

■ Second Inter-Regional ICT-RAIS Consultation Workshop, Cairo, 10-11 May 2005

The second Inter-Regional Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-Regional Agricultural Information System (RAIS) Consultation was held in Cairo, Egypt during 10-11 May 2005, to enable the RAIS stakeholders of Regional Fora to present and discuss their respective regional plan of work and budget for 2005, and to take stock of existing initiatives and discuss fresh initiatives in the area of Information and Communication Management (ICM) for Agricultural Research Development (ARD).

In the opening session, Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan, AARINENA Executive Secretary, outlined the progress of AARINENA-RAIS over the period and the contribution of AARINENA to the furthering of improved access to information in the WANA region. Dr. Jean-Francois Giovannetti, ICM Expert at GFAR Secretariat, briefly indicated the development of the Information and Communication Management for Agricultural Research Development (ICM4ARD) proposal as an output of the Global-RAIS project. He outlined the workshop program and the expected outputs.

Plans of work and budget for year 2005 of AARINENA-RAIS, APAARI, CACAARI-RAIS, EIRAD, CORAF, RAIN, and INFOTEC were discussed during the regional

views session. The regional plans of work and budget of RAIS stakeholders highlighted in the area of ICM for ARD and the development of their RAIS. Each presentation was followed by a brief discussion where clarification related to the plans of work and budget were sought and provided.

Dr. Ahmad Rafea, Chairman of AARINENA-ICT Steering Committee highlighted the Inter-Regional collaborative platform between AARINENA-RAIS and Infosys. Representative of Web-based Information Services for Agricultural Research for Development (WISARD) made a presentation on WISARD.

The recommendations emerged during the concluding plenary session focused on:

- * The plans of work and budget will be consolidated and submitted for consideration by the GFAR Secretariat for possible support. This consolidation will include the following:
 - Strengthening Agro-Web CAC as basis for the CACAARI-RAIS
 - A Regional Workshop for National Information Nodal Points (NINPs) in APAARI Region
 - Publication of regional ICM success stories by APAARI Supporting sensitization and awareness building of

- NARS leaders on ICT/ICM issues in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Assessment of Information management policies and systems in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Support to AARINENA-RAIS for the renewal of its Steering Committee

* The Inter-Regional or global activities for further consolidation and possible GFAR support were as follows:

- Inter-regional AARINENA-RAIS and InfoSys+ pre-proposal

- Organizing an Inter-regional consultation on the methodology and tools for capacity development of NAIS/RAIS managers
- Further financial support for enabling exchange of resource persons and trainees
- Establish an ICM Coordinating Committee for GFAR Secretariat
- Publish the global Agricultural Science and Technology study under a GFAR label



The Participants in the Second Inter-Regional Consultation Workshop, Cairo, 10-11 May 2005