

EDITORIAL

Along with more 900 delegations from policy makers, governments, national and international agencies, key stakeholders, regional fora, farmers and private sector, AARINENA participated in the first-ever GCARD 2010, held in Montpellier, France from 28-31 March 2010 by GFAR and other partners. At GCARD 2010, a unique opportunity dedicated for the building from regional expressions of demand, where representatives of regional fora addressed region-by-region presentations focusing on highlights emerging from the recent consultations and the issues they have raised. They identified key priorities for small holders in regional agricultural development and areas where knowledge can make the most difference or where new knowledge is most required.

The President of AARINENA, Dr. Ahmed Al Bakri presented the WANA region report. He introduced AARINENA's mission, objectives and its role as a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue on agricultural research for development (ARD) to promote collaboration, learning and partnerships. He briefly introduced the region and its features. In terms of the desired partnerships, the region recommends to revitalize regional networks and reconnect to global ARD community, to work more with grass-root organizations, to work with policy leaders and national champions for scaling-up and adoption, to work more with women through their networks. Also, it was suggested to engage policy makers, going beyond Ministries of Agriculture, and to collaborate with the private sector and information and communication technology (ICT) sector. Dr. Al Bakri concluded with brief key-messages from the region on priorities and focus, finance for ARD, capacity building, collaboration and partnerships, policy and scaling up.

GCARD 2010 is important in reshaping the future of agriculture; making sure research meets the needs of the poor, especially smallholder producers in developing countries; changing how agricultural research is done; making agricultural research more accountable to those it serves. GCARD 2010 concluded that the main focus of agricultural research for development is the satisfaction of technological and knowledge needs of resource poor small holder farmers and producers to improve productivity, livelihoods and quality of life the world over.

AARINENA, as a regional platform for dialogue on critical issues related to ARD and as a facilitator for enabling collaboration and partnership in ARD, has a continuing role to discuss further action through collaboration and partnership among NARS and other ARD stakeholders and actors in the region. AARINENA retreat of ARD stakeholder representatives will be organized in November 2010 to discuss and take stock of post GCARD actions by CGIAR and its Institutes and other ARD stakeholders in the WANA region. The recommendations from this retreat will be considered by the AARINENA Executive Committee for its Strategic Plan for consideration at the AARINENA General Conference to be held in Kuwait in 2011.

Editors