



Reforming and Strengthening the Regional Research Fora and regional partners in GFAR

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

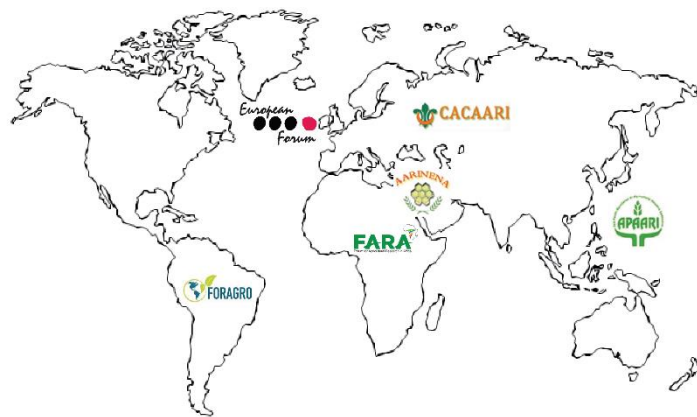
With the change in the demands and expectations of the Regional Research Fora, the Fora themselves have ascertained the need to change. They must evolve from their public sector research focus to become multi-stakeholder Fora, addressing the different dimensions required in strengthening and transforming agricultural innovation. They have embarked—with the advice and facilitation of the GFAR network—on a comprehensive system-wide reform that will strengthen their organizations and will result in self-sustaining, truly multi-stakeholder platforms that more closely reflect the demands of their constituents together with the agreed upon goals of GFAR and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The move as stated by the partners of the Fora and of GFAR is towards more inclusion, equitability, democratization, legitimacy and sustainability and the focus is on the value added of the fora to their partners and constituents.

The comprehensive reform system facilitated by GFAR Secretariat will look at the environment of each partner Regional Research Fora, the inputs to the current system, the processes and the type and quality of outputs as compared to the targeted and expected outputs. As organizational leadership, governance and structures are vital factors in the success of any organization, the role of leadership and governance approaches will be thoroughly examined in this reform model. The structure will be reformed to support the function. The Fora have agreed to change their business model, to diversify their funding sources, address institutional barriers to support the new goals and their sustainability.

Three Regional Research Fora have taken the initiative to work with GFAR on their reform: [AARINENA](#), [FORAGRO](#) and [CACAARI](#). The plan is to expand this initiative and to offer this state-of-the-art technical and facilitation support from GFAR to more of its partners, and to expand this unique circle of reform and of exchange of experiences and expertise.

This comprehensive reform will involve the diverse stakeholders of the Regional Research Fora and will ensure equitable representation of the stakeholders in assessing the needs, planning the changes, implementing the reform and assessing the outcomes. Needs assessment, foresight exercises and innovation platform techniques will be used at the start and along the reform process.

By the end of this process, each Regional Research Forum or regional partner organization that undertakes it will be more relevant, committed and capable to contribute to a food-secure world.



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Each reform process of the Regional Research Fora will comprise these elements:

Diagnosis and needs assessment

- 1) Foresight exercises with diverse stakeholders, mind-mapping and time-effective multiple consultations coordinated by GFAR among its partners from 13 constituencies to bring out the needs/visions that will support the formulation of the strategy

Planning

- 2) Technical support in developing the Strategy, based on foresight and consultation exercises, the historical competitive edge of the regional forum/organization and the agendas of the stakeholders
- 3) Choosing the right way to change – Assessing readiness for change, working with stakeholders in designing appropriate approaches, plans and tools to implement the change, while handling resistance and overcoming barriers

Implementation

- 4) Leading the transition and mobilizing commitment among direct stakeholders and implementers
- 5) Organizational restructuring at different levels to meet the new strategy: policy, processes, structural divisions, people, funding and fund diversification, finances and organizational evaluation systems
- 6) Continued orientation and capacity development of regional and national/local level partners to implement the change

Quality Assurance and Sustainability

- 7) Forming local and regional-level innovation platforms that help the Forum/organization to remain constantly attuned to their stakeholders
- 8) Monitoring and evaluation systems used to sustain the change and fund continuity

**You are invited to join AARINENA,
FORAGRO and CACAARI and other Partners
in GFAR in their Collective Action on
*Reforming and Strengthening the
Regional Research Fora
and Regional Partners in GFAR***

**For more information
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