



Asia- Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions

Progress Report on APAARI Activities* (2006)

**Prof. H. P.M. Gunasena
Chair, APAARI
and
Dr. Raj Paroda
Executive Secretary, APAARI**

*A report presented during the GFAR Steering Committee Meeting, 2-3 December 2006, Washington D.C., U.S.A.

Highlights of Accomplishments and Status of APAARI Activities: January-November 2006

Introduction

The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research institutions (APAARI), established in 1991 as an apolitical, non-profit and neutral forum of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the region, strengthens the research capabilities of NARS and promotes information sharing among them in order to alleviate poverty, increase agricultural productivity and resource use, protect/conservate the environment and improve sustainability. Besides the NARS, several International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) and CGIAR Centers are its associate members and regional organizations as reciprocal members. To date we have 38 member institutions (Annex I).

The APAARI programs are aimed to enhance exchange of scientific and technical know-how and information in agricultural research for development; assist in strengthening research capability of member institutions and promote cross- linkages among national, regional and international research organizations. APAARI, in consultation with its stakeholders, has developed a long-term perspective plan and strategies to address relevant issues, including regional collaboration, networking of research programs, human resource development, policy advocacy, resource generation, and publication enhancement.

APAARI Mission

“To promote the development of national agricultural research systems in the Asia-Pacific region through facilitation of intra-regional, inter-institutional and international cooperation”

Functions

- Convene General Assembly to develop Policies, Priorities and Programmes; Organize working groups, meetings, seminars, expert consultations on regional thematic issues;
- Collect, collate and disseminate research information; maintain links with agencies/institutions/organizations engaged in similar activities within and outside the region; and
- Promote collaborative research among member institutions; Partnership with CGIAR/IARCs, ARIs, GFAR, Regional, Sub-Regional Fora, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Private Sector

Significant milestones: 2000-2006

As a background, we would like to highlight first the significant milestones that APAARI had to date to better appreciate the fact that we are building on the previous initiatives and taking on new challenges in ARD. Since its establishment by FAO and many NARS in 1990, APAARI has grown into a self - sustaining regional forum with 38 members composed of the NARS, CGIAR centers, international agricultural research institutes and regional organizations. We have developed our strategic Plan: APAARI Vision 2025 and have involved different stakeholders in translating it into specific annual work

plans, updating regional research priorities, intensifying partnerships in information and knowledge exchange, and addressing specific issues of regional and global importance. We have also made a significant progress of involving the civil society organizations (CSOs) such as the NGOs, farmers' organization (FOs), private sector and the young professionals group (YPARD) in our priority setting exercises and expert consultations, and documentation of "success stories" in ARD. We wish to grow and become a stronger regional organization, with diverse membership allowing the participation of smaller NARS/NARIs in the region, and gaining the full support and confidence of international organizations such as FAO, CGIAR, GFAR, donors and other stakeholders.

Below are the significant milestones for which we acknowledge the contributions and support of our members and generous support of GFAR, many donors such as ACIAR, FAO, JIRCAS, the private sector, among some others.

Year	Milestone	Remarks
2000	Development of Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS)	With support from ACIAR and GFAR, APAARI established APARIS as a major program that is quite dynamic and being steered by its Steering Committee
2001	Regional Priorities for the Asia-Pacific Region Discussed	The 2001 regional priorities have helped shape global perspectives and priorities of GFAR and the CGIAR to maximize their contribution to the challenge of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Moreover, these regional priority setting exercises have resulted into two regional programs initiated and supported by APAARI and other donors, namely, the Asia-Pacific Consortium for Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) and the Asia-Pacific Regional Agricultural Information System (APARIS-Phase 2), and currently work is in progress on Linking Farmers to Market (LFM) Global Partnership Programme (GPP) being facilitated by GFAR.
2003	Integration of Delhi and Bangkok APAARI offices, on the premises of FAO Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand and strengthening of the Secretariat	For cost effectiveness and greater efficiency to deliver expected outputs
2004	Establishment of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB),	APCoAB was established to promote and harness the benefits of agricultural biotechnology in the region. In last two years, it has made significant progress and playing an important facilitation role as neutral body governed by its own Steering Committee involving different stakeholders. A Private sector representative sits on the Steering Committee, beside FAO, GFAR, CGIAR and NARS representing all three sub-regions. The Secretariat is being hosted by ICRISAT-New Delhi Office.
2005	High level policy dialogue on biotechnology	It was conducted in November 2005 and attended by high government officials, NARS managers, scientists, academe, private sector, NGOs, FOs, and donors. It acknowledged the important contributions of both traditional and modern biotechnologies to alleviate poverty and ensure food security. The role of APAARI as key facilitator was recognized. This highly successful meeting was jointly organized and supported by FAO, GFAR and APAARI
2006	Strengthening of APAARI Governance through inclusion of other stakeholders, i.e. GFAR, CGIAR, and CSOs, in APAARI decision making body (Executive Committee)	The Constitution is proposed to be amended, specifically for the membership in the Executive Committee, for approval by the General Assembly on 7 November 2006 in New Delhi, India.
2006	Regional priority setting for ARD- accomplished through greater participation of all stakeholders	Farmer/farmers organizations (IFAP), NGOs (ANGOC), the youth, (YPARD), private sector were actively involved during the Workshop on Regional Synthesis of Research Needs, held on 18-19 August 2006 in Bangkok.
2006	Set the stage for the proposed establishment of Asia-Pacific NGO Consortium – in partnership with GFAR	A small group meeting will be convened by ANGOC during the APAARI meeting in November 2006 in New Delhi to evolve strategies and plans for establishing this important consortium.

--	--	--

Major Accomplishments: January- November 2006

The major accomplishments of APAARI during the period January-November 2006 are given below. The activities reported are along the major themes consistent with APAARI's strategic thrusts and the approved work plan.

Research Priority Setting involving all stakeholders: APAARI provided a platform for the regional priority setting based on the needs identified by the different stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region. During the last decade, APAARI has done its best to bring together all stakeholders to collectively decide on regional research priorities, its strategic plan, the networks it is associated with, and some new initiatives such as on ICT/ICM and biotechnology. While it took time to bring in NGOs and FOs, they are now more actively engaged and involved in the process (Annex III)

During 2004 and 2005, APAARI conducted research needs assessment for the three sub-regions, taking into consideration new developments and challenges. One of the major challenges the Asia-Pacific region faces is the on-going shift from a focus on increased production to meet national food security targets, to increased farm productivity that factors in environmental concerns and profitability. Since majority of the producers in the region are small scale farmers, moving them beyond the subsistence level to market - oriented and environmentally sound sustainable production systems will not be easy. This, therefore, constitutes a major paradigm shift for ARD. In South and West Asia for instance, new research areas deserving additional emphasis include agro-enterprise development (focus on post- harvest technology and value addition), emphasis on sustainability of farming/cropping systems rather than individual crops/commodities, INRM approach using watersheds managed by the communities, greater emphasis on eco-regional research (arid, semi-arid, mountain, coastal beside irrigated eco-systems), thrust on low input use technologies/varieties with emphasis on abiotic stresses and IPM using biotechnology, greater role of legumes, precision farming and policy and institutional reforms with special emphasis on strategies to encourage higher investments in infrastructure, and enabling policies on marketing, credit and commodity pricing. In the Pacific, serious gaps have been identified in important research areas such as value adding and post- harvest management, markets and marketing. In Southeast Asia (SEA), main priority areas include (i) food safety and security, specifically agriculture and fisheries product quality, value adding of products for competitiveness, productivity and profitability, export/import competitiveness, policy researches related to food safety, market changes, biotechnology and other emerging issues; and (ii) farmers/fisher folks capability enhancement including value chain analysis and improve market access, entrepreneurial development of farmers and fisher folks, provision of access to credit, and intra/inter-household production access. There is growing recognition that research must transform subsistence farming into agro-entrepreneurship.

The **Regional Synthesis of Research Needs in Asia-Pacific conducted on 18-19 August 2006** in Bangkok brought together key stakeholders from the three sub-regions, namely, the NARS, CGIAR centers, NGOs, farmers' and Private Sector organizations, donor representatives, regional and international organizations, and the youth sector. It identified six regional research themes:

- i) - Natural Resource Management,
- ii) - Genetic Resources and Biotechnology,
- iii) - Enterprise Improvement,
- iv) - Post harvest and Value Addition,
- v) - Policy and Institutions,
- vi) - Capacity Building.

The anticipatory research suggested includes climate change and biofuels. Monitoring and evaluation of collaborative activities was suggested as an additional role which APAARI and GFAR should play. A

number of follow-up actions by all stakeholders, beside continued support to research networks, APARIS and APCoAB activities, were recommended, including the establishment of the Asian NGO Consortium on ARD, joint ANGOC-YPARD planning meeting on partnership in ARD, synthesis of on-going biofuels initiatives for informed decision making, establishment of LFM working group in the region, including a global partnership program (GPP) among others.

APAARI – a forum for regional and global issues: APAARI has a responsible role to gather, and synthesize information and knowledge on important and emerging issues for sound, science-based decision making such in the priority areas of plant genetic resources, biotechnology, and ICT, among others. It also facilitates dialogue among its stakeholders on thematic issues. Some of these had been:

(i) In November, 2005, APAARI jointly with IPGRI facilitated a roundtable meeting of NARS leaders, specifically to: (a) increase awareness of the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITGRFA) implementation process at international and national levels; (b) develop harmonized regional PGR Strategy; and (c) identify modalities for technical assistance for the implementation of the Treaty. The participants highlighted the need for national level technical legal assistance for the implementation of the Treaty and endorsed the joint program for technical assistance to countries being developed by FAO and IPGRI. They recommended that APAARI and IPGRI jointly provide a forum for Asian National Negotiators, preferably before the next meeting of the Contact Group to develop the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA), by April 2006. **Hence, APAARI in collaboration with IPGRI facilitated a meeting in April, 2006 of the seven Asian representatives nominated by the Chairs of the FAO Regional Groups for the purpose.** The meeting provided an opportunity to prepare a well coordinated Asian position which they used for negotiation during the 24-28 April 2006 SMTA Contact Group meeting held in Sweden. Based on the feedback from the Asian Group, the output of the meeting was also adopted by Japan, China and South Korea, as they were unable to join the Bangkok meeting.

Hence, APAARI, in partnership with IPGRI, was pleased to have facilitated the process of arriving at a common understanding to develop SMTA, which would have greater implications on APAARI NARS for dealing with exchange and benefit-sharing of genetic resources in the future. Since then, we are pleased that the Governing Council of ITGRFA has approved the draft SMTA in its first meeting.

In keeping with the need for safe application of biotechnology, several countries in the Asia-Pacific region have evolved biosafety regulations and guidelines for research, development and transboundary movement of GM crops and their products. Harmonizing regulation at the regional level and building capacities that are critical for harmonized implementation of the regulations are essential for transferring the benefits of biotechnology to the farmers and consumers in the region. In this context, a **workshop on “Biosafety Regulations for Transgenic Crops and the Need for harmonizing them in the Asia-Pacific Region” was jointly organized by APCoAB and ICRISAT on 31 July – 2 August 2006** at ICRISAT, Patancheru, India involving 30 participants from 12 countries of the region. Important recommendations on priority areas for harmonization, capability building and future strategies were made. It is our hope that the recommendations of the workshop will be useful for policy makers, research managers, researchers and the industry in developing appropriate policies and programs that synergise regional cooperation for enhanced crop productivity, greater food security and poverty alleviation, while addressing the concerns of biosafety and environmental protection.

Aiming towards more inter-regional collaboration: Inter-regional collaboration is a modality to maximize the use of resources and derive benefits from these partnerships (see related section on *improving the functioning of ARD networks*). APAARI would continue its efforts to strengthen these partnerships, while working with the international ARD organizations such as GFAR, CGIAR, FAO, etc. In future, we wish to build a stronger Regional Forum with full support and confidence of our stakeholders. APAARI and other donors have been supporting two major regional programs, namely: the Asia-Pacific Regional Information System (APARIS) which was developed in 2000 and the Pacific Consortium for Agricultural Biotechnology (APCoAB) which was established in 2004. Under these and other network initiatives, APAARI has been quite active in recent past to build stronger inter-regional partnerships. Some of the major efforts had been:

(i) Inter-regional Cooperation for ICT and ICM in ARD is a modality being facilitated by GFAR. During July 2006, APAARI organized an inter-regional workshop at AIT, Bangkok jointly with GFAR. It was attended by 21 participants from various RFs, selected Asia-Pacific NARS, GFAR, FAO, and representatives from other international initiatives on ICM4ARD. The workshop's objectives were to (1) identify the role of regional fora (RF) in the emerging global alliance for ICT and ICM in ARD through their Regional Agricultural Information Systems (RAIS) and (2) develop collaborative activities of RAIS such as APARIS, AARINENA-RAIS, FARA-RAIS, InfoSys+, AgroWeb, CAC-RAIS, and FORAGRO-INFOTEC. The workshop was also an opportunity for the new AGRIS Task Force on Advocacy to discuss with RFs the future directions and specific actions to be undertaken.

(ii) As a follow up on the recommendations of an Expert Consultation organized by APAARI in December, 2004 on Post-harvest Technology, a priority area identified earlier among research priorities for the region, APAARI has taken lead to participate in the GFAR Global Partnership Program on Linking Farmers to Market (GPP-LFM) through its **Ad Hoc Working Group (RWG) which was convened in June, 2006 in Bangkok.** The regional LFM program envisions "*enhanced livelihoods of farming communities by providing opportunities of choice for market integration through responsive R & D*". Its four components are: information and documentation, cluster and linkages, responsive R & D, and training. The following initial commitments were expressed and acknowledged by concerned stakeholders: Farmer group training (APRACA); NGO training (FAO); Information and documentation (APAARI, FAO); Research responsiveness (BPRES-Phil and CFTRI-India; JIRCAS- dispatch of experts on market analysis; Private sector (Nuhem Seeds) - Research to deliver products); and CLT/FFF/IFAP as partners in the long term. To date APAARI has initially documented success stories on LFM in India and the Philippines which will soon be published and disseminated. The regional LFM program was inputted into the GPP-LFM which was designed during the **inter-regional workshop convened by GFAR in Cairo, Egypt on 11-15 September 2006 in which APAARI actively participated.**

(iii) The more recent addition to these networks is the **Inter-regional Network on Cotton in Asia , and North Africa (INCANA)** established in 2003 involving AARINENA, APAARI, CACAARI, AREO, and ICARDA. In **2006, INCANA organized traveling workshop on IPM in Syria** involving participants from more than ten countries, of which two participants from India and Pakistan were supported by APAARI. The participants interacted with scientists, farmers and field managers and have learned great deal about significant progress made in these fields in the two countries. It is proposed to organize a traveling workshop next year to learn about the success of predominant cotton-wheat cropping system in Pakistan and India.

APAARI's Governance being strengthened: Considering the need for greater ownership and inclusiveness of all stakeholders in the decision making process, APAARI Executive Committee agreed in June, 2006 to propose to the General Assembly an Amendment to APAARI's Constitution pertaining to Article X which provides for the composition of the Executive Committee. **The Amendment, once approved by the GAM on 7 November 2006, will provide one additional seat each in the Executive Committee for the following:**

CGIAR, GFAR and the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

APAARI has also invited NGO representation in the management of one of its major programs on biotechnology (APCoAB). It hopes that as the NGOs and FOs get more organized and establish their legitimacy, both CSOs will have greater roles in APAARI's future decision making process. Similarly, we anticipate effective partnership with Private Sector in the future. Presently, APSA is our reciprocal member and on APAARI's recommendation now represents on GFAR Steering Committee. As APAARI broadens its partnership with other key stakeholders, it will ensure further strengthening of its governance and management. List of present APAARI members is given in Annex I.

Information exchange further intensified: One of the APAARI's objectives is to promote the exchange of scientific and technical know-how and information in agriculture. In order to demonstrate that science for agricultural development has an extensive track record of delivering *real* benefits to farmers and

consumers through new and improved crop, livestock, fish, and farming technologies that improve productivity and farmers' incomes, APAARI has institutionalized the documentation of "success stories" and "best practices" which are disseminated region-wide in print and through APAARI web site (<http://www.apaari.org>). To date, 24 success stories have been documented along the following areas/disciplines: crops (11: cereals, horticulture and industrial crops); pest management (2); fisheries (4); livestock (2); farming systems (2); effective institutional linkages/partnership (1); and agro-tourism (1). In **2006, beside a success story on Trout farming in Nepal, a status report on Bt cotton in India was published. Success stories on ICT/ICM applications and linking farmers to markets will be released soon. A list of APAARI publications is given in Annex II.**

It is hoped that these success stories and case studies will be used effectively by our members and partners to raise awareness, gain and sustain support of policy/decision-makers and donors regarding agricultural research for development. They have been very useful in sensitizing NARS leaders, policy makers and other stakeholders on partnership building for effective agricultural innovation capacities and adoption of technologies. They can also be shared by GFAR with its other regional fora in different languages.

APAARI regularly updates CD-ROM publications such as "**APAARI on CD**" and "**NARS on CD**," which will provide NARS databases and publications in a searchable form on a CD. **In 2006, these were up-dated and published in print, on CD and on the web. Likewise, posters of APAARI, APARIS, APCoAB and the major ARD Networks associated with APAARI were up-dated and displayed/distributed in the meetings of FAO, CGIAR-AGM, GFAR-SCM etc.**

APAARI and APCoAB websites have been redesigned and made more user-friendly. The web pages have been reconstituted and comprehensive links provided to related web sites. All APAARI and APCoAB publications are available at these sites (<http://www.apaari.org>; <http://www.apcoab.org>).

APAARI's achievements during the last 15 years have also been documented and a comprehensive publication on "**Fifteen Years of APAARI: A Retrospective**" **will be released during the General Assembly, on 7 November 2006, in New Delhi.** We hope that our 15 years of experience and lessons learned will be shared with all stakeholders and other regional fora, and we will get proper guidance for our future road map.

Improving the functioning of existing ARD Networks: The networks are given the opportunity to share their experiences during appropriate meetings of APAARI. **The basic information and progress to date are collected and will be compiled into a poster on Major ARD Networks Associated with APAARI.** To date, the networks associated with APAARI are predominantly crop-based, and majority of them are facilitated by the CGIAR centers. Some are more active than the others. Some are faced with funding constraints and lack of enthusiasm by concerned partners. Important among these are: CLAN (ICRISAT); CORRA (IRRI); TAMNET (FAO-APSA); GoFAR (World Fish Center); PGR Networks (IPGRI); Biosaline Network (ICBA); UTFANET (ICUC) and INCANA (AREO).

One of the more active networks is the Cereals and Legumes Asia Network (CLAN) with membership of 13 countries in Asia, namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Iran, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Yemen. ICRISAT, AVRDC, ICARDA and other regional and international institutes in the Asia-Pacific region are a part of the network, providing genetic material, technology and research information, and training input. The expanded CLAN is now co-facilitated by ICRISAT, ICARDA and AVRDC. The coordination unit is located at and supported by ICRISAT-Patancheru. APAARI has been actively involved in provided needed support to help sustain the network activities. Recently, a project proposal has jointly been submitted to IFAD for funding.

On rice, with the leadership role of IRRI, CORRA Network is playing an important role in catalyzing NARS leaders on important issues relating to technological and policy related developments. CORRA is acting as a Think Tank for all related ARD issues on rice.

The Tropical Asian Maize Network (TAMNET) has served good purpose in testing parental lines of various single cross and three way hybrids of maize. The Network was earlier facilitated by CIMMYT and currently by FAO and APSA. Somehow, the Network has suffered some setback lately for funds and proper coordination mechanism. APAARI proposes to have this Network revived in view of importance of maize crop in the region.

The PGR Networks are being facilitated by IPGRI regional office in Asia and activities are reported regularly to APAARI. Also MoU is in place for working of these networks under APAARI umbrella. Recently, initiatives were taken to evolve and endorse a regional PGR Strategy. The genetic resource activities, including the Gene Banks, are likely to be supported in future based on this strategy by the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT).

A Network on fishery research is facilitated by the World Fish Center with partnership of APAARI. GoFAR has organized regular meetings in the past to exchange information and technologies for the development of agriculture and fishery sector in the region. The activities of GoFAR have lately slowdown. APAARI would work with World Fish Center to have this Network again activated.

Currently, APAARI and ILRI are exploring the possibility for moving forward with a knowledge network on livestock and to illustrate a practical example of how the APAARI, APHCA, NARS and CGIAR centers (with lead role of ILRI) partnership can add-value through regional collaboration.

Participation in Regional and International Fora: APAARI has been actively participating in important meetings of the regional and international fora such as GFAR Steering Committee, the Steering Committee on Generation Challenge Program, AGM of CGIAR, FAO Regional Conference, meeting of Global Consortium for Higher Education and Research in Agriculture (GCHERA) etc.

Also APAARI has participated in the meeting of our other stakeholders such as NACA, Asian IFAP, and Regional Fora such as European Forum on Agricultural Research, FARA, AARINENA, CACAARI etc. In 2006, APAARI officers and staff participated in various important meetings given in Annex V.

The Next Steps:

Overall, APAARI's diverse activities have provided further thrust on strengthening partnership, collaboration and networking in agricultural research for development in the Asia-Pacific region, addressing the emerging needs and expectations of NARS and other stakeholders. APAARI looks forward to strengthen and sustain the partnership with ARD organizations in pursuing common goals and objectives, especially in the six regional priorities identified during the 18-19 August 2006 synthesis workshop. These are listed in this report.

APAARI also looks forward to pursue inter-regional partnership on linking farmers to market with other Fora engaged in agricultural research and development through active support and involvement of GFAR. The success stories shall be shared and new approaches on LFM shall be put on the ground. Similarly, initiative of INCANA will be further strengthened.

APCoAB's activities are now gaining momentum and will follow through on the important recommendations from the high level policy dialogue such as increase awareness, policy advocacy, harmonization of biosafety standards, public-private partnership, inter-regional collaboration and capacity building.

The commitment of member NARS and the continuous involvement of the National Information Nodal Persons (NINPs) will be critical in further developing, maintaining and updating our information exchange system, through facilitation role of APARIS. Capacity development for those which are still in the initial stage of ICT/ICM development will be our priority, with funding support co-shared by all support institutions and donors. The current user base will have to be expanded to include other stakeholders who are also generators of knowledge and agricultural information, such as the students, farmers, private sector and NGO's. APARIS shall endeavor to maintain contact with the national focal persons to sustain

the interest and learning shared during the previous training and advocate at the national levels for more support to ICT/ICM related initiatives. Ownership of agricultural research information system (ARIS) at the national level by NARS leaders will be critical to strengthen APARIS and we shall continue our efforts in this direction.

In order to meet increasing expectations of our members, APAARI proposes to intensify its activities during the next biennium so that various networks and consortia activities are further strengthened and thematic issues, as per identified research priorities and needs, are properly addressed. Details of tentative workplan for 2007 are provided in Annex IV.

We remain committed to adopt the principles of inclusiveness and subsidiarity in APAARI activities, and foster the culture of learning among members to gain the support and confidence of donors and our stakeholders. As we grow and share the responsibility to manage an efficient and effective forum like APAARI, we will always aim for more meaningful partnerships among stakeholders for the benefits of our small farmers in the region and to continue accelerating the growth of agricultural sector in the Asia-Pacific region.

List of APAARI Member Institutions

NARS Members

West Asia

- Agricultural Research and Education Organization (AREO), Tehran, Iran

South Asia

- Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, India
- Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Lalitpur, Nepal
- Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Islamabad, Pakistan
- Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP), Colombo, Sri Lanka

South-East Asia

- Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Department of Agriculture (DoA), Bangkok, Thailand
- Philippines Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), Los Baños, Philippines
- Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Vietnam

East Asia

- Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), Tsukuba, Japan
- Rural Development Administration (RDA), Suwon, Republic of Korea
- Council of Agriculture (CoA), Chinese Taipei

Pacific Island Countries & Oceania

- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Canberra, Australia
- National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Lae, Papua New Guinea
- Koroniva Research Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF), Fiji
- Ministry of Commerce, Forests and Fisheries (MCFF), Apia, Western Samoa
- Institut Agronomique Neo-Caledonien (IAC), New Caledonia
- **University of Technology, Papua New Guinea**

Associate Members

- AVRDC – World Vegetable Center (Chinese Taipei)
- 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)**
- ICIMOD – International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (Nepal)
- ICRISAT – International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, (India)
- IFPRI – International Food Policy Research Institute (U.S.A.)
- ILRI – International Livestock Research Institute (Kenya)
- IPGRI – International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (Italy)
- IRRI – International Rice Research Institute, (Philippines)
- IWMI – International Water Management Institute , (Sri Lanka)

- **UNESCAP-CAPSA – Center for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (Indonesia)**
- WFC – World Fish Center (Malaysia)

Reciprocal Members

- **AARINENA – Association of Agricultural Research Institutes in the Near East and North Africa (Jordan)**
- AIT – Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
- APAFRI – Asia-Pacific Association for Forestry Research Institutions (Malaysia)
- APSA – The Asia and Pacific Seed Association (Thailand)
- NACA – Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (Thailand)

Note: Those in bold are the new members

APAARI Publications

- Bi-annual APAARI Newsletter (30 issues)
- APAARI Success Stories (**listed below**)
- APAARI - A Decade of Progress, 2001
- Proceedings of Expert Consultations and APAARI Meetings (**listed below**)
- APAARI Vision 2025
- ICT in ARD: Status and Progress in the Asia-Pacific Region. 2004
- APAARI on CD (updated annually)
- **15 years of APAARI: A Retrospective. 2006 (In press)**
- **Agricultural Research Priorities for Asia and the Pacific – A Synthesis. 2001, 2006.**
- **Directories of Agricultural Research Institutions (CD). 2006.**
- **Posters: APAARI, APARIS, APCoAB, ARD Networks. 2006**

Success Stories

- Baby Corn Production in Thailand (1994/1) by Dr. Chamnan Chutkaew and Dr. R.S. Paroda
- Tilapia Farming in the Philippines (1994/2) by Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III
- Hybrid Rice in China (1994/3) by Mr Lou Xizhi and Dr. C.X. Mao
- Dairying in India (1994/4) by Dr. R.P. Aneja
- Hybrid Cotton in India (1995/1) by Dr. A.K. Basu and Dr. R.S. Paroda
- Palm Oil Industry in Malaysia (1995/2) by Dr. Y.B. Basiron
- Transformation in Korean Farming – A Success Story of Effective Linkages (1996/1) by Dr. Chae Yun Cho
- Cotton Production in Pakistan (1996/2) by Dr. Badaruddin Soomro and Dr. Parvez Khaliq
- Orchids in Thailand (1997/1) by Dr. Kanchit Thammasiri
- Wheat Production in Iran (1997/2) by Dr. Abbas Keshavarz and Dr. M.J. Mirhadi
- Agro-Tourism in Australia (1997/3) by Dr. Tom Connors
- Direct Seeded Rice in Malaysia (1998/1) by Dr. Cheong Ah Wah
- Groundnut in China (1998/2) by Dr. Duan Shufen, Dr. Hu Wenguang and Dr. Sui Qingwei
- Oilseeds in India (1999/1) by Dr. Mangala Rai
- Integrated Pest Management in Rice in Indonesia (1999/2) by Dr. Soejitno
- Bivalve Mariculture in India (2000/1) by Dr. V.N. Pillai, *et. al.*
- Farming of Carrageenophytes in the Philippines (2001/1) by Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III
- Resource Conserving Technologies: Transforming the Rice-Wheat Systems of the Indo-Gangetic Plains (2002/1) by Dr. Raj K. Gupta, *et. al.*
- Success Story on Control of Newcastle Disease in Village Chickens (2003/1) by Dr. Robyn Elders
- A Success Story on Lentil Improvement in Bangladesh (2004/1) by Dr. Ashutosh Sarker, *et. al.*
- A Success Story on Sustaining Green Revolution (2004/2) by Dr. S. Nagarajan
- A Success Story on Biological Pest Control in India (2004/3) by Dr. S. P. Singh
- A Success Story on Trout Farming in Nepal (2005/1) by Dr. A. K. Rai, *et. al.*
- Commercialization of Bt Corn in the Philippines: A Status Report by APCoAB, 2005, R. V. Ebor, A.C Ampil, M.B. Palacpac, and C.G. Custodio, Jr.
- **Bt Cotton in India: A Status Report by APCoAB, 2006.**
- **Selected ICT Initiatives and Success Stories on Agricultural Information System. 2006**

Proceedings of Expert Consultations and Meetings

- NARS-CGIAR Partnership for Agricultural Research and Development, 1996
- Research Priority Setting by the NARS, 1996
- Management and Strengthening of Research Networks, 1997

- Research Management Mechanisms of NARS, 1998
- Developing APAARI Vision 2025, 1999
- Development of Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Information System (APARIS), 2000
- Regional Priority Setting for the Agricultural Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2001
- Status of Biotechnology in Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific, 2002
- Development of Second Phase of APARIS, 2002
- Strengthening of Research Partnerships Through Networks and Consortia, 2002
- Establishment of Asia-Pacific Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology, 2003
- Strengthening Regional Agricultural Information System and Regional Research Networks, 2003
- Post harvest Technologies for Ensuring Food Security and Value Addition for Enhanced Income, 2004;
- Brainstorming Session on Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Biotechnology, 2005;
- Research Needs Assessment for South Asia, 2004; Southeast Asia, 2005; and the Pacific, 2005;
- High Level Policy Dialogue on Biotechnology for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation: Opportunities and Challenges, 2005;
- Roundtable meeting on Implementation of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 2005
- **ASIAN Contact Group on SMTA Meeting, 2006**
- **Ad hoc Working Group on Linking Farmers to Market Meeting, 2006**
- **Inter-regional Meeting on APARIS, 2006**
- **Regional Synthesis of Research Needs, 2006**
- **Workshop on Biosafety Regulations for Transgenic Crops and the Need for Harmonizing them in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2006**

Note: Those in bold letters are the ones that are published during 2006

Annex III

CSOs Participation in APAARI Expert Consultations (2002-2006)

Topic	Date/Venue	Participating Organization
Expert Consultation on the Status of Biotechnology	21-23 March 2002, Bangkok, Thailand	ANGOC-SEA (Philippines), Gene Campaign (India), Forum on Biotechnology and Food Security (India)
Expert Consultation on Strengthening Regional Information Systems and Regional Networks	1-4 December 2003, Bangkok, Thailand	Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP/AgroWatch, (India)
Research Needs Assessment and Agricultural Research Priorities for South and West Asia	7-8 October 2004, Hyderabad, India	Perumahan Tanjung Mas Raya (Indonesia), Federation of Free Farmers Coops. Inc. (Philippines), Federation of Farmers Association (India), BAIF Development Research Foundation (India), MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (India), INREM Foundation (India), Biostadt M.S. Seeds Ltd. (India)
Expert Consultation on Post harvest Technologies	1-3 December 2004, Bangkok, Thailand	ITDG (Bangladesh), ASFARNET (Indonesia), Federation of Free Farmers (Philippines), ANGOC (Philippines)
Research Needs Assessment in Southeast Asia	27-28 October 2005, IRRI, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines	ANGOC-SEA (Philippines), Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines (BCP), ANGAT Farmers Association (Philippines)
High Level Policy Dialogue on Biotechnology	7-9 November 2005, Bangkok, Thailand	Farmers Forum in India , South Asia Rural Reconstruction (SARRA, India)
Roundtable meeting on the Implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	10 November 2005, Bangkok, Thailand	South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA, India)
Meeting of Regional <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Linking Farmers to	6-7 June 2006, Bangkok, Thailand	Federation of Free Farmers Coops, Inc. (FFF-Philippines), IFAP Asian Committee, Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), VREDESEILANDEN- VECO (Indonesia)

Markets		
Regional Synthesis of Research Needs	18-19 August 2006 Bangkok, Thailand	Federation of Free Farmers Coops, Inc (FFF-Philippines), IFAP Asian Committee, Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Thailand (ACFT), ANGOC-SEA (Philippines),
Expert Consultation on Agricultural Innovations: Linking Farmers to Market	6-8 November 2006, New Delhi, India	PROLINNOVA, SARRA, ANGOC-SEA, Indonesian Farmers Society Organization (WAMTI)/ASFARNET (Indonesia), IFAP-Asia, YPARD, AVARD, Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), Sakeaw Organic Association (Thailand), Farmers Forum in India, Gen Campaign, Maharlika Farmers Cooperative /Vegetable Industry Council of Southern Mindanao(Philippines), Federation of Free Farmers Coops, Inc. (FFF-Philippines), National Innovation Foundation (India), BAIF Development Research Foundation (India), MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Coco Technologies Corporation

APAARI PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR 2007

Activity	Details
1. Publications	Proceedings of the Expert Consultation on Agricultural Innovations: Linking Farmers to Markets, and General Assembly, 5-8 November 2006, New Delhi, India and circulation
	APAARI Newsletter (December 2006, June and December 2007)
	A Comprehensive publications on R & D investments in Asia-Pacific (book form and policy briefs) – in partnership with ASTI-IFPRI
	Publication of two new success stories on Linking Farmers to Markets, and other topics
	Compendium of institutions (public and private, NGOs, FOs) working on areas related to linking farmers to markets (LFM)
2. Meetings and Expert Consultations	Expert Consultation on R&D Status on Biofuels in the Asia-Pacific and other regions (An inter-regional initiative)
	Expert Consultation on Strengthening Research Collaboration in Asia-Pacific: Progress of Networks and Consortia Approach and Building on Inter-Regional Collaboration
	Two Executive Committee Meetings (May & Oct/Nov 2007) and their Proceedings
3. APARIS related activities	Web-site enhancement -linked to other Members' websites, RAEL to become operational, networks data base updated. Specific activities:
	(1) New Content Management System for APAARI Web Site using new web technologies and tools sites for easier (de-centralized) upload of new information and better linkages to NARS and other ARD stakeholders' web sites. (2) Institute Directory (NARS on CD): Database needs to be updated and integrated with the ASTI information on APAARI web site. (3) Regional Agricultural Expertise Locator (RAEL): This new service needs to be implemented on APAARI web site. (4) ARD Information Gateway Function using new web spidering and auto update tools. (5) APARIS Steering Committee Meeting.
4. APCoAB	APCoAB Steering Committee Meetings (June & Oct/Nov) and Proceedings
	Forum on Public Awareness on Conventional Biotechnologies and their adoption by resource poor farmers in the Asia Pacific and other regions
	A workshop on capacity building for marker assisted selection (MAS) and functional genomics in partnership with IRRI, Syngenta etc.
	Developing and understanding models for strengthening Public-Private partnership for reaping benefits of biotechnology (in partnership with MAHYCO Foundation)
	Publication of Status Reports on success of tissue culture technology in potato, sugarcane, date palm, orchids, production of viral tree saplings of citrus, papaya etc.

Annex V

Regional and International Meetings attended by APAARI Members and Staff, January-November 2006

Meeting	Date/Venue	APAARI Representative
17 th NACA Governing Council	25-28 February 2006, Tehran	Dr. Jafar Khalghani, Deputy Minister and Head, AREO, Iran Dr. Roozitalab, Deputy Head, AREO, Iran
28 th FAO Regional Conference	15-19 May 2006, Jakarta, Indonesia	Mr. PK Saha, APAARI Liaison Officer
37 th World Farmers Congress	15-17 May 2006, Seoul, Korea	Dr. Betty P. del Rosario, Assistant Executive Secretary, APAARI
AARINENA General Conference and GFAR Steering Committee	23-27 June 2006, Sanaa, Yemen	Prof. H. P. M. Gunasena, APAARI Chair Dr. Raj Paroda, APAARI Executive SEcretary
2nd International Rice Congress	9-13 October 2006, New Delhi, India	Dr. Raj Paroda, APAARI Executive Secretary
GFAR Triennial Conference 2006	9-11 November 2006, New Delhi, India	Prof. H. P. M. Gunasena Dr. Raj Paroda Dr. Betty P. Del Rosario
YPARD-ANGOC partnership meeting	5 November 2006, New Delhi, India	Dr. Betty P. Del Rosario
National Farmers Forum	13-14 November 2006, New Delhi , India	Dr. Raj Paroda
Bio-ethanol from Maize	4-5 November 2006, New Delhi, India	Dr. Raj Paroda
DFID Stakeholders Consultation for South Asia Programme	8 November 2006, New Delhi, India	Dr. Raj Paroda
Regional Workshop on Pig Systems in Asia-Pacific	23-24 November 2006, Bangkok, Thailand	Dr. Betty P. del Rosario
APSA Annual Congress	13-15 November 2006, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Mr. PK Saha