# ERA ARD
## The Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) Dimension of the European Research Area (ERA)

**FINAL REPORT**

# REPORT

## JOINT ACTION PLANS FOR THE TWO SELECTED ARD SUB-PROGRAMMES

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# ABBREVIATIONS

| ACRONYM | NAME |
|---|---|
| ADA | Austrian Development Agency |
| Agropolis | World Centre for agricultural, food and environmental sciences |
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| ANAFE | African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education |
| ARD | Agricultural research for Development |
| ASARECA | Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa |
| BASIC | Programme for Building African Scientific and Institutional Capacity |
| BMBWK | Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture |
| BMLFUW | Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management |
| BLE | Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food |
| CD | Capacity Development |
| CIRAD | Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement |
| CNEARC | Centre National d'Etudes Agronomiques des Régions Chaudes |
| CTA | Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU |
| DFID | Department for International Development |
| DoW | Description of Work (of the ERA-ARD project) |
| EC | European Commission |
| ERA | European Research Area |
| EU | European Union |
| Evoltree | EU NoE: EVOLUTION OF TREES AS DRIVERS OF TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations |
| FARA | Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa |
| GFAR | Global Forum on Agricultural Research |
| GMO | Genetically Modified Organism |
| GTZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit |
| HACCP | Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point |
| IAR4D | Integrated Agricultural Research for Development |
| ICC | International Association for Cereal Science and Technology |
| ICRA | International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture |
| ICT | The International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture |
| ISICAD | Information systems for rural development and agricultural research |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goals |
| MoniQA | Monitoring and Quality Assurance in the food supply chain - project |
| MT | Management Team (of the ERA-ARD project) |
| NATURA | The Association "**N**etwork of European **A**gricultural (**T**ropically and sub-tropically oriented) **U**niversities and scientific complexes **R**elated with **A**gricultural development" |
| NFARD | The Netherlands Forum on Agricultural Research for Development |
| NRI | Natural Resources International |
| OEAD | Austrian North-South-Dialogue Scholarship programme |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| NRM | Natural Resources Management |
| QAS | Question and Answer Service |
| RAILS | Regional Agricultural Information and Learning Systems |
| RD | Research for Development |
| RIU | Research into Use |
| RIUP | Research into Use programme |
| R & D | Research and Development |
| RTD | Research Technology and Development |
| RUFORUM | The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture |
| RUN-network | Rural Universe Network - empowers the population in developing countries to use Internet technology for development |
| SADC-FANR | Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate of the Southern African |

| ACRONYM | NAME |
|---|---|
| | Development Community |
| SAFE FOODS | EU FP Integrated Project (IP) "Promoting Food Safety through a New Integrated Risk Analysis Approach for Foods" |
| SCARDA | Strengthening Capacity fo Agricultural Research and Development ijn Africa |
| SME | Small and medium enterprises |
| SSA | Sub-saharan Africa |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| WB | World Bank |
| WP | Workpackage (in the ERA-ARD project) |
| WUR | Wageningen University and Research Centre |
| ZADI | Zentralstelle für Agrardokumentation und –information |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the result of the work carried out in the frame of the ERA-ARD project in 2006 and 2007. It seeks to provide an overview of the work being done in task 3.1, describes the process which led to the definition and selection of the Joint Activities described in the report and finally explains the activities selected. It is a deliverable of task 3.1 of work package 3.

Based on the analysis in task 2.1: "Definition of the potential for greater European integration and synergy of (or parts of) the national ARD programmes" the ERA ARD steering committee members were deciding on the topics "Agri-Food Chain Safety", "Capacity Development" and "Food and Energy" as the sub-programmes, which can benefit the most from joint and transnational activities. The sub-programme "Food and Energy" will be a transnational activity funded by ERA-ARD participating countries based on a call for proposals.

The first two sub-programmes, "Agri-Food Chain Safety", "Capacity Development", were meant to serve as pilot programmes for "Joint Activities", i.e. aiming at improving coordination and cooperation between on-going projects.

The Objective of task 3.1 is to formulate and implement action plans for the two selected ARD sub-programmes.

**Expected results are:**
1. **Action plans** identifying Joint Activities to be **developed**
2. **Potential linkages** with European non-development oriented research  to be **built**
3. **First evaluation of the action plans** for Joint Activities after 6 months

As part of the process to identify possible Joint Activities in the two selected topics, two expert meetings were held.

- The **First Expert Meeting** was held in January 2007 in Vienna. In this meeting several topics were raised and the participants discussed them in the respective expert group and in the general plenum.
- Based on the selected topics **articles were prepared and posted** on the RUN-net serving as communication platform. In connection with these posted articles we were asking for input through electronic consultation – especially national/regional programme elements, which could be linked to the posted topic for the draft action plan.
- Furthermore we were continuing **the consultation via e-mail** and telephone with the experts of the First Expert meeting and the ERA-ARD management team members. Through this electronic consultation process, we were taking up the topics most promising for Joint Activities.
- A **Second Expert Meeting** has been held in April 2007 in Vienna. At this meeting thematic working groups with experts were formed, which were specifically discussing and developing action plans for Joint Activities in the selected topics. Decisions were taken on the Joint Activities in Capacity Development and Agri-food Chain Safety which are most likely to be implemented.
- The status of task 3.1 has further been presented and discussed in a side meeting of the **ERA-ARD mid-term conference in Brussels** in June 2007 together with Southern experts. The presented items for Joint Activities have been accepted with additional suggestions before being presented at the SC meeting in Maribor in October 2007 and passed on to the management teams for commitment. Received commitments have been processed and the adopted actions ranked in a WP leader meeting in Brussels in January 2008. Endorsement of D 3.1.: Joint Action plan for the two selected ARD sub-programmes by the the **Steering committee in Madrid** (Feb 08).

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 ERA-ARD Workpackage 3

### 1.1.1 Background of Task 3.1

Based on the analysis in Task 2.1: Definition of the potential for greater European integration and synergy of (or parts of) the national ARD programmes, the ERA ARD steering committee members were deciding on the topics "Agri-Food Chain Safety", "Capacity Development" and "Food and Energy" as the sub-programmes, which can benefit the most from joint and transnational activities. The sub-programme "Food and Energy" will be a transnational activity funded by ERA-ARD participating countries based on a call for proposals. The first two sub-programmes, "Agri-Food Chain Safety", "Capacity Development", were meant to serve as pilot programmes for "Joint Activities", i.e. aiming at improving coordination and cooperation between on-going projects.

Beyond that, the selected sub-programmes for joint activities will support upcoming tasks of the ERA-ARD project as delineated in the description of work, namely the design of common or compatible methodologies for ARD planning, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment (task 3.2), the strengthening of the contribution and impact of European ARD in the regional and global ARD sytems (task 3.3).

Tasks of Workpackage 3

Workpackage 3 is concerned with the implementation of Joint Activities.  It has three specific tasks:

**Task 3.1:** Formulation of action plans for each of two priority ARD sub-programmes identified during the strategic thinking phase.

**Task 3.2:** Design of common or compatible methodologies for ARD planning, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment.

**Task 3.3:** Strengthening the contribution and impact of European ARD in the regional and global ARD systems.

This report furnishes deliverable 3.1 of task 3.1

Objective and expected results of Task 3.1

**Box 1 Objective and expected results for Task 3.1**

| Objective of the task | To formulate and implement action plans for the two selected ARD sub-programmes | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Expected results** | 1. | **Action plans** identifying Joint Activities to be **developed** | |
| | 2. | **Potential linkages** with European non-development oriented research to be **built** | |
| | 3. | **First evaluation of the Action plans** for Joint Activities after 6 months | |

Deliverables

**Deliverable D.3.1:** Joint action plan for the two selected ARD sub-programmes.

**Decisions taken**

- Decision on the two sub-programmes by the ERA-ARD Steering Committee (Oct. 06)
- Decision on the expert groups. Based on the decisions on the two sub programmes, national programme managers for each expert group were nominated by the ERA-ARD consortium partners (Nov/Dec 07)
- Decision on the appropriate instruments for each sub-programme by the nominated experts in the First Expert meeting (Jan 07).
- Decision on the selected Joint Acitivities by the selected experts in the Second Expert meeting (Apr 07).
- Ranking of the selected activities by the WP leader task force (Jan 08) for implementation by the SC (Feb 08)
- Endorsement of D 3.1.: Joint Action plan for the two selected ARD sub-programmes by the the SC in Madrid (Feb 08)

  **DECISION 3** The Action Plans for joint activities are endorsed by the Members.

  **DECISION 4** All conveners of the different activities identified in the two Action Plans should start immediately mobilising the Consortium members who have expressed interest for these activities.

  **DECISION 5** A first "monitoring" exercise of the different activities will be carried out after a period of six months, i.e. during the last quarter of 2008.

### 1.1.2 Process description of task 3.1: Development of action plans

The Austrian Task Force was facilitating and supervising the work of the two expert groups as described in the DoW. The work of the expert groups was mainly done through in the experts meetings (a launching and a closing) held in Austria and an electronic consultations process in between the meetings. The Task Force 3.1 has presented the action plan drawn from the opinions expressed by these expert groups and the mid-term meeting participants to the ERA-ARD Steering Committee for endorsement and implementation in October 2007 in Maribor.

As a basis for the selection of Joint Activities six different sources of information have been used,

   i)     Data from the Analysis of WP2 Task 2.1. "Definition of the potential for greater European integration and synergy of (or parts of) the national ARD programmes "
   ii)    Task 2.2. "Innovative capacity development approaches for the ERA-ARD project"
   iii)   Results from the First Experts group meeting on 23rd and 24th of January 2007 in Vienna including input from experts from the south
   iv)    Results from the electronic consultation phase between the two expert group meetings
   v)     Results from the Second Experts group meeting on 25th and 26th of April 2007 in Vienna
   vi)    Input from the mid-term conference in Brussels (28th & 29th June 2007)

From this input a short list of Activities was condensed and further discussed with experts leading to the selected activities described in chapter 2.

The Task Force has decided to develop the two Joint Action plans in one document summarizing a number of activities embracing both of the chosen sub-programmes: The chosen topics are overlapping and Capacity Development a) is more a cross cutting issue than a sub-programme, and b) is a very important part of many activities in Agri-food Chain Safety. Also, the experts in the CD working groups expressed the opinion that activities would be more workable if underlayed by thematic activities. In other words, although the level of knowledge in the South is high - capacity and resources are lacking to create significant food safety and hygiene impacts, it is important to combine and enhance institutional capacity in the area of Agri-food Chain Safety.

The process of the ERA-ARD WP 3 Task 3.1, can be divided into five steps (Table 1):

**Table 1: Overview of the different steps**

| Steps | Timeframe |
|---|---|
| Preparatory work | October – December 2006 |
| First (launching) Expert Meeting | 23rd and 24th January 2007 |
| Electronic consultation phase | 24th January – 25th April 2007 |
| Second (closing) Expert Meeting | 25th and 26th April 2007 |
| Mid-term conference | 28th and 29th June 2007 |

Preparatory work

The **preparatory work** covered the following activities:
- Decision on the two sub-programmes (by the ERA-ARD Steering comittee in October 2006)
- Selecting Instruments based on the decision on the sub-programmes
- Installing a task force
- Nomination of experts for the expert group meetings by the ERA-ARD consortium members

First Expert Meeting

The First Expert Meeting was held on 23rd and 24th of January 2007 in Vienna. In this meeting several topics, **instruments and potential areas for Joint Activities** were raised and discussed by the participants of the respective expert group and in the general plenum.

Electronic consultation phase

Based on the selected topics we were preparing articles, which were posted on the RUN-net (http://www.runetwork.de/html/de/index.html?journal_id=255), our communication platform. In connection with these posted articles we were asking for input through electronic consultation – any national/regional programme element, which could be linked to the posted topic for the draft action plan. Furthermore we were continuing the consultation via e-mail and telephone with the experts of the First Expert meeting and the ERA-ARD Management Team-members. Furthermore the task 3.1 team was continuing the consultation with the experts of the First Expert meeting and the ERA-ARD Management Team-members via e-mail and telephone. Through this consultation process we were taking up the topics most promising for Joint Activities.

Second Expert Meeting

The Second Expert Meeting took place on the 25th and 26th of April 2007 in Vienna. At this meeting, thematic working groups with experts were formed, which were specifically discussing and developing action plans for Joint Activities in the selected topics. Decisions on the Joint Activities in Capacity Development and Agri-food Chain Safety most likely to be implemented in the given time were taken thereafter.

Mid-term conference

In the Mid-term conference the frame of the Action Plan was adjusted. Aside of the acknowledgement of the efforts to keep task 3.1 in due progress and some specific advice towards the draft Joint Activities presented in separate brainstorming session for the 2 selected sub-programmes, the delegates at the midterm meeting expressed lists of Summary of main points of interest to ERA-ARD (see 2.1.2 & 2.2.2). A considerably large number of these interventions came from delegates from developing or emerging countries.

First evaluation

According to Annex 1 to the contract ("Description of Work") "a first evaluation of progress achieved in implementing these action plans will be carried out by the Task Manager after a period of six months."

### 1.1.3 Implementation of task 3.1 deliverable: Expectations to the action conveners and the SC

The task force 3.1 requests the conveners of all Joint Activities as named in this document

- to provide short protocols and/or executive summaries of their respective agendas to the task force 3.1 via their SC members to facilitate a first evaluation of Joint Activities after a period of six months and
- to consider the option of co-operative implementation, joint meetings or joint actions for activities within the same thematic line (e.g. CD 1 and CD 2 within "Harmonizing personal capacity development initiatives in Europe and the South", or CD 4 to 6 within "Connecting user demand to existing knowledge"

Concerning the facilitation and implementation of the joint (core as well as supporting) activities presented below for both sub-programmes the following support is expected from the SC members:

- To adopt the actions with the listed participating organisations / participants
- To facilitate the realisation of the listed and further participations in the joint actions
- To advise their national specialists of the possibilities for linking up to networks (especially CD 3 or CD 6; FS 1)
- To provide the relevant information for the 6 months evaluation to the task 3.1 leader

### 1.1.4 Limitations of the "Joint Activities" approach:

- The general problem that programme managers – even when convinced of the necessity to harmonize European ARD efforts – are rarely in a position to negotiate harmonization of their respective running programmes, because of existing commitments, calls, etc. and other buerocratic barriers

- The set up of task 3.1 delegates - most of the national search efforts for participants in Joint Activities have to be carried out by contractors to the respective ERA-ARD Management Team (consortium partner) thus having only a limited possibility to search in depth because of budget (time) constraints. On the other hand the task 3.1 team is not in a position to address national programme managers directly, because task 1.1 could not identify sufficient programms/subprogrammes and their members to procide on such information without time consuming back-checking to ERA-ARD Management Team members.

- The finding of potential Joint Activities in workshops with experts, also bears the limitation in the scope of institutional views versus programme (funding) organisations' managers interests.

- Further problems in the alignment of Joint Activities have arisen from the facts that
  * in most member states the ARD agenda is frequently part of general RD programmes and
  * in most if not all member states ARD related programmes are in the responsibility of more than one government office

### 1.1.5 Options for the "Joint Activities" approach:

- Consider the option of co-operative implementation, joint meetings or joint actions for activities within the same thematic line (e.g. CD 1 and CD 2 within "Harmonizing personal capacity development initiatives in Europe and the South", or CD 4 to 6 within "Connecting user demand to existing knowledge")

# 2. JOINT ACTION PLAN

## 2.1 Selected joint activities in the sub-programme Capacity Development

### 2.1.1 Overview of national ARD programmes in member countries with relevance to the selection criteria for choosing Capacity Development

The survey on governance (see ERA-ARD SURVEY on funding mechanisms for ARD - Descriptive synthesis of ARD Programmes) provides information on 85 programmes which fund ARD activities with an annual budget of almost 416 million Euros. ARD programmes support activities on research (52% of the total budget) and capacity development (48% of the total budget, with 18% being spent at the institutional level and 30% at the individual level), the largest regional sector targetting Africa with 44% of the total budget.

In planning joint activities towards capacity development we have to take into account that 52% of the total budget for research and capacity development goes to European institutions, whereas only 24% each are invested into International Research Institutes and Developing Countries, respectively. Research activities have been found to be coordinated almost exclusively by IARCs and NARCs. Although the figure of 52% being spent in Europe applies to the overall budget, that is research and capacity development programmes, we can assume that in capacity development activities alone the percentage of budgets spent in Europe is at least as high, if not higher.

This situation was reflected in the task workshops with expert groups by lengthy discussions of the situation in European universities and research institutions involved in student and technical training, main points being the question of PhD training in basic sciences versus problem oriented scientific and technological training in the regions, the starting conditions of trained young scientists upon return, regional institutional capacities etc. Task 2.1 report notes North South University Partnership activities predominantly driven by Southern priority concerns and second by EU policy concern (whereas in the other task 3.1 subprogramme chosen 'Food Chain Safety' the situation is the other way around). Looking into the already existing investments, task 2.1 found that both the sub-programmes chosen with spendings around 15 M Euros annually each rank behind Sustainable NRM receiving more than 34 M Euros.

### 2.1.2 General remarks & ERA-ARD network process links

Concerning Capacity Development the strategic activity (task 2.2) drawn from the mapping exercise revealed useful information on the relative intensity of national programmes towards horizontal (training, scholarship, "partnership", "north-south & south-south exchange") activities as well as their level (individual, institutional or systemic) plus intensity of the respective research focus. Nevertheless, most of these programmes are not explicitly focussed on ARD. Over this background and specific inputs from national programme concepts the group of experts has extensively discussed concepts for Joint Activities towards institutional and systemic capacity development.

Another important area for Joint Activities identified originates from the fact that the vast information from finished and running ARD projects in general R&D programmes and also in specifically ARD oriented R&D programmes from Europe is either resting in singular (university, program management, a. o.) data bases or not processed electronically at all (especially in terms of results, lessons learnt, etc.). This has been recognized by funding bodies and programmes/projects for processing of data files for re-use of the relevant information have been initiated. The experts have taken this as a focal point for aligning further activities and extending the focus on a) measures to improve the search ability of existing data bases and b) an instrument for shopping knowledge through a single internet window via federating existing data bases for retrieval of relevant information. Such a system may be used not only by programme managers, but would be even more helpful for end users and thus close another information gap next to the area of other services discussed for alignment and improvement like question and answer service

on internet or radio, and similar instruments.

Another wide area of capacity development activities open for harmonization and improvement through Joint Activities is the individual training of students (and technicians or farmers etc.) in the North and South. This area has been discussed very extensively and series of single elements for harmonization have been proposed including such addressing the "returning south" issue.

### 2.1.3   Summary of main points of interest to ERA-ARD

- It is important to align the European instruments with regional and national initiatives of the partners in the South (such as, in the case of Sub-Sahara Africa, RUFORUM, SCARDA and BASIC, etc….).
- A joint European CD activity should give high priority to meeting the strong need for CD in Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D), innovation systems approaches and partnership processes as promoted by FARA and which are new to both experienced and young professionals in Africa. This includes empowering and developing capacities of farmers and farmer organisations.
- The joint CD activity should adopt a systemic approach and give more weight to strengthening the innovation systems and organisational capacity in the South, rather than the current emphasis on individual degree training. It should also include monitoring and evaluation of the process of partnership development, analyse and draw lessons from this.
- CD should be more integrated with national research, development and policy agendas and combine thematic depth with interdisciplinary problem solving approaches.
- There is ample room for improved harmonisation between the many fragmented bilateral collaborations currently existing between individual European and Southern universities.
- By coordinating, at the European level, this PhD research in ARD-related subjects (e.g. by focussing 20% of the PhDs on innovation systems issues in different fields, such as crops, livestock, environment, markets, policies), European ARD would get critical mass and leverage change in the international agricultural research system.
- With a growing capacity to deliver MSc level education in the South, individual degree training of Southern nationals at European institutions should gradually focus at the PhD level.
- It is worth exploring the possibility of building the joint CD activity into the food security and food and energy sub-programmes rather than, or in addition to, a stand-alone joint CD activity.
- The effective use of ICT for agricultural innovation is a major area for CD and for systematic study. Farmer-to-farmer Question & Answer Systems are effective to address individual problems, but dealing with information needs of communities (e.g. on complex NRM issues at regional scale) and events with a sudden and immediate mass impact requires other tools, including radio.
- Experience shows that a single window for providing information does not work. It is better to network data bases and to leverage and make use of existing structures (RAILS, RIU, …).
- Better use can be made of opportunities offered by young professionals programmes of various member countries to gain post-degree hands-on experience.
- CD needs to be combined with a comprehensive set of measures to reduce the brain drain.

Note: *Capacity development is a horizontal activity and as such always operating with (a) thematically wider or more focussed R&D programme(s). Therefore, the following Joint Activities or certain steps therein may likewise become part of the sub-programme "Agri-food Chain Safety"*

### 2.1.4 Core activities in the sub-programme Capacity Development

*(for supporting activities see 2.1.5)*

### *2.1.4.1 Harmonizing personal capacity development initiatives in Europe and the South*

Background

Group discussions were held on academic training programmes mainly run by universities. The idea behind this was to extend the efforts towards capacity development (CD) beyond personal CD to the regional environment, extension service to farmers and SMEs, institutional and political CD. The aim would be to provide academic trainees (scholarship owners) also with a minimum training budget to cover specific training and bench fees and consumables for acquiring and transferring the necessary knowledge to achieve the desired development outcome back home and/or a custom tailored personal and/or institutional starting package for a limited, problem-oriented application of their acquired knowledge back home. Excellent use can be made of such opportunities offered by young professionals programmes of various member countries to gain post-degree hands-on experience. CD needs to be combined with a comprehensive set of measures to reduce the brain drain.

With a growing capacity to deliver MSc level education in the South, individual degree training of Southern nationals at European institutions will gradually focus at the PhD level. By coordinating, at the European level, this PhD research in ARD-related subjects (e.g. only by focussing 20% of the PhD research grants on innovation systems issues in different fields, such as crops, livestock, environment, market, policies), European ARD would get critical mass and leverage change in the international agricultural research system.

NATURA network is just starting such a process and welcomes ERA-ARD to go along in advertising this initiative to its members for active participation and promotion, making it to an ERA-ARD Joint Activity as well. The International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture - ICRA www.icra-edu.org, providing professional training in interdisciplinary team research in agriculture, intends to participate at least in part of the three actions drafted for this activity below.

The added value of ERA-ARD involvement in these activities:

- Getting further ERA-ARD partner countries involved in the NATURA network
- Reach a political agreement  on harmonization and mutual access/exchange of data sets for grant eligibility criteria, grant application and evaluation procedures, and university registration formalities
- Promotion of thematic networks for personal capacity development initiated by NATURA among ERA-ARD members
- Gathering of support for the networking activities (workshops) and additional grants for PhD research among ERA-ARD members' upcoming programmes

- More efficient and much quicker response to the needs of the target group

- More relevant, effective and efficient ARD that contributes to innovation processes that reduce poverty, enhance competitiveness of smallholders and sustainable use of natural resources.

### CD 1: Harmonization of ARD North-South university training & research programmes

Commitments

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Background

Committed NATURA members (above plus more outside of ERA-ARD member states) are planning to submit to the EU 7$^{th}$ FP a network project for joint PhD training and knowledge transfer. This resembles a model (bottom up) Joint Activity moving through the whole project cycle, performing the Bologna process in the area of ARD individual capacity development. During the project cycle, participants are expected to interact with their respective national programme managers drawing links between the respective programmes for topping the project with extra scholarship and knowledge transfer projects.

The thematic area for this action has been defined at a side event organised at the Tropentag 2007.

**Deliverable and timeline**

Plan, submit and launch a thematic network organising mutual scientific and academic exchanges between European Universities in the area of "Technical innovation in cropping systems under high collective constraints" **(Jun 2008)**

Long term objectives

- Organise the mobility of the PhD students within the network, using the comparative disciplinary strengths of each member university
- Exchange information and harmonize strategies at country and university levels concerning PhD and post docs grants allocations; thematic and/or regional alignment and/or complementation inside global thematic programmes defined by these networks for the definition of priority issues and partnerships in the DCs
- organising the discussion / negotiation of ARD-oriented research with partners in the South (including CGIAR) at this global Europe wide programme level using the above mentioned

networks as coordination bodies. thus improving the visibility of and facilitating easier access to the wide array of ARD research supported by PhDs in Europe, moving towards a transparent, harmonized scientific programming, negotiated with platforms in the South, improving transfer possibilities, aiming at a "Bologna Process" for cooperative ARD through PhDs and post docs, etc.

- Reach a political agreement on harmonization and mutual access/exchange of data sets for
- grant eligibility criteria (knowledge status of trainee, employment upon return a. o. conditions, etc.
- grant application and evaluation procedures (addressed to universities or linked programme funders/managers) and
- university registration formalities

## Vision

- Move towards a One Stop ERA-ARD Web Shop for N-S training grants
- Harmonize & improve the ARD training capacity for EU & DC academia
- Work towards N-S "Bologna Process" for cooperative academic & technical training curricula
- Facilitate integration of trainees and their acquired knowledge into developing IAR4D institutions in the target countries
- Integrate young professionals programmes of various institutions (FAO, UNESCO, OECD, WB, ADB,..) and member countries (FR, GE, UK, AT,…) to gain post-degree hands-on experience (CD needs to be combined with a comprehensive set of measures to reduce the brain drain)
- Share regional contacts and thematic focus within regions

## Outcome

Better co-ordination of academic training to meet the respective regional needs for specific expertise in ARD, provide a basic prerequisite for southern ARD infrastructure improvement

## *CD 2: Strengthening joint learning from experiences in interdisciplinary PhD research involving European and Sub-Sahara African universities and applying an innovation systems / IAR4D approach*

## Commitments

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**FARA/CGIAR** - von KAUFMANN Ralph, SCARDA project coordinator (incl. BASIC, RUFORUM,etc.), r.von-kaufmann@CGIAR.ORG

**ICRA** – as an existing transnational European programme in ARD, specialised in strengthening hands-on competencies needed to apply an innovation systems paradigm ([www.icra-edu.org](http://www.icra-edu.org)) – and existing networks (especially **NATURA,** [www.natura-net.eu](http://www.natura-net.eu)) and specialized institutions with a strong interest in interdisciplinary PhD training applying an innovations systems perspective in collaboration with universities in the South (like FARA, university networks in SSA such as RUFORUM, ANAFE, etc.) will:

- Gather a task force attached to ICRA board meeting in Bern, 18-19 December
- Inventory of existing experiences in collaborative interdisciplinary PhD research using an innovation systems/IAR4D paradigm (including training managers, staff and as feasible Southern advisors (March 2008)
- Develop a plan and proposal for a workshop to exchange and reflect on these experiences between the universities involved to (June 2008):
    - Draw lessons and define improved practices that can be applied in subsequent collaborative projects
    - Assess capacity strengthening needs of European and SSAfrican universities in designing, planning and implementation joint interdisciplinary research;
    - Develop new experiments and pilot projects of this nature and promote exchange between these, mutual learning and further definition of good practices;
    - The workshop itself will be implemented in late 2008/early 2009

### Deliverables and timeline

- Identify existing experiences of collaboration between universities in Europe and the South focusing on interdisciplinary PhD training applying an innovations systems perspective **(March 2008)**
- Plan a workshop to exchange and reflect on these experiences, draw lessons form these, derive improved practices, as well as formulate a framework for European and North-South collaboration in this field **(June 2008)**
- Identify European instruments that can support such collaborative and interdisciplinary PhD research programmes and projects **(June 2009).**

### Vision

- Develop joint interdisciplinary and collaborative PhD programmes involving European and Southern universities and mechanisms to support this through existing funding programmes;
- Strengthen capacity of European and Southern universities to design and implement interdisciplinary and collaborative PhD programmes;
- Promote integration of lessons learnt and improved practices in university teaching to enhance their contribution to building effective national agricultural innovation systems.

- Apply for national and Framework Programme resources as necessary to meet these visions

### Outcome

Better networking of academic competence to meet the needs for expertise in innovation systems and IAR4D research

Improved national innovation systems

### *2.1.4.2 Align institutional and systemic capacity development programmes*

Objectives of the activity

- Map regional (SSA) capacity development (CD) activities located at universities & ARD institutions (using Infosys+ a. o. data banks)
- Organize task forces of local (sub-regional or regional) players (project leaders) to prepare detailed descriptions of activities and verify matches and overlaps
- Align curricula/training activities thematically and geographically for improved impact
- Share management responsibilities and elect curriculum/project/programme speakers to provide one voice for one service towards regional users

Results from expert consultations

CD should be more integrated with national research, development and policy agendas and combine thematic depth with interdisciplinary problem solving approaches.

There is ample room for improved harmonisation between the many fragmented bilateral collaborations currently existing between individual European and Southern universities.

The joint CD activity should adopt a systemic approach and give more weight to strengthening the innovation systems and organisational capacity in the South, rather than the current emphasis on individual degree training. It should also include monitoring and evaluation of the process of partnership development, analyse and draw lessons from this.

It is important to align the European instruments with regional and national initiatives of the partners in the South (such as, in the case of Sub-Sahara Africa, RUFORUM, SCARDA and BASIC, etc….).

A joint European CD activity should give high priority to meeting the strong need for CD in ARD, innovation systems approaches and partnership processes as promoted by FARA and which are new to both experienced and young professionals in Africa. This includes empowering and developing capacities of farmers and farmer organisations.

The added value of ERA-ARD involvement in this activity:

- Initiate transnational co-operation to speak with one voice towards and offer a one stop shop for users (universities, trainees, government officials in the South)

### *CD 3: Develop programme clusters for institutional capacity development (this may well be also in co-operation with NATURA members and in synergy with respective steps in CD 2 above)*

Commitments (convener to be elected from preliminary list of participants)

NL – **WUR**, Wageningen International, P.O. Box 88, 6700 AB Wageningen, LOUWAARS Niels, CGIAR-liaison, Niels.Louwaars@wur.nl; phone: +31 317 477003, fax: +31 317 423110, niels.louwaars@wur.nl

UK – **NRI** Natural Resources Institute, CHANCELLOR Tim, contractor within frame of SCARDA, T.C.B.Chancellor@gre.ac.uk, +44 1634 883466

AT – **ADA**, FÖRG Elisabeth, Education Cooperation, liaison officer for upcoming programmes,

elisabeth.foerg@ada.gv.at, +43 1 90399 2530

**FARA/CGIAR** - von KAUFMANN Ralph, SCARDA project coordinator (incl. BASIC, RUFORUM,etc.) r.von-kaufmann@CGIAR.ORG

## Short description of the action

Organize a task force of actors in the region (programme/project leaders of regional, e.g. SSA, capacity development activities) to select thematically aligned regional programme clusters for institutional Capacity Development (CD)

- The experts agree on regionally and thematically focussed actions for institutional CD as verified in the ERA-ARD mapping.
- The entry points would be hot spots of running CD activities identified from regional and/or thematic programme matches or complementation potentials of ERA-ARD members' development research and training activities.

Programme managers would be asked to evaluate their comparative advantages in aligning and harmonizing their activities into regional clusters of institutional capacity development preferably with focus.

## Objective(s)

Map regional (SSA only) CD activities located at universities & ARD institutions (using Infosys+ a.o. data banks)

- Organize meetings of local (sub-regional or regional) players (project leaders) to prepare detailed descriptions of activities and verify matches and overlaps
- Align curricula/training activities thematically and geographically for improved impact
- Share management responsibilities and elect curriculum/project speakers to provide one voice for one service towards regional users

## **Deliverables and timeline**

- Decide on convener (UK, NL, FARA) **(Mar 2008)**
- Verify ERA-ARD participants and target region (sub-region) for this activity via management team **(Mar 2008)**
- Call regional (sub-regional meetings of responsible project leaders (preferably those operating in the region) via Southern partners (FARA and regional networks) (May 2008)
- Agree on contents (with respect to Joint Activities concerning relevant institutional capacity development programme cycles) **(Sep 2008)**
- Agree on schedule(s) **(Oct 2008)**

## Additional steps

Elect speaker(s) for prospective joint programme(s)

Provide high profile integrated offers for regional (sub-regional, local) training at universities or ARD institutions

## Outcome

Better co-ordination of regional CD to meet the respective needs for specific expertise in ARD, provide a basic prerequisite for southern ARD infrastructure improvement

## 2.1.5  Supporting activities for sub-programme Capacity Development

To further support and strengthen capacity development activities of ERA-ARD members in general, defined in the core joint activities above (2.1.4), and initiated through European programme managers at large, the activities listed below have also been thoroughly discussed in the respective workshops and adopted by a series of ERA-ARD members for joint action

### *2.1.5.1 Connecting user demand to existing knowledge*

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Objectives of the activity

- To improve the access of end users to information
- To meet user demand for knowledge exchange
- To develop a joint knowledge data base for ARD results
- To allow more efficient and effective use of budgets for ARD
- To develop capacity through knowledge exchange

Background

The experts' inputs on communication strategy centred around farmer-level systems, making use of a presentation on the Question-Answer Service (www.runetwork.de/qas_manual/).  This system gives vouchers to farmers who can use these to pay individual in-country experts to resolve their problems.  This approach was discussed further in relation to how it might be developed into a farmer/SME-oriented knowledge exchange/transfer and research network supported by a series of ARD budget providers to improve farmers' production (rural and urban), associated nutritional, health, SME starting, and market access conditions with relatively small grants (or loans).

The effective use of ICT for agricultural innovation is a major area for CD and for systematic study. Farmer-to-farmer Question & Answer Systems are effective to address individual problems, but dealing with information needs of communities (e.g. on complex NRM issues at regional scale) and events with a sudden and immediate mass impact requires other tools, including radio and TV (e.g. the Regional Agricultural Information and Learning System (RAILS www.fara-africa.org/networking-support-projects/rails/). The mentioned approaches might be developed further into a farmer/SME-oriented knowledge exchange and research network to improve (rural and periurban) farmers' production, as well as associated nutritional, health, and market access conditions.

Ideally, the system would be linked to an extended "Knowledge Exchange Platform", to be realized via federation of all ARD related data bases in Europe and the South for free search - not only for programme and project management information but including report and result files of projects with relevant geofocus information etc. Such a system would allow users (from farmers to extension service specialists, researchers in the planning stage of projects, programme planners, and policy makers) to increase the efficacy of their efforts tremendously by avoiding unnecessary repeats and facilitating much better networking and alignment of ARD.

The vision of a universal web based data search for ARD results has been extensively discussed over the example of the Research into Use programme (RIUP) granted by DFID to rework the results of its commissioned research for easier and quicker access.

Knowing that ARD related data bases for the time being do not contain all the necessary information at all or not in a form allowing a wider activity for federation this vision cannot be met within the ERA-ARD project life. Nevertheless, it is envisaged to adapt existing models, if two or more ERA-ARD members agree to join a task force of respective data bank managers and ICT specialists.

To bridge this gap in the information system discussed, the idea for establishing thematically oriented web search windows for users has been developed. Such a Joint Activity would depend on comparatively little engagement of ICT specialists in the participating ERA-ARD member countries (these windows to certain thematic areas could be opened in the "country pages" envisaged for infosys+ during revision of the ERA-ARD web appearance) by sharing specific topics to prepare. Following, thematic reviews could be published more efficiently using these instruments. An example for "Agri-food Chain Safety" is under preparation.


### CD 4: Expand communication strategies to contact the target groups


*(Question & Answer Service - QAS on internet or radio) - establish links to similar initiatives from other ERA-ARD members*


Commitments

DE - **BLE** - (ZADI) - KNIPSCHILD Henning (convener of the action) - ERA-ARD management, project coordinator, knipschild@isicad.org, +49-2286-8457-365

**CTA**, Wageningen PO Box 380, 6700 AJ Wageningen, Nl., Rural Empowerment Network, participant to be named

AT – Funding organisation & participant to be named

FARA - participant to be named


Background

QAS systems operate via web networks, radio communication services etc., and issue vouchers to target groups (extension service, farmers) depending upon the focus of the donor programme to pay individual in-country experts to resolve their problems. Working at the level of individuals assures the active involvement of the client due to personal concern. This is essential for a constructive dialogue towards solving a specific problem. The basic underlying idea is the voucher system that alters the flow of funds. The voucher (subsidy) meets the demand. It turns need into demand, push into pull (*www.runetwork.de/qas_manual/* *http://ruralradio.cta.int/* *http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/links/projects/africa*


Actions planned

- To jointly continue the  QAS initiative starting in several provinces in Uganda (Question and Answer System operating via http://www.isicad.org/isicad/index/english/run)
- To advertize QAS for further donors from ERA-ARD member states and/or in additional regions in the South
- A number of vouchers and radio-spots in the area of Agri Food-chain Safety will be financed by different donors (CTA, FARA, BLE....) to bridge internet gaps.

- With the voucher in hand the farmer has the currency for an answer to his question. The answers will be fed into
  - the RUN-network platform and
  - into a 15 – 30 minute radiospot in different languages dealing with the problem. The spot will be broadcastet throughout the year. Burning issues of european farmers could also be discussed in this spots.

## Deliverables and timeline

- Organize a primary task force to gather more acting participants **(Feb 2008)**
- Verify additional partners (North and South) funding internet summaries of the discussed topics also to be shared through specific topic related e-mail lists (advertise also to EU financed non-development networks/intitiatives). **(Apr 2008)**
- Complete test run for short term action **(Sep 2008)**

## Additional steps / Vision

Run new model projects for such user driven info systems

Extend these systems from the farmer oriented (agro) area down the way in the feed/food chain towards the consumer

Link in to organized training/CD initiatives in the Agri-food Chain Safety (monitoring) sector

## The added value of ERA-ARD involvement in this activity:

Advertize the win-win situation for South and North resulting from improved training and research networks with respect to Agri-food Chain Safety

## Outcome

Improved self-reliance of producers in the agrifood/feed sector

## CD 5: Joint approach for setting up thematically organized knowledge portals ("Kitabus")

*Pages in ERA-ARD website to search for programmes, projects, and R&D output (including Agri-food Chain Safety)*

## Commitments

DE - **BLE** - (ZADI) - KNIPSCHILD Henning (convener of the action) - ERA-ARD management, project coordinator,  knipschild@isicad.org, +49-2286-8457-365

AT - **BMLFUW** - E. Fuhrmann, FUHRMANN Elfriede, senior RTD programme manager, elfriede.fuhrmann@lebensministerium.at, +43 71100 6817 - **ARC** - KOPECKY Dieter, dieter.kopecky@arcs.ac.at, +43-50550-xxxx,

NL - **CTA**, PO Box 380, 6700 AJ Wageningen, cta@cta.int - FRANCIS Judith Ann, Programme Coordinator/Science and Technology, francis@cta.int, Tel: +31 317 467190, Fax: +31 317 460067

FR - **Agropolis** - Cirad dic-dsi/dir, Avenue Agropolis - TA 383 / 05 (Bât. 5, Bur. 110) - 34398 Montpellier Cedex 5 - HELMER Thierry, thierry.helmer@cirad.fr, Tél : +33 4 67 61 44 10, Fax : +33 4 67 61 58 41

Background

Kitabu is (1) a tool to manage and strucutre bookmarks (links), (2) a search engine (spider) which allows queries over websites, which have been preselected by an editor or thematic specialist and (3) a content managment system with web based text editor and style editor. The system allows the user to access pre-seclected web-resources via one searchwindow. It therefore gives the site-manager the possibility to both integrate and share information. The system „Kitabu" (see http://www.kitabu.info ) was developed within the frame of a cooperation between ISICAD/BLE, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

Actions planned

- Gather a task force of interested ICT specialists from institutions in ERA-ARD countries and in the South to join in the development of "kitabus" tools to retrieve and apply problem oriented knowledge on short terms
- Join to improve practice for setting up specified thematic search portals making use of freely available search engine features and individual web access expertise within the task force
- Every participant of the task force opts for a specific thematically (and regionally?) restricted area of ARD to define and embed a multitude of pre-selected web sites/data bases into a ("kitabu" preferably part of e.g. infosys+ or the ERA-ARD web in a revised version).
- Every member of the task force in her/his individual ERA-ARD member or Southern country tries to open free access to a best choice of institutional/university data banks containing research results (theses, project end reports, etc.) to be included into "kitabus"
- Optionally, the respective ICT specialist publishes a review/newsletter on results to certain thematic sub-areas via information channels like www.runetwork.de/qas_manual/ described in the activity "Expand communication strategies to contact the target groups" above

**Deliverables and timeline**

- Organize a primary task force to gather more acting participants **(Jan 2008)**
- Verify further partners in ERA-ARD and the South **(Mar 2008)**
- Align methodology and distribute target areas for "kitabus" within the task force **(Apr 2008)**
- Open thematic knowledge portals on infosys+ or www.era-ard.org **(Jun 2008)**
- Publish thematic reviews from information in these portals **(Sep 2008)**

Additional steps / Vision

Expand the system with more participants. Initiate projects of other donors linking into the efforts of RIU Programme

The added value of ERA-ARD involvement in this activity:

The start of an ERA-ARD & South ICT network is useful in many respects

Outcome

Improved access for users to information saves donor money ultimately enhancing ARD impact


***CD 6: Set up a task force for establishing access to and screening of the contents of major institutional and university data bases for reusable ARD knowledge***

*following the strategy of and in co-operation with the RIU programme*

Commitments

UK - **NRI** Natural Resources International, DONALDSON Tim (convener of the action), RiU Programme, t.donaldson@nrint.co.uk, +44 1732 878681

DE - **BLE** - (ZADI) - KNIPSCHILD Henning - ERA-ARD management, project coordinator, knipschild@isicad.org, +49-2286-8457-365

AT - **BMLFUW** - FUHRMANN Elfriede, senior RTD programme manager, elfriede.fuhrmann@lebensministerium.at, +43 71100 6817; **ARC** - KOPECKY Dieter, dieter.kopecky@arcs.ac.at, +43-50550-3630; **BMBWK** Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture - NEUHAEUSER Stephan, OEAW/KEF www.oeaw.at/KEF fund manager, stephan.neuhaeuser@bmbwk.gv.at, +43 1 53120 6714; **OEAD** North-South-Dialogue Scholarship Programme - STINNIG Elke, Programme manager, elke.stinnig@oead.at, +43 1 / 4277-28171

NL - **Ministerie van LNV-DK** Directie Kennis. Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit, Horapark, Bennekomseweg 41, Postbus 482, 6710 BL Ede, Tel. 0318-822500, VERHOEVEN R.H.M. (René), r.h.m.verhoeven@minlnv.nl

FR - **Agropolis** - Cirad dic-dsi/dir, Avenue Agropolis - TA 383 / 05 (Bât. 5, Bur. 110) - 34398 Montpellier Cedex 5 - HELMER Thierry, thierry.helmer@cirad.fr, Tél : +33 4 67 61 44 10, Fax : +33 4 67 61 58 41


Background

Data banks containing ARD information cover only administrative and formal project information but usually not research results, or else this information is stored separately or not in an accessible form for end users. DFID funded RIU Programme is to shift the focus of attention from the generation of new research knowledge to the ways in which that knowledge can be put to productive use through innovation. This approach will be underpinned by new knowledge—the empirical and theoretical insights into how innovation actually happens and how it may be fostered.

To link this initiative to existing and prospective knowledge information systems of major ARD organizations, ICT specialists are asked to provide their contributions to innovative harmonization of knowledge oriented ARD data entries for prospective federation throughout the European community, Southern partners, and beyond (e.g. Evoltree EU NoE (http://www.evoltree.eu) is currently producing a centralized search engine over ten heterogenous European databases following http://dendrome.ucdavis.edu/treegenes/).


**Actions planned / Milestone / Deliverables / Timeline**

- Setting up of a task force inviting ERA-ARD members and the South (Feb 2007)

- Locate and analyse freely available ARD result data within the members countries via email and telephone conferences with participating stakeholders (Apr 2008)
- Organize a meeting involving the participants facilitating access to suitable data bases to assure their commitment and to elaborate the possible strategies for a federated data base system on ARD knowledge (Jun 2008).
- Develop guidelines for knowledge oriented ARD data bank entries (Sep2008)
- Participating ERA-ARD members advise their donors for the future to grant projects only when publication of results in a data base open to this activity and according to guidelines set up by the task force are guaranteed (Sep 2008)
- ***Milestone - Exploit the feasibility for a federated data base containing ARD knowledge entries (Sep 2008)***

## Additional steps

- (If feasibility milestone is fulfilled) Elaborate a detailed technical concept to depict the kind of information to be included, the databases of which the federated database would consist of, the technical architecture of the federated database as well as a description of all necessary steps that would be needed to make the various databases compatible with the prospective federation. Finally, provide an approximate estimation of the necessary costs to set up the full solution will be given.

- Establish working groups for the alignment of data bases (representing major European ARD organizations like CIRAD, DFID, GTZ, NFARD)

- Feed results of running ARD programmes/projects into databases (ref. RIU programme models to describe outputs and impact of clusters of research projects as an information platform for scaling up and scaling out).

- Reshape running/new programmes/projects to fit better into the process of knowledge exchange (in terms of producing guidelines for planning, research, reporting, dissemination etc.

- Establish a single European web access (one stop shop) to search for IAR4D results

## Vision

Systems approach for effective dissemination & multiple use of R&D output (following the strategy of and in co-operation with the RIU programme):

- Cooperative harmonization & federation of data bases (starting from major European ARD organizations like CIRAD, DFID, GTZ, NFARD, etc.)
- Joint development of frames to describe outputs and impact of clusters of research projects as an information platform for scaling up and scaling out
- Update running/new programmes/projects to fit better into the process of knowledge exchange (adapt guidelines for planning, research, reporting, dissemination etc.)
- Improve European database entries of ARD results and lessons learnt for direct internet access through an "ARD knowledge exchange platform"
- A one stop web shop for global ERA-ARD outcome

## Potential risks

Incompatibilities in existing data bases

<u>The added value of ERA-ARD involvement in this activity:</u>

To achieve a more effective use of ARD budget sources from Europe

<u>Outcome</u>

Enhancement of ARD results towards the respective MDGs

### *2.1.5.2 Harmonizing personal capacity development initiatives in Europe and the South*

To support the adopted core activities *CD 1: Harmonization of ARD North-South university training & research programmes* and *CD 2: Strengthening joint learning from experiences in interdisciplinary PhD research involving European and Sub-Sahara African universities and applying an innovation systems / IAR4D approach* ERA-ARD task 3.1 has in advance started an initiative to promote association of further universities and research institutions from the member countries to NATURA network.

### *CD 7: Affiliation of additional partners from ERA-ARD countries as members in the NATURA network http://www.natura-net.eu/*

<u>Commitments</u>

AT - **BMLFUW** - KAAR Bernhard (convener of the action) bernhard_kaar@gmx.net, **NATURA** Board of Directors, HAUSER Michael Michael.Hauser@boku.ac.at

FR - **NATURA** Vice President, PILLOT Didier, pillot@cnearc.fr

CH - **NATURA** General Assembly BECKER Barbara, barbara.becker@agrl.ethz.ch

CZ - **NATURA** Secr. Gen. HOLÍKOVÁ Petra, secretary@natura.czu.cz

HU – ERA-ARD: HUGYECZ Evelin, Evelin.Hugyecz@kum.hu New NATURA Member: Szent Istvan University MKK

SL – ERA-ARD: CENCIC Avrelija avrelija.cencic@uni-mb.si , New NATURA Member: University of Maribor-Faculty of Agriculture/Medical Faculty

**Actions for immediate improvement / deliverables / timeline**

- Established interaction with the NATURA Vice President Prof. Dr. Didier Pillot, General Assembly Member Dr. Barbara Becker and NATURA Secretary General Petra Holikova through phone call, e-mail and personal meetings
- Communicated the aims of ERA-ARD to the NATURA project team
- Promoting the NATURA network with EAR-ARD partner countries which were not involved
- Accomplished NATURA membership for Szent Istvan University MKK, Hungary
- NATURA membership for University of Maribor, Slovenia **(Jun 2008)**
- Approaching Lithuania for a NATURA membership **(Jun 2008)**
- Approaching Poland for a NATURA membership **(Jun 2008)**

<u>Potential risks</u>

None

<u>The added value of ERA-ARD involvement in this activity:</u>

To assist in speeding up the Bologna process in a global context

## 2.2   Selected joint activities in the sub-programme Agri-food Chain SAFETY

### 2.2.1  Overview of national ARD programmes in member countries with relevance to the selection criteria for choosing Agri-food Chain SAFETY

The survey on governance (see ERA-ARD SURVEY on funding mechanisms for ARD - Descriptive synthesis of ARD Programmes) provides information on 85 programmes which fund ARD activities with an annual budget of almost 416 million Euros. ARD programmes support activities on research (52% of the total budget) and capacity development (48%), the largest regional sector targetting Africa with 44% of the total budget.
Taking into account the information available from the survey (Task 1.2 Mapping of national ARD programmes)  we have to conclude that Agri-food Chain SAFETY at present is a thematic area where no explicit budget lines exist within the listed ERA-ARD programmes. Therefore, the experts attending the respective workshops in the expert meetings were asked to search and report their national situation concerning Agri-food Chain SAFETY initiatives with development partners in the experts meetings. One of the conclusions of the meetings was that only single projects or networks with the integration of development partners exist, which belong predominantly to the European framework.

The added value of ERA-ARD involvement in (non-development oriented) European networks lies in the opening of  already existing European networks and intitiatives, that can provide expertise/facilities and/or are of global relevance for ARD  and especially for the Southern partners. This way we broaden the circle of beneficiaries taking an active part in  already existing knowledge chains. Conversely we bring the concerns of the South into this networks in a very direct and fast way. This leads to a direct involvement of more stakeholders in already established networks and consequently to capacity development.

### 2.2.2   General remarks

As already mentioned above 85 ARD programmes from all ERA-ARD partner countries were mapped in the course of the ERA-ARD project, but none of them has been found to be explicitly focused on Agri-food Chain Safety or Food Safety.

A great number of EU-financed projects/networks related to Agri-food Chain Safety are based in ERA-ARD consortium countries respectively run in already existing cooperations between ERA-ARD countries. Many of this non-development oriented projects/networks do already have a global dimension, which includes ARD relevant research. In fullfilling our task "To build potential linkages with European non-development oriented research that can provide expertise/facilities and/or are of global relevance for ARD.", european non-development oriented research initiatives in the field of Agri-Food Chain Safety were investigated and collected (also available via search engine in http://www.kitabu.info/food_safety/). What ERA-ARD can offer to these EU-financed Initiatives is a network in developing countries - either on a scientific, societal or industry/trade (food chain) related basis.

In order to determine the potential benefits and mechanisms available from the outputs of already existing non-development oriented projects/networks and to produce an overview (possibly linked into FP7), it was important to define the thematic scope of Agri-food Chain Safety research relevant for developing countries with a group of experts. This has been achieved taking into account results from

i. a first group meeting of experts on 23rd and 24th of January 2007 in Vienna including input from invited experts from the south,
ii. a follow up electronic consultation,
iii. a second group meeting of experts on 25th and 26th of April 2007 in Vienna and
iv. input from the mid-term conference

### 2.2.3   Identified important areas for research in Agri-food Chain Safety

**Box 2: Identified important areas for research in Agri-food Chain Safety**

| |
|---|
| 1. *Development of risk assessment, identification and risk analysis systems in the food production chain to meet the needs of developing countries, in particular the need to understand hazards from water, chemicals (e.g. pesticides), and microbes, potential impacts arising fro GMO production systems or products, and overall risks from processes along the supply chain.* |
| 2. *Research on the link between food & water borne illness and poverty by development of exposure assessment techniques and collection of baseline data.*<br>  *- Need for interdisciplinarity*<br>  *- Need for diagnostics (& diagnostic tools)*<br>  *- Need for adoption on how these results should be applied e.g. in processing or packing and distribution facilities*<br>  *- Need for very specific methodology to transfer the results*<br>  *- Need to investigate the implications of new food-born diseases – what are the species/microbes present, more applied research towards the substitution of chemicals, replacement for chlorine, pesticides, physical treatment;* |
| 3. *Best practices to mitigate food borne hazards, including*<br>  *- technologies to reduce risk to acceptable levels;*<br>  *- cost/benefit analyses of new technologies;*<br>  *- institutional needs to adopt new technologies.* |
| 4. *Support for awareness raising, targeted information sharing and development of regional partnerships so as to maximise effectiveness of limited resources, and encourage harmonisation of food safety policies and management strategies enhancing compliance with EU labelling mechanisms & regulatory framework;* |
| 5. *Research to facilitate policy reform (modern food laws, regulatory structures and enabling environment, a move towards systems based on Hazard Analysis, e.g. HACCP and Risk Analysis, and greater level of co- and self-regulation by private sector);* |
| 6. *Natural hazards – related to Agri-food Chain Safety (climate change component)* |
| 7. *Research on the structure of surveillance and monitoring mechanisms (collection and analysis of baseline data on nutrition and Agri-food Chain Safety issues associated with vulnerable groups).* |

2.2.3.1 Core activities in the sub-programme Agri-food Chain Safety

(for supporting activities see 2.2.3.2)

### *FS 1: Activities introducing the ARD dimension to existing EU (non-development) projects/networks in the area of Agri-food Chain Safety*

Introduction

Within the wide range of agricultural research (AR) there are many initiatives, which are also relevant for the area of agricultural research for development (ARD), however, the link between the two areas is often missing and consequently the potential synergies are not used. We have identified different reasons for that: i) lack of an appropriate network ii) lack of a platform for information exchange between AR and ARD.

Interestingly enough, even in the ERA-ARD consortium partner countries this potential of the two overlapping areas AR and ARD in existing networks has hardly ever been exploited so far.

How can we overcome this lack of interaction? We think the ERA-ARD project could act as a platform to make the development dimension visible in general Agriculture Research issues. The justification for this is derived from clearly increasing interdependencies within global food production & trade chains. Making the global dimension of food supply chains better visible will further promote linkages from ARD to AR and add value by integrating the ARD dimension better into the agricultural research community.

In our frame we could establish links between existing and already financed non-development EU Initiatives and ARD Initiatives of the ERA-ARD partner countries. This will lead to a mutual exchange between the general European Research Area agenda and the area of Research for Development in Europe.

By taking this route of linking existing EU project/networks to ERA-ARD expertise, within the task of Joint Activities, we also want to shed light on the fact that in many of the EU (non-development) projects in the area of Agri-food Chain Safety relevant to ARD a high number of ERA-ARD consortium member states (also including the new member states such as Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Lithuania) are already cooperating.

In the following we present selected Joint Activities, which will facilitate/encourage the introduction of the ARD dimension into existing EU project/networks.

### *FS 1.1: Linking up with the Network of Excellence MoniQA*

Background

MoniQA (Monitoring and Quality Assurance in the food supply chain) is an EU funded project (http://www.moniqa.org/). It is a Network of Excellence in the thematic areas of quality and safety control strategies for food and is aiming at the harmonisation of analytical methods for monitoring food quality and safety in the food supply chain.

Partners from 20 countries collaborate in the MoniQA network to harmonise worldwide food quality and safety monitoring and control strategies. The network members will investigate mechanisms to coordinate and merge research activities, personnel and infrastructure to achieve synergetic effects.

<u>Commitment</u>

*Convener of the action*

AT – **BMLFUW** Contact Person: Bernhard Kaar, bernhard_kaar@gmx.net

*Contacted & Insterested ERA-ARD/Southern countries/organisations*

FR –**CIRAD-UMR QUALISUD**, team 4 : Contamination Control in the food chain  Maîtrise des contaminants de la chaîne alimentaire. Contact Person : Didier MONTET montet@cirad.fr

UK: Natural Resources Institute, Contact Person: Linda Nicolaidse L.Nicolaides@gre.ac.uk

**CGIAR/ILRI:** Contact Person: Ralph von Kaufmann, r.von-kaufmann@CGIAR.ORG

**African Union/Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU/STRC):** Contact Person: Dr. Mohamed Khalil Timamy, Director; mhktimamy@yahoo.co.uk

**CORAF:** Marcel Nwalozie; marcel.nwalozie@coraf.org

**ASARECA:** Dr. Seyfu Ketema; ASARECA@imul.com

**SADC-FANR:** Dr. Keoagile Molapong; kmolapong@sadc.int

**FARA:** Dr. Sidi Sanyang: ssanyang@fara-africa.org


**Actions for linking up and timeline**

- Communicate aims of ERA-ARD to the MoniQA project team.
  - ➢ Communication of aims of ERA-ARD to the MoniQA project team has already been started and will be ongoing for the whole duration of the ERA-ARD project **(until Mar 2009)**

  - ➢ The MoniQA Coordinator Dr. Roland Poms will be  informed on ERA-ARD call on "Food & Energy". Furthermore he will be asked to convey this information on the ERA-ARD call in the internal network of MoniQA. **(by Apr 2008)**

- Facilitate the process of ERA-ARD partners and partners from the south to become associated members of MoniQA. ERA-ARD partners got in touch with national or southern organizations potentially interested in becoming an associate partner of MoniQA and informed the task 3.1 leader on names of organizations (+ contact persons details) which might get associated with the NoE MoniQA.
  - ➢ The process of this Action – getting in touch with national or southern organisations potentially interested in becoming an associate partner of MoniQA - is ongoing. A message reminding ERA-ARD partners to inform the task 3.1. leader on names of organisations which might get associated with the NoE MoniQA will be send out **(by Feb 2008).**

  - ➢ The facilitation of the process of agreeing with the coordinator to pursue associate memberships of ERA-ARD partners at the six month consortium meeting  (Rome 6.10. – 8.10.2008) is carried out in two steps:

    - o Step 1: Task 3.1 Leader is contacting the ERA-ARD partners again and informing them on the possibilities of joining the MoniQA network as an associate member (by **Feb 2008**).

- Step 2: Task 3.1. Leader is facilitating the agreement with the MoniQA coordinator and the MoniQA partners on the associate memberships of ERA-ARD partners named in Step 1 at MoniQA meeting in Rome 6.10. – 8.10.2008) **(until Sep 2008)**

We have derived this activity especially for the NoE MoniQA but we have asked the ERA-ARD partner countries to apply it as far as possible for mutual information exchange or association of ARD interested partners also to other European non-development oriented research projects and initiatives related to Agri-food Chain Safety. To facilitate this process the task team 3.1 has, together with ERA-ARD partners, created a web based tool for collection and dissemination of content on Agri-food Chain Safety in already existing networks, Initiatives and Organisations (pls. als http://www.kitabu.info/food_safety/index.php?profile_id=49&theme_id=8). This web-tool will be incorporated into the http://www.era-ard.org/ website (pls. also see FS 2 below).

By facilitating the process of mutual information exchange or association of ARD interested partners toEuropean non-development oriented research projects and initiatives related to Agri-food Chain Safet in a series of Agri-food related initiatives, we introduce the ARD dimension ex-post in the respective thematic areas of the running framework programme (FP 6).

SC members are asked to introduce the ARD dimension directly or through their national representatives into the respective programme committees of the framework FP7 to strengthen our interests there further.

In pursuing this Joint Activity, ***ERA-ARD members are in the position to address the ARD Agri-food Chain Safety issue*** and enter their interests (especially concerning information exchange, dissemination and bringing research results into use) through their national representatives into the respective programme committees ***directly at the European research framework programme level.***

<u>Added value</u>

- Introduction of the ARD dimension into existing AR Initiatives
- Involvement of new partners (with ARD background) in existing AR Initiatives
- Capitalizing on products/activities from existing AR Initiatives


## *FS 1.2: Establishing a cooperation between ERA-ARD and ICC*

The ICC network a.o. aims at cocoperation with developing countries, knowledge transfer through "in-country-seminars", and assistance in the development and joing application of ICC Standards

The action has been started already through circulation of information on ERA-ARD in the ICC network and information on ICC in the ERA-ARD group, southern partners and experts.

<u>Commitment</u>

*Convener of the action*

AUSTRIA/BMLFUW Contact Person: Bernhard Kaar, bernhard_kaar@gmx.net


*Participating ERA-ARD/ South*

All ERA-ARD consortium partners, EU countries, partners from the south, experts participating in the expert meetings.

<u>Background</u>

ICC (International Association for cereal science and technology) is:

- an independent, internationally recognized organisation of experts
- a neutral forum for all cereal scientists and technologists
- a publisher of international standard methods
- an important organizer of national and international events
- a promoter of international cooperation on a global, regional and national level
- a mediator between science and technology research and practice

*Special emphasis of ICC:*

- **Cooperation** with **developing countries**: ICC activities for promotion and implementation of scientific and technical cooperation among and with developing countries through ICC Regions in Asia, Africa, South America etc

- **ICC –Education Initiatives**
  - to embark upon a program of basic knowledge transfer through "in-country seminars" for interested member countries
  - Assistance in the development of ICC Standards

## Actions for linking up and timeline

- Communicating aims of the ERA-ARD project ICC network. This action has already been started in August 2006 and is still ongoing.
  ➢ The ICC representative Marcella Gross will be informed on ERA-ARD call on "Food & Energy". Furthermore she will be asked to convey this information on the ERA-ARD call in the internal ICC network by **March 2008** (pre-announcement of the ERA-ARD call)

- Facilitate the process of ERA-ARD partners and partners from the south getting associated with the ICC technical groups (http://www.icc.or.at/groups.php).

  SC members are asked to pass on the following contact details to their national management teams for distribution to the relevant national ARD specialists in the given topic of the ICC study or working group for linking up with the chair person of the respective working group and integrating their institutions for representing their networking interests as well as those of ERA-ARD (by **Jun 2008**)

  ICC study groups (http://www.icc.or.at/g-study.php):

  → **No 27** Storage – Chair: Dr. F. Fleurat-Lessard, INRA Centre de Recherches de Bordeaux, France

  ICC working groups (http://www.icc.or.at/g-work.php):

  → **No 14** Transgenetic Cereals – Chair: Mr. P. Bordmann, Biolytix AG, Switzerland

  → **No 20** Microbiology and Mycotoxins – Co-Chair: Dr. J. Wolff, Bundesforschungsanstalt für Ernährung und Lebensmittel (BLE), Germany

  → **No 22** Additives and Residues – Chair: Prof. Dr. L. Monawar, Nutrition & Rural Development Center, Sudan

  → **No 23** Filth Test – Chair: Dr. M. Pagani, Universita di Parma, Italy

  → **No 24** Heavy Metals and Trace Elements – Chair: Dr. J. Brüggemann, Bundesforschungs-anstalt für Ernährung und Lebensmittel (BLE), Germany

→ **No 37** Non-destructive Methods for Quality Assessement – Chair: Prof. Dr. A. Salgo, Department of Biochemistry and Food Technology, Technical University of Budapest, Hungary

## 2.2.3.2 Supporting activities in the sub-programme Food Safety

### *FS 2: Create a web based tool for.era-ard to collect and disseminate content on Agri-food Chain Safety in already existing networks, Initiatives and Organisations*

Introduction

A section on the ERA-ARD website ([www.era-ard.org/FoodSafety](www.era-ard.org/FoodSafety)) will provide a web-tool for interested parties. This web-based tool will improve the usability of the ERA-ARD website. It is also to be used and further developed in action CD 5, chapter 2.1.5.1

Commitments

*Convener of the action:*

AT - BMLFUW Contact Person: Bernhard Kaar, bernhard_kaar@gmx.net

*Participating ERA-ARD/Southern countries*

SL - **University of Maribor**: Contact Person: José Vivas, jose.vivas@uni-mb.si

DE - **BLE**: Contact Person: Henning Knipschild, hk@zadi.de

**Actions and timeline** for collection and dissemination Agri-food Chain Safety related contents

- A search tool will be established on [http://www.kitabu.info/food_safety/index.php](http://www.kitabu.info/food_safety/index.php) which will enable users to search in existing EU non development research networks and projects. (the search tool will ready for use by Feb 2008 and will be further developed until **Jul 2008**)
- Additionally the website/search tool is structured in 7 main areas in Agri-food Chain Safety defined in the course of the taks experts meetings in task 3.1. (see Box 2) EU and Global Initiatives are separated. This tool will be incorporated into the ERA-ARD webiste (www.era-ard.org/FoodSafety).
- Burning issues in the defined areas will be taken up and disseminated to the interested parties via specific e-mail lists  reps. made available in form of articles on RUN-network ([http://www.runetwork.de/html/de/index.html?journal_id=255](http://www.runetwork.de/html/de/index.html?journal_id=255)). (tool ready to be used through the website by **Jul 2008**)

## FS 3: ERA-net SPLASH

An upcoming supportive action with the **ERA-net SPLASH** is planned (http://www.splash-era.net/). SPLASH is the name of the European Union Water Initiative European Research Area Network (EUWI Era-Net). It is a consortium of 15 ministries, funding agencies and national research and technological development authorities from 11 European countries.

Purpose
SPLASH aims to improve the effectiveness of European funded research on water for development and to develop the capacity of local organizations to coordinate and communicate their research activities. The project focus is Africa and the Mekong region.