



# AARINENA

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

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## EDITORIAL

Under the auspices of H.E Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of Syria, the 11th General Conference of AARINENA will be held in Damascus, Syria during the period 12-14 October 2008. The conference will be attended by all NARS leader members, regional and international organizations, Regional Fora, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and farmers' representatives.

The conference will address important themes such as Global and Inter-regional collaboration, research priority setting and linking farmers to market. The Conference will review the progress during the last two years: Regional Agricultural Information System (RAIS) and regional research networks. In addition, the participants will discuss and adopt new regional network for Plant Genetic Recourses (PGR).

The Amendments to AARINENA's Constitution proposed by the Executive Committee for the Conference adoption by two-thirds majority vote of all Full Members present. These amendments include increasing the members of the Executive Committee by four members: one for the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), one for CGIAR, one for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and one for President in addition to the existing five sub-regional representatives. The amendments will enhance the effective involvement and partnership of CSOs and international organizations.

We are looking forward for all members, Cosponsors representatives and Regional Fora to actively participate in AARINENA 11th General Conference for electing new executive committee members and identifying priority issues to define future plans of agricultural research for sustainable development in our region. Your participation and valuable contribution and interaction during this conference will strengthen the role of AARINENA in promoting research for agricultural development and promoting partnerships among all stakeholders in our region.

AARINENA PRESIDENT  
Dr. Ahmed Al Bakri

