

International Conference

European Agricultural Research towards greater impact on Global Challenges

**Main Conclusions of the International Conference,
held in Brussels, Belgium, on 5th June 2013**

The following has been prepared by the organisers as a support to participants and others. It provides a brief conclusion for the conference. Conference presentations can be found on the ERA-ARD Website at <http://www.era-ard.org/international-conference/>.

The conference was conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere and attended by over 100 people including policy makers, donors, programme managers, scientists and other stakeholders. Participants were active both during the sessions and during the breaks and they agreed that time is right for improving linkages between **Agricultural Research (AR)** and **Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)**. This will contribute to **greater impact on Global Challenges** from the side of European Agricultural Research.

There is considerable experience and a multitude of ideas on how the impact of AR and ARD can be strengthened and it is important to build on this, ensuring AR and ARD use a more bottom-up and multi-stakeholder approach.

It is recommended that the way to link AR and ARD successfully can be elaborated through establishing a **Joint EIARD – SCAR Strategic Working Group** which supports and strengthens collaboration between countries, aiming at improving efficiency and visibility of use of research funds.

Alignment at global, regional and national levels should be improved and supported by consultation with a broad range of stakeholders from Europe and the South, acknowledging that building mutual trust in sustainable partnerships takes time and is part of the development process. Partnerships between Europe and the South will be increasingly balanced and of mutual benefit.

Funding instruments should be flexible and catalyse existing initiatives, rather than generating new initiatives.

Europe should support research collaboration in **sustainable intensification of food production**, taking into account the whole value chain (such as IntensAfrica).

In other words: We must translate rhetoric into action. The moment is now.