

**EIARD**

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT



**2011/2012 Annual Report**

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**EIARD main achievements  
from December 2011 to October 2012<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Report prepared by Philippe Petithuguenin, EIARD Executive Secretary

## **1. Activities by strategic domains.**

This presentation of EIARD activities between December 2011 and October 2012<sup>2</sup> 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 aims to facilitate the coordination and alignment between all its members, and to favour the emergence of relevant joint policies and strategies at European level on ARD issues. EIARD also favours better 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.

#### A/ Exchange of information and networking.

During the period under review, EIARD held one annual general assembly (ECG 17) and two working group meetings.

The Working Group meetings took place in Brussels, on February 28 and 29 (WG # 53) and on June 13 and 14 (WG#54). WG # 54 was organised "back to back" with an EFARD Steering Committee and included a joint session with EFARD delegates.

These WG were largely dedicated to the preparation of EIARD "positions" (see point 2.2) on CGIAR issues, including issues submitted for decision or for discussion during the 7<sup>th</sup> CGIAR Fund Council meeting (at the B&MGates Foundation in Seattle) and issues discussed through e-forum or proposed for virtual approval by email.

These WG also addressed several non CGIAR issues, like the preparation of and participation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> GCARD Conference (Uruguay, October 2012), the SCAR EIARD ERAARD task force (see point 2.4) or the G8 and G20 agricultural initiatives. Opportunities were also provided for members to mutually exchange information on their own bilateral initiatives.

EIARD 2011 annual general assembly, its 17<sup>th</sup> European Coordination Group, took place in Montpellier, France, on December 6 to 8, 2011. This ECG enabled members to review EIARD activities and its governance, discuss some of the outputs of the EIARD FSTP Project (like the proposal for bi-continental platforms EFARD/ASIA and EFARD/Latin America) and exchange information on topics of common interest. One important achievement of this meeting was the approval by members of a set of rules for establishing EIARD representation on the CGIAR Fund Council. The meeting also included an "opened" session, with several keynote speakers: James Morton and Christopher Floyd on "European donors support to CAADP Pillar IV"; Christian Borgemeister, for an institutional presentation of ICIPE; and Jeff Waage (University of London) and Howarth Bouis, (HarvestPlus, CGIAR) for a debate on linkages between agriculture and nutrition.

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<sup>2</sup> This annual report covers the period between two EIARD annual meetings known as the European Coordination Group (ECG): ECG 17 hosted in Montpellier, France, in December 2011 and ECG 18 to be held in Nyon, Switzerland, in October 2012.

### B/ Production of studies and policy briefs

The FSTP EIARD project, "Fostering European Aid Effectiveness for Agricultural Research for Development", funded by the EC to contribute to the objectives of the EIARD strategy and managed by GIZ, was concluded at the beginning of 2012<sup>3</sup> (see main project achievements in **annex 1**). This project 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 were also presented and discussed in EIARD Working Group meetings.

During the period under review, one study and one policy brief were produced for each of the following two topics: "Capacity development for ARD"; and "Impact assessment policies and practices of EIARD members". The conclusions of the "Impact assessment" study was presented (by the main author of this report, Adrienne Martin from NRI, UK) at a meeting organised by the CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment, SPIA, in August 2012 in Foz de Iguacu, Brazil.<sup>4</sup>

These two reports are in addition to those finalised in 2011: "The impacts of climate change on food security in Africa: A synthesis of policy issues for Europe"; "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"; "Making ARD more pro-poor; improving accessibility of results to the poorest; "An analysis of donors' support to CAADP Pillar IV".

All These studies and policy briefs are publicly available on Cirad website.

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:**

As regard the CGIAR, EIARD role is double:

- to coordinate the representation of all the European public institutions contributing to the CGIAR Fund. This is a crucial role as the CGIAR Fund Council membership is organised by "constituency" and as the constituency of the "European OECD donors" has 4 members in the Fund council in representation of 16 European donors to the Fund (15 countries and the European Commission). In 2012, 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 (Bernard REY or David RADCLIFFE, DG DEVCO).

- 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, and in particular issues submitted for decision at the CGIAR Fund.

Before all the CGIAR meetings, in particular the Fund Council meetings but also CGIAR Funders Forum, EIARD members define, most often during WG meetings, their consensual common "Positions" 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".

In 2012, 7 EIARD "positions" were prepared and presented during the 7<sup>th</sup> CGIAR Fund Council, in Seattle in March 2012. 4 were related to CGIAR Research Programmes (CRP) submitted to the Fund Council for approval and funding, and 2 to other CGIAR issues: the CGIAR "principles" for the management of Intellectual Assets and Intellectual Property Rights; and the common reporting requirements.

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<sup>3</sup> The final report of activities, covering the period 5 February 2009 to 4 February 2012, was submitted to the European Commission on 28 February 2012. The final financial report will be submitted in October 2012.

<sup>4</sup> As a pre-conference event to the annual conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE).

During the course of the year, EIARD also had to coordinate the response to various CGIAR issues to be decided by "virtual approval" (on a non-objection basis) of all its members also donors to the CGIAR through the 4 EIARD Fund Council members.

In order to better "share" the workload of the CGIAR negotiations and review of documents between EIARD members, some members have the lead on specific issues and later 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<sup>5</sup>, on the Independent Evaluation Arrangement (IEA), and of Philip Chiverton, EIARD delegate for Sweden, on the management of Intellectual Assets and Intellectual Property Rights and on the CGIAR budget "peer review" team. Alan Tollervey (UK) also "observes" the Consortium Board meetings, in representation of the Fund Council.

EIARD chair and members have also been involved in many other CGIAR issues, for instance participating to the *ad hoc* Fund Council working group following IITA past financial investments, or proposing names of European experts to join the proposed Fund Council Intellectual Property (FC IP) expert group<sup>6</sup>.

Though rules for the rotation of all the eligible European CGIAR donors on the 4 Fund Council seats allocated to the EIARD constituency have been approved at the ECG 17 in December 2011 (in particular with the constitution of "rotational groups"), this issue received renewed attention in 2012. In the perspective of the change from the "inaugural" 2010-2012 Fund Council to the 2013-2015 Fund Council, the CGIAR Fund Office launched a consultation on the Fund Council membership. EIARD contributed to this consultation, arguing for a better parity in terms of value per seat between OECD/DAC donors (and Foundations) and for creating incentives to contribute to core funding. These EIARD proposals could lead to an increase in the number of seats (currently 4) attributed to European donors. Several non-European Fund Council members have expressed their support for these EIARD proposals. A decision on this issue is expected at the 8<sup>th</sup> CGIAR Fund Council meeting, in November 2012, in Uruguay. Depending on this decision, EIARD may have to adapt the rules adopted in December 2011, in particular as regard the membership of the "rotational groups".

### ***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 (partially) the steering committee meetings of EFARD in June and in October 2012.

EIARD Working Group members and EFARD Steering Committee members held a joint working session on June 13, 2012 in Brussels. Views on various issues were shared: advocacy work for ARD, GCARD 2, lessons from the PAEPARD project, European participation to the CGIAR Consortium Research Programmes (CRPs). Participants welcome the proposal to hold such a joint EIARD / EFARD session, once per year.

EIARD Executive Secretariat has also maintained frequent contacts with other European ARD related institutions or projects, in particular the European ERA-Net<sup>7</sup> on Agricultural Research for Development ERA-ARD 2 (participation to Steering Committee meeting) and Agrinatura, the network of European institutions dedicated to agricultural research and superior education. EIARD Executive

<sup>5</sup> Replaced by Corrine Abbas as from August 2012

<sup>6</sup> These 3 experts are Dr Trygve Berg (from Norway), Dr Bram de Jonge (from the Netherlands), and Mr François Meienberg (from Switzerland).

<sup>7</sup> 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.

Secretary also represents EIARD in the board of ICRA, the institution specialised in capacity building on ARD mainly funded by European donors.

*Regarding partnership with Africa*, EIARD Executive Secretary attended the stakeholder consultation on "Improving the quality and effectiveness of development cooperation with African agricultural knowledge organisations" organised by the European commission (DG DEVCO), in Brussels, on March 20-22, 2012. This allowed for exchange of views on the role of FARA, of the Sub-Regional Research Organisation, of the ANAFE and RUFORUM networks, of the National research and extension systems, and on the need for balanced support between them. The need to align supports and policies with the CAAD process was also emphasised.

*At the global level*, EIARD has continued in 2012 its exchange of information and regular contacts with the GFAR Executive Secretariat, in particular in the context of the preparation of the 2nd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development, GCARD 2. EIARD delegate for France, Frederic Lapeyrie, is a member of the GCARD 2 organisation committee.

In the context of the EIARD FSTP project (see annex 1), EIARD also funded the organisation by GFAR of a workshop on 'tracking ARD investments'. The need for this emerged from another EIARD FSTP study which identified a lack of systematic tracking of ARD investments by European and other ARD donors, and by countries themselves. Considering that tracking ARD investments (broken down by meaningful sub-categories) is a prerequisite for coordinated and harmonised support to ARD, EIARD linked up with GFAR and ASTI to organise this workshop, in Berlin in January 2012. The report of this workshop is available on both the EIARD and the GFAR web site at <http://www.egfar.org/content/summary-report-stakeholder-workshop-tracking-investments-agricultural-research-development>.

#### **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 "work stream on Agricultural research". Through its monthly phone conferences, this work stream has enabled EIARD to be in closer contacts with non-European ARD donors. In 2012, this work stream has commissioned (with funding from GDPRD) a report on "Donor Methods to Prioritize Investments in Agricultural Research and Development".<sup>8</sup>

EIARD Executive Secretary also presented EIARD at the meeting of the European Heads of Agriculture and Rural Development, HARD, organised by the European Commission, DG DEVCO, on 31 May, 2012, and has also attended the plenary meeting, on June 1, 2012, of SCAR<sup>9</sup>, the formal EU political coordination mechanism for agricultural research for Europe, participating to various SCAR meetings.

The collaboration between EIARD and SCAR has led to the reactivation in 2012 of the SCAR EIARD ERA-ARD task force. This Task Force is constituted of two members of each institution, in the case of EIARD, Wolfgang Kasten, from GIZ, Germany, and Philippe Petithuguenin, Executive Secretary. The task force is preparing a report on "Improving the synergies between European investments in Agricultural Research and in Agricultural Research for Development", based on national case studies. Contributions were received from Cyprus, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and UK. The draft full report has been presented to the ERA-ARD steering Committee in September 2012 and will be discussed with EIARD members during ECG 18, in October 2012.

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<sup>8</sup> This report by George W. Norton and Jeffrey Alwangis available at <http://www.donorplatform.org/load/11834>

<sup>9</sup> Standing Committee on Agricultural Research. See [http://ec.europa.eu/research/agriculture/scar/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/agriculture/scar/index_en.html)

## **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](http://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, and the presentation of the ARD "profiles" of most EIARD members. All reports produced by EIARD are available on this website.

For internal communication between EIARD members and in particular for sharing working documents, an EIARD "interest group" has been created under the European Commission data sharing system CIRCABC. Web access to this Interest Group is restricted to EIARD members.

To provide useful evidence and also advocate for investments in Agricultural research for development, DFID/UK shared with EIARD in 2011 a set of case studies providing communication materials on impact of investments in agricultural research<sup>10</sup>. On the initiative of DFID, UK, and with financial support from SDC, Switzerland, a new set of 20 high quality case studies and communication materials demonstrating the impact and cost-benefits of agricultural research has been commissioned to WrenMedia. These communication materials should be released by the end of 2012. An *ad hoc* EIARD group, constituted by the EIARD delegates for France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, UK, and the EC, has been set up to support this task.

## **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 3 years (2011 to 2013).

EIARD can also count on the support of its Executive Secretary, Philippe Petithuguenin, working since November 2009 within the DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission as an expert seconded by the French Government. Coming to the end of his 3 years assignment, Philippe Petithuguenin will be replaced as from 1st November 2012 by Jürgen Anthofer, GIZ expert proposed by the German government and selected by the European Commission for this position of seconded national expert.

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 France and Agropolis and to Switzerland and SDC for the hosting and organisation of the 17th and 18th European Coordination Group, in December 2011 and October 2012, respectively.

Between these two annual general assemblies of EIARD, two EIARD meetings were held, all of them in Brussels: on February 28 and 29 (WG # 53), June 13 to 14 (WG#54).

Annex 2 presents the list of EIARD national contact points and Working Group members. In the course of 2012, the EIARD members representing the Netherlands and Ireland have changed. EIARD sincerely thanks Armand Evers and Frank Flood, respectively from The Netherlands and Ireland, for their great contribution to EIARD activities, wishes them full success in their new attributions and welcomes their successors, Corinne Abbas and Lawrence Lee.

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<sup>10</sup> See <http://www.eiard.org/key-documents/impact-case-studies/>

## **Annex 1: Main achievements of the EC funded FSTP project “Fostering European Aid Effectiveness for Agricultural Research for Development”**

### Reminder of Project objectives and background

The purpose of the EIARD (European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development) FSTP (Food Security Thematic Programme) project (in the following referred to as ‘the Project’ or ‘the EIARD FSTP project’) was ‘*Coherent, coordinated (at national, regional and global levels), relevant and effective European policies for and investments in agricultural research for development that support the food security agenda*’. This was to be achieved through three components, as outlined in the attached logframe (Annex 3):

1. Improved donor coordination, harmonisation and alignment on ARD
2. Participation of the Civil Society in international policy dialogue
3. Advocacy, awareness raising and education for a more effective contribution of ARD to food security

The project supported EIARD’s strategic plan (2009-2013), while contributing to the overall goal of the FSTP (“Food insecurity and poverty through pro-poor agricultural development reduced”). Table 1 compares the EIARD purpose (as per the EIARD strategy) with the purpose of the EIARD FSTP project. The explicit emphasis on food security in the project reflects the FSTP focus on agricultural research for development as a means to enhancing food security, in particular for the poor. However, it also reflects a change in EIARD’s focus over time towards considering research as a means to an end (i.e. developmental objectives of increased food security, reduced poverty and environmental sustainability).

**Table 1 EIARD FSTP project - Relationship to EIARD strategy**

<b>EIARD purpose (as per strategy)</b>	<b>EIARD FSTP project purpose</b>
<b>Coherent</b> , aligned and <b>relevant European</b> initiatives with developing & emerging countries in <b>agricultural research</b> activities and capacity development promoted and implemented in <b>coordinated</b> manner at <b>global, continental, sub continental and national</b> levels	<b>Coherent, coordinated</b> (at <b>national, regional and global</b> levels), <b>relevant</b> and effective <b>European</b> policies for and investments in <b>agricultural research</b> for development that support the food security agenda

The overall budget was € 1,300,000 over three years (from February 2009 to February 2012).

### Main achievements of the project

The project has enabled EIARD to make significant contributions to the ARD agenda globally, in particular by catalysing European contributions to the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) and the development of joint European positions on elements of the ‘new’ CGIAR. While all components of the projects were useful and have contributed to the overall outcome, a number of achievements merit highlighting:

**GCARD support.** The project enabled EIARD to play a major role in GCARD by mobilising the European ARD constituency. By supporting the European GCARD review of European ARD priorities and capacities, as well as the European face-to-face meeting and e-consultation, the project resulted in European experiences and views being well documented and presented during this key conference on ARD. EIARD would not have been able to mobilise and coordinate these activities without project support, which started at the right time, just when GCARD was under preparation. The project also funded the participation of nearly 40 Southern participants, mostly from non-research organisation, in GCARD, who would otherwise not have been able to attend.

**Synthesing evidence.** With project funding, EIARD was able to commission a number of synthetic studies and policy briefs on topics of specific relevance to the CGIAR reform process and the interests of EIARD members. These documents triggered important discussions within EIARD on

members' good practices (e.g. as related to making ARD pro-poor, to capacity development and impact assessment), and subsequently informed EIARD positions on ARD policies and CGIAR programme design. The recommendations produced by the studies will influence members policies and practices, thus contributing to alignment and increased efficiency. Reports have also been shared with institutions beyond EIARD membership (e.g. GDPRD), thus promoting European perspectives on ARD.

**CGIAR reform process.** More directly, the project supported EIARD in developing joint responses to and positions on CGIAR Consortium Research Programmes (CRPs), the main building blocks of the 'new' CGIAR. With project funding, consultants were engaged to screen CRP proposals in details, using a checklist developed by EIARD. This enabled EIARD members to quickly identify, discuss and agree on key aspects of the proposals, which were then summarised in EIARD positions. This process was also assisted by the studies and policy briefs mentioned above.

**European-Southern ARD platforms.** One of the main components of the project was the development of feasibility studies / pre-concept notes on European-Southern ARD platforms, which would bring together relevant ARD stakeholders beyond research institutes (to include civil society, the private sector and advisory services). Using an iterative process of reviewing experience from PAEPARD (the Platform for African-European Partnerships on ARD), scope and capacities of existing regional ARD networks (such as APAARI, CACAARI and FORAGRO), and regional consultations (through workshops and e-consultations), two preliminary concept notes were developed that can be used as a basis for future interventions aimed to improve European-Southern ARD collaboration.

**Sharing good practices.** EIARD's wider advocacy function for ARD (and specifically, integrated approaches to ARD) was supported by the project by funding three regional workshops (in Central America, West Africa and Central Asia) to identify and share good practices in integrating ARD with the wider development agenda. This activity coordinated with the 'platforms' initiative above, as both are contributing to related objectives of creating wider awareness and of developing and sharing good practices in ARD between different stakeholder groups, within and between regions.

**Improving linkages between agricultural research and rural development.** The project supported several activities that brought agricultural research and rural development stakeholders together to discuss areas of common interest and contribute to a common agenda. A joint project-supported workshop with GDPRD was a starting point<sup>11</sup>, leading to further exchanges throughout the project. GDPRD now has a working group on ARD, in which the EIARD ES participates. From the research side, the project enabled GFAR to deliver two significant actions in linking agricultural research investments to development policy: Participation in the World Bank Rural Week in March 2011 and contributing to the support of the development of a regional framework for Agricultural Research for Development in the Central Asia/Caucasus region.

**EIARD communication strategy and web site.** The project funded the development of EIARD's communication strategy and subsequent web site, which enables EIARD to more effectively share information about its objectives, activities and achievements, and to provide different target groups with updates and resources (in particular the documents – studies, policy briefs and positions – resulting from the project).

**Support to EFARD.** Last, but not least, the project enabled EIARD to support EFARD, who is an indirect beneficiary of several of the project activities. In particular the Southern platform study provides EFARD with the analysis required to scope and further develop relationships with Southern ARD networks and fora. It is expected that EFARD will play a key role in inter-regional partnerships in the future. The project also supported the development of EFARD's web site.

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<sup>11</sup> Including the preparation and discussion of a paper commissioned for the meeting, entitled '*Maximising the contribution of agricultural research to rural development*' (see <http://www.donorplatform.org/resources/library/article/20-aid-effectiveness/552-maximising-the-contribution-of-agricultural-research-to-rural-development/166-Itemid.html>).

Annex 2

**RD National Contact Points**

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