Introduction

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and the CGIAR Consortium are organizing the third Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD 3), a 2-year consultation process to discuss and set priorities for agricultural research for development. This will enable all partners in agricultural research for development around the world to benefit resource poor farmers and agricultural producers. The outcome of GCARD3 can be used by national agricultural development communities, while also framing the work of the CGIAR’s Research Programs (CRPs).

The GFAR Steering Committee, which consists of all the major actors in GCARD, together with the CGIAR Consortium Board, are providing strategic oversight, multi-stakeholder perspectives and joint direction to the GCARD3. The Steering Committee and the Board are assembling a GCARD Organizing Committee, to provide tactical guidance and organizational coordination of the GCARD 3 process and to handle the day-to-day tasks to make the process inclusive, successful and efficient. The GCARD 3 will take place during the latter quarter of 2014 and throughout 2015 in the lead up to a milestone event proposed to take place in either late 2015 or early 2016. Subsequent consultations will take place after the milestone event to ensure strong stakeholder and partner participation in the development of the full proposals for the next generation of CRPs. The Organizing Committee co-Chairs will report regularly on the progress of organizing GCARD 3 to the GFAR Steering Committee’s and CGIAR Consortium Board’s Chairs and through them to the GFAR Steering Committee and CGIAR Consortium Board.

Organizing Committee Composition:

In line with recommendations and lessons learned from previous reviews of GCARDs, the Organizing Committee will be large enough to engage the perspectives of key actors into functional processes yet still remain small enough to be effective.

- Co-Chairs Consortium CEO (Frank Rijsberman) and GFAR Executive Secretary (Mark Holderness)
- CGIAR Research Program Directors: x 2 (to be identified by Consortium Office)
- Farmer representation: to be identified from GFAR stakeholders
- SME private sector representation: to be identified from GFAR stakeholders
- FARA Executive Director (Yemi Akinbamijo)
- Ex-officio: GFAR Secretariat (Fiona Chandler) & Consortium Office (Alain Vidal); GCARD Host Country representative (to be determined)
The Organizing Committee’s Terms of Reference will be to:

1. Develop, through consensus with the GFAR Steering Committee and CGIAR Consortium Board, the objectives and goals of the GCARD 3 consultation and the programmatic plan, including the programme of the GCARD 3 event.

2. The Organizing Committee will provide tactical guidance and organizational coordination of the GCARD 3 process and event to make the process and event inclusive, successful and efficient. The Organizing Committee will oversee the GCARD3 support team and Task Forces in their handling of the day-to-day tasks associated with the process and event.

3. Ensure coordination of work streams that relate to the CGIAR processes (Strategy & Results Framework and CRPs) within the GCARD process.

4. Develop an overall budget for organizing the consultations and the GCARD event proper. The Co-Chairs of the Organizing Committee will propose the GCARD process and event budget for agreement by the GFAR Steering Committee and CGIAR Consortium Board.

5. Ensure that the GCARD consultations and event remain within the budget and funds are used effectively, efficiently and transparently.

6. The Organizing Committee will implement actions through the GFAR Secretariat and the Consortium Office, supported by the Regional Forum Secretariats, national governments and CRPs, for organizing the GCARD 3 process of dialogues including its preparatory work and monitoring its progress and post event activities such as publishing and dissemination of proceedings and recommendations.

7. The Organizing Committee will provide regular oversight of consultation processes to ensure effectiveness and accountability.

8. Organizing Committee members will act as conduits to facilitate communication between and with their constituencies.

9. Represent itself in meetings and activities related to the organization of the consultation such as with donors, agencies of the host country and other GFAR statutory bodies including the Steering Committee.

10. Appoint Task Groups with their specific Terms of References to undertake specific tasks, as and when needed. For example:
   - Development of the program for the GCARD 3 event
   - Communications
   - Event(s) logistics
   - Monitoring and evaluation
11. The Organizing Committee will be in effect until the end of 2016 to take into account consultations in 2015 and 2016 (with the GCARD3 event a milestone in the process.)