

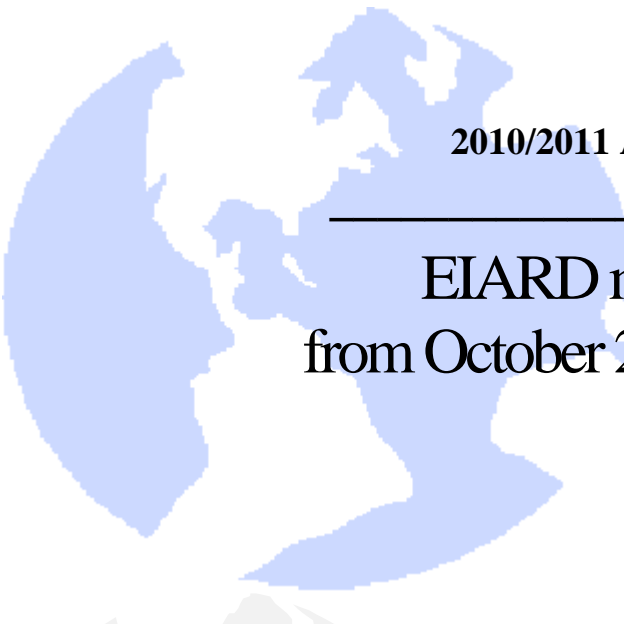
EIARD

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT



2010/2011 Annual Report

**EIARD main achievements
from October 2010 to November 2011**



1. Highlights of 2010/2011¹

The period reviewed by this annual report has been a period of record activity for EIARD. This has been due both to the acceleration of the implementation of the reformed CGIAR and to the contractual obligation to complete all the FSTP EIARD project activities by the beginning of 2012.

A total of 27(!) EIARD "positions" were drafted, through discussions during 4 Working Group meetings (February, March, June and October 2011), and presented at 3 meetings of the CGIAR Fund Council (FC4 in April 2011 in Montpellier, FC 5 in July 2011 in Washington, FC 6 in November 2011 in Rome) and one meeting of the CGIAR "Funders Forum" (in April 2011).

19 of these "positions" were related to CGIAR Research Programmes (CRP) submitted to the Fund council for approval. EIARD has thrived to ensure that the approved CGIAR Research Programmes are of the highest quality as regards their rationale, science, partnership, impact pathways and management.

EIARD, through its "positions" and through the implication of some members in CGIAR *ad hoc* working group, has also contributed significantly to the definition of key components of the reformed CGIAR, like the drafting of the CGIAR principles for the management of Intellectual Assets and Intellectual Property Rights or the establishment of the CGIAR Independent Evaluation Arrangement.

In 2011, progress has been made in the implementation of the EIARD strategy, especially through activities funded by the "FSTP EIARD project". Specific studies and policy recommendations (for instance on the impacts of climate change on food security in Africa or on the IAASTD report) have been discussed and published, creating favourable conditions for better coordination and alignment between EIARD members. Other studies and policy recommendations (for instance on Capacity Development for ARD) will be released in 2012.

EIARD communication and outreach has also been improved by the launch of a new website. (see www.eiard.org)

2. Activities by strategic domains.

This presentation of EIARD activities between October 2010 and November 2011 follows the 5 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 the 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 other European 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 networking activities and through the commissioning of specific studies leading to the production of policy recommendations.

¹ This annual report covers the period between two EIARD annual meetings known as the European Coordination Group (ECG): ECG 16 hosted by Uppsala university, Sweden, in October 2010, and ECG 17 to be held in Montpellier, France, in December 2011.

A/ Exchange of information and networking.

October 2010 to November 2011 has been a very busy networking period for EIARD with four working group meetings and an annual general assembly.

The Working Group meetings took place in Brussels, on February 3 and 4 (WG # 49), March 28 and 29 (WG # 50), June 27 to 29 (WG#51) and October 27 and 28 (WG #52). Due to the large number of issues to be discussed, two of these WG meetings were extended from the standard 2 days meetings to 3 days meetings.

These working group meeting were dedicated predominantly to facilitating the emergence of a consensus between all members on the items submitted for decision at the CGIAR Fund Council meetings. These consensus are known as EIARD "positions" (see point 2.2). Part of the WG meetings were also dedicated to the presentation of studies and proposed policy briefs on several topics selected by EIARD members (see below). Opportunities were also provided for members to mutually exchange information on their own bilateral initiatives.

EIARD 2010 annual general assembly, the European Coordination Group, took place in Uppsala, Sweden, on October 4 to 6, 2010. This 16th ECG provided opportunities for networking between members and also included a thematic session for exchange of information on "ARD and the climate change challenges". The keynote speakers for this session were Bruce Campbell, Coordinator of the CGIAR Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) CGIAR Research Programme (CRP 7), and Isabelle Albouy, from INRA, France, who presented the pan European Joint Programming Initiative on "Food Security Agriculture and Climate change". The ensuing discussion also facilitated an exchange of views between members on the COP16 (Cancun, December 2010) negotiations on Climate Change.

B/ Production of studies and policy briefs

The "FSTP EIARD project" (funded by the EC to contribute to the objectives of the EIARD strategy; project managed by GTZ) has enabled EIARD to commission the preparation of several reports, either studies or policy briefs, on issues identified through a consultative process involving all EIARD members. These reports have to be presented and discussed in EIARD Working Group and then circulated and approved by the members.

This process has so far led to the preparation of the following documents:

- "The impacts of climate change on food security in Africa: A synthesis of policy issues for Europe": study finalised in April 2011, policy brief approved in August 2011 (available on Eiard website)
- "From the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) and the World Bank World Development Report 2008 to the GCARD process: rethinking the role of Agricultural Research for Development": policy brief approved in September 2011 (available on Eiard website)
- "Making ARD more pro-poor; improving accessibility of results to the poorest": study finalised in July 2011, Policy brief approved in November 2011 (to be uploaded soon on Eiard website after final editorial changes)
- "An analysis of donors' support to CAADP Pillar IV": phase 1 of the study (general overview) finalised in December 2010 and phase 2 (Case studies: Benin, Tanzania, Zambia) in July 2011. (to be uploaded soon on Eiard website after final editorial changes).

Two other studies are underway on "Capacity development for ARD, both in terms of human resources and institutional development" and on "Impact assessment policies and practices of EIARD members". Final reports and policy briefs on these topics will be available at the beginning of 2012.

The findings generated by these studies can inform the policies of individual EIARD members, encourage a better alignment between the members, and provide advocacy materials to promote the common values of EIARD members.

2.2 - Coordination of European investments in CGIAR:

EIARD role is to facilitate the emergence of a common vision between EIARD members on the CGIAR, leading to collective action.

This is done through the elaboration of EIARD "positions" on the CGIAR issues submitted for decision at the CGIAR Fund Council where all the European donors to the CGIAR are represented by four EIARD members. In 2011, these four representatives were: Switzerland (Carmen Thönnissen, SDC and EIARD chair), Sweden (Philip CHIVERTON, SIDA), the United Kingdom (Alan Tollervey, DFID) and the European Commission (Jean-Louis CHOMEL or David RADCLIFFE, DG DEVCO).

Before all the CGIAR meetings, EIARD members define, most often during WG meetings, their consensual common "Positions"² on issues to be discussed. During the CGIAR meetings, the EIARD chair presents these "positions" and, with the support of the Executive Secretary, ensures the coordination between the members participating as observers and the four European donors representing the European "constituency".

As was the case in previous years, these unified EIARD "positions" have, in 2011, given the European donors a greater influence on the decisions taken by the Fund Council. The other members of the CGIAR Fund Council and in particular the chair of the Fund Council (Inger Andersen, WB, for the period covered by this report) have repeatedly mentioned their appreciation for the coordination work done by EIARD, as the "positions" enable more efficient negotiations (and emergence of consensus) during the meetings.

Between October 2010 and November 2011, 27 EIARD "positions" have been produced. 19 related to CGIAR Research Programmes (CRP) submitted to the Fund Council for approval and funding, and 8 to other CGIAR issues, like the negotiation of the CGIAR "principles" for the management of Intellectual Assets and Intellectual Property Rights, or like the definition of the CGIAR Independent Evaluation Arrangement.

EIARD "positions" on the submitted CRPs were based on the advice of the CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC), on external reviews contracted to the NRI (UK) under the FSTP EIARD project, on members own internal reviews, and on the discussions during the Working Group meetings.

In order to better "share" the workload of the CGIAR negotiations and review of documents between EIARD members, some members have accepted in 2011 to take the lead on specific issues and later to report to the Working Group, in liaison with the EIARD Chair and the EIARD Executive Secretariat. This has been for instance the case of Armand Evers, EIARD delegate for The Netherlands, on the Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA), and of Philip Chiverton, EIARD delegate for Sweden, on the management of Intellectual Assets and Intellectual Property Rights.

The issue of the representation of all the European donors to the CGIAR through the 4 Fund Council seats allocated to EIARD constituency has also received much attention in 2011. The 16th ECG, in October 2010, has established clear rules for the circulation of the CGIAR documents, the organisation of preparatory meetings and the elaboration of common EIARD positions (see decisions 7 to 9 of the ECG 16). But the 16th ECG could not conclude the discussions on the modalities to allocate the 4 seats between the European donors to the CGIAR and asked for this issue to be studied by EIARD WG. This work was carried out in WG # 49 and WG # 51, leading to a consensus presented for approval at the ECG 17, in December 2011 in Montpellier.

² For the period covered by this report, EIARD "positions" have been prepared for the following CGIAR meetings : *Ad Hoc* Funder's Forum (Montpellier, April 2011), 3rd Fund Council (Washington, November 2010), 4th Fund Council (Montpellier, April 2011), 5th Fund Council (Washington, July 2011), 6th Fund Council (Rome, November 2011)

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

Although the coordination of European investment in the CGIAR represents its main task, EIARD also aims at facilitating the liaison and coordination with other ARD related institutions, at regional and global levels. This is in particular the case with EFARD and GFAR.

At the European level, EIARD belongs to the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development, EFARD, where it represents the category of "public donors". EIARD Executive Secretary attended the steering committee of EFARD, in February 2011 and May 2011.

Through the FSTP EIARD Project, EIARD has funded the study of the opportunities and modalities to develop partnership platform between EFARD and its mirror fora in Asia and in Latin America, as it already exist between EFARD and FARA, in Africa (initiative known as the PAEPARD project). The results of this study will be discussed by EIARD members during the 17th ECG.

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) and with the coordinator of ERA-ARD 2, the European ERA-Net³ on Agricultural Research for Development.

At the global level, EIARD has continued in 2011 its collaboration with GFAR. Regular contacts have been maintained with Mark Holderness, the GFAR Executive Secretary, who attended the 16th ECG.

EIARD has also commissioned (through the EIARD FSTP project) the organisation by GFAR of studies and workshops, for instance on the accountability of research institutions to end-users and on tracking systems for ARD investments. These events are planned for end of 2011, beginning of 2012.

EIARD is also working with GFAR on the preparation of the 2nd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development, GCARD 2, to be hosted by Uruguay, in November 2012. EIARD delegate for France, F Lapeyrie, has been asked to join the GCARD 2 organisation committee.

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

Going beyond the traditional "research" community, EIARD is also maintaining contacts with non-research institutions investing in rural developments in developing countries like for instance the Global Donor Platform on Rural Development, GDPRD.

The collaboration with GDPRD is mainly channelled through the participation of EIARD Executive Secretary to the GDPRD "watch area on Agricultural research". Through its monthly phone conferences, this watch area has enabled EIARD to be in closer contacts with non-European ARD donors and has been influential in convincing CIDA-Canada to join the Steering committee of GFAR as representative of donors (with EIARD as its alternate). This watch area has also commissioned (with funding from GDPRD) a policy brief on the implications for GDPRD members and EIARD members of the discussions and conclusions of the Senior Official Meeting on ARD organised by the G20, on September 12 and 13, 2011. This policy brief should be released at the beginning of 2012.

EIARD Executive Secretary also represents EIARD in the board of ICRA, the institution specialised in capacity building on ARD. He has attended ICRA board meetings in January 2011, in Wageningen, and June 2011, in Paris.

³ 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.

On linking ARD to extension, EIARD has been in contact with CABI⁴ on its "PlantWise" proposal. Trevor Nicholls, CABI CEO, addressed EIARD delegates at the ECG 16 on "Improving knowledge to improve food security: Building a global plant health network", highlighting the added value to expand the "Plant health Clinics" while connecting them to a comprehensive global knowledge bank.

EIARD Executive Secretary has also maintained contacts during 2011 with the SCAR⁵, the formal EU political coordination mechanism for agricultural research for Europe, participating to various SCAR meetings.

2.5 Crosscutting Activities: communication and advocacy

To promote its activities and advocate for increased support to ARD, EIARD launched a new website in 2011. (see www.eiard.org)

This website includes videos of interviews of members and gives visitors access to various documents like EIARD strategy, the studies or policy briefs commissioned through the FSTP EIARD project, a 2 page flyer describing EIARD activities. Of particular interest are the very informative but synthetic ARD "profiles" produced for most EIARD members, just in time for the G20 meeting on ARD in September 2011. The site also facilitates the link to a selection of members' news and documents and to other websites related to ARD.

To promote more support to ARD activities in the future European funding mechanisms, EIARD has contributed in 2011 to the consultation opened by DG Research and Innovation on the future (2014-2020) Framework Programme for Research, Horizon 2020⁶. In this contribution, available in annex 1, EIARD argued for an EU Research & Innovation policy addressing the global development challenge.

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 chairperson, Carmen Thönnissen (SDC/Switzerland) elected by the members for 2011 and 2012.

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 Sweden (SIDA and SLU) and France for the hosting and organisation of the 16th and 17th European Coordination Group, in October 2010 and December 2011, respectively.

Between these two annual general assemblies of EIARD, four EIARD meetings were held, all of them in Brussels: on February 3 and 4 (WG # 49), March 28 and 29 (WG # 50), June 27 to 29 (WG#51) and October 27 and 28 (WG #52).

⁴ 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

⁵ Standing Committee on Agricultural Research

⁶ Contribution to the debate opened by the Green Paper "From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding".

Annex 1 : EIARD contribution to EU consultation on the future Research Framework Programme.
(May 2011)



EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

EU Research & Innovation should address the global development challenge.

EIARD, the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development, representing the public institutions in charge of investments in Agricultural Research for Development in the EU members states, the European Commission, Norway and Switzerland, *sends this contribution to the debate opened by the Green Paper “From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding”.*

Among the global challenges: Development.

The EU faces numerous challenges, well identified in the Green Paper “From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding.” Such challenges include combating climate change, moving toward a low carbon economy, and insuring food security for a rapidly increasing population.

However, another important *overarching* global challenge is little mentioned in the Green Paper. It is the urgent need to **create favourable conditions for the development** of the less advanced countries – not only for humanitarian reasons but also to contribute to EU 2020 strategy through global economic dynamism, better management of global natural resources, and greater global political and social stability and security. International Development must be regarded as **a key goal for the EU.**

Research & Innovation contribute to development.

Research & Innovation - together with related capacity building - in the fields of Agriculture Research for Development (incl. agriculture, biotechnologies, nutrition, and rural environment) are among the **driving forces of development** and should be mobilized toward that goal. Developing countries need research in these fields.

Europe needs to ensure that 1) it continues to generate its own know-how and understanding of ongoing challenges in these fields, 2) it maintains its innovation potential and adaptation capacity, and 3) thereby has the capacity to collaborate with developing countries in their respective endeavour. If developing countries do indeed benefit from some of the generic research and innovations produced by and for the most advanced countries, their development can not be fully sustainable without local knowledge, local research and innovation capacities, locally produced know-how and expertise.

Developing country research organizations and universities, and their public and private partners, therefore need to have **access to high quality research and innovation programs so as** to master their own futures, to contribute to the global economy, and to ensure the sustainable management of their share of the world's public goods.

Development partnership is an opportunity for EU, not a burden.

Strengthening scientific competence in developing countries will **serve EU interests as well.** Support

for science and research should be recognized as an investment contributing to EU economic dynamism and influence, not seen as a burden.

Scientific networks with developing and emerging countries can help **reduce the risk of major crises** (which would impact the EU), and can reinforce the European position in **global policy-making**. Moreover, today's developing countries may become tomorrow's major economic partners. At the same time, while innovative products and services need to be rooted in social and cultural environments so as to address specific market and global challenges, cultural differences are fuelling innovations.

Simple and flexible mechanisms, based on existing instruments, are required for global excellence partnerships.

Although the EU PF7 calls are open to non-EU partners, partnerships **with developing countries in fact remain the exception**. There are several reasons for this: difficulty to promote relevant topics, cultural and other barriers, strong competition for projects tending to exclude less competitive partners from consortia.

We believe that "**excellence**" and "**relevance**" should remain the chief criteria for research project selection in the EU. Talented research teams from developing countries should be given the opportunity to join consortia selected on excellence criteria, as this is a key mechanism for capacity building in research and higher education. We are also convinced that Research and Innovation which support development must be part of **mainstream scientific activities**.

Therefore we suggest some complementary mechanisms to better mobilize EU Research & Innovation potential toward meeting the mentioned global development challenge:

M1: Some research topics should specifically include development issues and request partners from developing countries.

M2: Some calls should be dedicated to supporting the participation to global or multilateral research initiatives, in particular related to the Millennium Development Goals, of Consortia gathering partners from Europe and from developing countries.

Relevant EC DGRI Directorates should be in charge of these M1 and M2 mechanisms.

The share of the budget dedicated to such research projects with developing countries should be set, as part of the strategic agenda of the EC, and monitored annually.

M3: Developing country research teams should be encouraged to join EU research consortia on any key topics. In the evaluation of proposals, a weighting system could be introduced to give extra 'points' to proposals which include developing country partners. Of course the proposal would demonstrate the value-added of the developing country partner(s). To encourage the consortium to open its doors to newcomers, the budget required to support the program of developing country partners should be a separate or earmarked budget (not drawn from the consortium core budget).

This mechanism could be used in particular to strengthen the scientific capacities of teams (and not individuals, in order to avoid "brain-drain" effect) belonging to research and higher education institutions of developing countries.

To summarize, **EIARD considers that partnership for development should be a component of the upcoming Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation and be transversal in all EU research and innovation instruments.**

Annex 2: List of EIARD National Contact Points

NAME	FUNCTION IN EIARD*	E-MAIL	TELEPHONE	POSITION/ADDRESS
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* Fonctions in EIARD

NCP = National (or EC) Contact Point

WG = Member of EIARD Working group