

TERMS OF REFERENCE of the Southern and Emerging economies Advisory Group (SEAG)

1. Historical background

In the course of the work, ERA-ARD I¹ set up a Southern Advisory Group (SAG) whereby southern experts were consulted for their input.

Based on the knowledge and experience gathered, the member countries decided to promote a greater involvement of the representatives from developing countries (end-users) of the European ARD programmes. In order to better take into account the research and education needs and demands, this involvement would be effective in, not only the ERA-ARD II governance and implementation, but also, in the design and implementation of joint and transnational activities.

The Description of Work (DoW) of the project mentions that the coordination will revisit the composition of the Southern Advisory Group (SAG) established under ERA-ARD I in order to include beneficiaries from all continents. It will be renamed as the “Southern and Emerging economies Advisory Group” (SEAG).

During the implementation of the phase II, the ERA-ARD Consortium Members felt the need to set up a complementary mechanism called the ARD Alliance and organised jointly with ASARECA a regional workshop aimed at sharing information between representatives of European ARD funding bodies and Sub Saharan Africa regional and national ARD decision makers and stakeholders.

Based on the outputs of the workshop, the ERA-ARD II transnational Research Call was launched on the 8th March 2012², with the following theme: ***“Improving rural livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa: Sustainable and climate-smart intensification of agricultural production”***.

This call provides new opportunities for researchers and other stakeholders (farmers, farmer organizations, NGOs, policy makers, etc.) to take part in multilateral research cooperation in the field of sustainable and climate change resilient intensification of agricultural production.

In order to strengthen the involvement and role of experts from economies of all the targeted regions in the ARD programmes and projects, the Steering Committee (SC) has decided that ERA-ARD needs to maintain a consultation mechanism with representatives of the Regional Fora stakeholders of the GFAR.

Due to the state of implementation of the project, the time and funds available, it has been decided to revise the previous role and mandate of the SEAG as described in the original DoW³.

¹ ERA-ARD: The Agricultural Research for Development (ARD), dimension of the European Research Area, www.era-ard.org

² See the ERA ARD II website at <http://era-ard.org/> and especially the Open Call web page under the Joint Calls tab of this site at <http://www.era-ard.org/joint-calls/open-call>.

³ Appendix 2:

2. The SEAG role and mandate

The overall objective of the SEAG (Southern and Emerging economies Advisory Group) is to provide input from partners from Southern and Emerging economies countries in the decision-making process of the ERA-ARD, to deepen the demand-oriented approach of ERA-ARD II and to create a permanent consultation mechanism for the European policy makers in ARD.

The southern representatives will bring different and innovative experience related to ARD, challenging the Northern ERA-ARD thinking.

The SEAG will assist in the interaction between the Regional (and Sub-regional) Fora⁴, and ERA-ARD II and it would, therefore, benefit from the platforms currently under development between European stakeholders (EFARD).

SEAG members will participate at the ERA-ARD II Steering Committee (SC) regular meetings where, they will share their regional views and perspective on issues and contribute to the joint programming.

The Chairperson of the SEAG will be an advisory member of the Steering Committee. The SEAG will be involved at each stage of the project, from the selection to their implementation and evaluation. In conclusion, this membership ought to guarantee full engagement of the SEAG in real decision-making.

The SEAG meetings will precede (back-to-back) the SC meetings, thus it will meet twice before the end of the project. The SEAG will participate in the organisation and implementation of the final conference of ERA-ARD II.

In addition to these meetings, intensive e-mail exchanges and/or video or phone-conferences including partial meetings will be organised (see §2.3 Organisation) among the SEAG members and with Work Package leaders.

The ERA-ARD consortium will identify and approach other potential European coordination mechanisms that could benefit from an interaction with the SEAG, trying to establish a long-term sustainability for the Advisory Group.

2.1. *Members:*

The SEAG will be composed by one member from each of the 5 Regional Fora, namely AARINENA, APAARI, CACAARI, FORAGRO and FARA⁴. These are encouraged to recommend senior experts (from different interest groups) from their respective region. The final composition of the SEAG, based on these recommendations, will be decided by the SC, ensuring in the process a balanced representation (gender, interest groups, geographical area, etc.).

Should the need arise, the SEAG can propose resource persons to attend programme development meetings (after agreement with the ERA-ARD Coordinator) and contribute to discussion and analysis.

The Chairperson of SEAG will be an advisory member of the Steering Committee. Her/his participation in the SC meeting will be the opportunity to forward and advocate for southern and emerging countries voices.

⁴ Appendix 3:

2.2. Role of SEAG:

- **Provide information/advice** to the ERA-ARD project about southern and emerging economies, regional, sub-regional and national ARD policies, strategies, capacity etc. to foster a more demand-driven approach;
- **Share experience** from Southern and Emerging economies countries and promote the creation of S-S networks
- **Encourage the dialogue for a longer-term, enhanced and structured collaboration** between Southern and Emerging economies ARD programmes and European Agricultural Research;
- **Disseminate** information, results, offers, opportunities from the ERA-ARD project to Southern and Emerging economies countries through existing networks, information systems and already planned events;
- **Play an advisory role to the Steering committee**
- **Contribute to the conceptualisation** of and participation in key ERA-ARD events;
- **Provide inputs** for and be part of the ERA-ARD II closing conference
- **Offer feedback** on deliverables and project evaluation by ERA-ARD;
- **Recommend specialists from the Southern and Emerging economies countries** for participation in ERA-ARD as required by Work Package leaders.

2.3. Organisation

In order to build proper ownership, the SEAG will reshape its work plan, based on the ERA-ARD proposal. It will also indicate the person among the SEAG members better qualified to attend specific events.

In addition to the SEAG meetings there will be intensive e-mail exchanges and/or videoconferences among SEAG members but also with Work packages leaders.

Participation in SC and other ERA-ARD meetings is highly recommended and should have priority above normal activities in the respective Regional/Sub Regional Organisations (RO/SROs). These should be convinced of the importance of contributing to ERA-ARD project and hence facilitate the participation of their employees.

In addition to actively participating to the ERA-ARD II Work Packages, the SEAG will be encouraged to present proposals to enhance collaboration in support of jointly identified priority thrusts. Results of the said activity will be presented at the end of the ERA-ARD II and will be made available through different media and knowledge platforms.

2.4. Chair of SEAG

Members of SEAG will choose their chair during their first meeting.

2.5. Output

- Dissemination of information on ERA-ARD II to relevant fora through reports, video conferences and attendance at meetings
- Collection and transmission of needs, requests, advice, criticism from the end-users of ERA-ARD
- Comments on documents prepared by Work Package leaders and members
- Facilitation by the SEAG of the participation of ERA-ARD II members in ARD relevant meetings organized in Southern and Emerging economies countries
- Identification and presentation of a project/activity/study.

2.6. Funds

ERA-ARD II will cover part of the expenses for ensuring the SEAG members attendance at the SC meetings and other initiatives of ERA-ARD project.

When possible travel and living costs of the participation of SEAG members in ERA-ARD activities will be shared with their own institution.

No extra allowance will be given for SEAG membership.

2.7. Duration

The SEAG will be supported by ERA-ARD II until the official end of the project (September 2013).

Due to the importance of challenging the European vision and promoting S-S, S-Emerging economies in addition to S-N synergies, joint efforts will be made to lobby for a long-term support to SEAG in other European platforms related to agriculture, research and development.

Appendix 1: Acronyms

ACRONYMS

URL

AARINENA	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa	www.aarinena.org/
ACTESA	Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa	http://www.comesa.int/
AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services	www.afaas-africa.org/
AIS	Agricultural Innovative System	
APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions	www.apaari.org
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development	
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa	www.asareca.org/
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme	www.nepad-caadp.net
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute	
CASCADE	Central Asia and South Caucasus Consortium of Agricultural Universities for Development	www.cascade.cacaari.org
CATIE	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza	www.catie.ac.cr
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research	www.cgiar.org/
CIRAD	Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement	www.cirad.fr/
CLAES	Central Laboratory for Agricultural Expert, Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) Egypt	www.claes.sci.eg
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	www.comesa.int/
CORAF/WECARD	Conseil Ouest et Centre africain pour la recherche et le développement agricole/ West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development	www.coraf.org
DoW	Description of Work ERA-ARD-II project document	
EC	European Commission	
EDF	European Development Fund	
EFARD	European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development	www.efard.eu/
EIARD	European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development	www.eiard.org/
ERA	European Research Area	
ERA-ARD	The Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) dimension of the European Research Area	www.era-ard.org
EU	European Union	http://europa.eu/
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	www.fao.org/
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa	www.fara-africa.org/
FORAGRO	Foro de las Américas para la Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario	www.iica.int/foragro/
FP5 – FP6 - FP7	DG RTD – 5th, 6th, 7th Framework Programme	
GCARD	Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development	www.egfar.org/gcard
GDPRD	Global Donor Platform for Rural Development	www.donorplatform.org/
GFAR	Global Forum for Agricultural Research	www.egfar.org/
IAO	Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare	www.iao.florence.it
IAR	International Agricultural Research	www.icra-edu.org/
IICA	Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas/ Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences	www.iica.int/
IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	www.ird.fr/
MDG	Millennium Development Goals	
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services	www.naads.or.ug/
NARIMS	National Agricultural Research Information Management System	
NARS	National Agricultural Research System	
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa Development	www.nepad.org/
NERAKIM	Near East & North Africa Rural and Agricultural Knowledge and Information Network	www.nerakin.net
PAEPARD	Platform for African European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development	http://paepard.org
PROCIANDINO	Programa Regional Agropecuario de Cooperación en Investigación y Transferencia de Tecnología	
PROICARIBE	Caribbean Agricultural Science and Technology Network System	
PROGINORTE	Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region	www.procinorte.net
PROCISUR	Programa Cooperativo para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Agroalimentario y Agroindustrial del Cono Sur	www.procisur.org.uy/
PROCIOTROPICOS	Programa cooperativo de Investigación, Desarrollo e Innovación Agrícola para los Trópicos Suramericanos	www.procitropicos.org.br
PROMECAFE	Programa Cooperativo Regional para el Desarrollo Tecnológico y la Modernización de la Caficultura de Centroamérica, República Dominicana y Jamaica	www.promecafe.org/
PROPAC	Plateforme Sous-régionale des organisations paysannes d'Afrique Centrale	www.propac.org/
ROPPA	Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest	www.roppa.info/
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture	www.ruforum.org/
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions	www.sacau.org/
SAG	Southern Advisory Group, see SEAG	
SCAR	Standing Committee for Agricultural Research	
SEAG	Southern and Emerging economies Advisory Group	
SICTA	System for Central American Integration of Agricultural Technology	
UNDP	United Nations Development Program	www.beta.undp.org
WANA	Western Asia and North Africa region	
WANARIS	WANA Agricultural Researchers Information system	www.aarinena.org/

Appendix 2: From SAG to SEAG

Some historical information according to the document produced by Drs Guy Poulter and Sander van Opstal in October 2010.

a. The SAG- Southern Advisory Group

i. Introduction

The roles and responsibilities of the SAG, as unanimously agreed in the ERA-ARD I SC meeting of December 2007, were to:

- 1. Provide information and advice to the ERA-ARD programme about southern regional, sub-regional and national ARD policies, strategies, capacity etc.*
- 2. Offer feedback on draft reports and proposals prepared by ERA-ARD*
- 3. Challenge established Northern ERA-ARD thinking*
- 4. Validate demand for the ERA-ARD joint and trans-national programmes*
- 5. Provide the basis of a longer-term collaboration between Southern ARD programmes and ERA-ARD*
- 6. Choose specialists from the South for participation in ERA-ARD as required by Work package Leaders.*

ii. Membership of SAG

The MS representatives agreed to use the GFAR network as a framework to access nominations from the South and letters were written to the Regional and Sub Regional organisations inviting nominations. The ERA-ARD management team asked for senior experts with a broad overview of global ARD research in their field and with a broad network.

The membership of the SAG evolved over the duration of the ERA-ARD I Programme and the table below provides a summary of the initial membership of the SAG in ERA-ARD I.

Table 1 : Membership of the SAG in ERA-ARD-I

Continent	Region	Organisation/Institution	Type	Name-Surname	Function
Africa	AFRICA	FARA		Dr. M. Wopereis-Pura	RAILS coordinator and FARA EFARD liaison
	Near East and North Africa	AARINENA	Association of NARS	Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan	Executive Secretary
	Western Africa	CORAF/ WECARD	Association of NARS	Dr Marcel C. Nwalozie	Scientific co-ordinator
	Eastern and Central Africa	ASARECA	Association of NARS	Dr C. Tizikara	Competitive Grants System Research Manager
	Southern Africa	SADC/FANR	University	Prof. Martha Annery Kandawa-Schulz	University of Namibia Planning, installation and operation of the Namibian GMO-testing laboratory
Asia	Asia-Pacific	APAARI	Association of NARS	Dr. Nerlita Manalili	Regional advisor and consultant on market access
Latin America	Latin America	FORAGRO	Association of NARS	Dr. Mario Allegri	Chair of FORAGRO, specializing in organizational development and agricultural research policies
			Association of NARS	Dr. Jamil Macedo	Regional Specialist in Technology and Innovation of IICA and Executive Secretary of PROCITROPICOS

Most of the members were direct employees of the RO/SROs and as such not always available for ERA-ARD activities.

iii. Chair of SAG

At the first meeting, the members of the SAG agreed that Ms. N. Manalili should be the Spokesperson/Chair for the SAG at that meeting. During the event, due to the excellent job Ms. Nerli Manalili was doing, the SAG members agreed by consensus that she should remain in the position of SAG Chair and the success of the SAG in ERA-ARD I can in no small part be attributed to her dedication and energy.

iv. Funding for the SAG

Membership of the SAG has been unpaid, although an honorarium has been available for specific additional tasks. However, ERA-ARD and INIA (Spain) (thus facilitating the participation of the Latin American Fora representatives) funded all travel costs (airfares and other travel expenses).

v. Self- evaluation of the SAG

In the closing SC meeting of ERA-ARD I in December 2009, the Chairperson of SAG, Ms. N. Manalili, presented some reflections of the SAG and its activities.

Main outcomes of this self-evaluation are:

Table 2 : Main outcomes of the self-evaluation of the SAG

SAG in ERA ARD II and the Future			
Western Asia and Northern Africa	Latin America	Africa	Asia and the Pacific
More involvement of Southern Partners	Clarification about the new SEAG composition including Eastern Europe	How SAG members really involved in the projects	Start SAG participation in ERA ARD II with clear implementation plans Longer time for calls to enable the South to participate Don't forget other regions
Keep continuity of the positive starting points of co-operation Renew current SAG	Mechanism for confirmation nomination; Terms of reference; include new responsibilities	At least 2 people for the university (not because I am from the university) but for better exchange of knowledge	With 2 participants Bring in new blood Retain those who performed (participation and attendance).
Promote further co-operation by ERA ARD to SAG; allocate more funds for co-operative projects for ARD	Funding new initiatives, new study		Look into the possibility of funding on-going initiatives. Ex global partnerships on linking farmers to markets (to maximise gains, not reinvent the wheel)
	Communication strategy Between/among SEAG To European partners	Improve reporting system to be able to follow progress; regional representative to always send report to the sub-regional groups.	More than the one day meeting before the Steering Committee, SAG to have at least one a year face to face meeting and/or teleconference

"Simply the fact that the SAG exists and a significant number of its members actively participated in ERA-ARD I meetings may be considered innovative and a success for this ERA NET, certainly allowing it to stand out from other ERA NETs. Also the fact that funding has come from within the ERA NET partners effectively through additional funding from two of the Member States, is a strong point.

Broadly, the SAG had two roles, namely, a) to provide a general Southern flavour/perspective to the discussions of ERA-ARD I and b) to provide specific inputs to certain ERA-ARD activities, most specifically joint and trans-national projects.

However, it is not so clear that given the resources available, the SAG was able to actively address all the items in its TORs or that maximum synergy and/or impact has been realised".

b. The SEAG role and mandate (as foreseen in the Description of Work-DoW of ERA-ARD II)

The last version of the DoW gives a precise description of the SEAG role and mandate:

"The (renewed) Southern and Emerging economies Advisory Group (SEAG), will be specifically called for identification of demand and invited to assist in regional ARD alliance processes for the identification and validation of topics for initiating impact oriented joint programs to be carried out by collaborative transnational thematic networks.

This procedure also gives the SEAG more responsibility to really steer and influence the selection of the thematic fields. The results of this task will therefore feed directly into Work Packages 3, 4 and 5 and will provide the strategic underpinning for the selection of priorities in these Work Packages.

In addition, the Southern and Emerging economies Advisory Group (SEAG) will assist in the interaction with the Regional (and Sub-regional) Fora, and it will benefit from the platforms currently under development between European stakeholders (EFARD).

ERA-ARD-II will strengthen the involvement and role of Southern Experts and Experts from Emerging economies into the design and implementation of its activities. That is why the Chairperson of the SEAG will be a member of the Steering Committee. The overall objective is to provide input from Southern partners and partners from Emerging economies in the decision-making process of the ERA-ARD, and to deepen the demand-oriented approach of ERA-ARD-II. The SEAG will be involved at each stage of the project, from the identification of the priorities to their implementation and evaluation. The SC has the overall responsibility of the ERA-ARD-II project. The SC normally takes decisions only at full consensus. The chair of the SEAG is an advisory member of the Steering Committee. In conclusion, this membership guarantees full engagement of the SEAG in real decision-making.

Likewise, the SEAG members participate at regular meetings of ERA ARD II where they share their regional views and perspective on issues. As a group, they are given time to discuss their collective position before regular meetings (face to face or virtually). The SEAG chair articulates as well this collective perspective during Steering Committee meetings."

Appendix 3: Agricultural Research⁵ for Development General Background

a. EU and EC support to ARD

Under the 6th Framework Programme, the European Commission financed the first ERA-ARD project aiming at strengthening cooperation and coordination in ARD programming at governmental level among 14 European countries.

The current, second phase of ERA-ARD is a € 1 million project funded under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme and will run from 2010 to 2013. The project is a partnership of 17 organisations involved with funding agricultural research for development in 15 European countries.

According to a survey carried out by ERA-ARD, the total annual investment from EU Member States plus Switzerland on ARD is about 415 M€ resources are mobilised through 136 different funding mechanisms, involving 1812 organisations, engaged in 689 on-going projects.

EC funding through development cooperation has been provided at the national and regional levels through the European Development Fund (EDF) and at the global level through the Food Security Budget Lines (FSBL) and recently Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP).

b. Institutional context

Changes in the national agricultural research systems have led to an increasing role of the regional and international ARD actors at different geographical levels. Mechanisms are in place to better coordinate ARD institutions with cross participation of actors in institutions such as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and its continental and sub-regional articulations.

Mechanisms, like ERA-ARD, are also in place to improve coordination among European ARD funders.

c. The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)

The GFAR was established in 1996 as an initiative to promote cost-effective partnerships and strategic alliances amongst stakeholders involved in agricultural research.

The present stakeholders are farmers' organisations, non-government organisations, the regional and sub-regional fora, advance research institutions of the north, international agricultural research institutions, the agri-business private sector, and a group of donors committed to the concept of collaborative partnerships amongst these stakeholder groups.

Thus, GFAR covers the continuum from farmers and consumers to researchers, working to deliver developmental change and impacts through global, regional and thematic fora, networks and institutions. GFAR is an open and inclusive forum, involving all those concerned with generating, sharing, transforming and using agricultural knowledge in public, academic, private and civil society institutions.

⁵ The term "agricultural research" is used in the broad sense, covering crop farming, livestock production, forestry, fishery and fish farming. It covers both food and non-food productions, land and natural resource management, and economic development. It involves the life sciences, earth sciences, engineering, humanities and social sciences.

d. Continental and sub-regional organisations

Many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean have created regional and sub-regional organisations to enhance Agricultural Research for Development through sharing the financial and human resource burden of carrying out agricultural research and pooling of research ideas and equipment. Regional agricultural research organisations and associations have the potential for enhancing national research capacity in countries that do not have the financial means or capacity to build fully-fledged national systems.

The Regional Fora, a central and an integral component of the GFAR, link the national agricultural research systems and the various stakeholders at the regional level:

- Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in Near East and North Africa (AARINENA)
- Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
- Central Asia and Caucasus Agricultural Research Institutions (CACAARI)
- Foro Regional de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario (FORAGRO)
- European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD)
- The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

e. National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS)

NARS are the building blocks of the global ARD system. They include various stakeholders such as national agricultural research institutions (NARIs), universities, NGOs, extension services, farmers' organisations, private sector, etc. and have primary responsibility for generating, adapting and transferring technologies that farmers need to ensure food security and equitable, sustainable development. Strong NARS exist in some developing countries (e.g. South Africa), but elsewhere they are not well established. NARIs often occupy a prominent position in expressing national research priorities and in setting up and implementing the national research agenda.

f. European platforms and coordination mechanisms

At the European level, many European stakeholders are involved in the field of ARD and since the mid-1990s, major progresses have been accomplished by them.

European States (EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland) and European Commission set up in 1995 the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD) in order to develop and implement coherent and coordinated European policies on ARD at global, regional and sub-regional levels, and to support ARD stakeholder to better coordinate their efforts. EIARD was made official in 1997 by the Commission's Communication to the European Council and Parliament.

The European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD), founded in 1997 in Montpellier, encompasses all stakeholders in Agricultural Research for Development (ARD - universities, institutes (Agrinatura), private sector, non-governmental organizations, farmers organizations, policy makers) and aims to strengthen the response of the European scientific research base in order to contribute to three major worldwide challenges (i) achieving food security and consumer protection, (ii) alleviating poverty and hunger and (iii) assuring a sustainable management of natural resources.

From EFARD emerged the proposal to build the ARD dimension of the European Research Area through the ERA-ARD project.