



# Celebrating Collective Success: Creating a database of GFAR Partners' stories

A Collective Action within Key Focus Area (KFA) 4 of GFAR's Medium Term Plan 2018-2021



**Making GFAR Partners' stories of development success visible and readily accessible increases recognition, helps demonstrate impacts, reduces duplication, helps attract investment and inspires further collaboration.**

Partners in GFAR need to be aware of what each other is doing, they need to learn from others and they need to demonstrate their success – and what they gain from working together to address complex challenges.

Activities that help others learn or demonstrate success are not necessarily formalized projects, they're normally a more fluid series of activities and actions, something that needs to be narrated more than described: this is why we use the term "story".

Currently, there is no comprehensive source of information on what organizations working in agri-food collective actions are doing. Even Partners in GFAR don't always know what other Partners are doing. While information is available here and there on Partners' websites, it is not systematized, categorized, or findable.

Collecting, systematizing and publicizing Partners' stories of how they are together achieving impact would help to:

- ✓ Increase recognition, demonstrate success
- ✓ Inspire others
- ✓ Reduce duplication, identify gaps & increase efficiency
- ✓ Determine impacts
- ✓ Attract better investments and support investment decision making
- ✓ Increase transparency
- ✓ Foster collaboration and synergies; short-circuit innovation cycles

## LINKS TO OTHER TOOLS

### IATI database of aid projects

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI, [www.aidtransparency.net](http://www.aidtransparency.net)) is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to improve the transparency of aid and development resources.

IATI collects data about all funded projects worldwide. Many governments (including the EC), UN agencies (including FAO and WFP) and donors publish data about their projects in the IATI standard and are part of the IATI database.

### GODAN success stories

Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN, [www.godan.info](http://www.godan.info)) advocates for open data. GFAR and several GFAR partners are also partners in GODAN. GODAN collects success stories of partners in the area of open data.

### AgriProfiles

AgriProfiles ([www.agriprofiles.net](http://www.agriprofiles.net)) is facilitated by GFAR. It aggregates searchable information on experts and organizations: the next step will be to aggregate information on projects.

## How will it work?

The collection of GFAR Partners' stories is itself proposed as a Collective Action, involving all Partners, from all constituencies, in the creation of a product from which all will benefit. The main requirements on which the proposing Partners have agreed are:

- The final product has to be mainly a readily accessible web-based platform for sharing and demonstrating success
- Stories need to be gathered in a systematic way (and made readily searchable), so need to be collected using an agreed and straightforward template
- The tool has to be integrated/linked with incentives for sharing, i.e. enhancing reach of Partners work and positive competition to excite interest

### Partners have also provided some practical recommendations:

#### Systematization & Template Design

Output: an online database of stories, to be searched and browsed; accessible on the GFAR website

An agreed template should be the basis for the database structure and the collection of information

The template/database structure/metadata should be designed to cater for categorization of types of stories and areas of Collective Action, metadata to measure impact against goals, partners involved, countries / regions involved etc.

#### Demonstrating Success & Measuring Impact

Systematize information in a way that allows to capture/measure the impact; for instance contribution to the SDGs

Categorize stories at the outcome level and the impact level

Make the tool a way for GFAR to monitor how GFAR mobilizes Partners and how Partners' knowledge is being shared

The tool should help others avoid duplicating efforts or repeating mistakes

### Why would Partners wish to share their success stories?

- ✓ Partners will be supported in creating their stories. Focal points from among the Partners will share ideas with each other on how to best communicate their successes, including via multi-media formats
- ✓ Awards can go to the most inspiring stories. For example, annual competitions can be held, with awards presented to the authors at important GFAR events



All Partners are invited to join the endeavour to create a Database of GFAR Partners' Stories

For more information, contact GFAR Secretariat at [GFAR-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GFAR-Secretariat@fao.org)