Training of Trainers Workshop on Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD)

4-6 October 2011

Venue: AARINENA, Amman, Jordan

Jointly organized by: AARINENA- GFAR- FAO

Introduction

The impact that public knowledge and research can have on agricultural and rural development and natural resources management is limited because most of these outputs are not easily or widely accessible. Each organization follows its own approaches to share and exchange information and adopt different information management practices. There is a great need for coherence in agricultural information management by all the concerned agencies in order to create more impact and use of information and knowledge for agricultural research for development. Creating a global network of truly accessible outputs of research and innovation greatly increase the chances they can be put to use, locally, nationally, regionally and globally. Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) is a multi-stakeholder global initiative working to make agricultural research information publicly available and more accessible.

The Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa (AARINENA) which is mandated to promote the development of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the WANA region has been fostering use of ICT/ICM in AR4D in the region through its program, AARINENA Regional Agricultural Information System (AARINENA-RAIS). AARINENA as a partner of the CIARD initiative intends to facilitate the CIARD process in the WANA region, with the support of GFAR and FAO, through AARINENA program by strengthening the National Information Nodal Points (NINPs) in the NARS in the region to actively engage in the CIARD initiative. As part of Bridging Knowledge Gap activities towards the transformation of AR4D systems, as described in the GCARD Roadmap, AARINENA organizes the CIARD sub-regional workshop with an objective to improve partnerships among NINPs so as to strengthen capacities and skills of personnel to promote greater sharing of knowledge for outscalling of innovations.

The training workshop is aimed to strengthen capacities and skills of participants to improve sharing of information and knowledge through AARINENA-RAIS activities and to equip those who have been involved or likely to be involved in the CIARD to not only use CIARD concepts effectively but also advocate and build improved skills to participate better in CIARD and enable users to make more effective use of information including that accessed through CIARD.RING. It is also intended to train the trainers who in turn train users in their organizations and countries to enable them in improving skills to participate better in the CIARD

activities. The Workshop will be hosted by AARINENA in Amman, Jordan, from 4-6 October 2011.

About CIARD

The Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD; http://www.ciard.net) is a multi-stakeholder collaborative initiative of all major actors in agricultural research for development related information management. It is working to make agricultural research information publicly available and accessible to all. This means working with all organizations that hold information or that create new knowledge related to agriculture and to help them disseminate it more efficiently and make it easier to access their information.
The CIARD vision is ***"To make public domain agricultural research information and knowledge truly accessible to all."***

The organizations that participate in CIARD endorse the **Manifesto**, evaluate their information management practices against the **Checklist** of good practices, share and follow the **Pathways** towards better accessibility of information, contribute **case studies** and register their information services in the **RING** (http://www.ciard.net/ring). These tools and applications have been developed through a series of consultations among and consensus of CIARD partners. AARINENA is member of CIARD.

Following the CIARD Checklist and Pathways and participating in the CIARD.RING contributes substantively to improving the management of agricultural information for public access at the Institute/Organization, National Agricultural Research System, regionally and globally. When used jointly by all NARS organizations at the national level, information flows, because of use of standards, guidelines and pathways, within a country can be governed better and virtually aggregated enabling more effective use.

The CIARD.RING is a global **R**outemap to **I**nformation **N**odes and **G**ateways (**RING**)
for Agricultural Research for Development (ARD). It provides, through use of a metadata based directory a global signpost to publicly accessible agricultural information. Almost a million full text documents, 3 million bibliographic details and several databases are registered with CIARD.RING from all over the world. Similarly developed national RINGS using the CIARD.RING as a guide and template, can be used to collaborate better with other similar rings sub-regionally ,regionally, and also globally through the GFAR led CIARD.RING.

In a West Asia and North Africa Regional Workshop on CIARD organized by AARINENA, FAO, CGIAR and GFAR in May 2009, participants recommended that more advanced training is needed by those registering as members of CIARD to not only use CIARD concepts effectively but also advocate and build improved skills to participate better in CIARD and enable users to make more effective use of information including that accessed through CIARD.RING.

AARINENA, with support from FAO and GFAR, is therefore proposing to organize a CIARD Training Workshops in the WANA region from 4-6 October 2011, in Amman, Jordan, which will train participants to become trainers within their organizations and countries for improving skills to participate better in CIARD and enable users to make more effective use of information including that accessed through CIARD.RING. The Workshop will be hosted by AARINENA.

Objective of the Workshop;

The objective of the Workshop is to train trainers who can train and support ICM managers of CIARD partner organizations in:
1. Becoming active members of CIARD
2. Train users in improving skills to participate better in CIARD and enable them to participate effectively in the CIARD.RING as also make more effective use of information including that accessed through CIARD.RING
3. Advocating and supporting implementation of CIARD and CIARD.RING concepts at national levels to develop national CIARD.RINGs
4. Being resource persons at National and Regional levels for supporting effective use of CIARD pathways, applications and CIARD.RING

Workshop Participation
The Workshop participants will be those invited by AARINENA.
Priority for training will be given to ICM managers of organizations that have registered for CIARD are participating in the CIARD.RING. Other selection criteria will also include level of activity and potential of the participant to act as resource person at National level.

Workshop Program Outline:
FAO and GFAR Secretariat will also technically support the Workshop
The Workshop will have practical sessions using Computers and the Internet.

1st Day – 4 October 2011
1. Opening Ceremony
2. CIARD Concepts (including Manifesto & Guidelines) Revisited
3. How to advocate CIARD and its activities
   a. To Senior NARS Decision Makers
   b. To ICM managers in national organizations
   c. To the User Community
4. Using CIARD Pathways - I
   a. Why Pathways?
   b. How to effectively use Pathways (aimed at researchers) - I?

2nd Day – 5 October 2011
1. Using Pathways – II
   a. How to Use effectively Pathways (aimed at ICM Managers) – II?
   b. How to Use effectively Pathways (aimed at Extension Agents and in Education) – II?
2. CIARD.RING

3rd Day– 6 October 2011
1. CIARD RING
2. Participating in CIARD Virtual Fair
3. Conclusion of Workshop