

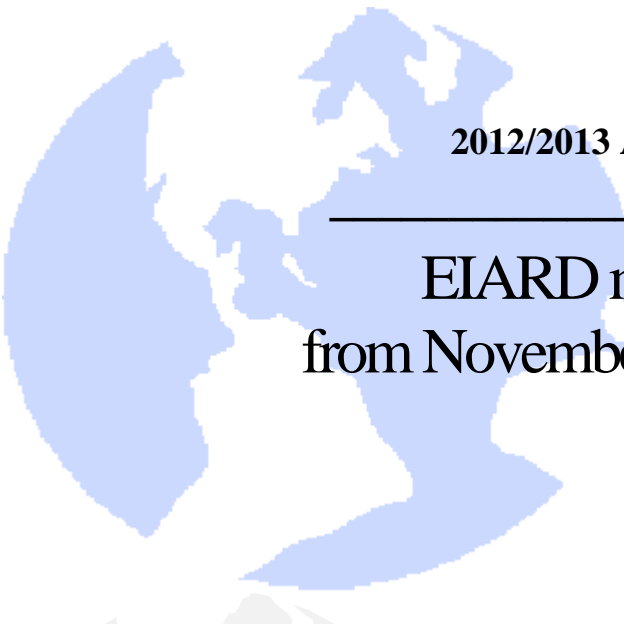
EIARD

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT



2012/2013 Annual Report

**EIARD main achievements
from November 2012 to October 2013**



1. Activities by strategic outputs.

This presentation of EIARD activities between November 2012 and October 2013 follows the 5 main fields of activities established for the EIARD strategy for 2009-2013:

1. Effective coordination of European ARD policies in the pursuit of the MDGs;
2. Effective coordination of European investment in the CGIAR;
3. Effective coordination of European investments in strengthening ARD organisations at global and continental and sub continental levels, especially in Africa;
4. coordination between European investments in ARD and investments in rural development in pursuit of the MDGs;

In addition, cross-cutting issues such as communication and advocacy are covered.

2. 1 - Coordination of European ARD Policies in the pursuit of the MDGs

EIARD aims to improve the coordination and alignment between all its members, and to pursue the development of relevant joint ARD policies and strategies at European level. EIARD also favours better linkages between its members and other European and non-European ARD networks and initiatives representing various 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 policy recommendations.

During the reporting period, EIARD held one European Coordination Group Meeting (ECG 19) and two EIARD Working Group (WG) Meetings. The WG meetings took place in Brussels, on February 27 (WG #55) and on April 16-17 (WG #56), 2013. The EIARD WG56 was largely dedicated to the preparation of EIARD "positions" (see point 2.2) on CGIAR issues, for the 9th CGIAR Fund Council Meeting in New Delhi, India.

These WG also addressed several non-CGIAR issues, like the evolution of the former SCAR/EIARD/ERA-ARD task force to a Joint SCAR-EIARD Strategic Working Group. Opportunities were also provided for members to mutually exchange information on their own bilateral initiatives.

After presenting the SCAR/EIARD/ERA-ARD Task Force Report on "*Improving the synergies between European investments in Agricultural Research and in Agricultural Research for Development*" during the 18th ECG Meeting in Nyon, suggested modifications were incorporated and the document was then first presented at the SCAR WG Meeting on 20 November 2012 where it was well received. It was then presented at the SCAR Plenary in December 2012 where the document was approved. It was decided to launch a Strategic Working Group (SWG) under SCAR on AR-ARD linkages. To that end, a Preparatory Group was formed to develop the ToR for the new SWG. Wolfgang Kasten, GIZ, Germany, and Jürgen Anthofer, EIARD Executive Secretary, were representing EIARD in the Preparatory Group. During that process, the members agreed to form a Joint SWG rather than a SWG under SCAR underlining the importance of the SWG for both EIARD and SCAR. The intended closing workshop of the ERA-ARD II project was used to hold an international conference on "*European Agricultural Research towards greater impact on global challenges*". It had a forward looking perspective and was organized on 5 June 2013, back-to-back with the SCAR Plenary the following day, where the launch of the SWG was approved by SCAR. It was then also confirmed and approved by the EIARD WG on a virtual no objection basis. The launch meeting of the new Joint SCAR-EIARD SWG on AR-ARD linkages was held on 17-18 September 2013 in Brussels and attended by SCAR and EIARD members from Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the EC (DG AGRI, DG DEVCO, DG RTD).

The EIARD 19th European Coordination Group (ECG) Meeting will take place in the premises of the European Commission, DG RTD, Brussels, Belgium on October 21-23, 2013. This meeting will enable members to review EIARD activities and its governance, discuss and exchange information on topics

of common interest and prepare for the 10th CGIAR Fund Council Meeting in November 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting also comprises an open thematic session which stands under the theme "*Development outcomes in a research context – how do we reach that?*", with several invited speakers: Harold Roy-Macauley, Executive Director of CORAF/WECAF, Dennis Garrity, UN Drylands Ambassador and former Director General of ICRAF, Trevor Nicholls, CEO of CABI and Chairman of AIRCA¹, Huub Löffler, Director of Wageningen International, Wageningen UR and Frank Rijsberman, CEO of the CGIAR Consortium.

During the reporting period, no specific studies on policy recommendations were commissioned.

2.2 - Coordination of European investments in CGIAR:

The reformed CGIAR adopted a new institutional model in 2009 emphasizing a more results-oriented research agenda, clearer accountability across the CGIAR, and streamlined CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs). In 2011, the *Strategy and Results Framework (SRF)* was adopted which defines four system level outcomes (SLOs) that determine the CGIAR's research priorities and activities: (1) reduced rural poverty, (2) improved food security, (3) improved nutrition and health, (4) sustainably managed natural resources. The core elements of the new CGIAR are the CGIAR Fund and the CGIAR Consortium. The CGIAR Fund is the key financing instrument for the CGIAR harmonizing and coordinating investments. The CGIAR Fund Council (FC) is the decision making body of the Fund representing all Fund donors.

Total investments to the CGIAR remain difficult to determine. While the CGIAR Fund is applying cash basis accounting, the CGIAR centers provide data on an accrual basis. In 2012, contributions to the CGIAR Fund (Window 1, 2 and 3) on cash basis were 514 Mio \$. In addition, there were 499 Mio \$ additional investments of bilateral funding accounted on accrual basis. Europe remains a key supporter both to the **CGIAR Fund (231 Mio \$, 45%)** and to the **CGIAR in total (326 Mio \$, 31%)**.

Therefore, EIARD's role in coordination of European investments in the CGIAR is as follows:

- To coordinate the representation of all the European public donors contributing to the CGIAR Fund. This is a crucial role as the CGIAR Fund Council membership is organised by "constituency". In the new Fund Council 2013-2015 the "European OECD donors" are represented with **four regular seats and three incentive seats** (in appreciation to high levels of funding). In 2013, the three incentive seats are granted to the UK (Alan Tollervey, DFID), Sweden (Philip Chiverton, SLU or David Lymer, SIDA), and the Netherlands (Robert-Jan Scheer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) while the four regular seats are occupied by Switzerland (Carmen Thoennissen, SDC and EIARD chair), the European Commission (Bernard Rey or David Radcliffe, DG DEVCO), Norway (Daniel van Gilst, NORAD) and France (Frederic Lapeyrie, Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research). The seat occupied by France 2013 will be taken up by Ireland in 2014, followed by Belgium in 2015.
- To facilitate a common vision among EIARD members on the structure, governance, strategy of the CGIAR and the CRPs, leading to collective actions. This is done through the elaboration of EIARD "positions" on CGIAR issues, and in particular issues submitted for decision at the CGIAR Fund Council.
- To facilitate bilateral investments to the CGIAR to be aligned with the SRF.

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 and decided. 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 seven European donors representing the European "constituency".

¹ Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture (AIRCA)

In 2012/13, **EIARD "positions"** were prepared and presented during the 8th CGIAR Fund Council and during the 2nd Funders Forum (FF), in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in October/November 2012 and during the 9th Fund Council in New Delhi, India, in April 2013. EIARD positions covered the composition of the Fund Council Membership (FC8), the SRF² Action Plan (FF2), the reports of the FO, the Consortium, ISPC³ and IEA⁴; the proposal for a performance scheme to promote gender integration into CGIAR research, the request for a CGIAR Fund allocation to system-wide capacity strengthening activities, SPIA's⁵ Work Program and Budget, and others (FC9).

Between FC Meetings, EIARD also had to coordinate the response to various CGIAR issues to be decided by "virtual approval" (on a non-objection basis), e.g. on the Revised CRP 1.1 Proposal, on the CGIAR Open Access Policy, on the ToR for the CGIAR MTR⁶, etc.

In addition, two teleconferences among EIARD WG members were held on the progress of the governance review (1 Feb 2013) and on gender mainstreaming (3 Sep 2013).

EIARD members are also active in the **FC Committees and Working Groups**. The EC (Bernard Rey), Switzerland (Carmen Thoennissen) and UK (Alan Tollervey) are part of the Governance Committee, the Impact and Evaluation Committee is represented by EIARD through France and the Netherlands and Philip Chiverton (Sweden) is member of the Peer Review Team. The EC (David Radcliffe) and Norway⁷ (Daniel van Gilst) are members of the WG on Harmonized Reporting. The Fund Office has also approached EIARD FC members to join the new FC Resource Group. The Netherlands (Robert-Jan Scheer) and/or Norway (Daniel van Gilst) might join the group. Alan Tollervey (UK) also participates in the Consortium Board meetings as an observer, in representation of the Fund Council.

The CGIAR Consortium organized four 2-day **CRP Stakeholder Workshops** with donors and external stakeholders over the period 17-28 June 2013, in Montpellier, France. Their objectives were to present and discuss first concept ideas for the next round of funding starting in 2014. CRPs were asked to present their IDOs, Impact Pathways (IPs) and Theories of Change (ToCs). EIARD members coordinated themselves to cover all the workshops of CRPs. Some members like Switzerland and Germany also provided written comments to the Consortium.

The event was a useful tool to have early interaction between CRP management teams and donors/external stakeholders to elaborate and discuss expectations in order to guide the CRPs in the preparation of the next round of proposals. It would also help the CRPs in the design of their proposals to have more interaction and discussion between those CRPs which are similar in their ambition e.g. the system CRPs. However, the roles and responsibilities of the CGIAR centers in delivering results need to be further clarified.

EIARD was also well represented at the **CGIAR Science Forum 2013** in Bonn, Germany, 23-25 September. The Science Forum 2013, co-organized by the ISPC and BMZ, Germany was under the theme "*Nutrition and health outcomes: target for agricultural research*". Carmen Thoennissen (Switzerland, SDC, EIARD Chair), David Radcliffe (EC, DG DEVCO, EIARD Vice Chair), Juergen Anthofer (EC RTD, EIARD Executive Secretary), Wolfgang Kasten (Germany, GIZ) and Eddie Brannigan (Ireland, Irish Aid) attended the Forum.

The conference concluded that agriculture has great potential to contribute to nutrition and health outcomes but the evidence base is still weak. Nutrition and health indicators need to be more systematically monitored in agricultural projects.

² Strategy and Results Framework

³ Independent Science and Partnership Council

⁴ Independent Evaluation Arrangement

⁵ Standing Panel for Impact Assessment

⁶ Mid-Term Review

⁷ Following Switzerland

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

Besides the coordination of European investment in the CGIAR, 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 GFAR, EFARD and the continental and sub-continental organizations in Africa, FARA, ASARECA, CORAF and CCARDESA.

At the global level, EIARD has continued in 2013 its regular exchange of information and contacts with the **GFAR**⁸ Executive Secretariat. Many EIARD members participated in the 2nd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (**GCARD2**) in Punta del Este, Uruguay which was held back to back with the 8th CGIAR Fund Council Meeting and the 2nd Funders Forum. The event was co-organized by GFAR, the CGIAR and the government of Uruguay. GCARD is a platform bringing together organizations, institutions and initiatives representing a wide range of stakeholders such as researchers, farmers, civil society organizations and the private sector. GCARD2 was attended by more than 700 participants from more than 100 countries. The conference focused on foresight, partnership and capacity building.

Furthermore, David Radcliffe of DG DEVCO (vice chairmanship of EIARD) also attended the 28th GFAR Steering Committee Meeting in Istanbul where the recommendations of an external GFAR governance review was accepted. In addition, the findings of an external GCARD review were endorsed. A new Medium-Term Plan 2013-16 was put in place.

At the European level, EIARD is a member of the European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development (**EFARD**) representing the European donor community. The EIARD Executive Secretary attended the steering committee meetings of EFARD in March and in October 2013.

Since DG DEVCO had decided to withdraw from hosting the Executive Secretariat of EFARD different options were elaborated. Finally, CTA agreed to host the Secretariat and Judith Francis was nominated as the new Executive Secretary. In addition, Catherine Guichard stepped down as Chair of EFARD and Prof. Martin Kropff, Rector Magnificus and vice chairman of the executive board of Wageningen UR, took over. During the meeting in October, a new draft strategy for EFARD 2013-2015 was presented.

Through his integration in Unit E4 at DG RTD, the EIARD Executive Secretary provided technical support to the **ERA-ARD II project** (participation in Steering Committee meeting, conference preparatory group). The closing workshop of the ERA-ARD II project, hold on 5 June 2013 in Brussels, was organized as an international conference on "*European Agricultural Research towards greater impact on global challenges*" bringing together 150 participants and stakeholders in ARD from Europe and beyond.

At sub-continental level, the EIARD Executive Secretary attended the Development Partners' Business Meeting discussing "*Support to Regional and Continental Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Programs and Institutions in Africa*" organised by the European commission (DG DEVCO), in Brussels, on February 5-6, 2013. The meeting was attended by 27 participants including representatives from France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and UK.

The meeting reviewed the roles of continental and Sub-Regional Organisations (SROs) in Africa, namely FARA, CORAF, ASARECA, CCARDESA, AFAAS and TEAM Africa as part of a Transformation Agenda paving the way from an underperforming agricultural sector with millions of smallholders barely making a living towards a prosperous, market-oriented sector. FARA and the SROs have benefitted in recent years from coordinated donor support provided through World Bank managed multi-donor trust funds. While having made good progress the medium term operational plans (MTOPs) of FARA and ASARECA are coming to an end and further support is sought to secure the investments made so far. Although there was appreciation on the achievements of the African institutions no formal commitments towards further support could be secured.

⁸ Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR)

The EIARD Executive Secretary together with the EIARD Vice Chair attended the **6th Africa Agriculture Science Week** in Accra, Ghana which took place July 15-19, 2013. Every three years, FARA organizes the Africa Agriculture Science Week, a continental meeting bringing together all relevant stakeholder groups in African Agriculture. The Science Week precedes the FARA General Assembly (GA), the highest governing body of FARA which ratifies the Board decisions. The theme of the Science Week was "*Africa feeding Africa through Science and Innovations*". It refers to a change of perception from a *hopeless continent* to a *rising continent* given its vast and yet, largely unexploited resources.

Unlike the last Science Week, the CGIAR was quite prominently present to present either their center or the CRP in several side events. The recent MoU between the CGIAR and the AUC as an outcome of the Dublin process seem to bear fruits. African institutions like FARA, ASARECA, CORAF and others are assigned with roles in the CRPs. Likewise, CGIAR centers are partners in some of the SRO managed ARD projects.

A side event was dedicated to the ***Science Agenda for African Agriculture***, a key work stream evolving from the Dublin Process. It underpins the importance of science within the CAADP process. Another side event on IntensAfrica was well attended by African and European participants. The IntensAfrica Initiative is led by WUR and CIRAD, France, aiming to build a long-term African-European research partnership.

The **IntensAfrica** Initiative is led by WUR and CIRAD, France, aiming to build a long-term African-European research partnership. Several consultations with DG RTD have been undertaken by the consortium which envisages an Article 185 of the Lisbon Treaty. However, during these earlier consultations it became clear that an Article 185 will only be feasible in the future with several intermediate steps in between. The first drafts of the Initiative aimed at developing intensification pathways with no clear results articulated. It was also not clear to what extent it would fit in or complement on-going large initiatives such as the CGIAR or CAADP and how it would justify its role next to other past or on-going EC supported projects.

During recent months, intensive consultations with African institutions such as FARA helped to embed this potential flagship initiative within the long-term strategies and visions of African institutions and stakeholders. During the side event, IntensAfrica was presented as a collaborative research programme between Africa and Europe. FARA was given a key role in ensuring Africa's active participation and for linking to existing initiatives on the continent. The overall objective was redefined as *improved food security and livelihood of farmers by sustainable intensification of agri-food systems*. Such an overall objective is broad enough for the long-term perspective of developing into an EU-Africa flagship initiative with support through an Article 185.

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

EIARD is also maintaining contacts and links with non-research institutions investing in rural developments in developing countries like for instance the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (**GDPRD**). In early 2013, the EIARD Secretariat was approached by the GDPRD Working Group "Agricultural Research for Development – AR4D" to seek closer collaboration. This interest was put forward to the EIARD WG. However, the EIARD WG perceived it more useful to get closer contacts with other GDPRD WGs involved in Rural Development issues. The idea for a closer collaboration with the GDPRD was not getting a link with another ARD Group but to identify synergies with rural development programmes. However, since the AR4D WG has an operational budget there might be opportunities in the future to tap in since EIARD has no more operational budget after the closure of the FSTP supported EIARD project in 2012.

The 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 3 July, 2013. He also attended the Plenary Sessions of the Standing Committee for Agricultural Research (**SCAR**) on 11-12 December 2012 and on 6 June 2013 as well as several SCAR Working Group Meetings.

2.5 Crosscutting Activities: communication and advocacy

As part of the FSTP project EIARD launched its own website in 2011. (www.eiard.org). However, after the termination of the consultant contract, there is no further maintenance and support given regarding the website. Several other organizations and initiatives (e.g. EFARD, heritage of ERA-ARD) are in a similar situation and there have been discussions regarding the establishment of one common portal which can serve the needs of several ARD entities/initiatives.

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

After the successful publication of case studies by DFID, UK, in 2011, SDC, Switzerland, financed another series of 20 case studies for publication on the EIARD website (www.eiard.org/impact-case-studies/2013). The case studies are meant to document evidence and impact of investments in ARD and to advocate for additional investments. The case studies were commissioned to WRENMedia. An *ad hoc* EIARD group, constituted by the EIARD delegates from France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, UK, and the EC, had been set up to support this task. These new case studies have been released during the first part of 2013. They were also shared with members of EFARD during the EFARD SC Meeting in March 2013 in Brussels where they were well received.

3. Staff and meetings

EIARD is an informal donor coordination platform which can only be effective through the active participation of its members. Considerable time and efforts are dedicated especially by the members of the EIARD Working Group who, besides participating in EIARD WG Meetings, stay in constant contact with each other on all important emerging issues throughout the year.

Carmen Thönnissen (SDC/Switzerland) has served as a dedicated EIARD Chair for the last three years (2011 to 2013). Her term comes to an end with the 19th ECG Meeting in Brussels when a new Chair will be elected. However, Carmen will remain with EIARD as part of the EIARD WG.

The day-to-day management of the EIARD Secretariat which is hosted by DG RTD of the European Commission is taken up by the EIARD Executive Secretary. Philippe Petithuguenin, seconded by the French Government, had served in this position since 2009 and returned back to CIRAD, France by the end of October 2012. He has been replaced by Jürgen Anthofer, seconded from GIZ, Germany, to the European Commission for this position.

The EIARD Secretariat is hosted by the European Commission, DG RTD. In addition, the Commission through DG DEVCO is holding the permanent Vice Chairmanship of EIARD. In exchange, the Commission provides an office and equipment for the EIARD Secretariat and covers mission costs of the Executive Secretary. In addition, meeting facilities are provided to have EIARD WG Meetings. Support was also provided by Switzerland and Belgium for hosting and organisation of the 18th and 19th ECG Meeting, in October 2012 and October 2013, respectively.

Between these two EIARD ECG Meetings, two EIARD WG meetings were held in Brussels: on February 27 (WG # 55) and on April 16 to 17 (WG#56).

The Annex presents the list of EIARD national contact points and Working Group members. During 2012, the EIARD members representing Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Spain have changed. EIARD sincerely thanks Lars Christian Oxe (DK), Tuula Pehu (FI), Frédéric Lapeyrie (F), Lawrence Lee (IR), Gabriella D'Elia (I), Ruth Haugh (N), Paloma Melgarejo (E), Ana Ribeiro (P) for their contributions and commitments to EIARD activities and wishes them success in their new roles. EIARD welcomes Karsten Peter Nielsen (DK), Marjukka Mähönen (FI), Michel Trebel (F), Robert-Jan Scheer (ND), Rogier Schulte (IR), Trygve Berg (N), Ana Portugal Melo (P) and Rocio Lansac (E) as new members of EIARD.

Annex: EIARD National Contact Points and members

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* Functions in EIARD

NCP = National (or EC) Contact Point

WG = Member of EIARD Working Group

M = Member