



Fund

## **Fund Council**

**10<sup>th</sup> Meeting (FC10)—Nairobi, Kenya**  
**November 6-7, 2013**

### **GCARD3 Funding Proposal**

(Working Document - For Discussion Only)

*Document presented for Agenda Item 5:*  
*Governance Matters*

*Submitted by:*  
*Consortium Office*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3)**  
**Funding proposal for support from the CGIAR Fund Council**

**October 17, 2013**

This note is submitted to the CGIAR Fund Council as a joint proposal of GFAR and the CGIAR Consortium.

**Strategic Objectives for GCARD3 relevant to the CGIAR**

1. To frame the contribution agricultural research for development can make to agreed post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and co-align future CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) and national innovation processes towards these.
2. To review and discuss the contributions made to date by CRPs and other international and national agricultural research for development programs to poverty reduction, increased food and nutrition security and health, and sustainable management of natural resources.
3. To review and discuss ideas and proposals for future CRPs (2<sup>nd</sup> Call proposals) as well as other agriculture research for development programs, to ensure that these are responsive to the demands and priorities of a wide range of stakeholders, particularly but not exclusively smallholder farmers.
4. To encourage public debate on progress and challenges of changing national, regional and international AR4D systems towards collective achievement of development outcomes (poverty reduction, increased food and nutrition security and health and sustainable management of natural resources).

**Theme**

2015 is a landmark year. Following the International Year of Family Farming and Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa (2014 for both), it is also the final year for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) period and will see the establishment of the post-2015 Development Agenda. Recognizing these important processes, the theme for GCARD3 is proposed as:

**“Agricultural Innovation for the post-2015 development agenda”**

**Specific role of GCARD3 for the CGIAR**

Building on the experiences and outcomes of the processes of GCARD1 in 2010 and GCARD2 in 2012 and recent outcome-oriented programs, particularly but not exclusively CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs), GCARD3 will examine the practical pathways, policies, capacities, investments and processes required for achieving future development goals through agricultural innovation, in particular for resource-poor family farmers and the food insecure

rural and urban population. GCARD3 will look forward, to identify what kinds of research and development agendas and collective actions are required to meet the future challenges now being set out in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

GCARD provides a public accountability, and consultation process for the AR4D programs of the CGIAR Consortium towards achieving defined Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDOs). The expected Outcome from GCARD3, for which Fund Council support is requested, is:

***Improved CRP research strategies informed by partner and stakeholder input, with CRP partnerships and impacts to date, and planned research (pre-)proposals for the next phase of implementation, discussed and assessed by stakeholders in a transparent and participatory process.***

This Outcome will derive from engagements of CRPs with national, regional, inter-regional and inter-sectoral stakeholder networks, programs and Regional Fora of national institutions, throughout 2014, leading up to GCARD3.

The wider GCARD value proposition is to catalyze direct dialogues across a wide range of stakeholders, notably the farmer, development and research communities, with implications for actions required at global, regional and national level in order to attain desired development outcomes. In taking forward the GCARD process, GFAR will continue to convene and attract robust participation and engagement of all AR4D stakeholders, fostering improved efficiency and effectiveness towards development outcomes from agricultural research for development, particularly in CGIAR's portfolio of research programs.

### **GCARD3 Process**

The GCARD3 preparatory processes and event will provide space for efficient dialogue through bringing together a series of distinct yet intertwined processes:

- a) Accountability to resource poor family farmers, rural poor, and food insecure as the intended beneficiaries of international research and feedback to the CGIAR CRPs on the realities of theories of change, impact pathways and development outcomes.
- b) Examination of how international research outputs can best be matched with national ownership, policies and investments and with public, private and civil institutions and their own priorities and commitments.
- c) Foresight on future needs for family farmers - examination of future needs in achieving sustainable development goals and the role of a next phase of CRPs in addressing these goals.
- d) A marketplace for interaction and accountability of international research with its sponsors and partners, partnership formulation and networked discussion on generating enterprise and opportunity through innovation.

## **Building on Lessons from GCARD2**

GCARD2 was considered a very useful and influential event by most participants. However, concerns were expressed by some funders and other stakeholders regarding the scale, cost, focus and effectiveness of another large event such as GCARD2 and the lack of sufficient focus on and discussion of CGIAR's Research Programs by stakeholders –in part because CRPs were too early in their implementation phases. GCARD3 will take up the recommendations of the subsequent external review of GCARD2<sup>1</sup>, which were accepted by both the GFAR Steering Committee and CGIAR Fund Council in their meetings in April 2013. From that review, the operational principles agreed for GCARD3 are:

1. GCARD3 partnership theme should focus on research uptake pathways and partnerships with the broader agricultural development community.
2. A smaller GCARD organizing committee should draw directly from on-going national and regional programmes to design the Conference and ensure a good balance of participation (see 5 below).
3. GCARD focus should include an accountability mechanism for CG SRF and CRPs to engage with stakeholders, drawing on a two year CRP consultation process.
4. This venture between GFAR and CGIAR should embody the GCARD process in the forthcoming SRF Action Plan and GFAR MTP, for a more focused, effective and efficient GCARD process and Conference.
5. The GCARD3 Conference should involve a larger proportion of rural development practitioners in a smaller and more efficient meeting, articulated with the two year preparatory processes described above.
6. The GCARD organizing committee will incorporate longer term planning and organization in the period prior to the Conference, and design an interactive Conference with sessions on national/regional priorities and reports and sessions on CGIAR SRF/CRP perspectives and reports. This would set the context for well informed interactions between the CGIAR and its investors in the Funders Forum.
7. GCARD will be organized in a lesser-developed country capital, and, in the interests of efficiency, participants be charged a registration fee to recover costs.

## **Indicative Conference Composition**

The invited AR4D stakeholders should be transparently selected as representative of organizations and stakeholder networks – and preferably bring to GCARD3 the results of discussions from a large number of meetings held before GCARD3 that will be involved in the preparatory process. Within these, we will invite 50% to be women participants and at least 20% of participants to be under the age of 40.

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<sup>1</sup> The GFAR Steering Committee commissioned a review of the GCARD process (GCARD1 and GCARD2) by an independent consultant, Dr Rodney Cooke. The findings serve to improve the impacts of the GCARD process (structure, scope, and contents), for future GCARD conferences. A summary of the report: "The GCARD Review Report: *An analysis of the way forward*" (R. Cooke, March 2013) was presented for discussion at the CGIAR Fund Council meeting (FC9) in New Delhi (April 25-26, 2013). FC9 concluded that the FC Governance Committee will prepare a brief position paper on the GCARD3, drawing on these recommendations, for a virtual submission to the FC for consideration. The GFAR Steering Committee meeting of 29-30 April 2013 reviewed and agreed the implementation of the review report's recommendations.

	GCARD2 actual	GCARD3 intended
CGIAR Consortium	118	70
National (developing country) Agricultural Research Institutions & Regional fora	195	50
Other research partners, G20 Chief Agricultural Scientists	39	20
Farmer Organizations	23	50
Private Sector (input, SME & market)	5	25
NGOs from ag, health/nutrition, environment	24	25
Rural advisory services & Producer companies	8	25
Education universities, agricultural colleges & schools	22	25
Donors & CGIAR Fund Council/Funders Forum	34	40
IGOs	55	20
Other	107	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>340</b>

Participation is indicative but will be based on a principle of a 50:50 ratio of Public research (i.e. CGIAR+ NARIS) to rural development stakeholders (farmers, private sector, advisory, NGO, education) and can be adjusted by the Consortium Board and GFAR Steering Committee if required through the pre-conference process.

### **GCARD3 Organization**

As GCARD3 is a partnership between GFAR and the CGIAR Consortium, the meeting and the preparatory process will be organized jointly between the GFAR Secretariat and the Consortium Office.

Projected physical attendance at GCARD3 would be for 340 participants (see above). These would be directly representative of the diversity of AR4D stakeholders, in particular enabling direct representation of farmers, private sector, civil society, women and youth. As at GCARD2, there will be a focus on stimulating virtual participation and on social media coverage to significantly increase overall active participation<sup>2</sup>. A professional conference facilitator and conference organizing company will be employed to support the processes required.

The GFAR Secretariat and CGIAR Consortium Office will together shape and organize the processes of consultation required. The GFAR Secretariat and CGIAR CO will jointly have overall administrative responsibility for the organization of the GCARD3 Process and the Conference. Specifically, if FC approves this proposal and budget – the approved budget will be set aside for disbursement to FAO (GFAR) as done last time under a Fund Use Agreement – but with clear CO agreement on use of the budget.

<sup>2</sup> GCARD2 had 1000 virtual participants; GCARD3 would aim to double this number.

The GFAR Steering Committee and Consortium Board will provide multi-stakeholder oversight through key decision points on: 1) commitment to the overall plan; 2) agreeing the overall conference program; and 3) determining the nature of composition of the conference participants.

***The CGIAR Fund Council is asked to agree on the overall framework as above and approve the budget contribution from the Fund Council in sufficient time to enable pre-commitment of the necessary finances for the consultation processes and conference.***

The GCARD3 preparatory process will leverage the large number of meetings and networks already organized by the wider community of AR4D stakeholders – whether they are farmer organization annual events, regional fora workshops, scientific conferences, thematic networks or CRP meetings. For the CGIAR’s programme planning, the GCARD3 prep process will request meeting organizers to discuss, review and provide feedback on key elements of prep documents, such as the CGIAR SRF Management Update, CRP reports, CRP (pre-) proposals, and other key documents that will feed into GCARD3. Wider GFAR and CRP-supported preparatory processes will explore future agricultural scenarios from farmers own perspectives, enable objective end-user assessment of CRP progress and analyze practical constraints towards achieving intermediate development outcomes. External meeting organizers will be asked to reflect the implications of their event outcomes for a) improvements required to existing AR4D programmes and b) to future work programmes.

The GCARD3 organizers (GFAR Secretariat and CO) will develop a website or portal that will be an effective medium inter alia for stakeholder feedback and the exchange of views on these key documents, a repository for preparatory documents, and a general resource center for GCARD3 prep.

The key activities during GCARD3 prep will be coordinated by a small central team of facilitators and synthesizers, located in the GFAR Secretariat and CO offices that will engage with meeting organizers, build and maintain the portal, and analyze and synthesize the flow of feedback.

Together these will feed into a smaller-scale GCARD3 conference as a ‘meta-event’, bringing together selected representatives from these processes and sector-representative networks, setting out key lessons learned in seeking development impacts through agricultural research and innovation and defining the actions required going forwards.

In addition, the rapid development of social media can be leveraged to seek feedback and foster debate on significant issues from a wide range of stakeholders in each region, including specific measures to ensure that small farmers’ voices are clearly heard and their views directly articulated.



### **GCARD3 Conference Event Proposed Outline Agenda**

A 3 day program is proposed, as illustrated below:

Day 1 Future challenges	Day 2 Learning from experiences	Day 3 Planning for future programmes
Grassroots and multi-stakeholder foresight CGIAR new priority identification processes. Voices, of farmers, women, youth, the poor. Feedback from other meetings on implications for priorities Links to UN post-2015 goals	Review of contributions of AR4D, particularly CRPs, to development outcomes to date. Successes and challenges found in achieving development outcomes through agricultural innovation. Interactive feedback on CRP progress in Marketplace. Dinner & Awards events	Enabling and aligning local, national and international innovation systems and associated resource and capacity needs to meet future SDGs. Recommendations for CRP 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle planning and linkage with national systems and diverse stakeholders

### ***Venue and Date***

The venue for GCARD3 remains to be determined, dependent on reception of official offers and the level of support proposed. It is proposed that the conference will be held in Africa. Senegal and South Africa have expressed interest to host GCARD3, and there may be other countries willing and able to host as well.

GCARD3 is proposed for the second quarter of 2015.

It is also proposed to organize GCARD3 back-to-back with the (separately funded) second Global Conference on Women in Agriculture, due to be held in Africa in 2015, to maximize cost efficiencies and help ensure significant participation of women in GCARD3.



### Fund Council funding request

We estimate that Fund Council contributions will account for around 50% of the total costs entailed, the remainder to be generated a) by the GFAR Secretariat, to support actions such as grassroots foresight, stakeholder engagement and thematic events and b) leveraging consultation processes the CRPs will have to engage in simultaneously as part of their preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call. It is anticipated that funds requested from CGIAR Fund Council will be matched through co-financing of specific actions and sponsorship of participants, including CRPs inviting (and funding) partners to attend GCARD3 (as agreed by the Consortium Board and GFAR Steering Committee). Anticipated sources are GFAR direct funds, CRP-supported actions, and support from Window 3 and from other bilateral funds. Other donors and partner organizations are likely to also contribute, including as co-sponsors of preparatory processes and related conferences.

Item	Fund Council Window 1 Funding request (USD)
Building, maintaining and staffing a portal / resource center to provide prep documents, studies & white papers to pre-meeting organizers and provide a place to feed comments back, as well as host a permanent discussion. Also the place to use as the communications hub for the prep process.	100,000
Central team engaging with meeting organizers of prep meetings and synthesizing their feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Salary, 1 person at GFAR Sec and 1 person at CO, \$100K</li><li>• Travel to pre-meetings \$30K</li><li>• Conference moderator \$20K</li></ul>	150,000
Analyses & Compilation of needs & e-discussion @USD 10,000 x 5 regions	50,000
Sponsored travel to event & DSA @USD 3,000 x 50pax	150,000
Event venue and organizational logistics, further costs to be offset by national contributions and registration fees where appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rooms &amp; equipment \$80K</li><li>• A/V internet, video recording, room wiring, booths \$100K</li><li>• Interpreters/translation \$20K</li><li>• Conference organizers management fee \$30K</li><li>• Materials &amp; printing \$20K</li></ul>	250,000
Event communications and outreach, social media	50,000

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PR Agency 20K \$</li> <li>• Social media rapporteurs (travel grants &amp; coordinator) \$30K</li> </ul>	
<b>Total support requested from CGIAR Fund Council USD</b>	<b>750,000</b>