

AARINENA Executive Committee Meeting, Kuwait, 12-13 September 2011



Participants of AARINENA Executive Committee Meeting, Kuwait, 12-13 September 2011

AARINENA Executive Committee held its meeting in Kuwait city- Kuwait from 12-13 September 2011. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Ahmed Al Bakri, President of AARINENA, and attended by Executive Committee Members and Representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The agenda of the meeting was as follows: a) AARINENA Work Plan for 2011-2012; b) Financial and Membership Status; c) GFAR Road Map; d) AARINENA 12th General Conference Program; e) Proposal for Rotation of AARINENA's President and Vice President; f) Search Committee for the Recruitment of New Executive Secretary for 2012-2016; g) Program for the International Conference on Adaptation to Climate Change; and h) Visit to KISR Facilities. The Committee discussed and recommended the followings:

- The Executive Secretary presented the work plan for 2011-2012. The plan followed the outputs of AARINENA retreat and GCARD road map that included activities under: 1) Advocacy, 2) Strengthening stakeholder capacities, 3) Inter-regional partnership, 4) Knowledge for all, and 5) Preparation for GCARD 2 and publications. The Committee recommended revitalizing the Water Use Efficiency Network. Dr. Mahmoud Solh, Director General of ICARDA recommended coordinating this network with ICARDA water bench mark activities; he also suggested that AARINENA be a partner in the planned conference by ICARDA on policies for water and food security to improve livelihoods. Dr. Ajit Maru from GFAR recommended linking the GIS proposal for water management to the water network activity.

- The Executive Secretary presented the financial and membership status since the last Executive Committee Meeting in November 2010. The Committee recommended raising the annual membership fees to \$5000. This proposal will be presented for adoption in the 12th General Conference to be held in Kuwait in November.

- Dr. Ajit Maru from GFAR presented GCARD road map and discussed transforming AR4D systems and executing the GCARD plan. He summarized AARINENA regional retreat as a post GCARD follow up to develop an action framework related to Investment in AR4D. The Committee concluded that AARINENA, ICARDA and GFAR advocate for policy makers to increase investment in agricultural research in the NENA Region.

- A draft for the 12th General Conference program was presented. The Committee discussed the program and adopted that the Climate Change Conference be concluded on mid of 16 November 2011. Then, AARINENA's General Conference will start on the 16th and continue to the 17th of November.

- A proposal for rotation of AARINENA's President and Vice President was presented by AARINENA President. The Committee recommended the following proposal: the President and Vice President should be elected for the next term from different sub region for one term only. This proposal will require an amendment to AARINENA Constitution Articles VIII and Article IX.

- The Committee elected a search committee of four members for the recruitment of new Executive Secretary for the term 1st of November 2012 to 30 October 2016. The search committee members include: Dr. Ahmed Al Bakri, Dr. Yousif Al-Shayji, Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan and Dr. Mohammad Roozitalab.

- Dr. Mannava V.K. Sivakumar from WMO presented the draft program and objectives of the International Conference on Adaptation to Climate Change and Food security in the WANA region.

- The Committee members visited KISR and get acquainted with KISR strategy plan for the next 20 years. The members then toured KISR research facilities and the venue for convening the 12th General Conference.