

## The New Executive Committee Meeting, Kuwait, 17 November 2011

The New Executive Committee held its meeting on 17th of November 2011 in Kuwait city. The meeting was chaired by the newly elected AARINENA President, Dr. Faisal Awawdeh who welcomed the Executive Committee Members and the Search Committee for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary. The agenda of the meeting was adopted as follows: a) AARINENA Work plan for 2012; b) AARINENA delegation to GCARD II; and c) Search Committee for the recruitment of New Executive Secretary for 2012-2016. The Executive Secretary highlighted the work plan for 2012 and indicated that the work plan will be the continuation of the work plan according to AARINENA road map presented in the General Conference to finalize the existing committed

activities in the Letters of Agreements with GFAR and FAO for the preparation of GCARD II to be held in Uruguay in October/November 2012. However, AARINENA delegation to GCARD II will be selected during the next meeting of the Executive Committee. With regards to criteria for the selection of the new Executive Secretary, the Committee discussed and recommended that the search committee will meet and discuss the criteria on the basis of the vacancy announcement posted at AARINENA web then to interview the short listed candidates at AARINENA office in Amman in March/April 2012. The Committee adopted to hold its next meeting in Amman-Jordan following the search committee meeting.

## Establishment of Consortium of Farmers Organizations for Agriculture Research for Development in WANA Region (CFO-WANA), Egypt, 30-31 December 2011

The expert consultation meeting for the establishment of Consortium of Farmers Organizations for Agriculture Research for Development in West Asia-North Africa Region (CFO-WANA) was held in Cairo, Egypt from 30-31 December 2011. The meeting was sponsored by AARINENA, FAO, and GFAR and facilitated by the Union of Producers and Exporters of Horticulture Crops (UPEHC). It was attended by 19 representatives of farmers' unions and associations from the countries of the region (Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia and Turkey). At the Opening Session, representatives of the co-sponsor organizations, Dr. Faisal Awawdeh (AARINENA), Dr. Magdy Latif (FAO) and Dr. Assem Shaltout (UPEHC) identified the multiple challenges that encounter the agriculture sector in the region. They emphasized the importance of establishing the CFO-WANA and its role in regional cooperation and in reflecting the actual needs of the farming community for research for development at national and regional levels. At the first day of the meeting, the participating countries presented their status reports identifying their experience in farmers' cooperative activities, constrains and success stories which can be replicated in the region, followed by a general discussion resulting in a basic SWOT analysis. At the second day, Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan AARINENA Executive Secretary presented the objectives of the CFO-WANA as perceived by AARINENA in the draft Charter. The General Assembly endorsed the Charter with few modifications, signed the agreement for establishing CFO-WANA in witnessed by the attending co-sponsoring organizations. In accordance with the Charter rule of one vote per country, the meeting elected the Chairperson and Executive Committee for the first term of two years as follows:



**Participants of the Establishment of Consortium of Farmers Organizations (CFO-WANA), Egypt, 30-31 December 2011**

- Dr. Salima Marzouki Ben Aziz, (Tunisia), Chairperson
- Mr. Abdalwahab H.M.Abukazail (Libya), Member Representative of Maghreb Sub-region
- Dr. Assem Shaltout, Member Representative of Nile Valley Sub-region
- Mr. Adnan Al Khaddam (Jordan), Member Representative of Mashreq Sub-region
- Mr. Mohammed Al Abdal Gader (Kuwait) Member Representative of Arabian Peninsula Sub-region
- Mr. Sems Bayraktar (Turkey), Member Representative of West Asia Sub-region

The Executive committee has entrusted the seat and the Executive Secretary to UPEHC, Egypt who nominated Eng. Mohamed El-Kholy for the post of the Executive Secretary.

Representatives of AARINENA and FAO expressed their willingness and intentions, in collaboration with GFAR, to support this newly born independent organization to achieve its objectives in accordance with its Charter.