



Transforming Agri-Food Research and Innovation

Almost one billion people live in extreme poverty and 795 million suffer from chronic hunger. Most live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. If we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) on eradicating hunger and poverty, we are going to have to step up our efforts at all levels of the agri-food research and innovation system.

GCARD3 is a conversation taking place nationally, regionally and globally, about the future of agri-food research and innovation. Throughout 2015 and 2016, scientists, researchers, farmers, civil society, rural women and youth, policy makers, education, business and investment agencies, are coming together to decide how agri-food research and innovation systems can best meet the world's development needs.

Background

The Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) was created to promote effective, targeted investment and build partnership, capacities and mutual accountabilities at all levels of the agricultural system to meet the needs of resource-poor farmers and their communities. The GCARD process helps refine regional and global agricultural research priorities, as identified by different stakeholder groups and representatives.

GCARD1, in 2010, resulted in the "GCARD Road Map", a six-point plan for transforming agricultural research for development around the world. In 2012, GCARD2 identified pathways to impact, which led to 15 new commitments around partnership, capacity development and foresight in the CGIAR – the international agricultural research system.

GCARD3 is a longer-term engagement process that is providing a range of opportunities for stakeholders to positively influence the direction and activities of international research for development over the next 10 years. It is about aligning the needs of resource-poor farmers and their communities with international research priorities, starting from the grass-roots up. It's about setting a new research and innovation agenda and ensuring that national and regional systems have the resources, expertise and capacity to deliver. It is hoped that GCARD3 consultations will also result in a more effective means of investing in national agricultural research and innovation systems, to lift developing countries out of poverty and set them on the path to growth.

Join the conversation

GCARD3 is an inclusive, participatory process and an opportunity to shape the future. It's a chance to:

- Explore ways to align regional and national priorities and activities with CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) and to provide CRPs the space to work together on possibilities for future integration
- Strengthen existing and new partnerships and find new ways of working in the future
- Look at how changes in the focus, function and capability of national innovation systems (research, extension, education and enterprise) can best be resourced and supported.



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GCARD3 National Consultations are under way right now. Organized by [CGIAR](#) and national partners, meetings are being held in 20 target countries. They will help shape the second generation of CGIAR Research Programs, by bringing the CGIAR Centers and Programs together with national stakeholders, to understand each others' priorities and activities. This will also support the development of site integration plans that show how the CRPs deliver development outcomes with their partners. For more information, contact: partnerships@cgiar.org.



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GCARD3 Regional Consultations are being organized by GFAR and regional partners: Middle East and North Africa Region (October); Central Asia and the Caucasus Region (December 2-5, 2015) in Almaty, Kazakhstan; Asia-Pacific (December 8-9) in Bangkok, Thailand. Regional consultations in sub-Saharan Africa and the Latin America and Caribbean region are also planned. For more information, contact: gfar-secretariat@fao.org and check out the GCARD section of the GFAR website for updates: www.egfar.org/GCARD.

Countdown to the 2016 GCARD3 Global Event

The **GCARD3 Global Event** will take place in South Africa in April 2016, organized by GFAR, CGIAR and the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa. Based on the theme of *Ensuring SDG impact from agri-food research and innovation*, the Program will broadly cover:

- **Investment** of financial and other resources, inputs and capacities;
- **Integration** of actions in particular locations/contexts, mobilizing collective actions for impact at scale;
- **Alignment** of different programs and actions in the Innovation Webs to achieve common objectives;
- **Equitability**, ensuring that processes are equitably prioritized and delivered, with direct ownership/involvement from their intended beneficiaries;
- **Metrics**, ensuring effective measures for demonstrating impacts against different development goals;
- **Advances in Science**, celebrating progress in delivering on the SDGs



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Sessions at the Global Event will reflect upon the outcomes of the national and regional dialogues with a view to bridging the gaps between the generation of new ideas and their impact in development.

By the end of this intensive engagement process, the agri-food research and innovation community will have a clear understanding of what's needed for national and regional systems to be effective and accountable, and how international agricultural research can be an effective partner in national development outcomes.

For more information about GCARD3, contact gfar-secretariat@fao.org or consortium@cgiar.org or visit <http://www.egfar.org/gcard>