-22-403232  
Fax +357-22-316770  
E-Mail [dari@arinet.ari.gov.cy](mailto:dari@arinet.ari.gov.cy)

#### **EGYPT**

Dr. Ayman Abou Hadid  
President of ARC  
ARC, 9 Gamaa st., 12619 Giza, Egypt  
Tel 202-35722609  
Fax 202-35722069  
E-mail [aabouhadid@yahoo.com](mailto:aabouhadid@yahoo.com)

#### **IRAN**

Dr. Mohamed Roozitalab  
Advisor, AREO  
Yemen Ave, Evin, P.O. Box 19835-111  
Tehran, Iran  
Tel +98 21 2402483, 2402987  
Mobile +989122181624  
Fax +98 21 2402547, 2400568  
E-mail [areeo@dpimail.net](mailto:areeo@dpimail.net)

#### **IRAQ**

Dr. Saleh Bader  
Director General  
State Board for Agricultural Research  
P. O. Box 12025  
Tel +964-1-5111896/5112200/5542715  
Mobile +964-7901-916696  
e-mail [drsmbader@yahoo.com](mailto:drsmbader@yahoo.com)

#### **LIBYA**

Mr. Adnan Gibriel  
Agricultural Research Center, ARC  
P.O.Box 2480, Tripoli, Libya  
Tel +218 21 3616866  
Fax +218 21 3614993  
E-mail [adnangibriel@yahoo.com](mailto:adnangibriel@yahoo.com)

#### **MOROCCO**

Dr. Bahri Abdeljabbar Head,  
INRA Tadla Research Regional Center  
P. O. Box 415 Rabat  
Tel +212-37770955/37772642  
Fax +212-37770049  
e-mail [bahriabdeljabbar@yahoo.fr](mailto:bahriabdeljabbar@yahoo.fr)

#### **OMAN**

Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Bakri  
Director of Agr. Production Research Center  
Ministry of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 50, P C. 121, Seeb, Sultanate of Oman  
Mobile +968-99-359797  
Fax +968 24695909  
E-mail [albakry98@hotmail.com](mailto:albakry98@hotmail.com),  
[research@omantel.net.om](mailto:research@omantel.net.om)

#### **PALESTINE**

Dr. Ali Fataftah  
Director of National Agricultural  
Research Center (NARC)  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
P. O. Box 209, Jericho, Palestine  
Tel: 972-2-2321922  
Fax: 972-2-2321926  
E-mail: [rayahali@yahoo.com](mailto:rayahali@yahoo.com)

#### **PAKISTAN**

Dr. Mohammad Tariq  
Director General of NILTA  
Pakistan Agricultural Research Council  
Islamabad  
Phone No. +92-51-9202567  
Fax No. +92-51-9202968  
E-mail [dirniltaparc@yahoo.com](mailto:dirniltaparc@yahoo.com),  
[dirniltaparc@hotmail.com](mailto:dirniltaparc@hotmail.com)

## **JORDAN**

### **1- NCARE**

Dr. Faisal Awawdeh  
Director General of  
National Center for Agricultural Research  
& Extension (NCARE)  
P.O.Box 639  
Baqaa 19381 Jordan  
Fax 962-6-4726099  
E-mail [faisal@ncare.gov.jo](mailto:faisal@ncare.gov.jo);  
[director@ncare.gov.jo](mailto:director@ncare.gov.jo)

### **2-University of Jordan**

Dr. Mohammad Essam Al-Yamani  
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture  
University of Jordan  
Amman-Jordan  
Tel +962-6-5355000 Ext. 22525  
Fax 00962 6 5355511  
E-mail [myamani@ju.edu.jo](mailto:myamani@ju.edu.jo)

## **KUWAIT**

### **1) KISR**

Dr. Yousif Al-Shayji  
Manager, Biotechnology Dept.  
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research  
P. O. Box 24885, Safat 13109 Kuwait  
Tel +965-4836100/5500-5501  
Direct +965-4836100  
Fax +9654834670  
E-mail [maamri@safat.kisr.edu.kw](mailto:maamri@safat.kisr.edu.kw)

### **2) PAAF**

Mr. Jalal Al Taho  
Public Authority for Agriculture  
& Fisheries  
P. O. Box 21422  
Safat 13075- Kuwait  
Tel +965 2252000  
Fax +9652252005

## **LEBANON**

Dr. Michel Afram  
President and Director of General of  
Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute  
(LARI)  
Tal Amara, Rayak,  
P. O. Box Zahle 287 Lebanon  
Tel +961-8-901575 & 901576  
Fax +961-8-900077  
E-mail: [lari@lari.gov.lb](mailto:lari@lari.gov.lb)

## **QATAR**

Mr. Khalid Al-Dosari  
Agricultural Development Directorate  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture  
Doha, Qatar  
Tel +974-4414755  
Fax +974-4416266

## **KINGDOM OF SAUDIA ARABIA**

Dr Nasser Al-Khalifah  
Director of Research Stations  
King Abdulaziz City for Science & Technology  
(KACST)  
P. O. Box 6086, Riyadh 11442  
Tel +966-1-4883444/4883555  
Fax +966-1-4813441

## **SUDAN**

Dr. Azhari Hamada  
Director General of Agr. Res. Corporation  
P. O. Box 126, Wad Medani, Sudan  
Tel +249-511-842226  
Fax +249 511 843213  
E-mail [aahamada56@yahoo.com](mailto:aahamada56@yahoo.com)

## **Syria**

Dr. Walid Tawil  
General Manager  
General Commission for Scientific Research  
(GCSAR)  
Minstry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform  
POBox 113 Douma- Damascus  
Tel. +963 11 5741940  
Fax +963 11 5757992  
E-mail [gcsar-dir@mail.sy](mailto:gcsar-dir@mail.sy)

## **TUNISIA**

Dr. Habib Amamou  
Director General  
l'Institution de la Recherche et de  
l'Enseignement Supérieur Agricoles (IRESA)  
30 rue Alain Savary 1002 - Tunis  
Fax ++ 216 71 796 170  
email [a.mougou@iresa.agrinet.tn](mailto:a.mougou@iresa.agrinet.tn)

## **YEMEN**

Dr. Ismail Muharram  
Chairman of Agricultural Research &  
Extension Authority, AREA  
Sana'a P. O. BOX 87148  
Tel +967-6-509413  
Mobile +967-737-25298  
Fax +967-6-6423914  
Mobile +967-733-725298  
E.mail [muharram@yemen.net.ye](mailto:muharram@yemen.net.ye)

## ORGANIZATIONS

### **AARINENA**

Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Bakri  
President  
Director of Agriculture Production Research  
Center  
Ministry of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 50, P C. 121  
Seeb - Sultanate of Oman  
Mobile +968-99-359797  
Fax +968 24695909  
E-mail [albakry98@hotmail.com](mailto:albakry98@hotmail.com)  
[research@omantel.net.om](mailto:research@omantel.net.om)

Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan  
Executive Secretary  
C/O ICARDA WARP  
P. O. Box 950764  
Amman 11195 Jordan  
Tel +962-6-5525750  
Fax +962-6-5525930  
E-mail [i.hamdan@cgiar.org](mailto:i.hamdan@cgiar.org)

Dr. Mohamad Samir Habbab  
AARINENA Consultant  
University of Jordan  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Amman, Jordan  
Tel +962-79567017  
E-mail [samirhabbab@gmail.com](mailto:samirhabbab@gmail.com)

Dr. Salah Galal  
AARINENA Consultant  
Professor, Animal Production Department  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Ain Shams University  
Hadaeq Shubra 11241  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel +202 4444 1711  
Fax +202 4444 4460  
E-mail [sgalal@tedata.net.eg](mailto:sgalal@tedata.net.eg)

Mrs. Hala Hamati  
Administrative Assistant  
ICARDA  
P. O. Box 950764  
Amman 11195 Jordan  
Tel +962-6-5525750  
Fax +962-6-5525930  
E-mail [icarda-jordan@cgiar.org](mailto:icarda-jordan@cgiar.org)

### **AARINENA-RAIS**

Mrs Taraneh Ebrahimi  
AARINENA-RAIS Secretary

### **CIRAD**

Dr. Michel Trebel  
Délégué pour les pays Méditerranéens  
et le Moyen-Orient, CIRAD  
Paris, France  
E-mail [michel.trebel@cirad.fr](mailto:michel.trebel@cirad.fr)

### **ERA-ARD**

Christian Hoste  
Coordinator ERA-ARD,  
Director ECART-EEIG  
42 rue Scheffer - 75116 Paris, France  
tel +33.1.53.70.22.30 / +33.4.67.61.75.59  
fax +33.1.53.70.21.33 / +33.4.67.61.59.95  
mel christian.hoste@ecart-eeig.org

### **ESOG**

Eng. Mohamed El-Kholy  
Vice President, EASOG  
E-mail [elkholy49@yahoo.com](mailto:elkholy49@yahoo.com)

### **FAO/RNE**

Dr. Mohamed Albraithen  
ADG/ Regional Representative  
FAO Regional Office for the Near East, RNE  
Cairo-Egypt  
Tel +202-3316000  
Fax +202-7495981  
E-mail [mohamad.albraithen@fao.org](mailto:mohamad.albraithen@fao.org)

### **FAO/RNE**

Mr. Magdi Latif  
Regional Information Management Officer  
FAO Regional Office for the Near East  
Cairo, Egypt  
Tel +202-3316000 Ext. 2903  
Mobile +2010 1772187  
e-mail [magdi.Latif@fao.org](mailto:magdi.Latif@fao.org)

### **FARA**

Dr. Aggrey Agumya  
Technical Advisor to Executive Director  
PMB CT 173 Cantonments  
2 Gowa close, Roman Ridge-Accra, GHANA  
Fax +233 21773676  
E-mail [mjones@fara-africa.org](mailto:mjones@fara-africa.org)

### **FORAGRO**

Dr. Mario Allegri  
President  
11200 Montevideo, Uruguay  
Tel.(+5982) 4101676  
Fax (+598 2) 4101780

AREO, Yemen ave., Chamran Highway  
P.O.Box. 19395-1113  
Tehran, Iran  
Tel+98 21 22413931  
Fax+98 21 22413931  
E-mail [t-ebrahimi@aarinena.org](mailto:t-ebrahimi@aarinena.org);  
[taraneh25@yahoo.com](mailto:taraneh25@yahoo.com)

### **AARINENA Network Coordinators**

#### **Inter-regional Cotton Network**

Mrs. Asiel Gharedaghli  
Coordinator of INCANA  
INCANA Secretariat  
Deputy of Cotton Research Institute  
Keshavarz Blvd.,  
Varamin 33716, I. R. of Iran  
E-mail [gharedaghli@yahoo.com](mailto:gharedaghli@yahoo.com);  
[webmanager@cottonnetwork.org](mailto:webmanager@cottonnetwork.org)

#### **Regional Biotechnology Network**

Prof. Dr. Magdy Madkour  
Supervisor, Agricultural Genetic Engineering  
Research Institute (AGERI)  
AGERI, ARC, 9 Gamaa Street, Giza 12619,  
Egypt.  
Mobile (+2) 010 538 1119  
Tel. (+202) 35721974 - (+202) 44441386  
Fax. (+202) 35689519 - (+202) 44446852  
E-mail [magdy.madkour@bibalex.org](mailto:magdy.madkour@bibalex.org)

#### **Regional Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Network**

Dr. Musa Fayyad  
Herbal and Medicinal Plants Researcher  
NCARE  
P. O. Box 639  
Beqa-19381 Jordan  
Tel +962-6-4726680  
Fax +962-6-4726099  
E-mail [musaf20022002@yahoo.com](mailto:musaf20022002@yahoo.com)

#### **Regional Olive Network**

Dr. Boubaker Karray  
Director, Olive Tree Institute  
Sfax-Tunisa  
E-mail [bkarray@yahoo.fr](mailto:bkarray@yahoo.fr)

#### **Regional Water Use Efficiency Network**

Dr. Bahri Abdeljabbar  
INRA Tadla Research Regional Center  
Head  
BP 567,  
Beni-Mellal, Morocco  
Tel +23440006/83

E-mail [malleagri@inia.org.uy](mailto:malleagri@inia.org.uy)

Dr. Miguel Garcia Winder  
Director for Agribusiness Competitiveness  
Interamerican Institute for Cooperation  
in Agriculture (IICA)  
5757 Blue Lagoon Dr, Suite 200  
Miami, FL, 33126 USA  
Phone +1-305-260-9010  
Fax +1-305-260-9020  
e mail [miguel.garcia@iica.int](mailto:miguel.garcia@iica.int);  
[mgwmex@gmail.com](mailto:mgwmex@gmail.com)E-mail

#### **GFAR**

Prof. Dr. Adel El-Beltagy  
GFAR Chair  
C/O Agricultural Research Center (ARC),  
ARC, 9 Gamaa st., 12619 Giza, Egypt  
Tel 202-35722609  
Fax 202-35722069  
E-mail [elbeltagy@optomatica.com](mailto:elbeltagy@optomatica.com)

Dr. Mark Holderness  
GFAR Executive Secretary  
FAO c/o SDR  
Viale delle Term di Caracalla  
Rome,Italy 00100  
Tel. +39 06 5705 3413  
Fax +39 06 5705 3898  
E-mail [gfar-secretariat@fao.org](mailto:gfar-secretariat@fao.org);  
[mark.Holderness@fao.org](mailto:mark.Holderness@fao.org)

#### **ICARDA**

Dr. Mahmoud Solh  
Director General, ICARDA  
P. O. Box 5466  
Aleppo, Syria  
Tel +963 21 2225105/2213433  
Fax +963 21 2225105/2213490  
E-mail [M.Solh@cgiar.org](mailto:M.Solh@cgiar.org)

Dr. Kamel Shideed  
Director SEPRP  
P. O. Box 5466  
Aleppo, Syria  
Tel +963 21 2225105/2213433  
Fax +963 21 2225105/2213490  
e-mail [k.shideed@cgiar.org](mailto:k.shideed@cgiar.org)

Dr. Scott Christiansen  
Executive Assistant to the DG  
P. O. Box 5466  
Aleppo, Syria  
Tel +963 21 2225105/2213433  
Fax +963 21 2225105/2213490

Fax +23-440006/83  
E-mail [abdbahri@yahoo.fr](mailto:abdbahri@yahoo.fr)

### **ACSAD**

Dr. Rafik Saleh  
Director General  
The Arab Center for Studies of Arid Zones  
and Dry Lands (ACSAD)  
P. O. Box 2440 Damascus, Syria  
Tel +963-11-5743087/39  
Fax +963-11-5743063  
E-mail [email@acsad.org](mailto:email@acsad.org)

### **AOAD**

Dr. Abdalla M. Yagoub  
Head of AOAD Office  
Damascus, Syria

### **APAARI**

Dr. Raj Paroda  
Executive Secretary APAARI  
39 Phra Nakorn  
Bangkok 10200 Thailand  
Tel +662-697-4371/2  
E-mail [rujirek@appari.org](mailto:rujirek@appari.org)

### **Arab Society for Plant Protection (ASPP)**

Dr. Majd Jamal  
Vice President, ASPP  
Damascus University  
Mobile +963-933-282238  
e-mail [majdjama@aloola.sy](mailto:majdjama@aloola.sy)

### **Bioversity International**

Dr. Wagdi George Ayad  
Regional Director Biodiversity - CWANA  
Address P.O. Box 5466 Aleppo, Syria  
Tel +963 21 2231412  
Fax +963 21 2273681  
E-mail [g.ayad@cgiar.org](mailto:g.ayad@cgiar.org)

### **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation -- (AG)**

Ms Gihan Ragab  
Middle East Market Analyst  
Agricultural Development  
Program  
Tel (+ 39) 339 3673 826  
E-mail [jehan\\_ragab@yahoo.com](mailto:jehan_ragab@yahoo.com)

### **CIHEAM**

Mr. Bertrand Hervieu  
Secretary General  
CIHEAM  
11, rue Newton  
75116 Paris

e-mail [s.christiansen@cgiar.org](mailto:s.christiansen@cgiar.org)

Dr. Mustapha Guellouz  
Coordinator of IAASTD CWANA  
Sub Global Assessment  
DSIPS - Diversification Program  
ICARDA  
Tel (in ICARDA Tunis) + 216 71 752099  
Email [m.guellouz@cgiar.org](mailto:m.guellouz@cgiar.org)

### **ICBA**

Dr. Shawki Barghouti  
Director General  
International Center for Biosaline Agriculture  
P.O. Box 14660 Dubai United Arab Emirates  
Tel 00971 4 3361100  
Fax 00971 4 3361155  
E-mail [icba@biosaline.org](mailto:icba@biosaline.org)

### **IFAP**

Mr. Khaled Khazal  
General Union of the Peasants  
Kafar Sousa Street  
P. O. Box 123  
Damascus Syria  
Tel +963-11-2236112  
Fax +963-11-2244795

### **IFRAI**

Dr. Bernard Hubert  
IFRAI  
Paris, France  
e-mail [bernard.hubert@paris.inra.fr](mailto:bernard.hubert@paris.inra.fr)

### **INRA/France**

Michel Dodet  
Vice President International  
INRA  
Tel 33 (1) 42 75 96 80  
E-mail: [michel.dodet@paris.inra.fr](mailto:michel.dodet@paris.inra.fr)

Mr. Bernard Charpentier  
Director of International Affairs  
INRA, France  
E-mail [bernard.charperntier@paris.inra.fr](mailto:bernard.charperntier@paris.inra.fr)

### **International Society for Horticultural Science**

Dr. Norman E. Looney  
President  
International Society for Horticultural  
Science  
(ISHS)  
P.O. Box 500, 3001 Leuven, Belgium  
E-mail: [looneyn@agr.gc.ca](mailto:looneyn@agr.gc.ca)

France  
Fax +33 1 53239101  
E-mail [hervieu@ciheam.org](mailto:hervieu@ciheam.org)  
Mr. Placido Plaza  
Principal administrator  
CIHEAM  
e-mail [plaza@ciheam.org](mailto:plaza@ciheam.org)

Vincent Dollé  
Directeur du CIHEAM-IAMM  
3191, route de Mende  
34093 MONTPELLIER CEDEX 5  
Tél. (+33) 4 67 04 60 10  
Fax (+33) 4 67 04 60 75

Mr. Jozef Van Assche  
Executive Director  
International Society for Horticultural  
Science  
PO Box 500 - 3001 Leuven 1 - Belgium  
Phone +32 16229427 Fax +32 16229450  
Email [info@ishs.org](mailto:info@ishs.org)

**Global Crop Diversity Trust**  
Dr. Luigi Guarino  
Senior Science Coordinator  
Global Crop Diversity Trust  
E-mail [luigi.guarino@croptrust.org](mailto:luigi.guarino@croptrust.org)

**Annex II**  
**Program for the**  
**11th General Conference of AARINENA**  
12-14 October 2008, Damascus-Syria

**Sunday 12, October 2008 Day1**

08-30-10:00 Registration

**10:00-11:00 Opening Session**

- *Statement by the President of AARINENA*
- Statement by FAO/RNE ADG
- *Statement by ICARDA Director General Representing CGIAR*
- *Statement by GFAR Chair*
- *Statement by H.E. the Minister of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform, Syria*

11:00 -11:30 *Coffee Break, Group Picture*

**11:30 -11:40 *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable,  
Election of Reporter and Nomination Officer  
AARINENA President***

***Global & Inter-Regional Collaboration Session***

***Chair: Dr. A. El-Beltagy***

***Co-Chair: Dr. S. Barghouti***

11:40-12:00 Global Cooperation in ARD, Dr. Mark Holderness

12:00-12:20 Inter-Regional Cooperation, APAARI/AARINENA, Dr. R. Paroda

12:20-12:35 Inter-Regional Cooperation, FARA/AARINENA, Dr. A. Agumya

12:35 -12:50 Inter-Regional Cooperation, FORAGRO, Dr. M. Allegri

12:50-13:10 Coffee Break

13:10-13:25 Inter-regional Cooperation, ERA-ARD, Dr. C. Hoste

13:25-13:40 ARIMNet, a Cooperative Network for Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean, Dr. M Dodet

13:40-13:55 Collaboration between AARINENA and ISHS, Dr. N. Looney

13:55 -14:50 Lunch Break

***AARINENA Activities Session***

***Chair: Dr. A. Al-Bakri***

***Co-Chair: Dr. M. Albraithen***

14:50 -15:20 *AARINENA Activity Report, Dr. I. Hamdan*

***I- Regional Agricultural Information System (RAIS)***

15:20-15:45 Enhancing Information & Knowledge in WANA, Dr. Ajit Maru

15:45-16:10 AARINENA.RAIS Progress Report, Mrs. T. Ebrahimi

16:10-16:35 Launching NERAKIN & Development Status of thematic Networks, Mr. M. Latif

16:35-16:50 Discussion



### ***Election Announcement***

16:50 -17:10 Election Announcement by the Nomination Officer

17:10-17:45 Review Posters & Publications

**19:30 Dinner hosted by H.E. Minister of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform in Syria**

### **Monday 13 October 2008 Day 2**

#### ***II. Network Activities Session***

**Chair: Dr. M. Solh**

**Co-Chair: Dr. M. Roozitalab**

09:00 - 09:15 Cotton Inter-Regional Network, Mrs. A. Gharedaghli

09:15 - 09:30 Olive Network, Dr. B. Karray

09:30 - 09:45 Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Network, Dr. M. Fayyad

09:45 -10:00 Water Use Efficiency Network, Dr. A. Bahri

10:00 -10:15 Agricultural Biotechnology Network, Dr. M. Madkour

**10:15-10:45 Coffee Break**

#### ***Regional Plant Genetic Resources Network (PGRN)***

10:45- 11:15 Establishment of Regional PGRN at WANA, Dr. G. Ayad, BI

11:15- 11:35 Global Crop Diversity Trust collaboration with PGRN, Dr. L. [Guarino](#)

11:35- 11:50 Discussion

#### ***III. Research Priority Setting***

**Chair: Dr. W. Tawil**

**Co-Chair: Dr. C. Hoste**

11:50-12:10 Global Priorities and Needs, Dr. Ajit Maru, GFAR

12:10-12:30 Revisiting CWANA Research Priorities & Needs Assessment, Dr. K. Shideed, ICARDA

12:30-12:50 ICARDA Small Ruminants workshop Summary, Dr. S. Galal

12:50 -13:00 Discussion

**13:00-14:00 Lunch Break**

#### ***IV. Linking Farmers to Market (LFM) Global Partnership Program (GPP)***

**Chair : Dr. I. Muharram,**

**Co-Chair: Eng. M. El-Kholy**

14:00-14:25 Project Development to support LFM-GPP, Dr. M. Garcia

14:25-14:50 LFM AARINENA Case Studies, Dr. Samir Habbab

14:50-15:00 Discussion

**15:00-15:30 Coffee Break**

#### **IAASTD Sub-Global Assessment for CWANA Session**

**Chair: Dr. A. Amri**

15:30-17:00 IAASTD Findings, Dr. M. Guellouz & Dr. H. Herren

- Presentation of IAASTD
- Brainstorming Session: How Research can contribute to the implementation of IAASTD Results.

**19:30**            **Dinner hosted by the “French Initiative for International Agricultural Research” (FI4IAR)**

**Tuesday 14 October 2008 Day 3**

**AARINENA Administrative Issues Session (AARINENA Members)**

**Chair:**        **Dr. A. Abou-Hadid,**  
**Co-chair:**    **Dr. M. Holderness**

08:30-09:00    Constitutional Amendments; Dr. M. Roozitalab  
 09:00-09:20    Financial Report, Mrs. Hala Hamati  
 09:20-09:50    Launching of NASRO, Eng. A. Gibriel

9:50:10:20     **Coffee Break**

**Election Session**

**Chair:**        **Nomination Officer**  
**Co-Chair:**   **Dr. I. Hamdan**

10:20 -11:00    Election of the President, Vice President and 5 Sub-regional Representatives  
 11:00 -11:10    Date & Venue of the 12th General Conferen  
 11:10 -11:20    Closure  
 11:20 -12:00    Newly Elected Executive Committee Members (Closed Meeting)

12:00            Field Trip to Surghaya Research Station for fruit trees followed by  
 Lunch hosted by Director General of GCSAR in Bloudan

**ANNEX-III**

***Final DRAFT \****

**CONSTITUTION for North Africa Sub-Regional (NASRO) of  
Agricultural Research Institutions**

\*Amended during AARINENA 11<sup>th</sup> General Conference, Damascus 12-14 October 2008

## **PREAMBLE**

North Africa sub regional organization (NASRO) of agricultural research Institutions:

- Aware of the problems and challenges facing the development of agriculture in the North Africa sub region,
- Conscious of the responsibilities which they must assume if they are to contribute to the process of rural and economic development in the sub region,
- Convinced that the role and impact of the respective institutions can be enhanced through effective cooperation and consultation between them,
- Acknowledging the efforts undertaken by AARININA to facilitate the process of establishing NASRO which had been done according to FARA Entebbe Declaration (June 11, 2005),

Have decided to unite themselves in the pursuit of their common objectives and hereby establish a sub regional organization in North Africa as fully fledged members of FARA under the terms of this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Name, Legal Status and Seat**

1. The name of this organization shall be “North Africa Sub Regional Organization of Agricultural Research Institutions”, hereinafter referred to as (NASRO)
2. NASRO is established as an organization member of FARA. It may also be a member of any other organization undertaking similar activities within and / or outside the region. It shall have the capacity of a legal entity to perform any activities appropriate to the fulfillment of its objectives as laid down in this Constitution.
3. NASRO shall have its secretariat seat at any full member country to be decided by The General Conference shall be empowered to change the seat of the NASRO if needed.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **The Sub-Region**

1. For the purpose of this Constitution, North Africa Sub Region, hereinafter referred to as the NA Sub Region, shall consist of the following Member Countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and other potential members.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the North Africa Sub-Regional Organization shall be to:

1. Foster the development of agricultural research in the North Africa Sub- Region;
2. Promote the exchange of agricultural, scientific and technical experience and information;
3. Encourage the establishment of appropriate cooperative research and training programs in accordance with identified regional, bilateral or national needs and priorities;
4. Advise member institutions on issues pertinent to research organization and management;

5. Strengthen cross-linkages between national, regional and international research centers and organizations, including universities, through involvement in jointly-planned research and training programs.
6. Strengthen national agricultural research capacities for providing timely and necessary data and information to the policy makers;

#### **ARTICLE IV Functions**

In pursuance of the above objectives, the North Africa Sub-Regional Organization shall assume the following functions:

1. Convene triennial General Conferences at which chief research administrators of member institutions may discuss the Sub-Region's administration, research policies and priorities.
2. Organize working parties and seminars to discuss specific problems or undertake technical studies;
3. Sponsor alone, or in collaboration with FARA and agencies, institutions, or organizations and other entities undertaking similar activities within and outside the Sub-Region. Seminars, training courses or workshops;
4. Establish, through national/regional institutions, research and information networks in collaboration with FARA and other fora or networks;
5. Sponsor, if deemed feasible, regional scientific disciplinary associations and/or agricultural research periodicals;
6. Maintain links with agencies, institutions, or organizations and other entities or networks undertaking similar activities within and outside the Sub-Region.

#### **ARTICLE V Membership**

1. There shall be two types of members:
  - (a) Full Members.
  - (b) Associate Members.
2. Full membership shall be open to the following institutions in the Sub- Region:
  - (a) National agricultural research institutions, councils and organizations.
  - (b) Agricultural universities and colleges and similar institutions of higher agricultural education.
3. Associate Membership may be open to:
  - (a) Regional and international agricultural research institutions and organizations operating in the Sub- Region.
  - (b) Basic research centers operating inside or outside the Sub Region and furthering the objectives of the Sub-region.
  - (c) Agricultural research oriented private sector institutions and non governmental organizations and natural resources management institutions.
  - (d) Other organizations or bodies as may be decided by the General Conference of the Sub-Region.

4. Full or Associate Membership in the organization shall be acquired by submitting an application to the secretariat of the organization to be approved by general conference of NASRO.
5. Full Members shall have the right to vote at the meetings of the Su-region bodies. Associate Members shall have the right to participate in the meetings of the Sub-region bodies, but shall not hold office nor have the right to vote.
6. Any Member institution desiring to withdraw from the Sub-region organization shall notify the Sub-Region secretariat in writing.

## **ARTICLE VI Governing Bodies**

The organs of the Organization shall be:

- (a) The General Conference;
- (b) The Executive Committee

## **ARTICLE VII The General Conference**

1. There shall be a General Conference of the North sub regional organization in conjunction with FARA or AARINENA General Conference, hereinafter referred to as the Conference, in which each Full Member and Associate Member shall be represented by one delegate. Associate Members shall have the right to participate in the deliberations of the Conference but shall not hold office or have right to vote.
2. The Conference shall be the supreme governing body of the Sub-regional organization. In fulfillment of its objectives, the Conference shall determine the policy of the sub-region, approve the Program of Work and Budget, supervise implementation and review progress, and shall exercise other powers conferred upon it by the Constitution.
3. The Conference shall meet once every three years in regular session, at a place to be decided upon at the previous regular session.
4. The General Conference shall elect on rotating basis, the chairperson and executive secretary. The term of office of the chairperson and the executive secretary will be of three years. They will be eligible for immediate re-election for only one more term for the same office.
5. The Conference may meet in special session:
  - (a) If at any regular session the Conference decides, by a majority of the votes cast, to meet in the following year; or
  - (b) If two-thirds of the Full Members so request the Chairperson. Such meetings shall require a minimum notice of sixty days and the agenda shall consist exclusively of those items listed in the request for such a meeting.
6. Each Full Member shall have one vote at all sessions. All decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote. As for the decisions relating to amendments to the Constitution, and those related to the dissolution of the organization, decisions should be taken by at least two thirds of the votes.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Duties of the Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall normally preside at all meetings of the Conference and any other extraordinary meetings. The Chairperson will also represent the NASRO and serve as a member at both AARINENA Executive Committee and Board of FARA.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Executive Secretary**

1. The Executive Secretary of NASRO shall be appointed by the General Conference for a period of three years renewable only once through contract hiring recruited in a competitive way. He will be posted in the institution hosting the venue of NASRO but he or she should not be from that country.
2. Under the overall supervision of the Chairperson, Executive Secretary shall take all necessary actions to implement the decisions of the Conference and to manage and run the day-to-day functions of the organization. The Executive Secretary shall specifically have the following duties and responsibilities:
  - (a) Organize the General Conference session, prepare the minutes and arrange for the publication, distribution and preservation of the reports and proceedings of all meetings of the Organization.
  - (b) Organize conferences, workshops, training programs and any other meetings.
  - (c) Prepare the Organization's Program of Work and Budget and propose joint work programs with other regional and international organizations and ensure coordination of all activities with FARA and any other agencies, institutions, or organizations and other entities or networks undertaking similar activities within and outside the Sub-Region.
  - (d) Manage the financial affairs of the Organization, and receive any other financial contributions, account for all monies received, make payments in accordance with policies established by the General Conference and submit audited accounts to the triennial General Conference.
  - (e) Undertake any other duties entrusted to him/her by the Chairperson, within the guidelines of the constitution.

**ARTICLE X**  
**Quorum**

The quorum at all meetings shall be fifty percent of the Full membership.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**Amendments to the Constitution**

1. Amendments to the Constitution shall be considered only at a session of the Conference. Proposals for such amendments shall be made in writing, duly seconded, and circulated to all Full Members at least sixty days before the Session.
2. Amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of all Full Members present at the session.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**Dissolution**

1. The Organization can only be dissolved by a resolution approved at a Conference Session by a vote of two-thirds of all Full Members of the organization. Full Members absent from the meeting shall be entitled to a postal vote.
2. Should a motion for dissolution be approved, the Executive Secretary shall pay all debts and liabilities of the Organization, and shall, within one further month, initiate the appropriate action required for the discreet implementation of the instructions of the Conference with respect to the utilization of the balance of assets. The auditors shall inspect the accounts and certify in writing to all Full Members that they are correct, duly vouched. The dissolution of the Organization shall not take effect until the auditors have certified that the accounts are correct in all respects and that no debts or assets remain.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**Authoritative Texts**

The Arabic, English and French versions of this Constitution shall be equally authoritative.