



# GFAR Inter-regional Platforms

A Model for Learning and Knowledge Exchange

A Collective Action within Key Focus Area (KFA) 3 of GFAR's Medium Term Plan 2018-2021

Common issues and shared priorities of youth and women in agriculture in different regions of the world are not addressed collaboratively though they are inter-related, have similarities and common ground, and impact each other. The purpose of GFAR Inter-Regional Platforms is to provide a space for Partners in GFAR to discuss shared priorities, learn from one another's experiences, explore possibilities for collaboration, and embark on Collective Actions to address their priority issues.



This happens through a series of inter-regional dialogue workshops, where equitable representative multi-stakeholder dialogue takes place around an identified issue of concern and where stakeholders work together to understand and find solutions to the complex and common challenges they face.

## Learning by example

The South-North Mediterranean Dialogues proved to be necessary to meet the tremendous economic, social and environmental challenges the two sides of the Mediterranean are facing. These challenges are particularly acute for youth and in rural areas. Slow economic growth is coupled with persistent gender inequalities in access to resources, and high unemployment and underemployment. Rural and remote areas are unattractive to youth or local businesses. Outmigration to cities and overseas is a major challenge.

GFAR South-North Mediterranean Dialogues 2014 - 2015 brought together stakeholders focused on rural development, notably farmers, rural youth, women, businesses, local governments, public institutions and state agencies to discuss the regional challenges and identify measures to address them. These dialogues were held in four countries south and north of the Mediterranean and were part of the GCARD3 Regional Consultation process for the MENA Region. They culminated in a Congress in Milan in October 2015 entitled, "Rural communities, No longer left behind: Rural and regional development in the South and North Mediterranean and the New Neighbourhood Policy."

[Read more →](#)

## Background on Mediterranean Dialogues

### From the GFAR Blog

<http://bit.ly/NoLongerLeftBehind>

<http://bit.ly/YouthTakesLead>

<http://bit.ly/Cross-SectoralCollaboration>

### Declaration of 2015 Dialogue

<http://bit.ly/MedDialogueDeclaration>

### GCARD3 Regional Consultation for Middle East and North Africa

<http://bit.ly/MENAConsGCARD3>

### Rome meeting October 2016

<http://bit.ly/MedDialogue2016>

<http://bit.ly/MedYouth>

## What we will do together

GFAR Inter-Regional Platforms for 2017-2018 expand the scope of rural development from villages, to rural towns and surrounding small towns. The goal is to focus on developing an integrated approach to address the needs of particular rural territories.

The planned Platforms will look further at how rural territories can develop their own solutions and growth, drawing on capacities, knowledge and innovation from inside and outside to help them strengthen production and market chains.

The processes involved require multi-stakeholder participation by their very nature. Local economic opportunities for rural women and youth in communities and small towns can go beyond farming to include, for example, IT-based service industries; off-farm processing for value addition; and expanded roles of infrastructure in storage, handling, transport, and catering to the local tourist trade, agri-tourism and other businesses.

By linking actions inter-regionally, the Platforms allow much opportunity for learning among communities facing similar agro-ecological challenges and enable the search for viable ways forward to be greatly accelerated, while avoiding traps and challenges previously experienced by others.

The approach will also be linked with active international policy processes. The South-North Mediterranean Dialogues are already informing European and North African policies and development processes. Other examples already being explored among Partners in GFAR include the Belt and Road Initiative of China and its infrastructural development in West and Central Asia, Asia-Pacific links, inter-regional activities in sub-Saharan Africa and Brazil-Africa technology sharing linkages.

**You are invited to join Partners in GFAR participating in this Collective Action, including YPARD; international, regional and local youth organizations; international and regional women associations; civil society; private sector; higher education institutions; regional fora and farmer organizations.**

**For more information, contact GFAR Secretariat at [GFAR-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GFAR-Secretariat@fao.org) or write to [Iman.Elkafas@fao.org](mailto:Iman.Elkafas@fao.org)**