



Report of the SCAR / EIARD / ERA ARD Task Force

Improving the contribution of European Agricultural Research to Agricultural Research for Development





Short history of the study

■ TOR

- Short note: max 10 pages (+ annexes)
- Based on national contributions by SCAR, EIARD, and ERA ARD
- Final text available by end of 2012

■ Process

- Contributions from Cyprus, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UK between April and August 2012
- First complete draft prepared by EIARD ExSec and circulated in August 2012
- Draft discussed in a Task force ad hoc meeting, Den Haag, September 27, 2012
- Revised draft, October 2012





(Some) global challenges



- The need to provide a sustainable, safe and secure food supply, as well as fibres and biomass, for a growing global population
- Adapt to effects of climate change and mitigate climate change
- Dwindling natural resources (water, land, fish, agrobiodiversity)
- Land degradation
- High infectious diseases



Global Challenges addressed

- Agriculture and Food security is back on the agenda
- Recognition of the role of Agricultural research to address global challenges
 - UK Foresight on the future of food and farming
 - SCAR 3rd Foresight
 - Several G8 and G20 declarations „to invest in agricultural research“





The challenge is the coordination between AR and AR4D



- Global challenges are known
- Favourable political situation
- Existence of separate sets of policies, instruments and institutions (including ministries): one set for AR and another set for AR4D
- Interest in Co-operation at policy and at Science level



Some examples to close the cooperation gap

1) Funding mechanisms

- 1) Joint calls
- 2) AR funding mechanisms being extended to cover AR4D issues
- 3) Funding of national AR researchers (non AR4D specialists) to get involved in AR4D activities, in particular in the CGIAR programmes

2) Institutional policy dialogue

- 3) Coordination or alliances between AR and AR4D institutions or scientists





Conclusions

- The European situation regarding the AR / AR4D linkages is evolving rapidly - the synergies between AR and AR4D public investments in Europe are being strengthened
- International Cooperation in Agricultural Research with scientific contribution to global and development challenges such as Food Security without creating additional administrative barriers between AR and AR4D has been increased





Recommendations

- A "strategic working group" on linkages between AR and AR4D
- Stimulate mutual learning
- Review existing instruments supporting AR and AR4D
- Dialogue mechanism between SCAR and the HARDs
- "Revisit" the AR and AR4D paradigms





- "Europe should not limit its science and technology cooperation with Africa merely to funding". (...) *Instead, it should* "target important research areas in grand challenge approaches for European research institutions to collaborate with developing countries" *and implement* "twinning arrangements that promote real action on the ground in Africa". (...) "There have been many past declarations both in Europe and in Africa, but we must now translate rhetoric into action,"

Extract from speech given by Dr Ismail Serageldin, director of the New Library of Alexandria, Egypt, at the "Africa & Europe Partnership Symposium: Science for Economic Development" EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF), July 14, 2012, Dublin, Ireland.



Thank you for your attention !