



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)

ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING (GAM)
12 OCTOBER, 2010
ITCC, RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
SUWON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PROCEEDINGS



DECEMBER 2010

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand



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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Welcome and Chairman's Address	1
APAARI Progress Report	2
Membership and Fee Payment Status	2
Presentation of Audited Accounts and Assets and Liabilities	3
Report of Committee on Investment Policy	3
Work Plan and Budget for 2011-2012	3
Executive Committee for the Next Biennium (2011-2012)	4
Venue of the Next General Assembly Meeting	4
Any Other Items	5
• GCARD Road Map - Its Implications	5
• APAARI Communication Strategy and its Implementation	5
• NAARAP - A Brief Report	5
• FARA Presentation	5
• AARINENA Presentation	5
• Term of Executive Secretary	6
Concluding Remarks and Presentation of Plaques	6
Vote of Thanks	6
Annexure I : Agenda	7
Annexure II : List of Participants	8
Annexure III : Opening Address by Chairman	14
Annexure IV : A Report on APAARI Activities (2009-2010)	16
Annexure V : Summary Account Statement of APAARI	43
Annexure VI : APAARI Fund Management - Strategy and Options	45
Annexure VII : APAARI Work Plan for 2011	54
Annexure: VIII : Proposed Budget for 2011-2012	55
Annexure IX : GCARD Road Map - Its Implications	56
Annexure X : APAARI Communication Strategy and Its Implementations	57
Annexure XI : NAARAP - A Brief Report	61
Annexure XII : FARA Presentation	62
Annexure XIII : AARINENA Presentation	64

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
Eleventh General Assembly Meeting (GAM)
12 October, 2010
(ITCC, Rural Development Administration, Suwon, Republic of Korea)

PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

The Eleventh General Assembly Meeting (GAM) of APAARI was held on 12 October, 2010 at the International Technical Cooperation Center, Rural Development Administration, Suwon, Republic of Korea. The meeting was hosted by the Rural Development Administration (RDA). The Agenda, as approved in the meeting, is given at Annexure I. In all, 48 members attended the GAM (Annexure II).

Welcome and Chairman's Address

Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, Chairman, APAARI welcomed the participants on behalf of APAARI. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Seung-Kyu Min, Administrator of Rural Development Administration (RDA) and Dr. Seung-Yeol Na, Director General, Technical Cooperation Bureau and Government of Republic of Korea for hosting the 11th GAM of APAARI in Suwon. Dr. Shukor pointed out that APAARI is now recognized as one of the vibrant organizations engaged in promoting agricultural research for development (ARD), and provides a neutral platform to all its key stakeholders. During the last few years, APAARI has expanded its Executive Committee by having also the representation of CGIAR, GFAR and CSOs (both NGOs and the Farmers' Organizations).

Dr. Shukor specifically pointed out that developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region have benefited greatly through their association with APAARI which has been undertaking new role and responsibility in meeting the emerging challenges for sustainable agriculture. According to him, 2009-2010 was a very productive period for APAARI, during which many important events/activities were held including the reorientation of AR4D research agenda and the active participation in Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) held in Montpellier, France in March 2010.

The Chairman also mentioned about the valuable contributions of CGIAR and GFAR towards strengthening AR4D. Dr. Shukor also emphasized that APAARI has now become a well recognized and self-sustainable regional organization, mainly due to regular participation and support of its members. He then presented the Agenda before members, which was unanimously adopted.

The following new publications of APAARI/APCoAB were also released by Dr. Abd. Shukor:

- (i) A Success Story on Short duration Mungbean: A New Success in South Asia
- (ii) APAARI on CD 2010
- (iii) APAARI Calendar for 2011

A full text of Chairman's address is given at Annexure III

APAARI Progress Report

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary welcomed the members on his behalf and expressed his appreciation for their excellent support in carrying out the work program during the biennium 2009-2010. Dr. Paroda highlighted the progress made by APAARI relating to: (i) the establishment of NGO Consortium for Asia-Pacific called NGO Association for Agricultural Research in Asia-Pacific (NAARAP), (ii) efforts on de-centralized management of ARD information system and development of APAARI website, (iii) review of the progress on agricultural biotechnology related activities undertaken by the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB), (iv) amendment to APAARI Constitution concerning expansion of the Executive Committee, (v) continued emphasis on APAARI publications, etc. (Text of the Progress Reports both for 2009 and 2010 is given at Annexure IV).

Membership and Fee Payment Status

The Executive Secretary informed that APAARI has been striving to increase its membership and to this effect has approached several NARS, IARCs, CG Centers, Regional Fora, etc. to join as new members. The participants were pleased to learn that during the biennium 2009-2010, different Agricultural Universities and some of the developing NARS have shown interest in joining APAARI as paid members. During this biennium, fifteen new members have joined APAARI, which indeed is very encouraging development. Current membership of APAARI stands at 55. Efforts are on to enroll more new members, especially China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia etc. The new members who have joined during this biennium (2009-2010) are:

- AAU - Anand Agricultural University, Anand (India) - Affiliate Member
- ARIA - Agricultural Research Institute of Afghanistan, Kabul (Afghanistan) - Affiliate Member
- BAU - Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi (India) - Affiliate Member
- CAU - Central Agricultural University, Imphal (India) - Affiliate Member
- CIAT - International Center for Tropical Agriculture (Colombia) - Associate Member
- CoRRB - Council for RNR Research of Bhutan, Thimpu (Bhutan) - Regular Member
- FARA - Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, Accra (Ghana) - Reciprocal Member
- IAUA - Indian Agricultural Universities Association, New Delhi (India) - Affiliate Member
- NAU - Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari (India) - Affiliate Member
- NMC-CREES - Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, Saipan (Northern Mariana Islands) - Affiliate Member
- SDAU - Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar (India) - Affiliate Member
- SHIATS - Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences, Allahabad (India) [formerly Allahabad Agricultural Institute-Deemed University] - Affiliate Member
- SPC - Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Suva (Fiji) - Reciprocal Member
- SRIF - Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (Fiji) - Associate Member
- UPM - University Putra Malaysia, Serdang (Malaysia) - Affiliate Member

Dr. Paroda further informed that APAARI Secretariat has been making constant efforts to approach potential NARS in some Pacific countries to become members of APAARI. A few agricultural universities in the region have also expressed their desire to join APAARI. Efforts for the revival of membership of CAAS (China) and New Zealand have also been made but so far with little success.

It is quite satisfying that most of the membership fees are paid regularly. Funding support for implementing the planned activities of APCoAB and APARIS programs has been received from ACIAR, COA (Chinese Taipei), GFAR, MAHYCO and FAO, which is highly appreciated.

Presentation of Audited Accounts and Assets and Liabilities

The APAARI accounts for the period January-December 2009 and January-September 2010 were audited by the GAAP Professional Audit Co. Ltd., Bangkok, Thailand. The audited statements (Annexure V) were circulated to all members present in order to apprise them of the current status of accounts and expenditures as against the approved budget by APAARI in the 10th GAM held on 20th October, 2008 in Tsukuba, Japan. Dr. Paroda informed the members that most of the expenditure was within the approved limit under each budget item for 2009-2010. Also Assets and Liabilities statement was circulated for the review of members. Having gone through all details, the members expressed satisfaction and approved the audited accounts for both 2009 and 2010 (upto September).

As the service contract of the current Auditor will expire on 31st December, 2010, the members agreed to have a new Auditor appointed for the biennium 2011-2012, for which Executive Committee was empowered to take a final decision in its next meeting in early 2011.

Report of Committee on Investment Policy

Dr. R.D. Ghodake, Chairman of the Working Group on Investment Policy made a brief presentation on his report entitled "APAARI Fund Management - Strategy and Options" (Annexure VI). All pros and cons of the proposed four options suggested by him were discussed in detail. Members appreciated the excellent analysis made by Dr. Ghodake and were unanimous in their decision to go ahead with Option 2 (A) for an initial investment of US\$ 500,000 (half million) through ICRISAT. It was also suggested that the Chairman, APAARI may approach Dr. William Dar for his consideration to charge only 10% overhead costs (rather than 20%), as a special case. Members also authorized the Chairman and the Executive Secretary to take necessary action for entering into a contract or Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the proposed investment and transfer US\$ 500,000 from APAARI account with Siam Commercial Bank, Bangkok to that of ICRISAT Bank account after the signing of agreement by the Executive Secretary.

Work Plan and Budget for 2011-2012

APAARI Work Plan for the year 2011 (Annexure VII), prepared as per advice of the Executive Committee, was presented by Dr. Paroda for consideration and approval of the GAM. In order to implement the approved work plan as well as other regular activities, a budget for the biennium 2011-2012 was also presented for consideration (see Annexure VIII). The reasons for increasing the budget during 2011-2012 were also explained. Both the work plan and budget for the next biennium 2011-2012 were considered and approved by the General Assembly.

Executive Committee for the Next Biennium (2011-2012)

As per previous practice for the formation of Executive Committee of APAARI, a balance is being maintained by having two members from each of the three sub-regions (South-West Asia, South-East Asia, and the Pacific), ensuring the principle of rotation for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman coming from different sub-regions, and also retaining the outgoing Chairman as member of the new Executive Committee.

Accordingly, the 10th General Assembly of APAARI unanimously agreed for the following Executive Committee for the biennium 2011-2012:

Executive Committee for 2011-2012

Chairman: Dr. S. Ayyappan, ICAR, India
 Vice-Chairman: Mr. Mason Smith, DoA, MPI, Fiji
 Members: Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, MARDI, Malaysia
 Dr. Simon Hearn, ACIAR, Australia
 Ms. Susan Chang, CoA, Chinese Taipei
 Dr. Tashi Samdup, CoRRB, Bhutan
 Mr. Raul Montemayor, IFAP, Philippines
 Dr. Colin Chartres, IWMI, Sri Lanka
 Fr. Francisco Lucas, NAARAP, Philippines
 Dr. Mark Holderness, GFAR, Italy
 Executive Secretary: Dr. Raj Paroda, India

Venue of the next General Assembly Meeting

All members were requested to suggest possible venue for the next General Assembly Meeting (12th GAM) to be held during October/November 2012. In this context, Dr. S. Ayyappan from ICAR, India extended an informal invitation to host the 12th GAM in India. Dr. Ayyappan also informed that an official invitation letter with required commitments would be sent in due course. All participants were pleased to accept the invitation to hold the next GAM in India around October 2012. It was also agreed to organize an Expert Consultation on one of the thematic areas, to be finalized by the Executive Committee in due course. Members also urged Dr. Ayyappan for extending more support to APAARI for its program activities during next biennium.

The General Assembly was also pleased to know of the intention of the offer from the Council of Agriculture (COA), Chinese Taipei for hosting the next annual meeting of the Executive Committee alongwith an Expert Consultation during October-November, 2011. It was mentioned by the representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms. Ko Kathy Yi-Chia that a formal invitation to this effect will follow.

The possible topics for future Expert Consultations were suggested as under:

- (i) Transboundary animal diseases in Asia to be linked with GAM in 2012
- (ii) Status and strategy on GM food crops in Asia-Pacific
- (iii) Role and empowerment of women and youth in agriculture

Any Other Items:

The following important issues were discussed under this item:

(a) GCARD Road Map - Its Implications

Dr. Ajit Maru, GFAR made a brief presentation on Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) held in Montpellier, France in March 2010. He highlighted on the outcome of the Conference and stressed on the need for implementation of GCARD Road Map. Need for reorientation on ARD agenda in the Asia-Pacific region was emphasized, which lays greater emphasis on small holder farmers. Details of presentation made by Dr. Maru are given in Annexure IX.

(b) APAARI Communication Strategy and its Implementation

Dr. Attaluri S., Coordinator, APARIS gave a presentation on APAARI communication strategy recently adopted by the Steering Committee and highlighted the importance of effective coordination among stakeholders for knowledge sharing. Need to empower National Information Nodal Points (NINPs) for exchanging freely the information of general nature concerning AR4D was also highlighted. Members appreciated the communication strategy and desired to have it implemented soon for the benefit of all concerned in the region. A copy of presentation made by Dr. Attaluri is given at Annexure X.

(c) NAARAP - A Brief Report

Fr. Francisco Lucas, Chairman, NAARAP made a brief presentation on “NAARAP Updates and Future”, the current status of ANGOC and desired to have continued linkages with APAARI in future. His presentation is available as Annexure XI.

It was suggested that NAARAP could continue having its representation (through its Chairman) on the APAARI Executive Committee for the biennium 2011-2012, for which elections for the new Executive be held in the near future. APAARI in collaboration with GFAR could facilitate the process, if requested.

(d) FARA Presentation

Mrs. Myra Wopereis, Director, Access to Knowledge and Technologies, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) could not attend but sent a powerpoint presentation on “Supporting Southern-European Alliances”. The contents of her presentation were noted with considerable interest by the members (see Annexure XII).

(e) AARINENA Presentation

In line with its mission, APAARI has been giving importance to the strengthening of inter-regional partnership. In this context, APAARI, AARINENA and CACAARI had earlier established an Inter-regional Cotton Network in Asia and North Africa (INCANA). To facilitate inter-regional partnership, AARINENA also joined APAARI as its reciprocal member. Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan, Executive Secretary, AARINENA was pleased to present a brief statement on “AARINENA Experiences on Inter-regional Cooperation” (see Annexure XIII). Members were pleased to know of increased collaboration with AARINENA in the field of biotechnology, and thanked Dr. Hamdan for his personal attendance and presentation of his interesting report. Members also felt that exchange of information and germplasm material on olive and date palm, through AARINENA networks will be of much benefit to some countries in Asia.

(f) Term of Executive Secretary

The Chairman briefed the GAM regarding decision of the Executive Committee for the continuation of Dr. Raj Paroda as Executive Secretary, APAARI for the next biennium (upto 31st December, 2012). Earlier, Dr. Paroda rendered his services to APAARI for the last 15 years only on an honorary basis. Hence, as per the decision of the Executive Committee, Dr. Paroda is currently being compensated through some token honorarium for his 50% time spent for APAARI. He also appreciated his leadership role for bringing APAARI to its current status and recognition. His continued leadership was, therefore, critical for APAARI. The members unanimously endorsed the decision of the Executive Committee and urged Dr. Raj Paroda to continue providing his leadership to APAARI. At this, Dr. Paroda emphasized the need now to initiate a process for his succession so that APAARI could have a full time person in place by the end of 2012, for which next Executive could take needed action.

Concluding Remarks and Presentation of Plaques

In their closing remarks, the Chair and Vice-Chair congratulated all the members of the newly formed Executive Committee. They also expressed their satisfaction on the achievements of APAARI during the last biennium, mainly through the dynamic leadership and dedicated efforts of Dr. Raj Paroda as Executive Secretary. In view of APAARI's expanding structure and the program of work, the Chairman desired that in future GAM could be organized for one full day. Dr. Abd. Shukor also stated that it was an honor for him to serve as Chairman of APAARI. In addition to the organizing team of RDA, Dr. Abd. Shukor appreciated the efforts of APAARI Secretariat staff towards successful organization of this General Assembly.

Vote of Thanks

At the end, Dr. Raj Paroda proposed a vote of thanks. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Seung-Kyu Min, Administrator of Rural Development Administration (RDA) and Dr. Seung-Yeol Na, Director General, International Technical Cooperation Center, RDA and Government of Republic of Korea for hosting the 11th GAM of APAARI in Suwon. Dr. Shukor also thanked all the delegates for their active participation as well as continued support to the activities of APAARI. In the end, Chairman presented the plaques of honor to the following outgoing/retiring members for their active role and support for the APAARI activities in the past.

- (a) Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, Chairman, Executive Committee
- (b) Dr. S. Ayyappan, Vice-Chairman, Executive Committee
- (c) Dr. Robert Zeigler, Members, Executive Committee
- (d) Dr. Seung-Kyu Min, Administrator, RDA
- (e) Mr. Seung-Yeol Na, Director General, ITCC, RDA
- (f) Dr. Somchai Charnnarongkul, Ex- DG, DOA
- (g) Dr. Hong-Kil Moon, Director, ITCC, RDA

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Co-Chairman.



ANNEXURE I



Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)

11th GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

**12 October, 2010, RDA, Suwon, Republic of Korea
(13:00-18:00 hrs.)**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Chairman's Address : Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman
2. APAARI Progress Report : Dr. Raj Paroda
3. Membership and Fee Payment Status : Dr. Raj Paroda
4. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Assets & Liabilities : Mr. P.K. Saha
5. Report of Committee on Investment Policy : *Ad hoc* Committee for Investment (Drs. Raghunath Ghodake, Robert Zeigler, Raju Barwale)
6. Work Plan and Budget for 2011-2012 : Dr. Raj Paroda
7. Executive Committee for 2011-2012 : Background to be provided by Executive Secretary
8. Venue of the next General Assembly : Suggestions from Members
9. Any Other Items (15 minutes each)
 - GCARD Road Map - its Implications : Dr. Ajit Maru
 - APARIS Communication Strategy and its Implementation : Dr. S. Attaluri
 - NAARAP - A Brief Report : Fr. Francisco Lucas
 - Supporting Southern-European Alliances : Mrs. Myra Wopereis
 - AARINENA Experiences on Inter-regional Cooperation : Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan
10. Concluding Remarks and Presentation of Plaques : Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman
11. Vote of Thanks : Dr. Raj Paroda

(19:00 hrs. - Reception Dinner at Hotel Ramada Plaza, Suwon)

11th APAARI General Assembly Meeting
Venue: International Technical Cooperation Center, RDA, Suwon,
Republic of Korea
12th October, 2010

List of Participants

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Dr. Simon Hearn
Principal Adviser, Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
P.O. Box 1571, Canberra ACT 2601
Australia | E-mail: hearn@aciar.gov.au |
| 2. | Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mondal
Director, SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)
BARC Complex, Farm Gate, New Airport Road
Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh | E-mail: rafiqulmondal@saarcagri.net
rafiqulmondal@yahoo.com |
| 3. | Dr. Tashi Samdup
Director, Council for RNR Research of
Bhutan (CoRRB)
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
P.B. No. 119, Thimpu, Bhutan | E-mail: tashi_samdup2001@yahoo.com
t_samdup@moa.gov.bt |
| 4. | Dr. Shui-Ho Cheng
Director, Taoyuan District Agricultural
Research and Extension Station
Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan
Nanhai Road, Chinese Taipei 100 | E-mail: shcheng@mail.coa.gov.tw |
| 5. | Ms. Ko Kathy Yi-Chia
Officer of the Department of International
Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan
Nanhai Road, Chinese Taipei 100 | E-mail: ycko01@mofa.gov.tw
jasli@mail.coa.gov.tw |
| 6. | Dr. Andreas Ebert
Genebank Head, Asian Vegetable Research
and Development Centre (AVRDC)
P.O. Box 42, Shanhua, Tainan 74199
Chinese Taipei | E-mail: andreas.ebert@worldveg.org |
| 7. | Dr. Jai Gawander
Chief Executive Officer, Sugar Research
Institute of Fiji
P.O. Box 3560, Lautuka, Fiji Islands | E-mail: gawanderjai@hotmail.com |

8. Mr. Mason Smith
Permanent Secretary for Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Primary Industries
Private Mail Bag, Raiwaqa, Fiji
E-mail: psagriculture@connect.com.fj
9. Dr. S. Ayyappan
Director General, Indian Council of
Agricultural Research (ICAR)
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi 110 001
India
E-mail: ayyappans@icar.org.in
dg.icar@nic.in
10. Dr. William D. Dar
Director General, International Crops Research
Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
Patancheru 502 324, Andhra Pradesh, India
E-mail: W.Dar@cgiar.org
11. Dr. Narsingh Narayan Singh
Vice Chancellor, Birsa Agricultural University
Kanke, Ranchi 834006, Jharkhand
India
E-mail: vc_bau@rediffmail.com
12. Dr. R.P. Singh
Secretary General
Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA)
IG-2, CGIAR Block, NASC Complex
DPS Marg, New Delhi 110012
India
E-mail: esiaua@yahoo.co.in
drsinghrp@rediffmail.com
13. Dr. C.L.L. Gowda
Global Theme Leader - Crop Improvement
International Crops Research Institute for
the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
Patancheru 502 324, Andhra Pradesh
India
E-mail: c.gowda@cgiar.org
14. Dr. P.N. Mathur
Coordinator, South Asia Office
Bioversity International, NASC Complex
DPS Marg, New Delhi 110012
India
E-mail: p.mathur@cgiar.org
15. Dr. Raj Paroda
Executive Secretary, APAARI
C/o TAAS, Avenue II, IARI Campus
New Delhi 110012, India
E-mail: raj.paroda@yahoo.com
raj.paroda@apaari.org
16. Dr. Ashutosh Sarker
Coordinator, ICARDA South Asia Office
NASC Complex, Pusa
New Delhi 110012, India
E-mail: a.sarker@cgiar.org

17. Dr. Jahangir Pourhemmat
Deputy Minister and Head
Agricultural Research Education and Extension
Organization (AREEO)
Yemen Ave., Chamran Highway
P.O. Box 19395-1113, Tehran, Iran
E-mail: jahanpor@yahoo.com
porhemmat81@areo.ir
18. Dr. Kwesi Atta-Krah
Deputy Director General
Bioversity International, Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese, Rome, Italy
E-mail: k.atta-krah@cgiar.org
19. Dr. Ajit Maru
Senior Knowledge Officer, GFAR Secretariat
FAO Headquarters
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100
Rome, Italy
E-mail: ajit.maru@fao.org
20. Dr. Masami Yasunaka
Vice President, Japan International Research
Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
Ministry of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries
1-1 Ohwashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305 8686
Japan
E-mail: yasu@affrc.go.jp
21. Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan
Executive Secretary, AARINENA
P.O. Box 950764, Amman 11195, Jordan
E-mail: i.hamdan@cgiar.org
22. Dr. Han Jianlin
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
P.O. Box - 30709, Nairobi, Kenya
E-mail: h.jianlin@cgiar.org
23. Dr. Ouk Makara
Director, Cambodian Agricultural Research
and Development Institute
National Road No 3, Prateah Lang Commune
Dangkor District, Phnom Penh
Kingdom of Cambodia
E-mail: ou.makara@cardi.org.kh
cphaloeun@cardi.org.kh
24. Dr. Bounthong Bouahom
Director General, National Agriculture and
Forestry Research Institute
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Nongviengkham, Xaythany District
Vientiane, Lao P.D.R.
E-mail: bounthong@nafri.org.la
25. Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman
Director-General, Malaysian Agricultural Research
and Development Institute (MARDI)
P.O. Box No. 12301, Kuala Lumpur 50774
Malaysia
E-mail: arshukor@mardi.gov.my

26. Dr. Leocadio Sebastian
Regional Director, Bioversity International
Regional Office for Asia, the Pacific and Oceania
43400 Serdang, Selangor
Malaysia
E-mail: l.sebastian@cgiar.org
27. Dr. Bonnie J. Furman
Maize Curator, CIMMYT, Lisboa-27
Apartado, Postal 6-641 06600, Mexico
E-mail: b.furman@cgiar.org
28. Dr. Myint Thein
President, Myanmar Academy of Agriculture
Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
No. 40, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road
Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
E-mail: dr.mthein@gmail.com
29. Dr. Bhartendu Mishra
Executive Director
Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
Singha durbar Plaza
P.O. Box 5459, Kathmandu, Nepal
E-mail: ednarc@ntc.net.np
cpdd@narc.org.np
30. Mr. Thierry Mennesson
Director General
Institut Agronomique Neo-Caledonien
Centre de Cooperation
Internationale en Recherche Agronomique
Pour le developpement
B.P. 35 Paita Nouvelle- Caledonie
New Caledonia
E-mail: tmenesson@iac.nc
31. Dr. Dilip Nandwani
Program Leader, Cooperative Research -
Extension and Education Service (CREES)
Northern Marianas College
P.O. Box 501250, Saipan MP 96950
Northern Mariana Islands
E-mail: dilipnandwani@yahoo.com
32. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali
Chief Scientific Officer
Institute of Agri-Biotechnology and
Genetic Resource (IABGR)
National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC)
Park Road, Islamabad 44000, Pakistan
E-mail: drgmali@yahoo.ca
33. Dr. R.D. Ghodake
Director General
National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)
2nd Floor Vele Rumana, Box 4415 Lae Morobe
Province 411, Papua New Guinea
E-mail: raghunath.ghodake@nari.org.pg

34. Dr. Abdul Halim
Professor and Head, University of Technology
Department of Agriculture, PMB
Lae 411, Morobe Province
Papua New Guinea
E-mail: ahalim@ag.unitech.ac.pg
35. Dr. N.P. Eleazar
Director, Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)
Department of Agriculture
3rd Floor, ATI Building, Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
E-mail: neleazar@bar.gov.ph
rd@bar.gov.ph
36. Dr. Patricio S. Faylon
Executive Director
Philippine Council for Agriculture,
Forestry and Natural Resources Research and
Development (PCARRD)
Los Banos, Laguna 4030, Manila, Philippines
E-mail: p.faylon@pcarrd.dost.gov.ph
37. Mr. Raul Montemayor
International Federation of Agricultural
Producers (IFAP)
41 Highland Drive, Blue Ridge
Quezon City 1109, Philippines
E-mail: raulm@freefarm.org
38. Fr. Antonio Francisco B. Lucas
Chairman, NAARAP, 73-K Dr. Lazcano Street
Barangay Laging Handa
Quezon City, 1103, Philippines
E-mail: francis.fbl49@gmail.com
39. Dr. Achim Dobermann
Deputy Director General (Res.)
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
Box 933, 1099 Manila, Philippines
E-mail: a.dobermann@cgiar.org
40. Dr. Seung-Yeol Na
Director General
International Technical Cooperation Center
Rural Development Administration (RDA)
250, Seodundong Suwon, Kyeonggido 441-707
Republic of Korea
E-mail: nasy@rda.go.kr
itcc@rda.go.kr
41. Ms. Emele Meleisea-Ainuu
Acting ACEO, Crops Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Forests,
Fisheries and Meteorology (MAFFM)
3rd Floor, ACB Building
P.O. Box 1875, Apia, Samoa
E-mail: emi@lesamoa.net
emele.ainuu@crops.gov.ws
info@maf.gov.ws

42. Mr. Prabath Wimal Kumara
Executive Director
Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural
Research Policy (CARP)
114/9, Wijerama Mawatha
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka
E-mail: prabathwk@gmail.com
carp@slcarp.lk
43. Dr. Hukmatullo Ahmadov
Chairman, CACAARI and President
Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences
44, Rudaki Ave., 734025 Dushanbe
Tajikistan
E-mail: ahmadov@yandex.ru
cac-tashkent@cgiar.org
44. Mr. Somchai Charnnarongkul
Director General, Department of Agriculture
Phaholyothin Road, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
E-mail: tosomchai@yahoo.com
45. Dr. Attaluri Srinivasacharyulu
Coordinator APARIS, APAARI, FAO-RAP
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
E-mail: attaluri@apaari.org
46. Mr. P.K. Saha
Liaison Officer, APAARI, FAO-RAP
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
E-mail: pksaha@apaari.org
47. Ms. R. Urairat
APAARI, FAO-RAP
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
E-mail: urairat@apaari.org
48. Dr. Bui Chi Buu
Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development (MARD)
No. 2 Ngoc Ha Street, Ba Dinh, Hanoi
Vietnam
E-mail: buichibuu@hcm.vnn.vn

ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
12th October, 2010, RDA, Suwon, Republic of Korea

OPENING ADDRESS
by
Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman
Chairman, APAARI

Dear Dr. S. Ayyappan, Dr. Seung-Yeol Na, Dr. William Dar, Executive Committee Members, Dr. Raj Paroda, distinguished members of APAARI, invited speakers, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of APAARI as its Chairman and on my own behalf to this important biennial 11th General Assembly Meeting. Let me first of all extend our thanks to Dr. Seung-Kyu Min, Administrator of Rural Development Administration (RDA), Dr. Seung-Yeol Na, Director General, Technical Cooperation Bureau and his team as well as Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this meeting for the second time in Suwon. It is highly encouraging to have excellent participation of APAARI members. I extend to you all a warm welcome.

2. I would also like to extend our thanks to all the member institutions for your continued support to APAARI activities during the biennium 2009-2010. Myself having served as Chairman of APAARI for the last two years, I must gratefully acknowledge your support and emphasize that I have personally benefited from APAARI meetings and expert consultations, on thematic issues of regional importance. There is no exaggeration in presenting that APAARI today is recognized not only by its members within the region but also by other international institutions and organizations as one of the most vibrant regional fora, providing neutral platform for scientific partnership among NARS to learn from each others experiences, especially successes in the field of agricultural research for development (AR4D). In addition, APAARI has also been facilitating the participation of NGOs and farmers in its activities. We firmly believe in partnership and thus are pursuing a paradigm shift from NARI to NARS. The progress made by APAARI over the last 18 years, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary is, indeed, praiseworthy. In true sense, APAARI is acting today as a Think Tank for the ARD related issues. It has succeeded in forging strong linkages among the stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region.

3. While appreciating the role played by the NARS in the region, CGIAR Institutions, FAO etc., in raising food production and productivity, we are still faced with enormous problems such as eradication of poverty, ensuring food security and conservation of our natural resources, beside main problems of increased population, climate change, as well as expanding urbanization and globalization. Also, the benefits of international public goods, generated by the International Centers as well as leading NARS, have not yet reached the common resource poor farmers in many parts of the world, especially in the developing countries of the region.

4. Ladies and Gentlemen, you would perhaps agree with me that no single organization or individual can address all emerging issues related to ARD. However, based on my experience, I can say that developing countries of Asia-Pacific have lately strengthened their research capabilities to address these challenges and we are required to do yet more.

5. It is also clear that to address these challenges we need partnership initiatives since no individual NARS will be able to address them alone. The role of APAARI as a facilitator for strengthening partnership among agricultural research institutions is, therefore, critical to move forward.

6. It is also heartening that with your full support, APAARI is today a self-sustaining organization, with some regular support for its two main programs APCoAB and APARIS coming from ACIAR, Australia and CoA, Chinese Taipei beside some funding support from GFAR and FAO for specific activities. We also appreciate full support of all CG Centers as our members in facilitating various networks. However, our major operational support comes from the contribution of annual membership fee by NARS, Associate and Affiliated members. I am very pleased that our membership is increasing significantly. Ten new institutes have joined APAARI including NARS of Afghanistan and Bhutan. More are likely to join, which is highly satisfying.

7. Distinguished members, I do not wish to preempt Dr. Raj Paroda's report on biennial achievements of APAARI. However, before I conclude, let me place on record full support of all of you in discharging my responsibilities as Chairman, APAARI.

8. In conclusion, I would like to extend once again a very cordial welcome to all of you to this General Assembly. I have no doubt that, with your continued support, APAARI will reach newer heights and achieve its goals and mission quite successfully.

For me personally my association with this Forum had been very rewarding and highly satisfying. I assure you of my best possible support to all our initiative in future as well.

Thank you.

A REPORT ON APAARI ACTIVITIES

2009-2010



Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
C/o FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel.: (+66 2) 697 4371-3; Fax: (+66 2) 697 4408
Email: apaari@apaari.org; Website: www.apaari.org

A REPORT ON APAARI ACTIVITIES (2009)

Raj Paroda
Executive Secretary

Progress and Achievements during 2008-2009

During the 10th APAARI General Assembly Meeting held on 20th October, 2008, a detailed report of APAARI activities for the period 2007-2008 was submitted and also circulated to all our members. The activities reported here are along the line of major themes consistent with APAARI's strategic thrusts and approved work plan for 2009. APAARI has done its best to bring together all stakeholders to collectively work through existing research networks as well as some new initiatives in the field of biotechnology and ICT/ICM. A brief account of the major accomplishments and progress of activities scheduled during 2009 is presented below:

1. MEETINGS

1.1 First Executive Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the new APAARI Executive Committee for 2009-2010, was held on 29th January, 2009 in Bangkok under the Chairmanship of Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, Director General, MARDI, Malaysia. The progress of work was reviewed and the important decisions taken were:

- The work plan for 2009 was approved.
- Executive Committee members were pleased to review the progress relating to various activities including publications brought out by the Secretariat.
- In view of the GAM decision to have one additional seat in the Executive Committee for NGOs, it was agreed to have the Chairman, NGO Association for Agricultural Research in the Asia-Pacific (NAARAP), the regional association of NGOs formed in April 2008, to be a member of the Executive Committee for the biennium 2009-2010. The decision to revise the Constitution was also implemented to this effect.
- The composition of Steering Committees of both APCoAB and APARIS were approved, which currently stands as:

	APCoAB Steering Committee	APARIS Steering Committee
1.	Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman-Chairman	Dr. Simon Hearn-Chairman
2.	Mr. Thierry Mennesson	Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman
3.	Mr. Malcolm Hazelman	Dr. Patricio Faylon
4.	Dr. Randy A. Hautea	Dr. Bhartendu Mishra
5.	Dr. Raj Paroda	Dr. Ajit Maru
6.	Dr. Wais Kabir	Dr. Malcolm Hazelman

7.	Dr. Mark Holderness	Dr. Raj Paroda
8.	Dr. William D. Dar	Dr. S. Attaluri, APARIS Coordinator (Member Secretary)*
9.	Mr. Raju Barwale (Pvt. Sector Representative)	
10.	Mr. Raul Montemayor (CSO Representative)	*Dr. Attaluri has joined APAARI Secretariat as APARIS Coordinator. Ms. Saini has since left APAARI.
11.	Dr. J.L. Karihaloo, APCoAB Coordinator (Member Secretary)	

- Detailed discussions were held on the decision towards paradigm shift in APAARI program activities and it was decided to have a relook at the research prioritization and need assessment exercises as well as the Vision 2025 document. A strategy for “Way Forward” so as to take new initiatives in future was discussed. It was agreed to develop a policy paper to define renewed role of APAARI to continue serving NARS for strengthening agricultural research for development and impact, while being a more vibrant organization.
- Audited accounts for the year 2008 were presented, reviewed and approved unanimously.
- In order to fill the position of APARIS Coordinator in Bangkok Office, which was advertized, a selection committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Simon Hearn, Senior Advisor, ACIAR. The selection has since been made and Dr. S. Attaluri has joined as APARIS Coordinator at APAARI, Bangkok from July, 2009.
- Discussions were held on “Tsukuba Declaration on Climate Change” and its possible follow up. It was decided that this document be widely circulated and national systems be catalyzed to reorient their research agenda around adaptation and mitigation to climate change.
- Members expressed concern over the lack of clarity about the priorities, understanding and directions in which the change management process in the CGIAR was heading. They felt that there was a need to have effective involvement of stakeholders of APAARI, through GFAR in view of its expected revitalization and new responsibilities, especially for Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD).
- It was decided to strengthen inter-regional collaboration with other regional fora, AARINENA and CACAARI, with expected support from GFAR.

1.2 X APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting

The X Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) was held on 30 January, 2009 at Bangkok under the chairmanship of Dr. Abd. Shukor, Chairman, APAARI. The meeting was attended by eight other SC members/representatives and special invitees. Presentations on Action Taken Report, progress made during the period under report, audited accounts and budget 2009 were made, reviewed and approved.

The SC expressed satisfaction at the good progress made, appreciating in particular the efforts made towards organizing expert consultations and three training programs. The proposal of APCoAB to develop a regional project on Tissue Culture Business Platform in collaboration with FAO funding was welcomed. The decision of Executive Committee of APAARI to raise its annual core funding to APCoAB from current US\$ 18,000 to US\$ 28,000 effective 2009 was also appreciated.

1.3. Second Executive Committee Meeting

The second meeting of the APAARI Executive Committee was held on 26 October, 2009 at TARI, Taichung under the chairmanship of Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, Director General, MARDI, Malaysia. The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January, 2009 in Bangkok and reviewed the progress as per Work Plan for 2010. Following important decisions were taken:

- (a) The members were informed that effective 2009, all CGIAR Institutes, MARDI and PNG have increased their membership of APAARI.
- (b) The audited statement of accounts for the period of January to September 2009, together with updated statement of Assets and Liabilities along with the Letter of Certification from the Auditor and the Siam Commercial Bank, were presented and unanimously approved. Also the budget for 2010 was approved.
- (c) The members were informed that APAARI Fixed Deposits have now reached an earlier set target of US\$ 1.0 million. Members also discussed the possible ways for secured investments, for income generation. The idea received a favourable response and it was suggested to contact IRRI Director, Finance for suitable advice.
- (d) Members were pleased to note that APAARI, in collaboration with ADB, was developing a strategy for research leading to development of agriculture sector in the region. An e-consultation had already been organized successfully and the Face to Face meeting was to be held on 30-31 October, 2009 in Bangkok.
- (e) The Rural Development Administration (RDA), Republic of Korea has kindly agreed to host an Expert Consultation and the 11th GAM of APAARI in October 2010. The theme of the Consultation would be on Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity. Dr. Woon-Goo Ha, Deputy Director, International Technical Cooperation Center (ITCC) briefed the members regarding various arrangements to host these events, including the meeting of CORRA.
- (f) Dr. Robert Zeigler, Director General, IRRI gave a brief presentation on mega program namely, Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) for increasing and sustaining rice production for the benefit of resource poor farmers and consumers. It will have a 10 year strategic plan (2011-2020). He also informed that IRRI will organize a regional GRiSP consultation for Asia in mid-2010 and APAARI will be actively involved in the process.

1.4 XI APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting

The XI Steering Committee Meeting of APCoAB was held on 26 October, 2009 at Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, Taichung. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, Chairman, APAARI and attended by eight members and special invitees. APCoAB Coordinator presented the progress report. Audited accounts for the year 2009 (till September) and budget for 2010 were also presented and approved. Following program activities for 2010 were approved:

- (a) Policy Dialogue/Brainstorming/Public awareness on GM Technology for Increasing Agricultural Productivity in Asia.
- (b) Publication on Banana Tissue Culture and Bt Cotton in China.

- (c) Three training courses on (i) “*In vitro* and Cryopreservation Techniques for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources”, to be held at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, (ii) “Assisted reproductive technologies for livestock genetic improvement” in collaboration with COA and ILRI to be held in Taichung, and (iii) “Edible Mushroom Production for Asian Farmers and Entrepreneurs” in collaboration with COA to be held in Taichung.
- (d) It was decided to pursue the pending regional project proposal on tissue culture platform with FAO RAP.

1.5 VIII APARIS Steering Committee Meeting

The eighth meeting of the APARIS Steering Committee was held on 29 October, 2009 at FAO RAP, Bangkok. Dr. Simon Hearn, Chairman, Steering Committee in his opening address flagged the growing concern for food security, improving access to food by the hungry and challenges posed by climate change through on-going initiatives like CGIAR reforms, and mega programs that are crucial for agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific.

Dr. S. Attaluri, APARIS Coordinator presented the progress of activities and proposed the work plan and budget for 2010. The Steering Committee decided the following important activities:

- (a) Development of Communication Strategy for the Asia-Pacific region to serve better the NARS, Extension System and NGOs in reaching their respective target groups effectively.
- (b) Status Report on ICT/ICM in ARD in the Asia-Pacific, with the involvement of NINPs/NARS.
- (c) Success Stories on ICT/ICM for disseminating the innovations through active involvement of NARS.
- (d) Capacity Building Programs for National Agricultural Information Systems (NAIS) to be organized in collaboration with GFAR, FAO and Asian Institute of Technology.
- (e) Renewal of website domain name www.apaari.org, server hosting and website maintenance, which will expire in April 2010 was approved.
- (f) APARIS to become Asia-Pacific Nodal Point for GFAR’s Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD).

2. ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMS

2.1 Expert Consultation on Biopesticides and Biofertilizers for Sustainable Agriculture, 27-29 October, 2009, Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, Taichung

This expert consultation was organized at Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, Taichung under the APAARI-COA collaborative program on agricultural biotechnology. Seventy-two participants from 23 countries representing NARS, CG centers, other academic institutions, CSOs, private sector and farmers’ organizations attended. Group discussions were held on priorities for R&D, commercialization, policy regulation and regional cooperation for promotion of bio-inputs. The delegates expressed consensus that biopesticides and biofertilizers have an important role for sustainable agriculture, reducing thereby the cost of inputs, and in achieving Millennium Development Goals.

2.2 Face to Face Meeting for Expert Consultation on Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

APAARI had associated with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), in a process of global consultation to reprioritize the agendas for agricultural research for development through a consultation mechanism involving wide range of stakeholders. Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided needed funding support. The initiative helped in harmonizing the efforts of all stakeholders by having main focus on specific needs of small farmers. The consultation process was undertaken in two steps. First, an e-consultation (4-24 September, 2009) that involved about a thousand individuals associated with ARD. The second step was a multi-stakeholder Face to Face meeting held on 30-31 October, 2009 in Bangkok involving 75 ARD stakeholders from 17 countries and representing APAARI member NARS, CGIAR, IARCs, GFAR, ARIs, Universities, NGOs, Farmers and Farmers' Organizations, private sector and donors organizations. An important outcome of the consultation was a joint "Bangkok Declaration" that reflects a collective thinking of all stakeholders who attended the meeting.

2.3 Rapid Bioassay of Pesticide Residues (RBPR) in Fruits and Vegetables, 18-22 May, 2009, TARI, Taichung

The joint CoA-APAARI/APCoAB training programme (RBPR) in Fruits and Vegetables was held at Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, Taichung. Twenty five participants from different countries in the Asia-Pacific region attended, of which 10 were sponsored by APAARI. In pursuit of its main objective of strengthening institutional capacity on ARD, APAARI supported participation of as many as 23 participants from regional NARS during the period under report.

2.4 Eighth South Asia Network Meeting on Plant Genetic Resources (SANPGR), 3-5 November, 2009, National Bureau of Plant genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi

The network meeting was jointly organized by Bioversity International, APAARI and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). SANPGR is a sub-regional network established with the aim of improving conservation and use of plant genetic resources through collaborative efforts amongst the member countries in South Asia. Twenty eight participants attended the meeting, which reviewed the status of conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in accordance with Global Plan of Action (GPA); implementation of Treaty and the standard material transfer agreement (SMTA).

2.5 Training on "In Vitro and Cryopreservation Techniques for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources", 9-21 November, 2009, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi

This training course was organized in collaboration with Bioversity International and ICAR. Eleven participants including four sponsored by APAARI (one each from PNG, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Vietnam) attended the course covering aspects: overview of *in vitro* and cryopreservation in plant germplasm conservation; *in vitro* and cryopreservation techniques; molecular markers for genotype identification and genetic stability testing.

2.6 Workshop on ICM in Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D), 7-11 December, 2009, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India

APAARI-GFAR-FAO-ICRISAT jointly organized a five day workshop on International Consultation on Agricultural Research for Development and Innovation: Addressing emerging challenges and exploiting opportunities through Information and Communication Technologies at ICRISAT, Hyderabad. APAARI

nominated 14 senior information managers from the member NARS in the region to participate in the workshop. A total of 53 participants from 25 countries and eight international organizations attended. Other events included CIARD Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation, ICM4ARD Inter-regional meeting and meeting of EGFAR Taskforce.

3. PUBLICATIONS

Following publications have been brought out during the last one year. These have been widely circulated to all members and others, as per the mailing list.

3.1 APAARI Bi-annual Newsletter (June and December 2009 Issues)

Two issues of APAARI Newsletter of December 2008 and June 2009 issues were published in time and circulated widely. Both issues are also posted on APAARI website.

3.2 Proceedings of Symposium on Global Climate Change: Imperatives for Agricultural Research in Asia-Pacific

This publication was brought out in February 2009 and was circulated widely. The proceedings were well received and appreciated by the stakeholders. In view of considerable demand, it was reprinted in March 2009. The electronic version is also available on APAARI website. In view of considerable demand, it was also reprinted in March 2009, including “Tsukuba Declaration”.

3.3 Proceedings of the Tenth General Assembly Meeting

A comprehensive report on the Proceedings of the 10th APAARI GAM held on 20th October, 2008 at Tsukuba, Japan was published. Also a CD of the same was circulated among APAARI members. The report has also been posted on the website.

3.4 Flyer on Tsukuba Declaration

A flyer exclusively covering the “Tsukuba Declaration on Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change” was brought out and distributed in the region widely. This was well received by the policy makers and the scientists. The same is now being quoted widely and used. It has been reprinted in view of increased demand.

3.5 Proceedings of the Expert Consultation on Agricultural Biotechnology for promoting Food Security in Developing Countries

This publication covers the proceedings of an expert consultation held by APCoAB/APAARI in collaboration with the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) in Malaysia on 20-22 August, 2008.

3.6 Taro Improvement and Development in Papua New Guinea- A Success Story

This success story published in August 2009 illustrates the efforts of NARI, PNG in collaboration with other national, regional and International partners in South Pacific on taro conservation and utilization. The publication has been mailed to all the APAARI members besides other regional organizations/institutions where it can prove useful. It was recently released on 21st September, 2009 in Fiji during the meeting of Pacific Network on Plant Genetic Resources.

3.7 Bt Cotton in India- A Status Report (2nd Edition)

An status report on Bt Cotton in India, published earlier in 2006, has been updated and revised in view of recent successes and developments. This publication was released in Chinese Taipei on 27th October, 2009.

3.8 APAARI on CD-2009

As an annual exercise, all available documents/reports published, including success stories, have been updated and compiled in a CD form for wider distribution among stakeholders.

3.9 CD on Agricultural Biotechnology Institutions of Asia-Pacific

APCoAB has compiled a database on agricultural biotechnology institutions existing in 36 countries of the Asia-Pacific region. It includes detailed information on institution location, contact details, websites, areas of activity and focus areas of R&D in agricultural biotechnology.

4. WEB-BASED INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

4.1 APAARI website (www.apaari.org) has been currently revised with a new user-friendly design and further improvements are in progress. The website is continuously updated with the latest information. To facilitate access to all scientific publications generated by members, required links are provided and all APAARI publications are uploaded on the website regularly. Also the publications and CD-ROMs are widely distributed to various research institutions and scientists in the region.

4.2 As part of its continuing activity, **APCoAB website (www.apcoab.org)** provides regular updates on developments in agricultural biotechnology with specific reference to the Asia-Pacific countries. A revised database of agricultural biotechnology institutes of the Asia-Pacific region has been compiled and uploaded on the website. A CD-ROM on Agricultural Biotechnology Institutions of the Asia-Pacific region is under development.

5. NEW MEMBERSHIP OF APAARI

During last one year, eight new members, in different categories, joined APAARI, thus raising the membership to 48. **CIAT** (International Center for Tropical Agriculture) and **SRIF** (Sugar Research Institute of Fiji) joined APAARI as new Associate Members, whereas **ARIA** (Agriculture Research Institute of Afghanistan), **BAU** (Birsa Agricultural University), and **IAUA** (Indian Agricultural Universities Association), **AAIDU** (Allahabad Agricultural Institute - Deemed University) became new Affiliate Members. Also, **SPC** (Secretariat of the Pacific Community) and **CACAARI** (Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions) have joined as Reciprocal Members effective 2009. **FARA** has also agreed, in principle, to become a reciprocal member, **China, Indonesia** and **Mongolia** have also been approached to become members of APAARI. Details of members, including new members, are given in Enclosure I. Recently, in PAPARGEN meeting organized in Nadi, Fiji, the Pacific Island countries namely Vanuatu, Tonga and Solomon Islands have been approached expressed desire to join APAARI.

Effective 2009, almost all CG Centers, MARDI and PNG have increased their annual contribution to APAARI.

6. APAARI REPRESENTATION IN OTHER FORA

6.1 CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework and Mega Program Meeting

APAARI was represented by Dr. Raul Montemayor, a member of Executive Committee of APAARI representing IFAP, in the meeting held at Bioversity International Headquarters, Rome from 17-20 February, 2009. The objective of the workshop was to define in more detail the strategic objectives of the CGIAR following the decisions made in Maputo to proceed with the restructuring of the CGIAR and to clarify the concept of “mega programs” on which the restructured CGIAR would focus its efforts on. Also, GCARD will play a key role in defining the agenda of CGIAR with direct involvement of APAARI.

6.2 ADB Workshop on Building Climate Resilience in the Asia-Pacific

This workshop was organized by ADB from 2-3 March, 2009 at Bangkok to discuss the draft report on climate change prepared by IFPRI. Dr. Raj Paroda made a presentation on the “Imperatives of Global Climate Change for Agriculture Research in Asia-Pacific”, based on the outcomes of the Symposium on Climate Change organized jointly by APAARI and JIRCAS at Tsukuba, Japan in October 2008.

6.3 29th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

The 29th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok during 26-31 March, 2009. As a Regional Organization, APAARI was invited and Mr. P.K. Saha, Liaison Officer attended the meeting.

6.4 AARINENA Executive Committee Meeting and ICARDA Presentation Day

Dr. Raj Paroda was invited to attend the AARINENA Executive Committee Meeting and also ICARDA Presentation Day in the first week of May at Aleppo, Syria.

6.5 REC-SEA PGR Meeting

APAARI was represented by Dr. Patricio S. Faylon, Executive Director, PCARRD, Philippines in the REC-SEA PGR Meeting organized by Bioversity International at Los Banos, Philippines in May 2009.

6.6 Meeting of the GlobalHort Board of Directors

The 6th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Global Horticultural Initiative (GlobalHort) was held on 12-13 November, 2009 in Bangkok. Dr. J.L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB was deputed by APAARI to represent GFAR in the meeting on the request of the latter. The meeting was attended by Prof. Norman Looney, Chairman and representatives of CIRAD, ICDF, CGIAR, IFAD, NEPAD, AVRDC, GFAR and HortCRSP.

6.6 International Consultation on Agricultural Research for Development and Innovation: Addressing emerging challenges and exploiting opportunities through Information and Communication Technologies by APAARI-GFAR-FAO-ICRISAT, 7-11 December, 2009, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India

Dr. S. Attaluri, APARIS Coordinator participated and presented the progress report of APARIS. He also attended the CIARD Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation, ICM4ARD Inter-regional meeting and meeting of EGFAR Taskforce.

7. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP

7.1 EFARD-APAARI Collaboration

EFARD through CIRAD provided funds to APAARI for “SAG Food and Bioenergy Study” based on a project funded by European Commission. The following tasks will be performed under this study:

- (a) Generate regional evidence on the impact of food to biofuel conversion in the Asia-Pacific region;
- (b) Undertake policy and institutional mapping to better understand the food and bioenergy interphase; and
- (c) Undertake required component report revisions for a smoother integration of regional reports.

7.2 IFAP-APAARI Partnership

Joint efforts between IFAP and APAARI are making progress. IFAP has decided to sponsor 10 farmers from the region for participation in the “Expert Consultation on Biopesticides and Biofertilizers” to be held in Chinese Taipei from 27-29 October, 2009. COA and APAARI agreed to provide logistic support for participation in the meeting and also the field day.

7.3 NAARAP-APAARI Initiative

APAARI facilitated a meeting of NAARAP in Bangkok on 31 October, 2009 under the Chairmanship of Fr. Francisco Lucas. APAARI and GFAR were represented by Dr. Raj Paroda and Dr. Ajit Maru, respectively. The key decisions taken were: (i) creation of interim Executive Committee, (ii) approval for the preparation of NAARAP Charter and Road Map, and (iii) use of ICT for information exchange and to promote association of different groups. Members agreed that the Committee shall be composed of sub-regional focal points and a member of the resource generation committee. APAARI was requested to extend initial funding support to NAARAP during 2010.

8. OTHER ACTIVITIES

8.1 Meeting on Crops for the Future

The meeting on Crops for the Future was jointly organized by APAARI, SPC, Bioversity International and ICUC from 21-22 September, 2009 at Nadi, Fiji. Main aim of the meeting was to decide research priorities and strategy to strengthen research partnership among Pacific countries on under utilized crops. The meeting was well attended with representation from the sub-regional NARS, CG Centres, SPC, ADB, etc. The proceedings of the meeting would soon be published.

8.2 Expert Consultation on Biopesticides and Biofertilizers

As per the decision taken during the GAM held on 20th October, 2009, the “Expert Consultation on Biopesticides and Biofertilizers” was held from 27-29 October, 2009 in Chinese Taipei. COA provided logistical support to 10 NARS leaders towards their participation and hosted the event in Taichung. It was co-sponsored by GFAR and AVRDC.

8.3 South Asian Network on Plant Genetic Resources (SAGPGR)

The eighth meeting of South Asia Network on Plant Genetic Resources (SANPGR) was held at the National Bureau of Plant genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi on 3-5 November, 2009. The event was jointly organized by Bioversity International, APAARI and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). SANPGR is a sub-regional network established with the aim of improving conservation and use of plant genetic resources through collaborative efforts amongst the member countries in the South Asia region. Twenty-eight participants representing SANPGR member countries and international and regional fora attended the meeting which reviewed the status of conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) following Global Plan of Action (GPA); implementation of Treaty in their respective countries and its impact in the context of developing standard material transfer agreement (SMTA) at the sub-regional basis; and also to review the activities supported by the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDDT) in the region.

8.4 APAARI-ADB-GFAR Regional Consultation on Agricultural Research for Development

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decided to conduct a regional consultation to identify the priority agriculture and natural resource research (ANRR) agenda for the Asia-Pacific. ADB has observed that guidance on the priority and direction of ANRR agenda in the Asia-Pacific will be crucial in view of the fact that the Region is a major global supplier and consumer of food and agri-based products and is also home to world’s extreme poor and vulnerable groups - the most insecure among the income group echelons.

Recognizing the important role of APAARI as a neutral the regional research forum, having engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, ADB has approached us to build on existing priorities established through forum’s previous work and to focus on how these are best turned into practice - what sort of partnerships, institutions and capacities are required to help research turn into development impacts. In this initiative, APAARI helped the ADB in identifying the suitable consultants to prepare the reports on three sub-regions (South Asia, South East Asia and PRC, and Pacific) and one regional report on agricultural priority research agenda. In the first step of the process, an e-consultation was initiated on 4 September, 2009 specifically for South Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific sub-regions involving multi-stakeholder groups. A set of key issues (main drivers of change), challenges currently being faced and possible options for development impacts was attempted by a team of consultants. In this effort, APAARI also identified large number of experts in and outside of the region, who could provide meaningful suggestions for ARD in the region. The e-consultation received an overwhelming response from the various stakeholder groups that were involved in this exercise. The consultation formally concluded on 24th September, 2009.

The consultants have used various inputs to prepare their sub-regional and regional reports in assessing the current ARD priorities in ANRR in Asia and the Pacific - its gaps, challenges, and new areas for future research; develops the conceptual framework for ANRR agenda-setting in an agro-ecologically heterogeneous and socio-economically-politically-culturally diverse region; and outlines the future ANRR

needs (whether in the form of research, development and/or policy) to address the challenges, gaps, and new areas. A Face to Face Meeting was organised on 30-31 October, 2009 at Bangkok, Thailand. Please see item No. 2.2 for details on the Face to Face Meeting.

9. FINANCE

The members have invariably paid their contribution for the year 2009. The present level of APAARI savings has exceeded one million USD target recently. It is indeed a landmark achieved mainly through the membership contributions, which is duly acknowledged.

EPILOGUE

As is evident from this report, the APAARI activities are being vigorously pursued and their scope is being widened. Even with an expanding program, the financial resources of APAARI remain quite stable. This has been possible mainly due to trust, cooperation, support and encouragement provided by our esteemed members and stakeholders, which is duly acknowledged.

LIST OF APAARI MEMBERS

MEMBERS

- ACIAR - Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (Australia)
- AREO - Agricultural Research and Education Organization (Iran)
- BAR - Bureau of Agricultural Research (Philippines)
- BARC - Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (Bangladesh)
- CARP - Council for Agricultural Research Policy (Sri Lanka)
- CoA - Council of Agriculture (Chinese Taipei)
- DOA - Department of Agriculture (Thailand)
- IAC - Institut Agronomique Neo-Caledonien (New Caledonia)
- ICAR - Indian Council of Agricultural Research (India)
- JIRCAS - Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (Japan)
- MAFF - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (Fiji)
- MARD - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Vietnam)
- MARDI - Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Malaysia)
- MCFF - Ministry of Commerce, Forests and Fisheries (Samoa)
- NARC - Nepal Agricultural Research Council (Nepal)
- NARI - National Agricultural Research Institute (Papua New Guinea)
- PARC - Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (Pakistan)
- PCARRD - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (Philippines)
- RDA - Rural Development Administration (Republic of Korea)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- AVRDC - World Vegetable Center (Chinese Taipei)
- Bioversity International (Italy)
- CIAT - International Center for Tropical Agriculture (Colombia)
- CIMMYT - International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (Mexico)
- ICARDA - International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (Syria)
- ICBA - International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (United Arab Emirates)
- ICRAF - International Center for Research in Agroforestry (Kenya)
- ICRISAT - International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (India)

- IFAP - International Federation of Agricultural Producers (France)
- IFPRI - International Food Policy Research Institute (U.S.A.)
- ILRI - International Livestock Research Institute (Kenya)
- IRRI - International Rice Research Institute (Philippines)
- IWMI - International Water Management Institute (Sri Lanka)
- NTU - National Taiwan University (Chinese Taipei)
- PNG UniTech - Papua New Guinea University of Technology (Papua New Guinea)
- SAARC - South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Bangladesh)
- SRIF - Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (Fiji)
- The World Fish Center (Malaysia)

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- ARIA - Agricultural Research Institute of Afghanistan (Afghanistan)
- BAU - Birsa Agricultural University (India)
- IAUA - Indian Agricultural Universities Association (India)
- AAI DU - Allahabad Agricultural Institute - Deemed University (India)

RECIPROCAL MEMBERS

- AARINENA - Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (Jordan)
- AIT - Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
- APAFRI - Asia-Pacific Association for Forestry Research Institutions (Malaysia)
- CACAARI - Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institution (Tajikistan)
- APSA - The Asia and Pacific Seed Association (Thailand)
- NACA - Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (Thailand)
- SPC - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (Fiji)

A REPORT ON APAARI ACTIVITIES (2010)

Raj Paroda
Executive Secretary

ACHIEVEMENTS

In continuation with past practice of regularly apprising APAARI members about the activities of the organization, we report here the main achievements during 2010. These activities are along major thrust areas approved in APAARI work plan, as also in areas of biotechnology and ICT, as finalised by their respective steering committees. A brief account of the major accomplishments and progress of activities during January-October 2010 is presented below:

1. MEETINGS

1.1 Third Executive Committee Meeting

The third meeting of the APAARI Executive Committee for 2009-2010 was held on 24 April, 2010 at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), Pusa, New Delhi, India. It was hosted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, Chairman of the Executive Committee presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended by six members of the Committee and other invitees.

In his opening address, Dr. Abd. Shukor appreciated the progress made by APAARI and commended the pivotal role of APAARI team in the GCARD conference held in March 2010 in France. He expressed concern about least developing countries in the region where the ARD efforts still fall far short of the desired level. He felt that APAARI needs to explore opportunities for a collective endeavour of its members for donor support to ARD in the Asia-Pacific region.

In the introductory remarks, Dr. S. Ayyappan was impressed with the progress made by APAARI and conveyed willingness to host an Expert Consultation in near future on Transboundary Pests and Diseases in India. Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Director General of NARI, Papua New Guinea shared his experience of Workshop on Fast Growing Economies' Role in Global Agricultural Research for Development held by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) in Beijing from 8-10 February, 2010. Dr. Robert Zeigler, Director General, IRRI assured to facilitate participation of APAARI in the ASEAN Forum. Mr. Raul Montemayor, IFAP assured collaboration between IFAP (Asia) and APAARI. Mr. Raju Barwale of Mahyco Seed Company desired more collaboration and involvement of private sector in future activities and offered funding support for the publication on Bt Brinjal by APCoAB.

The Committee approved the proceedings of the last Executive Committee Meeting held on 26 October, 2009 in Taichung, Chinese Taipei. Dr. Raj Paroda briefed the members on the action taken and the progress of activities. It was noted that the Rural Development Administration (RDA), the Republic of Korea has confirmed the hosting of "International Symposium on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Use of Agrobiodiversity in the Asia-Pacific Region" and the APAARI biennial 11th General Assembly Meeting from 12-15 October, 2010.

The Committee reviewed and approved the APAARI work plan and budget for 2010. It also approved the audited accounts of APAARI for the period January-December 2009. The Committee approved publication of success stories on: Short Duration Mungbean in Asia from AVRDC, Value Addition and PHM in Rice for Enhanced Income from IRRI and Banana Production in India and Philippines from ICAR and PCARRD, respectively.

Regarding investment of APAARI savings funds, the Committee requested Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Dr. Robert Zeigler and Mr. Raju Barwale to suggest the fund management strategy for APAARI.

Dr. Raj Paroda briefed on the outcome of GCARD 2010, where APAARI had made a presentation on “Reorienting Agricultural Research for Development in Asia-Pacific: The Way Ahead”, which was well received.

Dr. Robert Zeigler presented an update on Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) Mega Program on increasing and sustaining rice production for the benefit of the poor producers and consumers. It was proposed to organize the regional GRiSP Consultation for Asia in partnership with APAARI stakeholders while developing the full project proposal. The members agreed to endorse GRiSP and also other Mega Programs being developed by other CG centers.

1.2 XII APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting

The XII Steering Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) was held on 24 April, 2010 at the National Agricultural Science Centre Complex, New Delhi. It was chaired by Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, Chairman, APAARI and attended by nine other members/representatives and special invitees. Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation of the support received from FAO, ICRISAT, COA and ACIAR in sustaining the consortium. The Chairman lauded the achievements of APCoAB and the recognition it has earned in such a short span. Dr. J.L. Karihaloo, Coordinator, APCoAB presented the action taken report. Audited accounts for 2009 and budget for 2010 were presented and approved. The following work plan for 2010 was approved:

- Expert Consultation on “Post Harvest Technology and Value Addition of Horticultural Produce” to be held at MARDI, Malaysia in December 2010.
- APCoAB SC meeting to be held along with International Symposium on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Use of Agrobiodiversity in the Asia-Pacific Region in Korea in October 2010.
- Training Program on “Edible Mushroom Production for Asian Farmers and Entrepreneurs” in collaboration with COA to be held at TARI, Taichung, 21-27 November, 2010.
- Training Program on “*In vitro* and cryopreservation techniques for conservation of Plant Genetic Resources”, to be held at NBPGR, New Delhi, 15-27 November, 2010.
- Training Program on “Assisted reproductive technologies for livestock genetic improvement” in collaboration with COA and ILRI to be held at Livestock Research Institute, Chinese Taipei.
- Publication of success stories on Banana Tissue Culture in India and Banana Tissue Culture in the Philippines.

1.3 IX APARIS Steering Committee Meeting

The IX Meeting of the APARIS Steering Committee was held on 16 September, 2010 at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand under the chairmanship of Dr. Simon Hearn, Chair of APARIS Steering Committee and attended by six members and special invitees. Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation of the support received from ACIAR, FAO, GFAR and AIT for the APARIS program. Dr. S. Attaluri, APARIS Coordinator presented the action taken report and presented the APAARI Communication Strategy along with work plan for the year 2011. The following work plan and budget for 2011 was approved:

- Success Stories on Agricultural Information and Learning Systems in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Workshop on 'New Dimensions in Information and Communication Management for Agricultural Research for Development' for National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems. (to be co-organized with partners like FAO, GFAR and other interested Organizations).
- Implementation of APAARI Communication Strategy as per the suggestions.
- Development of databases on ARD Experts and ARD Projects.
- APAARI on CD-2011.
- APAARI Newsletter (2 issues).
- Success Stories on Innovations in Agricultural Research, Extension and Marketing Systems in Asia and the Pacific.
- Collaboration with regional/sub-regional fora, ARD Networks and partnerships with other regional and global initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region such as SAARC, SEARCA, SPC etc.
- Supporting and catalyzing the Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) initiative in the Asia-Pacific region with the support of GFAR.

2. ORGANIZATION OF EXPERT CONSULTATIONS/WORKSHOPS/TRAINING PROGRAMS

2.1 Policy Forum on Agriculture and Food Security in Asia in the Context of Food and Financial Crisis: Impact, Implications, Responses and Policy Lessons, 23-24 February, 2010, FAO RAP, Bangkok, Thailand

APAARI-FAORAP jointly organized a Workshop on Food and Financial Crisis in Asia under a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with FAORAP. A total of 16 participants including four officials of FAORAP attended the workshop. Draft country studies covering 12 countries in Asia and the Pacific were discussed. Proceedings of the meeting are awaited.

2.2 Implementation Workshop on Measuring and Analyzing Agricultural R&D Investment and Capacity Trends in South Asia on 29-30 April, 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand

APAARI and International Food Policy Research Institute/Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (IFPRI/ASTI) jointly organized the workshop to initiate the ASTI Project on Measuring and Analyzing Agricultural R&D Investment and Capacity Trends in South Asia supported by the Bill

& Melinda Gates Foundation. This project aims to begin a new survey round to update and improve the investment and capacity data for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka that were collected during 2003-05. The workshop was attended by the representatives of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), and the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP). Representatives made presentations on recent institutional developments in their national agricultural research systems and discussed on quantitative information needs, data collection procedures, and further analytical opportunities.

2.3 Workshop on ‘National Agricultural Research Information Systems in the Asia-Pacific Region’ on 14-16 September, 2010, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand

APAARI, FAO RAP, GFAR and AIT jointly organized the workshop for the senior Information and Communication Managers of National Agricultural Research Information Systems in the region. The workshop was aimed to identify mechanisms to strengthen the APARIS, orient participants to the Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) and share opportunities of new ICT/ICM for AR4D. Twenty one participants representing 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region participated in the workshop and presented country status report on ICT/ICM in AR4D. About 15 resource persons from APAARI, ACIAR, FAO, GFAR, AIT and Kasetsart University provided their inputs in the workshop.

During the workshop, APAARI Communication Strategy was presented and enough opportunity was provided to all the participants to offer suggestions. Participants provided valuable input and at the end endorsed the APAARI Communication Strategy in principle. A hands-on technical training on AgriDrupal was also organized jointly by FAO-GFAR-APAARI on 16-17 September, 2010 for about ten participants who opted for it.

3. PUBLICATIONS

The following publications have been brought out during last six months. The publications, including CDs, were mailed to all members and other stakeholders as per the mailing list.

3.1 APAARI Newsletter (bi-annual: June & December)

APAARI Newsletter, December 2009 and June 2010 issues were published in time and circulated widely. These are also posted on APAARI website. All members have been requested to send their inputs concerning main highlights of achievements.

3.2 Highlights from Millions Fed: Proven Successes in Agricultural Development (Hindi) by IFPRI, APAARI and TAAS

A publication on 20 success stories globally was brought out by IFPRI. At the request of Director General, IFPRI, APAARI and TAAS facilitated its Hindi translation and same was launched in an impressive gathering on 19 January, 2010 at Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Same is also posted on APAARI website.

3.3 Proceedings of the Expert Consultation on Biopesticides and Biofertilizers for Sustainable Agriculture

This publication is based on the APAARI-COA meeting on Biopesticides and Biofertilizers for Sustainable Agriculture held on 27-29 October, 2009 at Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Chinese Taipei. Same has been distributed to all those on APAARI mailing list and also posted on our website.

3.4 Proceedings of the Expert Consultation on Agricultural Research for Development in Asia and the Pacific – the Way Ahead

This publication was brought out in March 2010 covering the proceedings of the Expert Consultation on Agricultural Research for Development in Asia and the Pacific – the Way Ahead organized on 30-31 October, 2009 by APAARI-Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) as part of the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) process. The proceedings contain reports of sessions, outcomes, executive summaries of e-consultation, sub-regional reports, regional report and Bangkok Declaration. It is also posted on APAARI website and was distributed along with CD during GCARD 2010 in Montpellier, France.

3.5 Bangkok Declaration

A flyer on “Bangkok Declaration on Reorienting Agricultural Research for Development in Asia-Pacific Region” was published in February 2010 which reflects collective thinking of all stakeholders from the region, who had attended the face to face meeting held on 30-31 October, 2009 in Bangkok. It has been widely distributed and also posted on APAARI website.

3.6 CD Publication on GCARD Reports

A CD was brought out in March 2010. It contains all the documents of GCARD process in Asia and the Pacific region including full text of summary of e-consultation, South Asia Sub-regional Report, Southeast Asia Sub-regional Report, Pacific Sub-regional Reports, Regional Report on Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific, Proceedings of the Face to Face Meeting on Agricultural Research for Development in Asia and the Pacific – the Way Ahead and the Bangkok Declaration. All these reports are also posted on APAARI website.

3.7 Flyer on APPARI

An informative flyer on APAARI was published in February 2010 giving vision and mission of APAARI, updated information and activities of APAARI, list of important publications, success stories, and a list of current APAARI Members etc., for wider distribution.

3.8 APAARI on CD-2010

As an annual exercise, all available documents/reports published, including success stories, have been updated and compiled in a CD form for wider distribution among stakeholders.

4. WEB-BASED INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

4.1 APAARI website (www.apaari.org) is being continuously updated with latest information. It provides links to APAARI Member Institutions, ARD Networks and covers all publications brought out by APAARI.

- 4.2 APCoAB website (www.apcoab.org) provides information on APCoAB programs and latest developments in agricultural biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region. The development of a new website with user-friendly navigation and latest information is in progress.

5. APAARI REPRESENTATION IN OTHER FORA

5.1 International Conference on Food Security and Climate Change in Dry Areas by ICRADA, 1-4 February, 2010, Amman, Jordan

Dr. Abd. Shukor Abd. Rahman, Chairman, APAARI and Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary attended the Conference organized by ICARDA in Amman, Jordan. Dr. Raj Paroda made a keynote presentation on “Addressing the Concerns of Climate Change and Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region”, which was well received.

5.2 International Workshop on Fast Growing Economies’ Role in Global Agricultural Research for Development, 8-10 February, 2010, Beijing, Peoples Republic of China

Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Director General, NARI and Member of the Executive Committee represented APAARI and made presentation on ‘Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region: Status, Needs and Mechanisms for Collaboration and Partnerships’.

5.3 FAO International Technical Conference on “Agricultural Biotechnologies in Developing Countries: Options and Opportunities in Crops, Forestry, Livestock, Fisheries and Agro-industry to face the Challenges of Food Insecurity and Climate Change” (ABDC-10), 1-4 March, 2010, Guadalajara, Mexico

APAARI was invited to convene a special session on Asia-Pacific region in this conference. Dr. J.L. Karihaloo, APCoAB Coordinator represented APAARI and organized this session comprising two introductory presentations, discussion and finalization of recommendations. He made a presentation on “Harnessing Biotechnology for Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

5.4 Sixth Coordination Meeting of Convention on Biological Diversity CBD on Biosafety Capacity Building, 1-3 February, 2010, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Dr. J.L. Karihaloo, APCoAB Coordinator represented APAARI and apprised the participants regarding ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building activities of APCoAB. He also briefed the participants regarding their collaboration with APAARI biotechnology programs.

5.5 Participation in Mega Program Planning Meeting of CGIAR Centres

APAARI has actively participated in the CGIAR Mega Program initiation. A letter of endorsement for CGIAR change process was sent on behalf of Executive Committee to Dr. Carlos Perez del Castillo, Chair of Consortium Board (Enclosure I). In the process, APAARI has actively participated in development of Mega Programs by IRRI, ICRISAT, ICARDA, IFPRI, ILRI and World Fish Center ensuring that these programs involve actively the NARS and CSOs from the region.

6. RECOGNITION IN GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS

Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary has been elected as a member of the High Level Task Force (HLTF) by the General Council of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for suggesting a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

Dr. Raghunath Ghodake, Director General, NARI and APAARI Executive Committee member has recently been appointed as a member of the CGIAR Fund Council representing the developing country NARS of the Pacific countries.

7. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

7.1 AIT-APAARI Collaboration

APAARI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand on 12 February, 2010. Under the MoU, both APAARI and AIT Extension would join hands to work for strengthening APARIS programs, undertake collaborative projects and organize training programs that foster use of ICT/ICM for AR4D in the region.

7.2 FAO RAP-APAARI Collaboration

APAARI signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Region (FAO RAP) to undertake development of five success stories on ICT/ICM in AR4D in the Asia-Pacific and organize a three-day joint workshop on ICM for National Agricultural Information Systems (NAIS) in 2010. APAARI also signed a LoA with FAO RAP to jointly organize a Regional Workshop on Food and Financial Crisis in Asia, which was held on 23-24 February, 2010 at FAO RAP, Bangkok, Thailand.

7.3 IFPRI/ASTI-APAARI Collaboration

In collaboration with APAARI, the ASTI program of IFPRI is initiating a new survey round to update and improve the investment as well as capacity data for five South Asian countries viz., Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. To begin with, a two-day implementation workshop is proposed on 29-30 April, 2010 in Bangkok for stakeholders to discuss institutional developments in South Asia, quantitative information needs, data collection procedures, and to explore further analytical opportunities.

7.4 GFAR-APAARI Partnership

APAARI signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) in September, 2010 to organize jointly i) International Symposium on Sustainable Agricultural Development and use of Agrobiodiversity in the Asia-Pacific Region during 13-15 October, 2010 in Suwon, Republic of Korea and ii) Workshop on ICT/ICM for National Agricultural Research Information Systems in the Asia-Pacific Region for Information Managers of NAIS during 14-16 September, 2010 at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok.

7.5 ERA-ARD and APAARI Study

A study on food security and bioenergy was conducted in Asia in partnership with ERA-ARD with emphasis on South-East Asia and south Asia. The report revealed that currently food security in not

being compromised due to increasing emphasis on biofuels and bioenergy. Report is available on APAARI website (www.apaari.org)

7.6 NAARAP – APAARI Partnership

APAARI has been working closely with NAARAP to strengthen NGO Association for AR4D in the Asia-Pacific. A project for funding was submitted to GFAR and NAARAP has planned to develop its own Charter. It also now has its own Executive Committee that was formed last year in Bangkok.

8. OTHER ACTIVITIES

8.1 GCARD 2010

The first Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) was held during 28-31 March, 2010 in Montpellier, France by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and other partners with a huge participation of more than 900 delegates representing national agricultural institutions, governments, international organizations, CG institutions, regional fora, donor agencies, banks, NGOs, farmers' representatives, private sector etc., from all over the world.

APAARI, as a regional forum, has been actively associated with GFAR in facilitating the GCARD process in the Asia-Pacific region in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by involving all stakeholders of ARD in the region. It has played a catalytic role in facilitating the GCARD process in the Asia-Pacific region which includes coordination of e-consultation on agricultural research for development involving more than 300 participants; preparation of 3 sub-regional reports (by consultants Dr. Mruthyunjaya and Dr. P. Kumar for South Asia; Dr. David Raitzer et al., for Southeast Asia; and Dr. Alan Quartermain for the Pacific) and preparation of Regional Report on Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific (by the lead consultant Dr. R.B. Singh). It successfully organized Face to Face meeting during 30-31 October, 2009 involving 75 ARD stakeholders from 17 countries and representing APAARI member NARS, CGIAR, IARCs, GFAR, ARIs, Universities, NGOs, Farmers and Farmers' Organizations, private sector and donors organizations. An important outcome of the regional meeting was a joint Bangkok Declaration that reflects the collective thinking of stakeholders from the region.

At the GCARD Conference, Dr. Raj Paroda, Executive Secretary, APAARI made presentation on "Reorienting Agricultural Research for Development in Asia-Pacific - The Way Ahead" focusing on issues that emerged from the consultations made at the regional level, which was well received and appreciated.

He emphasized that accelerated science and innovation-based agricultural growth must be inclusive and it must address the needs and aspirations of resource poor small holder farmers of the Asia-Pacific region. Highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- The main feedback from e-consultation included: AR4D to focus on the development needs of resource-poor small holders, it should be demand driven and address poverty, hunger and concerns of poor producers and consumers, address nutritional security especially of women and children, and maximize out-scaling of innovations through effective TOT and new partnerships involving key stakeholders especially Civil Society Organizations).

- The key messages from the Asia-Pacific region included: re-orientation of AR4D agenda with small farm holders, poor producers, poor consumers as clients; use of ecosystem framework with focus on natural resources management especially land and water; give priority to climate change with emphasis on both adaptation and mitigation; and pursue holistic food supply chain approach. It should also focus on cross cutting areas like human resources development, socio-economic and policy research, and promoting partnership. It should adopt a twin-pillar strategy consisting of germplasm improvement and biotechnology and NRM to promote holistic farming systems approach.
- The AR4D agenda is stated in terms of increasing productivity, improving value chain and increased resilience. For increasing productivity which appeared to be a specific target by the 3 sub-regions the areas of food staples, diversified crops and livestock need special attention. Similarly, for value chain improvement, weak links in the chain are identified as infrastructure and networks/partnerships. To increase resilience against climate changes and economic shocks, strategy/activities have been identified for each one of 3 sub-regions.
- The emphasis should be not business as usual; focus on innovation partnerships and networking with particular reference to outscaling of innovations in a participatory mode, and linkage of farmers to markets through value chain development and innovative institutions like Farmers' Self Help Groups, producer companies, cooperatives etc.
- The success stories should be effectively used to spread technology to wider areas as in the case of hybrid rice in China, single cross and QPM hybrids of maize in India, Bt cotton in India, and conservation agriculture in the Indo-Gangetic Plains.
- To further promote AR4D, aggressive advocacy for increased AR4D funding of at least 1% of AgGDP by all developing countries has been advocated. For donor support, South Asia and the Pacific Island countries should receive immediate attention, whereas donor perception needs change for addressing the needs identified by regional fora, and stakeholders should be involved in research planning, implementation and monitoring. The new focus suggested will contribute to achieve in particular the MDGs 1, 7 and 8.
- It was concluded that agricultural development in Asia-Pacific will liberate the region from hunger, malnutrition and poverty and bridge the widening income divide between farmers and non farmers. But the new challenges can be effectively addressed if we partner with new commitments to upscale and outscale innovations.

Dr. Raj Paroda also made a Statement on behalf of all Regional Fora on Emerging Role of Fast Growing Economies (BRIC) in Global Research for Development. APAARI also distributed the proceedings of the Face to Face meeting, Bangkok Declaration and a CD of publications comprising all reports related to GCARD process in the Asia-Pacific region among the participants of GCARD Conference held on 28-31 March, 2010 in Montpellier, France.

9. NEW MEMBERSHIP OF APAARI

During 2010, five new members namely Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service (CREES), Northern Mariana Islands; University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia; Navsari Agricultural University (NAU), India; Sardar Dantiwada Agricultural University (SDAU), India; and Anand Agricultural University (AAU), India have joined APAARI as Affiliate Members. The Council for RNR Research of Bhutan (CoRRB), Bhutan joined as Regular Member. The list of APAARI

Members is provided in Enclosure II. Efforts are on to enroll more new members, especially Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia etc. to join APAARI.

10. FUTURE EVENTS

1. The XI General Assembly meeting of APAARI will be held on 12th October, 2010 in Suwon, being hosted by the Rural Development Authority (RDA), Republic of Korea.
2. International Symposium on Sustainable Agricultural Development and use of Agrobiodiversity in the Asia-Pacific Region to be held on 13-15 October, 2010 jointly by APAARI-Rural Development Authority-Bioiversity International-GFAR at Suwan, Republic of Korea.
3. Training program on “Edible Mushroom Production for Asian Farmers and Entrepreneurs” will be held on 21-27 November, 2010 at TARI, Taichung in collaboration with COA, Chinese Taipei.
4. An Expert Consultation on Post Harvest Technology and Value Addition of Horticultural Produce to be held on 26-28 October, 2010 at MARDI, Malaysia. This is being hosted by MARDI.
5. Training program on “*In vitro* and Cryopreservation Techniques for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources”, will be held on 15-27 November, 2010 at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.
6. Training program on “Assisted Reproductive Technologies for Livestock Genetic Improvement” will be held on 24-29, October, 2010 in collaboration with COA, Chinese Taipei and ILRI at the Livestock Research Institute (LRI), Taichung.

EPILOGUE

As is evident from this report, the APAARI activities are being vigorously pursued and their scope is being widened. Even with an expanding program, the financial resources of APAARI remain table. This has been possible mainly due to trust, cooperation, support and encouragement provided by all our esteemed members and stakeholders, which is duly acknowledged.



ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (APAARI)

C/o ICRISAT, CG Centres Block, National Agriculture Science Center Complex
Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Pusa Campus, New Delhi – 110 012

Ph.: 91-11-65437870; Fax: 91-11-25843243, E-mail: raj.paroda@yahoo.com

Dr. Raj Paroda
Executive Secretary

Ref.: APAARI/2010/
Date: 05th May, 2010

Dr. Carlos Perez del Castillo
Chair of the Board of the Consortium of the CGIAR Centres,
Bulevar Espana 2954, Montevideo
Uruguay

Dear Dr. Castillo,

This being the first formal communication, I on behalf of APAARI, congratulate you for the new responsibility as Chairman, CGIAR Consortium Board and wish that partnership between CG Centers and members of APAARI will further get strengthened under your leadership. APAARI, as a regional forum, is working closely with most of the CG Centers having activities in the Asia-Pacific region. We also see that on going change management process in the CG System is an excellent opportunity to match the research priorities and meet the needs of resource poor farmers and consumers in the region.

In October last, the Executive Committee members had discussed the implications of CGIAR change process for our stakeholders. The outcome of those deliberations was conveyed to the Director, CGIAR for appropriate action (copy attached).

In the recently held meeting on 24 April, 2010 in New Delhi, we also discussed the outcome of GCARD Conference in Montpellier, the CGIAR Strategic Framework and the Mega Programs under consideration of the Consortium Board and the Fund Council. The members were also briefed on the current status by Dr. Robert Zeigler, Director General, IRRI, who represents CGIAR on our Executive Committee.

All members were pleased that the new CGIAR is heading in the right direction to meet the future needs of food and nutrition security through crop productivity growth and national research management through inter-institutional collaboration. We will also appreciate if the Centers get APAARI members involved effectively in the development and implementation of new Mega Programs, especially those related to food security, nutrition and health, sustainability of agricultural systems for the poor, enabling higher income, soil, water and biodiversity management, and climate change.

We also note that the Consortium Board has requested the Centers to develop a few Mega Programs over the coming months. We, therefore, urge that a systematic bottom up exercise by involving key stakeholders from the region may please be ensured while developing these programs. On behalf of its members, APAARI supports the Consortium in its efforts to revitalize the international agricultural research and ensure funding for all the eight Mega Programs. Since all are important, none may please be phased out or delayed.

APAARI will be too pleased to facilitate the process, as considered necessary.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

(Raj Paroda)

Enclosure II**LIST OF APAARI MEMBERS****Regular Members (20)**

- ACIAR - Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (Australia)
- AREO - Agricultural Research and Education Organization (Iran)
- BAR - Bureau of Agricultural Research (Philippines)
- BARC - Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (Bangladesh)
- CARP - Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (Sri Lanka)
- COA - Council of Agriculture (Chinese Taipei)
- CoRRB - Council for RNR Research of Bhutan (Bhutan)
- DOA - Department of Agriculture (Thailand)
- IAC - Institut Agronomique neo-Caledonien (New Caledonia)
- ICAR - Indian Council of Agricultural Research (India)
- JIRCAS - Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (Japan)
- MAFF - Koronivia Research Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forest (Fiji)
- MARD - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Vietnam)
- MARDI - Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Malaysia)
- MCFF - Ministry of Commerce, Forests and Fisheries (Samoa)
- NARC - Nepal Agricultural Research Council (Nepal)
- NARI - National Agricultural Research Institute (Papua New Guinea)
- PARC - Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (Pakistan)
- PCARRD - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (Philippines)
- RDA - Rural Development Administration (Republic of Korea)

Associate Members (17)

- AVRDC - World Vegetable Center (Chinese Taipei)
- Bioversity International (Italy)
- CIAT - International Center for Tropical Agriculture (Colombia)
- CIMMYT - International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (Mexico)
- ICARDA - International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (Syria)
- ICRISAT - International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (India)
- IFAP - International Federation of Agricultural Producers (France)

- IFPRI - International Food Policy Research Institute (U.S.A.)
- ILRI - International Livestock Research Institute (Kenya)
- IRRI - International Rice Research Institute (Philippines)
- IWMI - International Water Management Institute (Sri Lanka)
- NTU - National Taiwan University (Chinese Taipei)
- PNG UniTech - Papua New Guinea University of Technology (Papua New Guinea)
- SAC - SAARC Agriculture Centre (Bangladesh)
- SRIF - Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (Fiji)
- The World Fish Center (Malaysia)
- World Agroforestry Center (Kenya)

Affiliate Members (10)

- AAU - Anand Agricultural University, Anand (India)
- ARIA - Agricultural Research Institute of Afghanistan, Kabul (Afghanistan)
- BAU - Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi (India)
- CAU - Central Agricultural University, Imphal (India)
- IAUA - Indian Agricultural Universities Association, New Delhi (India)
- NAU - Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari (India)
- NMC-CREES - Northern Marianas College - Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, Saipan (Northern Mariana Islands)
- SDAU - Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar (India)
- SHIATS - Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences, Allahabad (India) [formerly Allahabad Agricultural Institute-Deemed University].
- UPM - University Putra Malaysia, Serdang (Malaysia)

Reciprocal Members (8)

- AARINENA - Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (Jordan)
- AIT - Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
- APAFRI - Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (Malaysia)
- APSA - The Asia-Pacific Seed Association (Thailand)
- CACAARI - Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institution (Uzbekistan)
- FARA - Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (Ghana)
- NACA - Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (Thailand)
- SPC - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (Fiji)

ANNEXURE V

SUMMARY ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF APAARI

01 January - 31 December 2009

(Amount in US Dollars)

ITEMS	RECEIVED	DISBURSEMENTS		BALANCE
		Budget	Actual Used	
Amount B/F				1,011,476.61
1. NARS Membership Fee & other sources	186,735.59			
2. Associate Membership Fee	63,500.00			
3. Interest Income	11,754.57			
4. Others	88,499.96			
4.1 Refund and Receipts	1,849.26			
4.2 Profit and Loss on Transfer			6,500.77	
5. Publications		30,000.00		
6. APAARI Secretariat Support:				
6.1 Salaries		120,000.00	111,581.68	
6.2 Office Stationery, Postage & Communication		30,000.00	22,623.05	
6.3 Miscellaneous		25,000.00	27,563.56	
7. Consultancy/Travel/SSA		70,000.00	64,507.39	
8. Training/Selected Research Projects/Network Support		75,000.00	55,694.00	
9. Meetings		75,000.00		
9.1 Expenses for APARIS Meeting			4,103.26	
9.2 Expenses for Executive Committee Meeting			11,588.82	
9.3 Expenses for Expert Consultation Meeting			29,562.53	
TOTAL	352,339.38	425,000.00	333,725.06	1,030,090.93

Fund transferred to APCoAB towards LOA and Co-publishing \$11,665.63

Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 32.92 Baht

Amount in Fixed Account (U.S.Dollar)

Amount in Saving Account (U.S.Dollars)


Amount in Current Account (Baht: 10,563.81

Cash in hand (Baht: 3,029.-)

US\$ 1,003,458.62

US\$ 14,553.78

US\$ 320.89

US\$ 92.01 **TOT: S 1,018,425.30**


.....
Ms. Urairat Rujirek
 Accountant APAARI



.....
Mr. Rattanachai Dumnernsawat
 External Auditor



.....
Dr. Raj Paroda
 Executive Secretary APAARI

SUMMARY ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF APAARI

01 January – 30 September 2010

(Amount in US Dollars)

Amount B/F			
1. NARS Membership Fee & ACIAR Support	179,012.45		
2. Associate Membership Fee	63,000.00		
3. Affiliate Membership Fee	6,023.67		
3. Interest Income	3,507.63		
4. Funds from (GFAR, FAO, ASTI, COA, Symposium Co-sponsors & etc.)	178,170.08		
4.1 Receipts and Refunds	-834.53		
4.2 Profit and Loss on Bank Transfers		30,000.00	8,198.86
5. Publications			
6. APAARI Secretariat Support:			
6.1 Salary		150,000.00	107,763.04
6.2 Office Stationery, Postage & Communication		35,000.00	14,564.04
6.3 Miscellaneous		30,000.00	19,393.90
7. Consultancy/Travel/SSA/Honorarium		80,000.00	49,035.42
8. Training/Selected Research Projects/Network Support		80,000.00	32,280.08
9. Meetings		85,000.00	44,072.00
9.1 Expenses for APARIS Meeting			10,025.52
9.2 Expenses for Executive Committee Meeting & Expert Consultation			38,639.00
9.3 Expenses for ASTI Workshop on Food and Financial Crisis in Asia			
TOTAL	428,879.30	490,000.00	323,971.86
			1,018,424.31

Transferred to APCoAB \$ 35,000.-

Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 33.- Baht

Amount in Fixed Account (U.S.Dollar)

Amount in Saving Account (U.S.Dollars)

Amount in Current Account (Baht: 2,273.81)

Amount in Saving Account (Baht:50,014.35)

Cash in hand (Baht 3,029.-)

US\$ 1,006,603.76

US\$ 80,051.71

US\$ 68.90

US\$ 1,515.59

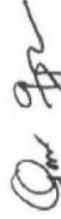
US\$ 91.79

TOT:\$ 1,088,331.75



Dr. Raj Paroda

Executive Secretary APAARI



Ms. Urrairat Rujirek

Accountant APAARI



Mr. Rattanachai Dumnernsawat

External Auditor

ANNEXURE VI**APAARI Fund Management – Strategy and Options**By Working Group¹**I. Introduction**

Effective mobilization and efficient management of funds are crucial elements for the success of any organization. These elements not only enhance efficiency of human and management resources of the organization but also substantially improve its credibility and status in the corporate world. APAARI is well founded and well run regional organization for the Asia-Pacific region for promoting agricultural research for development through various activities such as advocacy, information and knowledge sharing, training, and overall capacity development. The Association has been consistent in terms of mobilizing reasonable level of funds over the last 18 years and has generated a substantial level of reserve (more than USD 1.0 million). In general, the Association has been efficient in mobilizing and using its financial resources, most transparently and in an accountable manner. Having accomplished these, there is a need to look critically at how (and in what way) the Association can be more efficient in terms of managing its financial resources, especially its reserves.

With this in view, the Executive Committee in its meeting held on 24th April, 2010 in New Delhi decided that a three-member working group looks at APAARI Fund Management, especially developing appropriate strategy and exploring various options for its fund management (investment). This is to help understand better and make appropriate decision(s) on such reserves so as to enhance further the efficiency of the Associations' operations in terms of delivering effectively on its mandated role and responsibility and at the same time of assuring longer-term sustainability and robustness.

The group by considering the current financial uncertainties, especially the recent economic crisis and financial meltdown internationally, looked at key guiding principles for APAARI fund management so as to maximize returns to its reserves and at the same time minimizing and diversifying risks associated. It took into account key feasible alternatives available at present and worked out a few options of fund management. The overall aim is to assure future sustainability and effectiveness in the Association's mandated responsibility. Such strategy and options can be the basis for APAARI to make desired decisions on its fund management.

II. Facts and Considerations

The following facts and considerations are taken into account:

1. As seen over the recent four years (2006-2009) in Table 1 and Attachment 1, the APAARI efforts are focused and implemented in mobilizing funds effectively from well established sources such as NARS organizational memberships, associate memberships, internal revenue and funds from donors/ARD initiatives for specific projects and programmes. The level of total income is in the range of USD 330,000 to 369,000 per annum, with average at USD 354,000. This can be considered as quite an achievement, mobilizing consistent and substantial level of funding on

¹ Working Group is comprised of Raghunath Ghodake, Robert Zeigler and Raju Barwale.

a sustainable basis. Of these the bulk (63 to 88%) comes from membership fees and internal revenue, while remaining mostly from programme support. This is being seen as the real strength of the Association in that it is self sustaining based on equity, participation and ownership by its members and constituencies.

Table 1. (a) Income from various sources (USD): 2006-2009

Year	Membership and internal revenue	Membership and internal revenue (%)	Programme support	Programme support (%)	Total
2006	210,126	63.20	122,360	36.80	332,485
2007	320,047	88.55	41,369	11.45	361,416
2008	238,298	64.60	130,602	35.40	368,900
2009	263,839	74.88	88,500	25.12	352,339
Total	258,077	72.95	95,708	27.05	353,785

Table 1. (b) Expenditure on secretariat and programme (USD): 2006-2009

Year	Secretariat	Secretariat (%)	Programme	Programme (%)	Total
2006	88,194	31.06	195,720	68.94	283,913
2007	63,880	25.50	186,588	74.50	250,468
2008	129,040	38.42	206,847	61.58	335,887
2009	161,768	48.47	171,957	51.53	333,725
Total	110,720	36.78	190,278	63.22	300,998
Savings	48,572	110,948	33,013	18,614	52,787

* Details for individual years are in Attachment 1.

- The major areas of expenditure have been the secretariat support, consultancies, travel, projects and networks, publications, and meetings/conferences/symposia. These expenses ranged between USD 250,000 to 334,000 from the years 2006 to 2009, the average being USD 300,000 per annum. The secretariat expenses ranged from USD 63,000 (25.5% of total) to USD 162,000 (48% of total). While project/programme expenses were 74.5% and 52% in corresponding years. The average proportionate expenditure on secretariat and programme are 37 and 63%, respectively².
- Thus the savings have ranged from USD 19,000 to 111,000 in years 2009 and 2007, respectively, the average annual saving being USD 58,000. Most of such savings are transferred to fixed deposit with the Siam Commercial Bank, Thailand.
- As shown in Table 2, the APAARI reserves as reflected in fixed term deposits in the Siam Commercial Bank grew from USD 311,000 in 1998 to USD 1,005,000 in 2009, more than three times (or 323% growth). The highest annual incremental growth of USD 152,000 was in year 1999, while the lowest of USD 8,000 in 2005, the average rate of incremental saving was

² A suggestive level of expenditure on programme implementation can be 70% and that on secretariat to be 30%.

USD 63,000 per annum (i.e. on an average of 12% per annum). This is certainly an impressive record of consistent growth. The progress has been as planned (a few years ahead) to meet a milestone of USD 1.0 million as stabilized and robust level of reserve.

Table 2. Annual savings and interest rates in fixed deposits with the Siam Commercial Bank (USD): 1998-2009

Year	Average saving in FD*	Annual Incremental amount in FD	Percent Annual growth in FD	Average % Interest for FD	Real % interest rate with 1.5% depreciation**
1998	311,047			4.6	3.125
1999	463,186	152,139	48.9	4.5	3
2000	538,180	74,994	16.2	4.0	2.5
2001	614,183	76,003	14.1	1.6	0.125
2002	661,021	46,839	7.6	0.8	-0.675
2003	756,734	95,712	14.5	1.3	-0.175
2004	764,787	8,053	1.1	2.4	0.875
2005	807,743	42,957	5.6	3.5	1.975
2006	863,560	55,816	6.9	4.2	2.675
2007	933,895	70,336	8.1	3.6	2.125
2008	979,362	45,466	4.9	1.2	-0.35
2009	1,005,218	25,857	2.6	0.6	-0.88
		63,106	11.9	2.7	1.19

* Funds with the Siam Commercial Bank, Bangkok, Thailand.

** Conservative rate (1.5% per annum) of depreciation by considering the world wide Inflation and Parity Purchase Price (PPP) affecting APAARI finances.

5. The interest rate however fluctuated quite dramatically, with the highest being 4.6% in 1998 and the lowest of 0.6% at present, with average at 2.7%. If we account for a conservative depreciation of 1.5% per annum (real value of USD in terms of Parity Purchase Price (PPP) as relevant to the Association expenses), the real average interest rate realized is only 1.19%, with negative interest rate in four years, the two being the recent consecutive years (2008 and 2009).
6. Consequently as shown in Table 3, the overall nominal and real interests earned are USD 215,000 and USD 85,000, respectively. The Association is however losing on interest during the last two years (loss of USD 3,400 in 2008 and USD 8,800 in 2009).
7. When adjusted to depreciation of 1.5%, the accumulated loss to the principal amount stands to be USD 55,000 (0.98% of accumulated principal of 8.7 million). When compensated by real gain in interest realized, the real total accumulated gain is only USD 30,500 over the last 12 years (0.35% of accumulated principal). However, there have been losses in real terms during the last two years (USD 22,000 and USD 33,000 during 2008 and 2009, respectively.)

Table 3. Nominal and real (adjusted 1.5% reduction) values of fund and interest from fixed deposits with the Siam Commercial Bank (USD): 1998-2009

Year	Average saving in FD	Nominal interest earned	Principal plus interest	Real value of principal	Gain/loss of principal	Real value of interest earned	Real value of principal plus interest	Real benefit/loss
1998	311,047	14,386	325,433	306,381	-4,666	9,720	316,102	5,055
1999	463,186	20,843	484,029	470,134	6,948	13,896	484,029	20,843
2000	538,180	21,527	559,707	543,561	5,382	13,454	557,016	18,836
2001	614,183	9,980	624,163	605,738	-8,445	768	606,506	-7,677
2002	661,021	5,453	666,475	646,644	-14,377	-4,462	642,182	-18,839
2003	756,734	10,027	766,760	744,058	-12,675	-1,324	742,734	-14,000
2004	764,787	18,164	782,950	760,007	-4,780	6,692	766,699	1,912
2005	807,743	28,069	835,813	811,580	3,837	15,953	827,533	19,790
2006	863,560	36,054	899,613	873,706	10,147	23,100	896,807	33,247
2007	933,895	33,854	967,749	939,732	5,837	19,845	959,578	25,682
2008	979,362	11,263	990,624	961,243	-18,118	-3,428	957,816	-21,546
2009	1,005,218	6,232	1,011,451	981,294	-3,924	-8,846	972,448	-32,770
	8,698,916*	215,852			-54,835	85,368		30,533

* Accumulated saving over 12 years.

8. In summary, the rate of real returns to APARRI's accumulated fixed deposit USD 8.7 million over the last 12 year period is USD 30,500 (which is only 0.35%), with recent trend being that of overall losses. Therefore to bring real capital gains (growth) some strategic efforts are needed to improve the real returns at least up to 2 to 3 percent. While doing so care needs to be taken to avoid and minimize risk of any adverse implications for the principal.

III. Fund Management Strategy

The following are considered to be the major guiding principles, manifesting the APAARI Fund management strategy in medium term of next 5 years.

1. Having accomplished the target of USD 1.0 million (seen to be a robust level of reserve), the reserve fund level can be considered as comfortably adequate, in that it can cover the total expenditure (secretariat plus programme) of APAARI for more than two years or secretariat expenditure for more than four years. Such time span will provide adequate time, if needed, for rejuvenated recovery efforts in case of total collapse of fund mobilization over such periods.
2. By considering the invaluable returns to investment in the APAARI mandated activities of promoting agricultural research for development, especially for smallholders in developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region, any additional savings be invested in such mandated activities of APAARI. This is also because of meager returns to financial saving so far and robust reserve already established. There needs to be further assessment to enhance absolute level of expenses on both secretariat and programme purposes, while assuring a robust ratio of 3:7 between these two.

3. Increasing efforts need to be put in diversifying and generating non-traditional and other emerging sources of funds for meeting the programme purposes and also, to an extent, operational purposes. Such options can be the CGIAR Fund under their systems funding (GFAR is already exploring and our regional fora representative (FORAGRO) can explore this further), the private sector, other interested development partners as commercial entrepreneurs, and international trusts and donors.
4. In managing the funds, the basic guiding principles of diversification and minimization of risk, optimization of returns and having adequate flexibility in financial management need to be followed. The considerations need to be given to the type of currency (hard versus soft), type of organization to be invested with (preferred AAA rating), location of investment and growth potential (countries with political stability), etc. Also important considerations are the cost of transaction, conversion costs and losses, legal and bureaucratic implications.
5. By considering all such costs and implications and also by accounting for all risks and flexibilities, if one gets 50 to 100% higher return than from the existing option (the Siam Commercial Bank), it is advisable to consider moving the investment from the existing to new options in short to medium terms (1 to 5 years).
6. Fund management (investment) needs to be decided and implemented by a team of officials so as to maintain the necessary transparency of public funds and retain collective ownership and accountability. The team approach is also necessary for consultations and well-informed decision making.

IV. Fund Management Options

Collective efforts³ have been put in by the working group, APAARI Executive Secretary, Liaison Officer and Accounts/Administrative Officer in soliciting information from various sources such as the Siam Commercial Bank, ICRISAT, IRRI, Citibank Singapore, State Bank of Hyderabad (a public sector bank in India), and a number of other sources. On this basis, the following options are analyzed, assessed and put forward for considerations.

1. The current interest rate for fixed deposit with the Siam Commercial Bank is very low at 0.62% and it is likely to remain low in the near future. At this rate, the Association is losing funds in real value term by USD 22,000 to USD 33,000 (in aggregate) per annum as seen recently (Table 3). Therefore there is a definite need to consider alternative options of investment away from the bank, though some minimum funds can remain in fixed deposit with the Siam bank. It is established that funds can be transferred in and out without any difficulty, while a charge of 0.25% is laid by the Bank for transferring out any such funds.
2. An exploration to have funds invested in international and national banks on APAARI name did not meet with favorable response. Our consultations with Citibank Singapore and a public sector bank in India helped us understand that a company (legal registered) status for APPARI is the minimum requirement. Efforts can certainly be made in getting such status in Thailand and that will pave the way for such international banking options. For examples interest rates

³ Group's appreciation and grateful thanks to Dr. Raj Paroda, Mr. P.K. Saha, and Ms. R. Urairat of APAARI; Mr. Rajesh Agrawal of ICRISAT; Mr. Sunil Jhunjunwala of IRRI, and officials of Citibank, Singapore and State Bank of Hyderabad for providing information, data and suggestions.

Table 4. Rates on interest for various fixed term deposits in various currencies in Indian Public sector banks

Years	USD	GBP	EURO	AUS \$	CAN \$	USD**
1-2	1.84	2.46	2.39	6.42	2.87	1.78
2-3	1.67	2.23	2.26	5.67	2.34	1.6
3-4	1.95	2.51	2.39	5.71	2.56	1.86
4-5	2.27	2.79	2.56	5.89	2.81	2.15
5-6	2.57	3.04	2.73	5.98	3.04	2.48

* As provided by Sate Bank of Hyderabad.

** As provided by ICRISAT.

(Table 4) can be as high as 1.84 to 2.57% for USD as compared to 0.62% at the Siam bank. With a bit of managerial efforts, one can get a much higher interest (in the range of 5.67 to 6.52%) for Australian dollars. However as at present this option is not available for any further consideration.

- Both IRRI and ICRISAT provided very valuable advices on various types and kinds of options for investing funds. These options include fixed deposits in local and USD currencies for various terms, provision of forward contracts to safeguard principal amount in USD, bonds by public sector organizations and governments, shares of high rated companies, money market mutual funds, treasury bills, interest bearing investment linked to LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rates), etc.

Table 5. Investment through various limited alternative options: assessment and implications

	Item	Siam Bank - Option 1	ICRISAT Fixed Term Deposit (FTD) - Option 2		Bond in Public Sector through ICRISAT - Option 3		USD Fixed Term Deposit in international bank - Option 4
			Option 2 (A) - forward contract	Option 2 (B) - risk accounted	Option 3 (A) - forward contract	Option 3 (B) - risk accounted	
	Term	Annual	Annual	Annual	Ten year with flexible withdrawal	Ten year with flexible withdrawal	Annual
1.	Currency	USD	INR	INR	INR	INR	USD
2.	Principal amount	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
3.	Forward contract	NA	Taken	Not taken	Taken	Not taken	NA
4.	Cost of transaction (%)	0	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
5.	Current interest rate (%)	0.62	8	8	8.75	8.75	1.84
6.	Cost of FC premium	0	5	0	5	0	0
7.	Currency risk (3.5%)	0	0	3.5	0	3.5	0
8.	Cost of assistance (on interest)	0	20	20	20	20	0

Table 5. (continued)

	Item	Siam Bank - Option 1	ICRISAT Fixed Term Deposit (FTD) - Option 2		Bond in Public Sector through ICRISAT - Option 3		USD Fixed Term Deposit in international bank - Option 4
			Option 2 (A) - forward contract	Option 2 (B) - risk accounted	Option 3 (A) - forward contract	Option 3 (B) - risk accounted	
	Term	Annual	Annual	Annual	Ten year with flexible withdrawal	Ten year with flexible withdrawal	Annual
9.	Return before costs	6,200	80,000	80,000	87,500	87,500	18,400
10.	Transaction cost	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
11.	Premium cost	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	0
12.	Assistance cost	0	16,000	16,000	17,500	17,500	0
13.	Currency risk cost	0	0	35,000	0	35,000	0
14.	Net return	6,200	11,500	26,500	17,500	32,500	15,900
15.	Percent return	0.62	1.15	2.65	1.75	3.25	1.59
16.	Incremental return		5,300	20,300	11,300	26,300	9,700
17.	Incremental return (%)		85.48	327.42	182.26	424.19	156.45
18.	Option C = A+B (combined) with half in each for FTD and Bond	Net return	19,000		25,000		
		Percent return	1.9		2.5		
		Incremental return	12,800		18,800		
		Percent incremental return	206.45		303.23		

4. ICRISAT gave detailed suggestions including their proposal as to how they can assist. Their suggestions are assessed further and presented in Table 5. Three main options are assessed. Option 1 is the continuation of FD in the Siam Commercial Bank. Option 2 is to have fixed deposit through ICRISAT and Option 3 is to have bonds through ICRISAT. Option 2 and 3 have sub-options (A and B) of having forward contract and not having, but with modest risk of currency fluctuation accounted for at 3.5%⁴. Also considered is a hybrid option (Option C) of having 50% with and 50% without forward contract under options 2 and 3. Option 4 is of having fixed deposits in USD that can be made in any international banks overseas. This is a dummy option because of the Associations ineligibility at present.
5. The assessment suggested that there is substantial gain to be made by investing in option 2 and 3 as compared to option 1. With totally safe investment with forward contract, option 2 (A) appears to be reasonably attractive with an annual return of USD 11,500, about double

⁴ This is a reasonable and safe risk consideration given the economic growth rate and robust banking system in India. Over the last 11 years - September 1999 to September 2010 - INR value per USD depreciated from 43.95 to 46.54, or by a total of 5.89%, with average depreciation per annum of 0.42%.

(or 85%) higher return than the return of USD 6,200 from Option 1. Option 2 (B) is modestly safe with an annual return of USD 26,500 (which is almost 4 times more the current return). However, by taking some risk in Option (C), the Association can earn up to USD 19,000 per annum, which is about three times the current return.

6. Similar assessment is applicable to bond option (option 3) where returns are marginally higher (by 0.75%). However, more time can be taken to observe and assess further and make informed decisions once the APAARI learns various options.
7. If feasible under the APAARI status, option 4 of having funds in USD in foreign banks can give up to 2.5 times (or 150%) higher return than that from the current option 1. Ideally the Association should try and work towards this feasibility as that will open many other options such as investing in Australian dollars with returns as high as 6.4%⁵.
8. In summary, the Association has a feasible option of investing through ICRISAT fixed deposit with or without forward contract, with reasonably minimized risk and optimized returns. As the Association gets experienced, strategic efforts can be made by diversifying in various options and also by investing without any forward contract (risk accounted for). Better still would be to get a company status for the Association and to explore many other opportunities in international markets and in various currencies.

V. Summary and Recommendations

1. APAARI is well founded and well run regional organization for the Asia-Pacific region for promoting agricultural research for development. The Association has been consistent in terms of mobilizing reasonable level of funds over the last 18 years and has generated a substantial level of reserve (more than USD 1.0 million).
2. The current level of total average income is of USD 354,000 per annum. Of this the bulk (63 to 88%) comes from membership fees and internal revenue, while remaining mostly from programme support. This is being seen as the real strength of the Association in that it is self sustaining based on equity, participation and ownership by its members and constituencies.
3. The rate of real returns to APARRI's accumulated fixed deposit USD 8.7 million over the last 12 year period is only 0.35%, with recent trend being that of negative returns. Therefore to bring real capital gains (growth) strategic efforts are needed to improve the real returns at least up to 2 to 3 percent. While doing so care needs to be taken to avoid or minimize risk for the principal.
4. The Association has a feasible option of investing through ICRISAT fixed deposit with or without forward contract, with reasonably minimized risk and optimized returns. As the Association gets experienced, efforts can be made by diversifying in various options and also by investing without any forward contract (but with risk accounted for).
5. Better still would be to get a company status for the Association to explore many other opportunities in international markets and in various currencies.
6. If these recommendations are to be implemented, it is important to begin implementation in a stepwise progression, beginning with safe options with modest return and gradually progressing to more innovative options, securing optimal returns at minimum risk.

⁵ Given the well established status of APAARI and engagements/dealings with the local bank and many other concerned, it is worthwhile to pursue and seek a company status in Thailand.

Attachment 1. Summary income and expenditure APAARI main sources/operations: recent years (2006-2009) (in USD)

Items	January-December 2006		January-December 2007		January-December 2008		January-December 2009	
	Income	Percent	Income	Percent	Income	Percent	Income	Percent
Income Sources								
1. NARS Membership	139,720	42.0	244,039	67.5	161,502	43.8	186,736	53.0
2. Associate Membership	40,500	12.2	36,000	10.0	49,500	13.4	63,500	18.0
3. Interests	34,145	10.3	38,606	10.7	26,376	7.1	11,755	3.3
4. Project/Programme support	122,360	36.8	41,369	11.4	130,602	35.4	88,500	25.1
5. Petty items	-4,239	-1.3	1,402	0.4	921	0.2	1,849	0.5
Total Income	332,485	100.0	361,416	100.0	368,900	100.0	352,339	100.0
Expenditure Areas								
1. Secretariat expenses	88,194	31.1	63,880	25.5	129,040	38.4	161,768	48.5
2. Consultancy/SSA	56,152	19.8	68,121	27.2	59,835	17.8	64,507	19.3
3. Training/Networking/Research	40,000	14.1	39,000	15.6	37,626	11.2	55,694	16.7
4. Meeting/conferences/workshops	91,920	32.4	73,795	29.5	96,991	28.9	45,255	13.6
5. Publications	7,648	2.7	5,672	2.3	12,396	3.7	6,501	1.9
Total Expenses	283,913	100.0	250,468	100.0	335,887	100.0	333,725	100.0
Balance (income-expenditure)	48,572		110,948		33,013		18,614	

APAARI WORK PLAN FOR 2011

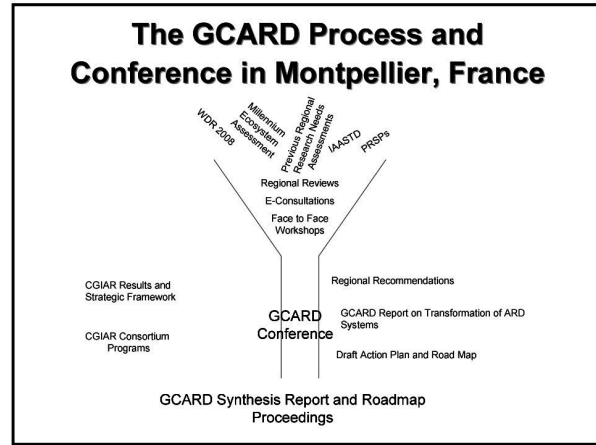
Activities	Details
1. Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAARI Newsletter (December 2010 and June 2011) <p>Publication of success stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taro production in the Pacific (in collaboration with SPC). • Success Story on Innovations in Linking Farmers to Markets in Chinese Taipei. • Success Story on Protected Cultivation on Vegetables in Korea. • Success Stories on 2-3 other topics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceedings of International Symposium on Agrobiodiversity. • Proceedings of Expert Consultation on Low Cost PHT and Value Addition of Horticultural Produce.
2. Meetings/Expert Consultations/Symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAARI Executive Committee Meetings (April & October, 2011). • Expert consultations on selected themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Expert Consultation on Trans-boundary Animal Diseases. (ii) High Level Policy Dialogue for Increased Investments in AR4D.
3. APARIS Related Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success Stories on Agricultural Information and Learning Systems in the Asia-Pacific Region. • Workshop on 'New Dimensions in Information and Communication Management for AR4D. • Implementation of APAARI Communication Strategy. • ICT Status Report and development of databases on ARD Experts and Projects. • Collaboration with regional/sub-regional Fora, ARD Networks and partnerships with other regional initiatives such as SAARC, SEARCA, SPC, NAARAP etc. • Facilitating CIARD initiative in the Asia-Pacific in partnership with GFAR and FAO. • APARIS Steering Committee Meeting. • APAARI on CD-2011.
4. APCoAB Related Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APCoAB Steering Committee Meeting. • Training Programs on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) "In vitro and cryopreservation techniques for conservation of Plant Genetic Resources", to be held at NBPGR, New Delhi. (ii) Two training programs to be conducted in collaboration with COA, Chinese Taipei. • Publication on Proceedings of Expert Consultation on Low Cost PHT and Value Addition of Horticultural Produce. • Publication of Banana Tissue Culture. • Publication of Success Stories on Biotechnology related topics. • Revision of APCoAB website and its regular update. • Organizing an Expert Consultation on some selected theme. • Collaboration with regional fora and other stakeholders in promoting safe application of agricultural biotechnology.
5. Inter-regional Cooperation	<p>Participation and strengthening of cooperation in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INCANA - an inter-regional network on cotton. • Agricultural Biotechnology - Networking with AARINENA. • GPP on LFM - in partnership with GFAR and other Regional Fora.

ANNEXURE VIII**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2011-2012
(in US\$)**

S. No.	Items	Approved		Proposed	
		2009	2010	2011	2012
1.	Publication (Newsletter, Success Stories, Directory, Technical Report etc.)	30,000	30,000	25,000	25,000
2.	APAARI Secretariat Support				
	i. Staff Salary	120,000	150,000	150,000	180,000
	ii. Office Stationery and Postage	30,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
	iii. Miscellaneous Items	25,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
3.	Consultancy/Travel/DSA etc.	70,000	80,000	70,000	75,000
4.	Training/Selected Research Projects/ APAARI Program and Network Support	75,000	80,000	70,000	80,000
5.	Expert Consultation(s)/General Assembly and Executive Committee Meetings	75,000	85,000	80,000	90,000
	Total	425,000	490,000	460,000	515,000

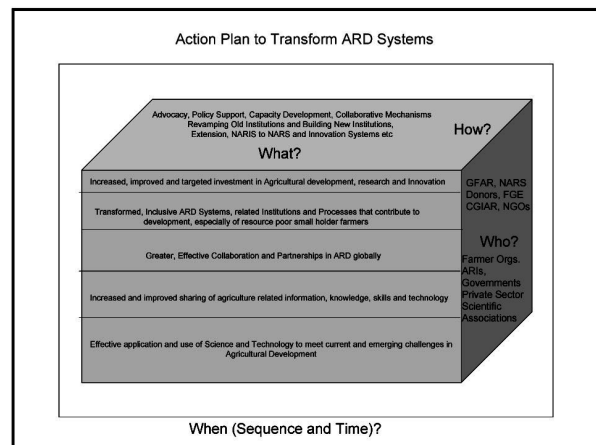
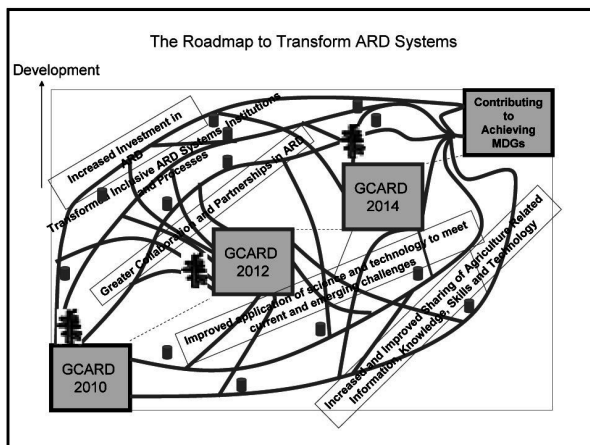
GCARD and Its Follow Up

Ajit Maru
GFAR Secretariat
Rome

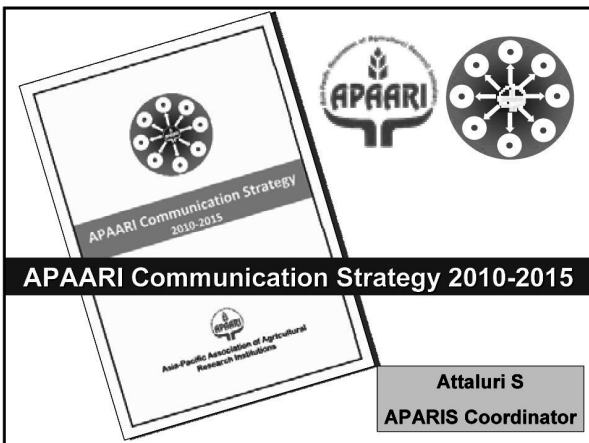


- ### A well functioning AR4D system is one that:
- Adopts a problem-solving approach to key priorities national and regional development objectives as the driver and national systems and regional organizations as the foci, supported by international and regional actions as required;
 - Focuses on demand-driven *researchable or proven* technologies and/or their delivery, in ways that overcome farmer's constraints to technology access and adoption
 - Addresses constraints identified through national and regional consultations e.g., human resource development, career incentives for scientists, accountability and effectiveness of *multiple* partnerships, recognizing also the multiple roles of agriculture and the particular challenges facing poor farmers.
 - Facilitates the rapid generation of innovations and the spread of knowledge and technologies to and from small holders and delivery of services to reach the poor and to facilitate their enterprise;
 - Promotes effective use of collective capacities, particularly networks, by strengthening key relationships among research, development (e.g. extension, seed suppliers, the banking sector) and farmer actors;

- ### A well functioning AR4D system is one that:
- Actively achieves increased investments in human, institutional and financial resources;
 - Promotes coordinated operational linkages among donors and development partners, aimed at monitorable development impacts;
 - Increases mutual and equal accountability among all stakeholders;
 - Achieves credible monitoring, evaluation and reporting on what has changed to increase the value and recognition of such processes to wider society;
 - Commits to action.



ANNEXURE X



Need for Communication Strategy

- APARIS Steering Committee in its VII Meeting in 2008 voiced out that ARD Stakeholders are currently confronted by an increasing demand for information and knowledge sharing in much better ways to respond to the new and compelling challenges in agriculture.
- It recommended that APAARI needs to develop and implemented a Communication Strategy to increase learning opportunities and foster knowledge exchange, capacity enhancement in communication for ARD in the region.

Why Communication Strategy

- **Addressing the needs of ARD Stakeholders**
 - Identify APAARI Audience and their Learning Needs
 - Develop a Strategies using different Channels and Platforms
 - Meet the Information Needs of ARD Stakeholders in the region
- **Collaborative Knowledge Sharing**
 - Involve NARS and other Stakeholders to contribute in developing ARD information resources
 - Establish and maintain a Learning Platform to facilitate Knowledge Exchange, Partnership and Collaboration
- **Content Management**
 - Follow Content Management Practices and Standards
 - Improve Coherence and Integration of ARD Information at National and Regional Level

Process

Zero Draft	Feedback	Discussion and Endorsement	Recommendations and Approval by APARIS SC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Methodology based on the Communication Strategies of prominent ARD and other Development organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Feedback from Peers and Info. and Comm. Experts •Suggestions from APARIS Steering Committee Members •Incorporation of suggestions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Presented in the ICT/ICM Workshop in Bangkok in Sept. 2010 •ICT/ICM Managers of NARS discussed and endorsed the Communication Strategy in principle •Agreed to collaborate and contribute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Step-by-Step approach •Involvement of NARS and other Stakeholders •Identification of primary, secondary and other audience •Evaluation of activities by SC

SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APAARI is the leading regional organization in AR4D • Strong linkage with member NARS and other stakeholders; Partnerships with organizations like GFAR, FAO, ACIAR & Linkage with Regional Research Networks • APARIS program which is mandated to improve exchange of information • Timely publications and information dissemination through websites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less participation of Stakeholders • One way communication • Lack of systematic packaging of information packaging • Limited Coherence in Information Management practices • Need for publication and web policies • Limited resources and staff
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing role of APAARI • Growing importance of information and communication systems by NARS • Advances in ICT/ICM • Increasing need for disseminating APAARI outcomes • Growing expectations by individual clients in ARD Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage of relationships due to lack of proper communication systems • Information needs of audiences and partners changing fast • Ever changing ICT/ICM tools • Competition from other organisations

Goal

- It aims to promote communication as a key to ensure the results of activities by APAARI and its partners achieve impact and contribute to achieving the goal of improving efficiency of ARD in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Objective

- To enhance APAARI role, strengthen its partnerships, provide access to reliable and cohesive ARD information, increase its resources and enhance its impact on agricultural research for development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Principles

- It increases access to knowledge generated by APAARI, its activities and assist its stakeholders in reaching their goals.
- It promotes participation, contribution, and collaboration of stakeholders and partners with APAARI programs and information services
- It uses communication channels and new ICT tools / applications effectively to reach more number of audiences and variety of stakeholders in fastest and cheapest possible ways.

Principles

- It provides reliable, relevant, timely and useful information in an open, transparent and coherent manner for all the stakeholders.
- It encourages and facilitates feedback and response mechanism for APAARI members, partners, and other stakeholders
- It facilitates the CIARD initiative for greater coherence and integration of agricultural information systems and services in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mapping Stakeholders

- APAARI Member NARS and other NARS in the region
- National Governments and Public Sector ARES
- Regional and Sub-Regional Fora
- International Organisations - GFAR, FAO, ACIAR, CGIAR IARCs,
- ARD Networks & Information Systems
- Farmers' Organisations, NGOs Cooperatives,
- Agricultural Universities and Advanced Research and Educational Institutions
- Associations (e.g.: APSA, AFMA, APAFRI, SEARCA, IAUA etc.)
- Private Sector Organisations and Agri-business firms Development Banks, Donors etc.
- General public and Media & Press

New Stakeholders

- Policy Makers
- Public Representatives
- Agri-entrepreneurs
- ICT/ICM Experts

Information Needs

- Contacts of ARD Institutions
- Contacts of ARD Experts and Consultants
- Discuss / Dialogue / Debate on ARD issues
- Agricultural Technologies and Innovations; Success Stories
- Country Profiles, ARD Policy, Projects and Research Outputs
- Commodity Profiles in the region
- Access to research networks, libraries and institutional knowledge repositories
- NGOs, FOs and CSOs initiatives
- Funding and Donor sources
- Information on educational and employment opportunities in ARD

New Needs

- Market related information
- Farmers' Innovations
- Skills Development

Information Channels

Print-based

- APAARI Newsletter
- Success Stories
- Proceedings of Expert Consultations and Workshops
- Proceedings of Meetings
- Status Reports on ARD
- Declarations
- Concept Notes on ARD issues
- Posters
- Pamphlets, Flyers, Brochures and promotional material.

New Media and Channels

- Social Networking
- Community of Practices

Information Channels

Digital / Electronic

- APAARI Website
- ARD Repository
- E-mails, Documents in PDF and Word formats
- Powerpoint presentations
- Mailing list databases
- CD-ROM publications
- E-Newsletter
- Discussion forum / lists
- RSS Newsfeeds
- Videos clips
- Photographs
- Audio files
- Social Networking Media

Emerging ICT Issues

- ICM for ARD Policies
- Willingness to share information
- Capacity to use ICTs at different levels effectively

The CIARD vision: truly accessible information

"To make public domain agricultural research information and knowledge truly accessible to all".



Coherece in Information for Agricultural Research for Development
led by GFAR



The CIARD RING



"a Routemap to Information Nodes and Gateways (RING)
that share information related to agricultural research and innovation for development (ARD)"



The CIARD RING

Who can benefit from the RING?

- users looking for existing services into which they can tap for retrieving information and feeding it into their information systems
- users looking for existing services to which they can contribute their contents and through which they can disseminate their information.
- users interested in an overview of the current information services in ARD

The CIARD RING and the featured information services will be free and publicly available, thus constituting Global Public Goods that can be leveraged by any organization, person or information service.

www.ciardring.net

The CIARD RING

Submission flow

- The services featured in the RING are submitted directly by their managers and technical staff
- Anybody can register and submit a service; the organizations responsible for the service will be alerted upon submission

Be part of the CIARD RING



www.ciardring.net

Specific Objectives

•APAARI will be communicating effectively with all its interested audiences through an easily accessible contact database development that enable cross-linkage among all stakeholders to communicate themselves effectively and continuously (by October 2010)

•APAARI will be strengthening its web space to be able to conduct dialogues, debates and consultations with its stakeholders through e-discussion forums / list services platform facilities to discuss on critical issues related to ARD (by December 2010)

Specific Objectives

- APAARI will be disseminating effectively its information resources on its stakeholders on regular basis through a dynamic webspace development by using suitable content management system, information sharing tools and social networking media (by July 2011)
- APAARI will have a reliable ARD repository to increase access to useful research information at the regional level through relevant content development with the collaboration of NARS to promote greater coherence of agricultural information and services (by December 2011)
- APAARI will have a brand identity to all its communication materials through adopting print & web publishing policies, formats and targeting communications to raise the APAARI profile in order to gain support for its policy advocacy, resource generation and outreach activities (by July 2011)

Communication Plan

Actions areas	Outcome	Requirements
Mailing list database on website October, 2010 March, 2011	A web-based database of contact list of APAARI stakeholders with search and browsing facilities	In progress
Electronic discussion Forum / List services December, 2010	An electronic discussion platform for conducting discussions, dialogues and consultations on ARD issues	Tentative topics in ARD as per the needs and moderators
APAARI Website December, 2011	APAARI webspace that integrate information systems and services in the region based on sound web publishing policies and standards	Web publishing policies

Communication Plan

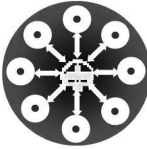
Actions areas	Outcome	Requirements
ARD Repository December, 2011	ARD Experts and ARD Projects and ARD Policy Documents Databases with search and browsing facilities.	Cooperation and contribution of NARS.
E-Newsletter March 2011	A quarterly e-newsletter	In progress
RSS Newsfeeds December, 2010	RSS of APAARI news and aggregation of news from partners	In progress
CD-ROM Publications Regular	CD Publications	In progress
Multimedia (video, photographs and audio files) Regular	Video, audio and photographs of APAARI events	In progress

Communication Plan

Actions areas	Outcome	Requirements
Digital Documents (E-mails, PDF, Word, Excel etc.) Regular	Availability of Digital documents in different formats	Definite formats and procedures within APAARI
Social Networking Media January, 2011	Presence of APAARI on social media platforms to reach many audiences.	Information updation
APAARI Newsletter December, 2010	A new improved APAARI Newsletter version both in content and style	In progress
Proceedings of Exp.Consultations, Workshops, Conferences etc. Regular	Quality publications	In progress
Posters, Pamphlets, Flyers and other promotional material Regular	Video, audio and photographs of APAARI events	In progress

Evaluation Plan

- Stakeholders' feedback.
- A regular monitoring mechanism to review and report outcomes of communication activities
- Conducting formal survey of audiences through structured on-line questionnaire.




Communication for Change and Action in AR4D
Collaborate . Contribute . Communicate

ANNEXURE XI


NAARAP Updates and Future

ANGOC/ NAARAP Secretariat




BACKGROUND

- ⊙ NAARAP formed at the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Agricultural Research for Development last 17-18 April 2008
- ⊙ **Context:**
 - ⊙ Research partnerships must involve 3 major players i.e. the Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), NGOs, and small farm holders (SFHs).
 - ⊙ NAARAP members noted for the partnership to focus on the shift in the orientation of agricultural research and development (ARD), especially on recognizing farmers as scientists and the working context of small farm holders
- ⊙ Sub-regional focal points: CANGO for East, SANGODAYA for South, ANGOC for Southeast and PIANGO for the Pacific
- ⊙ ANGOC is the first Consortium Secretariat from April 2008 to April 2010



PROPOSED PRIORITIES FOR ARD

- ⊙ Enhancing access to resources and sustaining biodiversity for current and future generations
- ⊙ Agricultural diversification and high-value commodities to reduce poverty
- ⊙ Mitigating losses and risks, increasing resilience, coping mechanisms, nutrition and health, recovery and rehabilitation of SFHs due to the impact of climate change and the vulnerability of agriculture
- ⊙ Sustainable management of water, land, and forest resources while increasing rural incomes of small-farm holders
- ⊙ Production of more and nutritionally-better foods and reducing costs for inputs while increasing incomes for SFHs.
- ⊙ Maintaining/preserving traditional/indigenous high-yielding crop varieties
- ⊙ Facilitating and impeding institutional structures and processes for Small Farmer Households (SFHs).




UPDATES (October 2009 to September 2010)

Regional

Policy and Networking

- Presented paper on “Civil Society Views and Actions on Biopesticides and Biofertilizers” at the *Experts Consultation on Biopesticides and Biofertilizers for Sustainable Agriculture*, organized by APAARI Oct. 27-28, Taichung, Taiwan; includes members’ input
- 2nd CIRDAP Ministerial, Dhaka, Bangladesh January 2010; CSO Declaration submitted to Rural Development Ministers; need for sustainable agri and agri research stressed
- Annual WB Land Conference on Policy and Administration, 26-27 April, Washington D.C.; emphasized the need to ensure land tenure security of the small food producers; agri-investments for whom?
- ADB-IFAD-FAO Investment Forum on Food Security, 19 July 2010
- 30th FAO-APRC 27 Sept.- 1 Oct 2010; discussed positions on access to land and land investments, plant genetic resources, agri trade and investments, the participation of CSOs at the Committee on World Food Security



UPDATES (October 2009 to September 2010)

Regional

Research

- CSO Land Reporting Initiative: setting regional and national indicators for monitoring access to land policies and implementation; to look at national budgets for agriculture and R&D

Capacity Building (upcoming)


- Trainor’s Training on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, SARRA, 17-22 November, Tirupathi, AP, India

Charter and Modes of Operation

- Circulated to the Executive Committee for approval

Information Networking


- naarap.blogspot.com; soliciting inputs for APAARI members and other SA related issues



Next Steps

NAARAP Secretariat Term

- Based on the terms of engagement agreed upon during NAARAP’s formation, the NAARAP Secretariat “shall be small, and shall be rotated to the sub-regions every two years.”
- First secretariat lodged with ANGOC for the period 2008-2010
- ANGOC’s term expires this year. Election of secretariat due.
- Convene NAARAP General Assembly to:
 - Reaffirm NAARAP and members’ commitments to the founding members
 - Governance Structure (By-laws, Executive Committee, Secretariat)
 - Determine future resources and finalize Roadmap (targets and expected outputs)







Supporting southern-European alliances / platforms on agricultural research for development

An initiative of the Food Security Thematic Programme of the European Union

APAARI General Assembly
October 2010

Objective of the study

- To help strengthen the cooperation between European ARD institutions and those in the Asia and Latin America by supporting inter-continental platforms that will catalyse joint ARD initiatives – including joint responses to European (Framework Programme and other) research and research for development calls.

Context

Need for:

- More balanced and demand-driven ARD partnerships
- Increased involvement of civil society and SMEs in ARD
- Improved donor co-ordination
- Stronger advocacy for ARD approaches

Outputs of the study

- Lessons learnt from experiences of the Africa / Europe platform on ARD (PAEPARD)
- Strategy document and concept note on the establishment of ARD platforms for Asia / Europe and Latin America / Europe collaboration



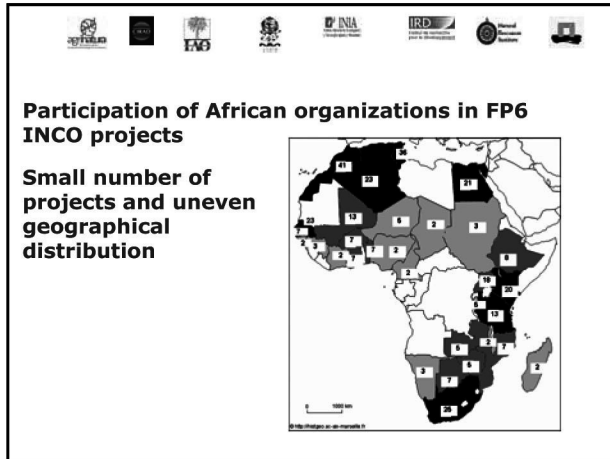
The European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development

- a new alliance formed by **36 universities and research organisations** from **19 European countries** working in agricultural research, education, training and capacity strengthening for development
- the major institutional voice in Europe and the main gateway between Europe and developing and emerging economy countries in the field of **agricultural research and education for development**



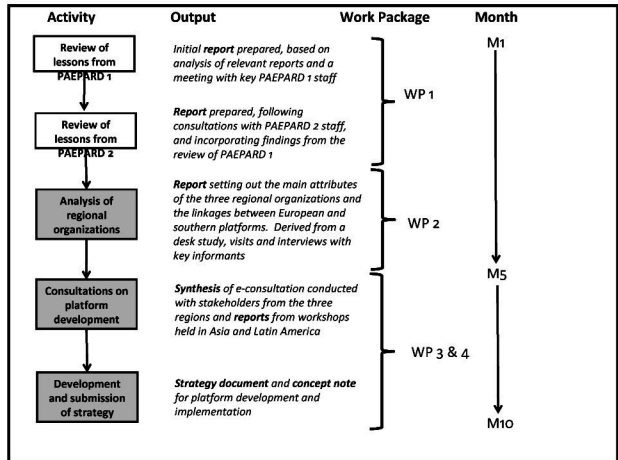
An Africa-Europe platform for agricultural research for development

Partnership between FARA, AGRINATURA and other organizations in Africa and Europe



- ### Key activities in PAEPARD 2
- Facilitation of impact-oriented and entrepreneurial ARD partnerships for agricultural research, training and innovation
 - Information and knowledge exchange
 - Capacity building of partnership teams
 - Advocacy on alignment of priorities to resource allocation for African and European ARD

- ### Expectations from PAEPARD 2
- Mobilise Asian and European stakeholders
 - Enhance mutual understanding and trust
 - Strengthen capacities and mutual learning
 - Catalyse the formation of multistakeholder platforms across the two continents
 - Influence the agricultural research agenda in Asia and in Europe



- ### How you can contribute
- Participation in e-consultation and stakeholder workshop
 - Details to be circulated shortly

Thank you for your attention

Contact: Alex Percy-Smith (Team leader)
Email: alex@apsconsultingservices.dk




AARINENA Experiences on Inter-regional Cooperation

Ibrahim Hamdan
Executive Secretary
AARINENA

APAARI General Assembly Meeting,
Suwon-Republic of Korea 12 October, 2010

AARINENA MISSION

To contribute to the enhancement of agricultural and rural development in the WANA region through fostering agricultural research and technology development.

To promote the exchange of scientific and technical experience and information.

To strengthen collaboration within and outside the region to achieve greater degree of self-reliance in food and agriculture.

WANA Region

AARINENA SubRegions



Maghreb Sub-Region: Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Malta, Libya

Mashreq Sub-Region: Syria, Cyprus, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestinian Auth., Iraq

Nile Valley & Red Sea Sub-Region: Somalia, Djibouti, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt

Arabian Peninsula Sub-Region: Oman, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, S. Arabia

Western Asia Sub-Region: Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran

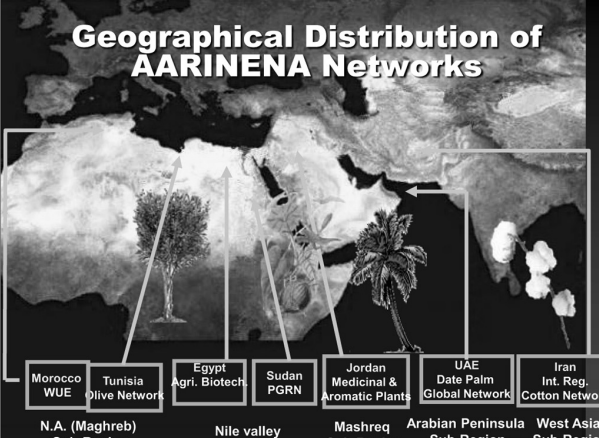
Importance of Inter-Regional Cooperation

- ❖ Inter-regional experiences (success or failures) in one region can serve as lessons for implementing actions in another region for better addressing key challenges related to the poor.
- ❖ Regional cooperation and collaboration will enforce and facilitate implementation of the identified regional research priorities.
- ❖ Regions should not work in isolation as research groups, they should link their efforts with Regional & international R&D organizations; share their knowledge with extension workers and even social workers in order to reach the real end users of their research efforts: "the farmers".
- ❖ Advocacy to policy makers for securing political support on the importance of ARD through inter-regional collaboration is a must for any successful impact sought after.

AARINENA Technical Networks

- Technical cooperation networks have become a generic model for the establishment of functional mechanisms for collaboration and enhancement of communication and exchange of experiences among different countries in the region and other regions of the world.
- When the resources are limited, networks become more effective means for the optimal utilization of indigenous expertise and available resources
- AARINENA Established with the support of its cosponsors 7 Networks on: Date-Palm, Cotton, Olive, Medicinal Plants, Water Uses Efficiency, Agricultural Biotechnology and Plant Genetic Recourses (PGRN)

Geographical Distribution of AARINENA Networks



N.A. (Maghreb) Sub-Region: Morocco WUE, Tunisia Olive Network

Nile valley Sub-Region: Egypt Agri. Biotech, Sudan PGRN

Mashreq Sub-Region: Jordan Medicinal & Aromatic Plants

Arabian Peninsula Sub-Region: UAE Date Palm Global Network

West Asia Sub-Region: Iran Int. Reg. Cotton Network

Examples of AARINENA Inter-regional Collaboration

- with ERA-ARD: Southern Advisory Group (SAG): implementation of the Inter-regional Bioenergy Project by 4 regional fora
- with APAARI and CACARI: INCANA: Travelling Workshops & SC meetings are conducted alternately among the 3 regions
- with APPARI:AARINENA Biotechnology Network & APCoAB conducted jointly a series of training courses with participants from both regions
- with FARA: AARINENA assisted the Establishment of NASRO as a subregion with dual membership in both regions
- with GFAR Global Partnership Program (GPP) on Linking Farmers to Market : Success stories were published however, The Inter-regional proposal still pending for donor support
- AARINENA is participating in ARIMNet Project, A cooperative network for Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean basin supported by European Commission (EC).

Future Inter-regional Partnership

- Facilitating synergies in agricultural information systems among all Regional Fora
- Dissemination and sharing of new and proven technologies among different regions
- Innovations in faster growing, drought and salt tolerant crops will be required to deal with climate change .
- Facilitating south-south & north-south collaboration through Regional Networks and in capacity building and joint ARD activities.
- Strengthening civil society involvement in ARD i.e. NGOs, private sector, farmer's organizations
- Through this assembly we recommend that GFAR take more active role in promoting Inter-regional Cooperation among Regional Fora.

THANK YOU

For copies contact :

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
C/o FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel. : +662 697 4371-73; Fax. : +662 697 4408
E-mail : apaari@apaari.org; website : www.apaari.org