

EIARD

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT



2010 Annual Report



**Report on EIARD main
achievements in 2010**



Table of Content

	Page:
1. Highlights of the year	3
2. Activities by strategic domains	5
3. Staff and meetings	9
ANNEXES	10

1. Highlights of 2009/2010¹

Two major events have marked the activities of European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (the platform coordinating European supports and policies on ARD) during the period under review:

- the implementation of a radical reform of the CGIAR, concomitant to the emergence, through the GCARD process, of a global ARD framework under the leadership of the GFAR.
- the launch of several thematic studies and policy briefs intended to provide evidence for EIARD members' policies, to facilitate coordination and alignment between members and to advocate, at global European and national levels, for increased support to Agricultural Research for Development.

1/ the GCARD and the CGIAR reform

The period covered by this annual report coincides with the effective implementation of the reform of the CGIAR as decided by the AGM 2008. It starts with the last ever CGIAR ExCo meeting (November 2009, in Rome), covers the 1st meetings of all the new instruments governing the reformed CGIAR (Fund Council, Consortium, Funders Forum and GCARD) and closes with the 3rd CGIAR Fund Council when the first of the new CGIAR MegaProgrammes are expected to be approved (November 2010, in Washington).

EIARD has played a key role in all these events: participating, contributing and supporting financially the GCARD process; continuing its historical support to GFAR and to the regional FORA, including EFARD; and taking an active role in all the steps of the CGIAR reform, being the champion of the European vision for an international system more unified and cost effective, more demand driven, more focussed on achieving impacts towards the MDGs, and adding value to the efforts of the other ARD stakeholders (NARES, ARIs, CSO, private sector...) through complementarities and effective partnerships.

All through these steps, and especially during the various Fund Council meetings, the GCARD conference and the Funders' Forum, EIARD has coordinated the European positions, promoting them at the international level and securing to get its key messages taken on board in the reform process. EIARD also considers as a special achievement to see GFAR, and its regional FORA, clearly established by all the stakeholders of the ARD arena (all gathered for the first time at the GCARD conference in Montpellier in March 2010) as the legitimate apex institution in charge of coordinating the global ARD framework. Indeed, GFAR has been, for a great part, idealised, promoted and established by European donors members of EIARD, receiving funding, institutional support and in kind contribution (including the secondment of experts to help the GFAR secretariat in the preparation of the GCARD conference).

2/ the launch of several thematic studies and policy briefs

To provide evidence on ARD and increase donors' alignment, EIARD has commissioned several studies and the preparation of several policy briefs, thanks to the financial support of a project² funded by the EC to contribute to the objectives of the EIARD strategy.

In November 2009, a first discussion paper commissioned by EIARD, on '*Maximising the contribution of agricultural research to rural development*', was discussed in a joint EIARD-GDPRD meeting. This meeting led to GDPRD to decide to join the "research" community and bring its rural development perspective in the GCARD Conference, in Montpellier, in March 2010.

¹ This annual report covers the period between two EIARD annual meetings known as the European Coordination Group (ECG): ECG 15 hosted by GTZ in Eschborn, Germany, in November 2009, and ECG 16 to be held in Uppsala, Sweden, in October 2010.

² Project "Fostering European aid effectiveness for Agricultural Research for Development", also called the "FSTP EIARD project", administered and co funded by GTZ.

Another EIARD commissioned study, on 'The impacts of climate change on food security in Africa: A synthesis of policy issues for Europe', was presented at an International Conference co-organised by EIARD, ERA-ARD and SCAR, in Brussels, in December 2009, event forming part of Copenhagen Summit Agenda (COP 15). This study and this conference have contributed to put Agriculture and especially Agricultural Research for Development back into the Climate Change discussions, both because Climate Change poses a threat to the achievement of Food security in developing countries, especially in Africa, and also because Agriculture is a contributor to green house gases emissions and at the same time holds a great potential for Climate Change mitigation (for instance through C storage in agricultural soils).

In the coming months, EIARD will discuss and publish its findings on several other topics selected by EIARD members: "Making ARD more pro-poor; improving accessibility of results to the poorest", "Capacity development for ARD both in terms of human resources and institutional development", "Impact assessment policies and practices of EIARD members", "Implications on ARD of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)", "Analysis of donor support to CAADP Pillar IV".

All these studies will lead to publications, advocacy materials and policy recommendations, as well as bring opportunities for better coordination and alignment between EIARD members.

2. Activities by strategic domains.

This presentation of EIARD 2009/2010 main activities follows the 4 main fields of activities established for the EIARD strategy for 2009-2013: coordination of European ARD policies in the pursuit of the MDGs; coordination of European investment in the CGIAR; coordination of European investments in strengthening ARD organisations at global and continental and sub continental levels, especially in Africa; coordination between European investments in ARD and investments in rural development in pursuit of the MDGs; communication, advocacy and other crosscutting issues.

2.1 - Coordination of European ARD Policies in the pursuit of the MDGs

EIARD work aims at improving coordination and alignment between all its members, and at developing relevant joint policies and strategies at European level on ARD issues.

EIARD also facilitate linkages between its members and the other European (especially through EFARD) and non European ARD stakeholders (farmers organisations, NGOs, private sector, research institutions, policy makers), for policy formulation and collective actions.

This is achieved mainly through two kinds of instruments.

A/ Exchange of information, networking and organisation of meetings

In 2010, EIARD organised several meetings to allow its members to discuss with relevant ARD partners on thematic or institutional issues: with Sir Gordon Conway, on European support to ARD in Africa; with Prabhu Pingali on the work of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; with Hans Herren, on the implications for EIARD of the IIAASTD³; with Victoria Henson-Apollonio, on Intellectual Property issues in the CGIAR; with Jon Daane, on the work of ICRA; with Mark Holderness, on the GFAR, etc.

Opportunities were also provided for members to mutually inform on their bilateral initiatives. This was especially the case during the Working Group meetings. Information is also circulated by email through the Executive Secretariat.

EIARD also co-organised with ERA-ARD and SCAR, in Brussels on December 16-17, 2009, an International Conference on "Dialogue between Europe and its Southern Partners on Agricultural Research and Climate Change", event forming part of Copenhagen Summit Agenda (COP 15). It was attended by 140 participants (40 of whom were representatives of Southern research centres and

³ On the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, see <http://www.agassessment.org/>

political organizations) who discussed the current situation and defined priorities for scientific research, partnerships and policies in order to address the consequences of climate change on agriculture. EIARD also contributed to this conference through a specific study commissioned to IIED (see below)

B/ Production of studies and policy briefs

Thanks to the financial support of the "FSTP EIARD project" (funded by the EC to contribute to the objectives of the EIARD strategy; project managed by GTZ), EIARD has commissioned several studies and policy brief. The themes to be studied have been identified through a consultative process involving all EIARD members, and the consultants recruited through competitive tenders.

A first study on 'The impacts of climate change on food security in Africa: A synthesis of policy issues for Europe', has been commissioned in 2009 to IIED (UK) who presented initial findings at the International Conference co-organised by EIARD in Brussels, in December 2009. The study was subsequently further discussed and its conclusions are forming the base for a policy brief under preparation.

A second document was produced with EIARD support for the Global Conference for Agricultural Research for Development in March 2010. This document "The GCARD Process in Europe", based on a review of European ARD systems, an e-consultation and a face-to-face meeting of key European ARD stakeholders, is available on the GFAR web site at:

<http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard/regional-consultations/eu>.

For the coming months, three other studies, on "Making ARD more pro-poor; improving accessibility of results to the poorest", "Capacity development for ARD both in terms of human resources and institutional development" and on "Impact assessment policies and practices of EIARD members", and 4 policy briefs, on the 3 same themes as above plus on the "Implications on ARD of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)", have been commissioned to AGRINATURA in August 2010. Reports will be delivered to EIARD, for discussion and later publication, between December 2010 and December 2011.

The last study, an "Analysis of donor support to CAADP Pillar IV", intended to provide EIARD members and the wider community with the knowledge and processes required to better coordinate and harmonise support to the "research and extension" pillar of CAADP, has been awarded in August 2010 to the UK-based consultancy James Morton & Co Ltd. It will be implemented in two phases and will be completed by April 2011.

All the findings generated by these studies will be discussed with all EIARD members and will later lead to publications, advocacy materials and policy recommendations.

2.2 - Coordination of European investments in CGIAR:

EIARD is helping all its members to develop a common vision and a collective action on the CGIAR future, towards a more effective system. *This is done through the definition of EIARD "positions" on CGIAR issues and through efficient liaison between all European donors to the CGIAR.*

A/ EIARD "positions"

Before all the CGIAR meetings, EIARD members define, most often during WG meetings, their consensual common "Positions"⁴ on issues to be discussed.

During the CGIAR meetings, EIARD chair and Executive Secretary also ensure an efficient coordination, especially between the members participating as observers and the four European donors representing the European "constituency" at the CGIAR Fund Council.⁵

These unified EIARD "positions" have given the European donors a greater influence on the decisions taken by the CGIAR. Most of these positions were approved and subsequently included in the CGIAR documents. This is especially the case of the integration in the CGIAR reform of several principles that have always been "championed" by EIARD for the reform of the CGIAR: a unified international ARD system that is demand driven, delivers more impact towards the MDGs, adds specific value to existing efforts by other research and non research organisation, and that is genuinely opened to partnership with other ARD stakeholders.

It has also to be noted that the other members of the CGIAR Fund Council and the CGIAR Fund Office highly appreciate the coordination work done by EIARD, as the "positions" enable greater efficiency in the meetings and subsequent negotiations.

B/ Liaison between donors

The Executive Secretariat of EIARD ensures a role of *liaison*, through email and phone, among the European CGIAR donors themselves, and also between them and the CGIAR Fund Office. This activity has gain increased importance in 2009/2010 as many issues related to the implementation of the reformed CGIAR are discussed and decided not through meetings but through email consultation, phone conference, and comments posted on the CGIAR WebBasecamp.

Regarding this issue of liaison within EIARD, the reform of the CGIAR has implied a different way of working between the members seating at the Fund Council and the rest of the European donors. In the pre-reform CGIAR (for the ExCo and AGM meetings) all European donors had ultimate recourse regarding their CGIAR funding and could intervene in the meetings. In the new CGIAR, the Fund Council is based on "constituencies", with four European donors speaking and taking decisions for the whole constituency of the European donors.

To adapt to this new scene, EIARD members, with the support of the EIARD chair and Executive Secretariat, have invested significant efforts during 2010 to prepare a document on the "Representation of EIARD members in CGIAR Fund Council deliberations and decisions". A first draft of this document, describing how EIARD members' views will be represented at the CGIAR Fund Council and how the 4 European Fund Council seats will be allocated between EIARD members in the coming years, was produced in April 2010. It was further developed after email consultations and discussions during WG meetings and will be presented to the 16th European coordination Group, in Uppsala in October 2010.

2.3 - Coordination of European investments in strengthening ARD organisations at global and continental and sub-continental levels, especially in Africa

To help coordinate European investments in ARD regional and global organisations, EIARD has maintained through 2010 close contacts with GFAR and with the regional FORA, especially FARA (for Africa) and EFARD (for Europe).

⁴ For the period covered by this report, EIARD "positions" have been prepared for the following CGIAR meetings : ExCo 17 (Rome, November 09), BusinessMeeting (Washington, December 09), Inaugural Fund Council (Brussels, February 10), 2nd Fund Council (Rome, July 10), 1st Funder's Forum (Rome, July 10).

⁵ In 2010, the four European donors seating at the CGIAR Fund Council are Philip CHIVERTON (Sweden), Marc DEBOIS (EC), Ruth HAUG (Norway) and Jonathan WADSWORTH (UK and EIARD Chair)

At the global level, EIARD has collaborated with GFAR Executive Secretariat and has funded GFAR (through the FSTP EIARD Project) to ensure the participation of 37 Southern stakeholders (non-researchers – i.e. representatives of civil society and the private sector) in the GCARD conference. GFAR Executive Secretary also participated to a meeting jointly organised by EIARD and GDPRD in Eschborn, Germany, in November 2009, and will make a presentation on the GCARD “Road Map” during the EIARD annual meeting (ECG 16) in Uppsala, in October 2010.

At the European level, EIARD has also worked with other category of European stakeholders, reaching beyond its constituency of European donors, for instance by facilitating the organisation and implementation of European contributions to the Global Conference for Agricultural Research for Development (march 2010, Montpellier), and also funding and co-editing a flyer to present EFARD to the participants to the Conference (see flyer in annex 3).

EIARD Executive Secretariat has also maintained frequent contacts with Agrinatura (the network of European institutions dedicated to agricultural research and superior education), with ICRA (institution specialised in capacity building on ARD and mainly funded by European donors), with CABI⁶ (central offices in UK) and represented EIARD at the EFARD Steering Committee in September 2010, in Brussels.

Contacts within Europe have also including ERA-ARD, the ERA-Net⁷ on Agricultural Research for Development. EIARD has co-organised with ERA-ARD a conference in Brussels on 16-17 December 2009 (see 2.1), and the EIARD Executive Secretary will also participate to the launch in November 2010 of the second phase of this ERA-ARD programme.

Collaboration between EIARD and the *African ARD forum, FARA*, have been intense in 2009/2010. Several representatives of FARA came to Brussels in December 2009 to participate the international conference co-organised by EIARD and especially to review initial findings of the EIARD commissioned study on 'The impacts of climate change on food security in Africa: A synthesis of policy issues for Europe'. FARA is also involved in the preparation and realisation of another study commissioned by EIARD, the “Analysis of donor support to CAADP Pillar 4”.

Exchanges with FARA have also included participation to meetings of the PAEPARD project, a project implemented by FARA and EFARD. Following on the lessons learned from PAEPARD project, EIARD has decided to commission (contract awarded in august 2010 to Agrinatura) pre-feasibility studies for similar platforms linking ARD institutions in Europe and in Latin American and Caribbean countries / Asian countries, respectively.

2.4 - Coordination between European investments in ARD and investments in rural development in the pursuit of the MDGs:

This activity of coordination reaches beyond the traditional “research” community, to other bilateral and multilateral donors contributing to the MDGs.

In 2009/2010, EIARD has intensified contacts with the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development – GDPRD. An EIARD-GDPRD joint meeting was organised in Eschborn, Germany, in November 2009. For this meeting, EIARD commissioned a discussion paper entitled '*Maximising the contribution of agricultural research to rural development*'. (More details on this meeting are available at <http://www.donorplatform.org/content/view/347/210/>.) The EIARD Executive Secretary then participated to a thematic workshop organised by GDPRD, in January 2010 in Rome, in the context of the GDPRD annual assembly.

These contacts have led to the GDPRD decision to join EIARD in contributing to the GCARD Conference (in Montpellier, March 2010).

⁶ CABI = CABI is a not-for-profit international organization that improves people’s lives by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment

⁷ ERA-Net =Network of the European Research Area. These instruments are supported by the European Commission (DG Research), aiming to facilitate coordination between thematic research programmes of voluntary members states.

The Platform and EIARD have also identify Climate Change as a priority issue of joint interest and are working together for the preparation of a side event during COP16 in Cancun in December 2010 (the "Agriculture and Rural Development - Day 2"). For EIARD the objective is to ensure that the dimension of agricultural research for development is acknowledged as a key factor to be considered when addressing the challenges of Climate Change and the MDGs.

EIARD Executive Secretary has also strengthened ties with SCAR, the formal EU political coordination mechanism for agricultural research for Europe, participating to various SCAR meeting including thematic WG (for instance on Foresight). This interaction with SCAR is focussed on the development of a new European research instrument, the Joint Programming Initiative on Food security, Agriculture and Climate Change (JPI FACCE). This long term initiative has emerged from the SCAR reflexions and has been launched officially in 2010. It is important for EIARD to follow the development of this initiative because, apart from its decisive impact on the European Research Area, it may also have an extra-European dimension, in particular towards emerging economies and developing countries, because of its focus on these two global challenges, Food Security and Climate Change.

2.5 Crosscutting Activities: communication and advocacy

EIARD launched in December 2009 a reflexion on its communication strategy, sending an online questionnaire to EIARD members and to EIARD partners, to help identify priority content and channels of communication. Information collected led EIARD to decide on the re-design of its website, to better address members and partners expectations. This new website should be online by the end of 2010.

EIARD also decided that its work should be better promoted and that it should strengthen its activities of advocacy in favour of ARD. In 2009/2010, this effort took various forms, for instance the production of a flyer to present EFARD (the European For a including EIARD) during the GCARD conference (see annex 2), the interview of the EIARD Chair in the August 2010 edition of *International Innovation* (a publication dedicated to disseminating the latest science, research and technological innovations from Europe and the U.S., see annex 4) and also various presentation or mention of EIARD at national and international conferences.

Direct or indirect effect of EIARD advocacy work to promote ARD can be seen in recent policy statements. For instance, the communication from the European Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, entitled "an EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges" (COM(2010)127, 31 March 2010) recognises the key role of Agricultural research for development, calling the EU and Member states to increase by 50 % by 2015 their support to "demand-led agricultural research for development, extension and innovation".⁸

This renewed interest for ARD is echoed in several member states, as can be exemplified by the publications emanating from the Foresight programme of the UK Government on the "Future of Food and Farming Systems".⁹

3. Staff and meetings

As a voluntary platform, EIARD exists thanks to the dedication, time and expertise of all its members. This is especially the case for the members who have volunteered to join the EIARD Working Group and for the EIARD chairman, Jonathan Wadsworth (DFID/UK), elected among the members for the period of 2008 to 2010.

⁸ Text available at http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/COMM_PDF_COM_2010_0127_EN.PDF

⁹ For the special issue of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* on "How can the rising world population be fed healthily and sustainably?", please see at <http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/365/1554.toc>

EIARD can also count on the support of its Executive Secretary, Philippe Petithuguenin, working since November 2009 within the DG Research of the European Commission as an expert seconded by the French Government.

Four members (representing EC, France, Germany, Portugal and The Netherlands), have also joined the Project Management Team of the EIARD – FSTP project, the EC funded project managed by GTZ and contributing to the objectives of the EIARD strategy.

Annex 2 presents the list of EIARD national contact points (and Working Group members).

EIARD also benefits from the logistic support of the European Commission (especially for hosting the Executive Secretary) and of several EIARD member states, with a special mention to Germany (GTZ) and Sweden (SIDA and SLU) for the hosting and organisation of the 15th and 16th European Coordination Group, in November 2009 and October 2010, respectively.

Between these two annual general assemblies of EIARD, four EIARD meetings were held: two Working Group meetings (WG 47 in February and WG 48 in July, both in Brussels for 2 days each) and two informal meetings (in Washington in December 09 for the CGIAR Business Meeting, and in Rome in July 2010 for the Funders ` Forum).

The Project Management Team of the EIARD – FSTP project has also met in Eschborn in November 2009 and in Brussels in July 2010 (for one day each).

Annex 1: list of ACRONYMS

APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
AGM	CGIAR Annual General Assembly
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
COP	Conference of parties of the United Nations Climate Change Conference
DG RTD	European Commission – Direction General Research
EC	European Commission
ECG	EIARD – European Coordination Group
EFARD	European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development
EIARD	European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development
ERA	European Research Area
ERA-ARD	ERANET - The Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) dimension of the European Research Area (ERA)
ERANET	FP - European Research Area - Networks
ExCo	CGIAR Executive Council
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FORAGRO	Foro de las Américas para la Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario
FP7	DG RTD – 7th Framework Programme 7
FSTP	Food Security Thematic Programme
GCARD	Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development
GDPRD	Global Development Platform for Rural Development
GFAR	Global Forum for Agricultural Research
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
IAASTD	International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology Development.
ICRA	International Centre for development oriented Research in Agricult
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PAEPARD	Platform for African European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development
SCAR	Standing Committee for Agricultural Research
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SLU	Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences (Uppsala)
WG	EIARD – Working Group

Annex 2: List of EIARD National Contact Points

	COUNTRY	NAME	FUNCTION IN EIARD*	E-MAIL
1	Austria	RABITSCH Waltraud	NCP	Waltraud.Rabitsch@ada.gv.at
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30	UK	WADSWORTH Jonathan	NCP WG EIARDChair	j-wadsworth@dfid.gov.uk

* Fonctions in EIARD

NCP = National (or EC) Contact Point

PMT = Member of the FSTP EIARD Project Management team

WG = Member of EIARD Working group

Annex 3: EFARD presentation for the GCARD

Annex 4: Interview of the EIARD Chair in International Innovation