



AARINENA

Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa

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EDITORIAL

Exchanging information and experiences among different regions is one of AARINENA main goals which is supported by the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR). AARINENA has participated in several inter-regional activities during the last 6 months to strengthen inter-regional collaboration. AARINENA delegation participated in the activities of APAARI General Assembly held in New Delhi; CACARI Expert Consultation on Regional Research Need Assessment held in Tashkent, the Fourth Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) General Assembly, which took place in South Africa, and the International Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (ERA-ARD) in Europe towards a shared vision in Brussels. AARINENA also conducted and cosponsored several continuing regional and interregional and partnership building activities such as ICT steering Committee meeting in Cairo-Egypt and INCANA annual meeting in Damascus-Syria.

In this issue, we are presenting the highlights of these interregional activities and the main conclusions and recommendations of AARINENA Executive Committee meeting along with the workshop on Agricultural Information Systems for Agricultural Research for Development. As a result of these meetings an expert group was formed to look into revisiting the priority setting in the region, along with the preparation of a concept note for establishing a regional network for Plant Genetic Resources (PGR). In addition, to the development of the Near East Rural and Agricultural Knowledge Network (NERAKIN) and Information Network and the National Agricultural Research Information Management System (NARIMS) were completed.

These activities could not be realized without inputs and support of all those concerned with agricultural development in the region including our cosponsors. We would like to re-emphasize that the main goal of AARINENA will not be realized without the members valuable contribution and interaction, particularly, information exchange of the current and future research activities. Such interaction will strengthen the role of AARINENA in promoting exchange of ideas and experiences and promote partnerships among the Association stakeholders.

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