

AARINENA IN ACTION

AARINENA 10th General Conference Sana'a-Yemen 25-27 June 2006



Opening Session for AARINENA 10th General Conference, Sana'a - Yemen, 25-27 June 2006

Under the auspices of H. E. Mr. Abdel Kader Ba-Jamal, the Prime Minister of Yemen, AARINENA 10th General Conference was held in Sana'a, during 25-27 June 2006. It was co-sponsored by FAO, ICARDA, GFAR and IPGRI in collaboration with the Agricultural Research & Extension Authority (AREA)/ Yemen. Representatives of 16 countries represented regional and international organizations as AOAD, APAARI, FAO, FARA, FORAGRO, GFAR, Heifer International, ICARDA, ICBA, IFAD, IFAP, IFPRI, IPGRI, and UNDP's attended the conference.

The conference included four sessions devoted to the meeting's organizational matters, reports of AARINENA activities, inter-regional cooperation, network activities, administrative issues and work plan. In the first session, Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan- the Executive Secretary, summarized the activities implemented since the 9th General Conference. Sub-regional representatives addressed the activities cosponsored by AARINENA in their areas. During the inter-regional cooperation's session, GFAR, IFAP, APAARI, FARA, FORAGRO, and IFPRI representative addressed their organizations activities related to inter-regional collaboration and partnership. Steps led to the development of a regional conservation strategy for WANA region presented by Dr. Mohamed Zehni.

The four commodity crops networks coordinators (Date-palm, cotton, olive, and medicinal and aromatic plants) presented the networks' activities and achievements in the third session. It was emphasized that networks are a mean, not an end, in problem solving and is a tool for discussing collaborative and effective exchange of information and expertise. Dr. Mohamed Al-Attar highlighted the activities and progress of ICBA's Inter-Islamic Networks on Biosaline Agriculture, which include over 70 members. Status of the Global Partnership for linking Smallholder Farmers' to Growth Markets was reviewed by Dr. Rupert Best.

The Executive Secretary introduced the constitutional amendments, financial statement and the work plan for AARINENA and requested the approval by the conference. The conference approved the following:

- 1- Article X-1 regarding the executive secretary appointment, by deleting the words; "from among the technical staff hosting the seat of the Association" thus making the appointment open to any competent staff from any member country.
- 2- Reconfirmed approval of the AARINENA permanent seat being located at ICARDA's office in Amman, Jordan.

An audited financial statement for 2004/2005 was presented and distributed to all members. The

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2006/2007 work program was adopted and empowered the newly elected executive committee to implement the activities that have already secured funds and are in progress. With regard to the initiative of the Global Crop Biodiversity Trust, the conference welcomes and supports the initiative of the Global Crop Biodiversity Trust for the development of a regional conservation strategy for the WANA Region

The 10th General Conference elected a new executive committee representing the sub-regions as follows:

- * Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al Bakri (Oman), president and representative of Arabian Peninsula Sub-Region
- * Dr. Ismail Muharram (Yemen), vice-president and representative of Nile Valley & Red Sea Sub-Region
- * Dr. Majd Jamal (Syria), member and representative of Mashreq Sub-Region
- * Mr. Adnan Gibriel (Libya), member and representative of Maghreb Sub-Region



The Participants in AARINENA 10th General Conference, Sana'a - Yemen, 25-27 June 2006



AARINENA RAIS-ICM Advocacy Workshop Yemen 26 June 2006

In the framework of the 10th AARINENA General Conference, the Regional Agricultural Information System (RAIS)-Information and Communication Management (ICM) Advocacy Workshop was held in Sana'a, Yemen on 26 June, 2006. The first part was presented by Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan, who summarized objectives and potential outputs of the advocacy and socio-economic and agricultural characteristics of WANA region. He stated that rapid agricultural development require new technologies, especially biotechnology, science materials, and information and communication

technology. WANA region representatives highlighted the status of ICM activities and future plans of work in their areas.

During the second part, National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) leaders and policy makers identified their needs in advocating for increased and improved investments in ICM for ARD. The following needs were agreed upon by the two groups:

- * Create a system-wide and institutional vision for effective and efficient use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and