

EIARD



EIARD STRATEGY 2009 - 2013

NOVEMBER 2008

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ACRONYMS:

APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
ARD	Agricultural Research for Development
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
DEEC	Development & Emerging Economy Countries
DG AIDCO	European Commission – Direction General EuropeAid
DG DEV	European Commission – Direction General Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States
DG RTD	European Commission – Direction General Research
EC	European Commission
ECG	EIARD – European Consultative Group
EDF	European Development Fund
EFARD	European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development
EIARD	European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development
ERA-ARD	ERANET - The Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) dimension of the European Research Area (ERA)
EU	European Union
FAAP	Framework for African Agricultural Productivity
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FORAGRO	Foro de las Américas para la Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario
FP5 – FP6 - FP7	DG RTD – 5th, 6th, 7th Framework Programme
FSTP	Food Security Thematic Programme
GDPRD	Global Development Platform for Rural Development
GFAR	Global Forum for Agricultural Research
HARDS	European Heads of Agricultural and Rural Development Sector
ICIPE	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICRA	International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa Development
NGOs	Non Governmental Organisations
PAEPARD	Platform for African European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development
SAG	ERA-ARD Southern Advisory Group
SCAR	Standing Committee for Agricultural Research
WG	EIARD – Working Group

1. Background of the EIARD Strategy

1.1. Scope of Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)

Agricultural research is a key element of the "Agricultural Knowledge System", together with Education and Innovation to create the "Knowledge Triangle"¹ in the area of agriculture and related sectors.. In this triangle, traditional knowledge, and its specific relations to scientific knowledge, has an important role to play.

Agricultural research is driven by "scientific relevance", as well as "development relevance", with an emphasis on the second driver in the case of Agricultural Research for Development (ARD), meaning for developing and emerging economy countries (DEEC).

ARD is multi-dimensional (Annexe 1) in addressing the agricultural development challenges of DEEC. The agricultural domain includes crop production and animal husbandry, agro-forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, food, agribusiness and related enterprises, as well as the sustainable management of the natural resources on which farming depends, the animal and human health related issues, and the socio-cultural and bio-diverse landscapes, food systems and ecologies in which it is embedded. ARD is closely linked with other research sectors and themes (such as health, energy and environment), but also to social (e.g. gender) and institutional (e.g. capability development) issues. ARD provides technological, economic and institutional knowledge and innovations contributing to sustainable development. It encompasses public and private sector research, aiming at producing national and international public goods.

1.2. A changing and enhancing context for ARD

As confirmed by the 2008 Food Price Crisis, the context of ARD has changed decisively in recent years (Annexe 2). After the "lost decade" of the 1990s for agricultural development in DEEC, the key role of and support to agriculture is back on the agenda of policy makers. The reasons are many, including the negative impacts of past structural adjustment policies on rural development, the persistent critical situations regarding poverty and hunger in particular in Africa, and the emergence of global issues that pose new challenges for agriculture and food security worldwide. Rapid and substantial changes in ARD policies, funding levels and research activities have occurred in European states² and further changes are ongoing worldwide that provide opportunities for renewal in ARD. Current thinking is that the major drivers of change include:

- At the global level: Food security; climate change; trends in fossil fuel uses and bio-energies development,; globalisation of agricultural production, food systems and trade; animal diseases and pandemics; interdependency of Northern and Southern agricultures.
- At the European level: Changes in European interests, geopolitics & policies; food safety & quality issues; mass migration issues.
- At the national level: Development of South-South partnerships; rapidly growing ARD capacities in some key emerging economy countries (e.g. Brazil, India, China, and South-Africa).

Overall, we are witnessing the emergence of "one world" research issues, involving shifts from solving problems in developing countries to solving global issues that are the common interest of the global community. It is also based on the recognition that science is not divided in tropical or temperate one,

¹ *The Knowledge System & the Knowledge Triangle are key concepts of the EU 2000 and 2005 Lisbon Agenda which "aim is to make the EU the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world promoting growth and jobs in a manner that is fully consistent with the objective of sustainable development".*

² *In the case of EIARD: EU Member States + Norway & Switzerland.*

that scientific effort today crosses geographic and national boundaries, with many partners linked in dealing with the numerous facets of local and global challenges. Development issues increasingly will be incorporated in these global research questions and partnership, while having to respond at the same time to DEEC needs. In that regard, the emergence of the global development issues, while creating an opportunity for a greater support to agriculture research for DEEC, could at the same time tend to divert ARD from its focus on DEEC own needs. As such, the need for strengthening under-resourced DEEC national agricultural research systems, and for the global agricultural research system, in particular the CGIAR, to support this process remain paramount.

1.3. Limitations concerning ARD impacts on development

While ARD has a clear and recognised potential to help countries reach the MDGs and to contribute to resolving emerging global issues, it is far from being fully realised for five fundamental reasons.

1. The first and most significant reason is a **lack of liaison between ARD and broader development efforts**. For example, where an effective seed production system is not in place, the potential benefit of improved varieties cannot be captured by farmers. ARD has been most effective where complementary investments are made in efficient, affordable and accessible services and infrastructures appropriate to small farmers' needs. It also points to the problem of 'islands of success' that are not adequately scaled up or established within local institutional and financial arrangements.
2. Secondly, a **lack of involvement of users of research results** in the definition and implementation of research that is then insufficiently adapted to users' needs and not pulled by demand or an innovation dynamic. As a consequence, there is a lack of research results uptake by end-users, which is exacerbated by inefficient or even lacking linkages between research – education – extension services and the productive sector.
3. Thirdly, ARD potential is constrained by the **weakness of research institutions in many countries and the lack of researchers**, in particular of young and female trained staff; this constraint is particularly acute in most of Sub-Saharan Africa.
4. Fourthly, ARD tends to be conceived and implemented in **isolation from research in other development areas** (health, energy, and environment) when interactions are important and directly affect impacts in each sector.
5. Fifthly, ARD at global, continental³, and national levels are **insufficiently synergised**, and more specifically, in the case of Europe, while it plays a leading role in ARD, the impact of European policies and investments in ARD from European States and the European Commission **still suffers from a lack of coordination** (which leads to fragmentation and duplication). Significant progress has been made since the inception of EIARD but barriers to complementarity and synergy remain. One of the most important is the insufficient coordination at European state level between ministries, and at EC level between DGs, in charge of national and Community policies and programmes related to ARD. European coordination must then start at national and EC level.

The new EIARD strategy is designed to contribute answers to these five ARD limitations.

1.4. An important but evolving role of Europe in ARD

Europe plays a dual role in ARD - as an active research and education provider for partners of DEEC, and as a major donor to international, continental, sub-continental and national ARD institutions. Europe thus holds a special responsibility at international level regarding ARD. In particular, European

³ *In this document, the term of continent & continental has been preferred to region & regional which tend to be confusing for readers who are not in the ARD community.*

is in a position to seek balancing the international agricultural research effort between the global interests and the interests of DEEC. Its significant engagement in rural development cooperation is also critical to ensuring that ARD is applied for development results.

The technical role is organised through a wide diversity of scientific, professional and academic institutions; in some countries the institutional arrangements are fragmented and in others are more centrally organised. The technical role can be further sub-divided into ARD of a scientific and technical character, and capacity strengthening (encompassing organisational and staff training, education and support).

The financial role is organised through many bilateral and EU agreements, involving very diverse departmental and ministerial levels, co-funding agencies, and Directorates General of the European Commission.

Europe's comparative advantage in the ARD area (Annexe 3) is its ability to couple 150 years of practical experience of ARD with a strong research & training capability and extensive engagement in rural development cooperation, to address the problems and opportunities facing DEEC in the future.

European ARD will continue to have an important role in the emerging pattern of global agriculture and development. Although and because the exact nature of future demand is yet to emerge and become clear, European ARD will need to proactively continue to evolve. In the context of 'One world' research issues becoming the driving forces, the demand for high-tech European research is likely to continue, but there is uncertainty with regard to the extent of demand for European support to meet applied research needs in DEEC.

In the medium to long term, it is foreseen that European ARD will remain strong in relation to:

- High-tech research such as in the area of biotechnology, ICTs, robotics and bio-energy.
- Fundamental research in human and natural sciences.
- Generic research in hunger/poverty alleviation, natural resource management, global environmental issues, human behavioural change, multi-stakeholder processes, ecosystem functioning and risk management

especially when and where they will contribute answering research questions for European agricultures.

DEEC may be expected to gradually take ownership of all ARD areas.

The new EIARD strategy is designed to foster the important and active role of Europe in ARD and DEEC own ARD capacities, for the mutual benefit and interest of DEEC, Europe and the world.

1.5. EIARD Past and Present

The European Initiative on International Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD) is a **permanent informal ARD policy coordination platform**, which operates outside the normal EU "comitology" procedures. It was proposed at the Research Council of 29 September 1994, and supported by the French Presidency of the Union at a Ministerial meeting in Lucerne on 9-10 February 1995. The Commission prepared a Working Paper on the initiative, suggesting the establishment of a European Coordination Group (ECG) to guide it, and this was considered favourably by the Research Council of 9 June 1995. EIARD was therefore implemented under the guidance of the ECG, which met for the first time in Vienna on 11-13 October 1995, and has since continued to meet formally once a year. To ensure the Initiative's continuity, the Commission prepared a Communication⁴ that was recognised by the Council and European Parliament in 1997, which provide its strong legitimacy.

⁴ COM(97)126 "The European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD)"

From its inception in 1995, EIARD has developed institutional mechanisms (Annexe 4) to coordinate ARD policies and programmes between European states and EC. These mechanisms now constitute an original know-how and an installed advantage compared to other ARD donors in the context of the application of the Paris Declaration, and compared to the coordination of other research areas.

EIARD's contributions to date are significant at institutional, policy and operational level (see Box below) especially concerning the support to the CGIAR. However concerning support to ARD organisations of DEEC they have achieved less, this area should be further developed in the future.

Concerning the support to the CGIAR, evolutions of the ARD context, in particular the emergence of stronger continental and national ARD capacities, and at the same time the continuing decline of ARD capacities in other region, in particular in Africa, require a much more comprehensive and coordinated approach of European support to ARD at global, continental and national levels, compared with the past.

Selected EIARD contributions 1995 – 2008

(i) Institutional level

- Coordinating the largest grouping of donors to the CGIAR (45% of CGIAR budget), EIARD has strongly promoted the need for reform of the CGIAR system, and contributed actively to the reform process through EIARD position papers and its representation on all key governance bodies of the CGIAR. In particular supporting focusing on structural and programmatic alignment in Africa;
- EIARD has strongly supported to the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR);
- EIARD has strongly supported to the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD);
- Coordinating European states' contributions to the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDDT), a \$250 million fund to provide long-term sustainable support for important genetic resources collections;
- Endorsing of the International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA) 2004 strategy;

(ii) Policy level

- The “Strategy for EIARD 2005-2010” and the current “Strategy for EIARD 2009-2013” which provide a strategy to guide the ARD investments of EIARD members;
- Continuing to raise the awareness of decision-makers of the essential contributions of ARD to food security and poverty elimination, and maintaining the aggregate level of European support for ARD more or less constant over the last five years;
- The development and adoption of the EU 2005, 2006 & 2007 development policies and strategies on development and Africa;
- The 2008 EC Guidelines on Agricultural Research for Development;
- The 2008 Information Note for EU Delegations on Agricultural Research for Development;
- Contributing to the successful re-negotiation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and the subsequent International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

(iii) Programme level

- Developing the “Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) – Strategy Pointers (2000)” to guide the EC's financial support for the CGIAR;
- Being instrumental in the design and adoption by the CGIAR of the Challenge Programmes, and the African Regional MTPs;
- Supporting to the design of the international dimension of the EC's 5th, 6th and 7th Framework Programmes (FP5, FP6 & FP7);
- Under FP6, promoting and facilitating :
 - ERA-ARD (an ERA-NET on ARD)
 - A Strategic Alliance between FARA and EFARD (PAEPARD)
- The development and adoption of the Food Security Thematic Programme (233 millions € for ARD for 2007-2010), which include a support to EIARD in order to increase its coordinating role;
- Supporting InfoSys+, an ARD information management system for Europe⁵.

⁵ See <http://www.infosysplus.org/>

An EIARD Strategy 2005-2010 was endorsed in 2004. EIARD members decided in 2007 to revise this strategy (Annexe 5) in order to take into account significant new internal and external (to Europe) elements that occurred since 2005. Adopting a rolling approach, the new strategy covers the period 2009-2013.

This revision benefited from significant contributions of the project "European Research Area - Agricultural Research for Development" (ERA-ARD) supported by the EC under the 6th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development⁶.

2. EIARD's Strategic Plan for 2009-2013

2.1. EIARD Goal

We seek to reduce poverty (i.e. MDGs); to promote economic growth, food security, sustainable management of natural resources in developing & emerging economy countries; to contribute to global development issues and knowledge generation, ...

... through more effective European investments in ARD and partnership with developing & emerging economy countries; and more support to capacity development of those countries.

2.2. EIARD Purpose

Coherent, aligned and relevant European initiatives with developing & emerging countries in agricultural research activities and capacity development promoted and implemented in coordinated manner at global, continental, sub continental and national levels...

... while giving a stronger voice to those countries in the European and international decision making processes; and providing their access to European knowledge by opening up the European Research Area.

2.3. EIARD Outputs

Four outputs of EIARD activities have been identified in order for the above purpose to be achieved. These are:

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

Output 1 builds upon the significant progress made in the coordination of European ARD policies with a better reporting to high level European policy makers; better involvement of all European ARD stakeholders in policy formulation; development of coordinated policies and initiatives with European policy makers involved in agricultural research for Europe; and development of coordination with other major non-European ARD policy makers.

⁶ In particular the two following studies available on www.era-ard.org:
+ Jiggins, J., Poulter, G., 2007. Report. A Strategic Vision for European ARD in 2015 and Beyond.
+ European ARD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Output 2 builds upon the significant progress made in the coordination of European support to the CGIAR in order to facilitate and strengthen its reform process, and to improve the coordination of the funding and the evaluation & monitoring of the system.

Output 3 extends EIARD's savoir-faire, support and coordination activities towards the strengthening of ARD organisations, especially at global level and in Africa, with a coordinated support to the global and African ARD fora and institutions, and a facilitation of joint initiatives between DEEC and European ARD stakeholders.

Output 4 is a new working area for EIARD that intends to link better ARD policies and initiatives with rural development ones, through an active dialogue with the rural development policy makers community.

Guiding the pursuit of these four outputs, EIARD will support ways of ensuring DEEC have a stronger voice in the ARD arena and more generally building up of DEEC ARD capacity, in particular of institutions, and young & female individuals.

2.4. EIARD's Guiding Principles

The current EIARD's six guiding principles remain valid for the period 2009-2013. These principles need to be translated into concrete instruments, mechanisms and indicators at all levels of European support to ARD. This is the case for example of the "dissemination strategy and plans" for future research results, which are requested by the EC as part of a research proposal.

These principles are:

Alignment: European⁷ support to ARD are aligned on DEEC's own ARD policies, strategies and priorities according to EU commitment on Aid Effectiveness.

Relevance: To ensure relevance, ARD is demand-driven, recognising the social, economic and cultural conditions in which the results will be used in DEEC, and is demonstrably useful to research users and partners.

Complementarity: European supports to ARD seek to promote continental/sub-continental cooperation in ARD among DEEC where this is demonstrably cost-efficient and relevant. At Community⁸ and European⁹ level, ARD supports complement and add value to existing bilateral actions by European states.

Subsidiarity: ARD activities are proportionate to the objectives to be achieved and planned and executed at the lowest possible levels at which they can be carried out effectively.

Partnerships: European supports to ARD seek to promote partnerships, equity and balanced management responsibilities among partners in the South and in Europe. Such relationships take account of opportunities offered by Europe's research strengths and comparative advantages, as well as the normative policies that frame European development cooperation and related sectoral programmes. They aim to increase national and continental capacities to plan and execute - effectively and efficiently – ARD activities.

Participation: Collaboration is necessary to make research relevant to and for end users. National partners and research users must be involved in the formulation of research priorities, plans, implementation processes and in assessment of the results and their usefulness. Therefore, an Innovation System Approach will be systematically encouraged. This principle includes, when relevant, the mobilisation in this approach of European research capacity to address development issues.

⁷ EC plus Member States, Norway and Switzerland.

⁸ European Union level

⁹ European Union plus Norway and Switzerland

3. The Way Forward

3.1. Priority Activities

The following priority activities have been identified.

Activities for Output 1 - Effective coordination of European ARD Policies in the pursuit of the MDGs:

- 1.1 Developing relevant joint policies and strategies at European level on ARD issues, to address proficiently MDGs at global, continental, sub-continental levels, and national levels.
- 1.2 Supporting EFARD¹⁰ in linking together the different European ARD stakeholders (farmers organisations, NGOs, private sector, research institutions, policy makers), and with ARD stakeholders from DEEC, for policy formulation and collective actions.
- 1.3 Fostering the coordination, harmonisation and alignment of European ARD policies with those of other bilateral and multilateral donors.
- 1.4 Linking with SCAR¹¹ which is the formal EU political coordination mechanism for agricultural research for Europe.
- 1.5 Developing an effective reporting process towards the Council and the Parliament on the progress of European Support to ARD

Activities for Output 2 - Effective coordination of European investments in CGIAR:

- 2.1 Developing a common vision and a collective action on the CGIAR future, towards a more effective system.
- 2.2 Supporting a coordinated and streamlined M&E System for the CGIAR.
- 2.3 Developing common positions on CGIAR issues.

Activities for Output 3 - Effective coordination of European investments in strengthening ARD organisations at global and continental and sub-continental levels, especially in Africa:

- 3.1 Linking with the coordination of member states national ARD programmes through ERA-ARD.
- 3.2 Linking with European ARD organisations and networks (e.g. ECART and NATURA)
- 3.3 Coordinate support to GFAR¹², in particular in relation to its role of global coordination framework for all ARD actors, including the CGIAR and the Regional Fora.
- 3.4 Coordinating support to FARA¹³ and the sub-continental African ARD aiming at strengthening NARS¹⁴.
- 3.5 Supporting the African-European alliance on ARD between EFARD and FARA (PAEPARD¹⁵), and launching similar alliances between EFARD and other regions (Latin American, including Caribbean, Asia, Central Asia, Pacific, Mediterranean) in close dialogue with their relative ARD fora, i.e. FORAGRO¹⁶, APAARI¹⁷, AARINENA, CACARI, and as part of the inter-regional collaborations of GFAR.

¹⁰ EFARD = European Forum for Agricultural Research

¹¹ SCAR = Standing Committee on Agricultural Research

¹² GFAR = Global Forum for Agricultural Research

¹³ FARA = Forum for Agricultural Research for Africa

¹⁴ NARS = National Agricultural Research System

¹⁵ PAEPARD = Platform for African-European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development

¹⁶ FORAGRA = Foro Regional de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario

¹⁷ APAARI = Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions

- 3.6 Developing 2-3 concrete cases of joint support to ARD institutions or initiatives (e.g. ICIPE¹⁸, ICRA¹⁹).

Activities for Output 4 - Effective coordination between European investments in ARD and investments in rural development in the pursuit of the MDGs:

- 3.7 Linking with GDPRD²⁰.
- 3.8 Linking with HARDS²¹.

Activities crosscutting all four outputs

- Giving a stronger voice to the DEEC in the international ARD policy arena.
- Mobilising European and DEEC ARD stakeholders on specific development issues²² and international initiatives²³ to provide informed elements, in particular scenarios and options, to European policy makers involved in ARD policy formulation.
- Supporting participation of European and DEEC ARD stakeholders' representatives, in particular NGOs, farmers' organisations and private sector, in international reflection on ARD policy.
- Facilitating the exchange and management of European ARD information in support of policy makers and ARD partners.
- Promoting specific training on ARD issues for decision makers of DEEC.

3.2. Operating modalities

The above activities will be translated into an action plan, and EIARD modes of operation revised accordingly.

For the first three years, this EIARD strategy will benefit from the financial support of the Food Security Thematic Programme that will provide means to facilitate these activities. It will be implemented through an agreement between the European Commission and Germany. A mid-term review and a final evaluation of this support will be carried out.

A committee with representatives of different ARD stakeholders from DEEC countries and Europe will monitor the progress and give advice for the implementation of the strategy. It is proposed to rely on the members of the existing Southern Advisory Group (SAG) of the ERA-ARD project and two representatives of EFARD for this Stakeholders Committee, who will be confirmed by GFAR.

4. Conclusion

As part of the long-term construction of the EU, the European states (Member States plus Norway and Switzerland) and the European Commission have worked for thirteen years, since the launching of EIARD, towards a cooperation of their ARD policies and programmes. Significant progresses have been made. Nevertheless, there is a need to reach a new phase in this process, by closer coordination of European ARD policies; better involvement of the different ARD stakeholders from DEEC and EC

¹⁸ ICIPE = International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

¹⁹ ICRA = International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture

²⁰ GDPRD = the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

²¹ HARDS = European Heads of Agricultural and Rural Development Sector

²² e.g. ARD activities to be developed on the impacts of climate changes on food security in Africa, or activities to improving the delivery of research results to the poorest.

²³ e.g. International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development. <http://www.agassessment.org/>

into the political decision process; better integration of European ARD policies into the rural development policies; and increased coordination with other ARD donors.

Finally, there is a clear focus of EU policies towards the development of Africa that will be pursued without forgetting EU's responsibility and partnership with Latin-America and Asia.

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Annexe 1

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Multi-dimensions and scope of ARD

ARD is intrinsically:

- **fundamental & applied** – dealing with upstream and problems solving research;
- **comprehensive** – dealing potentially with research objects in any field and at any relevant scale, thus encompassing a wide range of scientific disciplines (from molecular biology or genetics to agro-ecology; economics, political and social sciences or modelling);
- **multi-stakeholder** – because concerned people are many and face a variety of often ill-known specific situations, thus requiring iterative and inter-active loops of participatory diagnosis-to-research-product processes that include all players and activities of the local innovation systems.
- **international** – because carried out in and/or for developing & emerging economy countries, and in most cases with Southern ARD partners and International Agricultural Research Centres (in particular CGIAR Centres).
- **global** – as similar problems are widely shared among countries and as local interactions with world problems result from globalizations of all kinds;
- **multiple policy** purposed – because it contributes to various and different policies: Science & Research, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs & Development, Environment, Trade & Economy, Health policies, to mention the most important ones.

The concept of ARD has evolved considerably over the last decade from research which focused directly on reducing hunger to the wider issues concerned with poverty alleviation, and is now beginning to address the challenge of sustainable development **for all** within the concepts of “**One World**” and “**Global Changes**”. ARD is now expected to broaden its agenda towards challenges of mutual interest of developing, emerging and industrialised countries.

Annexe 2

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A changing and enhancing context in Europe and worldwide for ARD²⁴

1. Importance and challenge for agriculture in development

The period is over of declining interest in and neglect of the primary role of agriculture and related sectors (fisheries, aquaculture, husbandry, food processing) in ensuring food security, easing poverty, releasing labour to sectors where it can be more efficiently employed and generating surplus to fuel overall economic growth. Even if the 2008 “Food Price Crisis” is overcome, the consensus view is that food prices and availability will tighten in the near to mid-term under the combined effects of increased demand for high energy and protein foods, fossil fuel uncertainties, climate shocks, diversion of land and water to bio fuels and deteriorating natural resource quality and availability.

Agriculture and related sectors remain the most widespread and most important non-urban economic activity. Depending on countries, some 40 to 60% of the income poor live in rural areas. The majority of those, who are undernourished, depend on agricultural activities. Involuntary internal and trans-boundary migration is driven in part by agricultural failure and agriculture is the major user of the world’s potable freshwater.

The prevailing conditions open new opportunities for farmers able to work with market actors but expose other producers and low income consumers to new challenges and livelihood threats. While market-led ARD and increasing collaboration with a range of market actors will offer chances for innovation for substantial numbers in areas where the basic infrastructures and services are in place or will be developed, others will continue to depend on public investments in ARD and public providers of ARD, together with local entrepreneurs and civil society actors. ARD policy makers need to ensure that agricultural innovation will continue to serve the public good from a social, environmental and economic point of view and not only economic interests.

An increasing portion of the ARD investment is likely to come from the private commercial sector and public-private partnerships, foundations operating at global level and in the guise of new forms of South-South collaboration and (especially in the case of many sub-Saharan African countries) renewed national and continental commitment to the agricultural sector. European ARD, historically provided through international channels such as the CGIAR or through bilateral programmes and project assistance, will still be necessary but needs re-positioning in this more complex and changing institutional arena.

2. Role of ARD

It is now recognised that the goals of poverty alleviation²⁵, civil stability, climate mitigation and remediation²⁶ and sustainable agro-ecologies²⁷ cannot be reached without renewed commitment to focussed, determined and effective ARD. ARD should provide the necessary understanding of rural development situations, of the drivers and impediments for sustainable rural development, and the required knowledge and innovations for the development of smallholders’ livelihoods. Nevertheless, in the complex situations of rural development in DEEC, while research is a condition that is necessary for economic development, it is not sufficient²⁸. Therefore, it is necessary to include research into the broader and enhancing context of rural development in order to improve the impact of ARD on development.

²⁴ *Contribution from the task force in charge of leading the revision of the EIARD strategy (See Annexe 1).*

²⁵ *Ref. World Development Report 2008*

²⁶ *Ref. IPCC reports*

²⁷ *Ref Millennium Ecosystem System Assessment*

²⁸ *Ref. 2e Rural Forum 2007*

To achieve the MDGs, more research in rural development, in particular in the agricultural sectors, and better dissemination of information is needed. Rural development is a complex topic that requires multi-dimensional approaches: multi-research areas (agriculture, health, environment, energy); bio-physic and socio-economic multidisciplinary; multi-stakeholders. It cannot rely only on private funding, which tends to bypass the poor in search of economic returns. Research must acknowledge and start thinking from the specific context and knowledge of the farmers themselves. Innovators must take into account that smallholder farming systems are highly diversified and that no single intervention is going to lead to significant increases in incomes for everyone. Innovative instruments must be found for engaging diverse actors in knowledge generation and sharing the findings of academic research in rural areas, at the same time as recognizing the demand and capacity of rural farmers to shape their own futures. Capacity building to enable rural farms to adapt new methods is essential. The promotion of innovative system approaches offer pathways for dealing with these challenge and needs further institutional development, including the development of adequate financial services for innovation development and dissemination.

Finally, from a scientific point of view, the high turn-over of biochemical processes in the tropics make ARD context and results extremely relevant to anticipate and speed-up the responses of research to temperate agricultural situations in Europe and other temperate regions.

3. Policy and strategic developments

The MDGs remain a major policy commitment and continue to provide strategic focus. Positive progress has been made towards achieving the MDGs, even in regions where the challenges are greatest, but further progress requires additional and sustained action and increased donor contributions, and targeted commitments in the regions facing the most severe challenges, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa.

At the international level, the changing external policies and strategic context is being shaped in part by the following policy and strategic developments:

- The 2005 Paris declaration on aid effectiveness
- 2005 Commission for Africa, G8 Gleneagles and Hellingdamm declarations.
- The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD).
- Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (see further 2.4.3)

At the EU level, the overall policy orientation towards agricultural development in general, and the role of ARD in particular, is captured in several policy documents, and mainly in:

- The 2005 European Consensus for Development²⁹, which builds for the first time on a shared commitment to basic principles, fundamental values and development objectives agreed at the multilateral level, to provide a common vision that guides the actions of the EU and Member States (MS) in development co-operation.
- The 2005 EU Strategy for Africa³⁰, that gives geographic priority to Africa, with targeted support to increase the competitiveness and productivity of agriculture, by means in particular of research collaboration between the European and African ARD communities, support to the CGIAR and continental and sub-continental research co-ordination.

²⁹ COM (2006) C 46-01 - Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: "The European Consensus on Development", November 2005

³⁰ COM(2005)489. - European Union Strategy for Africa: Towards a Euro-African pact to accelerate Africa's Development. October 2005.

- The 2007 Communication on Advancing African Agriculture³¹, which recognises a shared institutional and programmatic framework for action between EU and Africa (CAADP).
- The 2007 EU Code of Conduct on Division of Labour in Development Policy³², which commits European donors to seek greater effectiveness by eliminating the duplication of efforts in partner countries and to harmonising their regulations and rules of engagement. This is providing a framework for the growing movement amongst European donors to put the Paris commitments into practice.
- The Joint Africa-EU Strategy³³, adopted in Lisbon in December 2007, provides a long-term vision for a strategic partnership between Africa and the European Union. One objective is to make substantial progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Objective of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition by the year 2015 in all African countries. Expected outcomes include issues such as better access to food, increased agricultural growth rates, improved agricultural productivity and reduced rural poverty, improved governance in the agricultural sectors, enhanced intra-Africa trade in agriculture, reduced malnutrition, reduced maternal and child mortality, improved food-security early warning systems, wider application of safety-net / social transfer systems, reduced vulnerability in food-insecure communities.

These documents reiterate that agriculture and rural development are crucial for poverty reduction and economic as well as social growth. To contribute to growth, the Community has indicated it will focus on the sustainable intensification of productions in developing countries, and their competitiveness on regional and international markets. This requires technological and knowledge development, supported through agricultural research and extension structures and mechanisms. Moreover, sustainable growth is predicated upon adequate access to resources (land, water, and finance) and effective management of natural resources, respecting the capacity of eco-systems.

At the European states level, new strategies for ARD reaffirm an increasing support of a number of states for agricultural development and ARD. The expansion of the EU strengthens the European science base and offers new opportunities and challenges for ARD collaboration with countries in transition and their near neighbours.

4. Emergence of global development challenges

The warning signs are increasing that the poorest and least advantaged peoples and areas are being hardest hit by changes in material state and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2004), the 4th International Panel on Climate Change reports (2007), the Comprehensive Assessment of Water for Agriculture (2007) and the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (2008) substantiate the changes and the increasing scale of impact. The reports stress that while there is evidence of the positive impact of many significant achievements that address the challenges posed by these trends, at all levels and in all parts of the world, the drivers have not significantly changed. The evidence indicates that urgent, radical policies and actions are needed in which science, technology and an understanding of societal and individual change in behaviour could play a large and increasing role in the search for solutions and adaptations. Within ARD, the following common global themes – in addition to tackling climate change as a priority - are emphasised: food security and safety, global trade & market access, integrated natural resource governance (especially for water) and management, human health, crop protection, animal disease and pandemics that affect human health, biodiversity, urbanization, migration & demographic change, monitoring & evaluation/impact assessment.

³¹ COM (2007) 440. - *Advancing African Agriculture- Proposal for continental and regional level cooperation on agricultural development in Africa.* July 2007

³² COM(2007) 72- "EU Code of Conduct on Division of Labour in Development Policy" February 2007

³³ http://ec.europa.eu/development/services/events/eu-africa-summit-2007/index_en.cfm?CFID=110566&CFTOKEN=69371775&jsessionid=243073f74e453f6a1929

These global challenges pose risks that may impact everyone, creating a demand and opportunities for change that can be only or most effectively addressed through global cooperation. They also offer opportunities for enhanced collaboration, at international and regional levels, among disciplines, and between agricultural science and technology actors in the private commercial, public and civil society sectors (including Farmers' Organisations). ERA-ARD and SCAR conferences (June 2007) demonstrate a progressive convergence on ARD and agricultural research for Europe at the international level, as understanding of these global challenges and opportunities grows.

The sudden and steep surge across a broad range of agricultural commodities that occurred in the second half of 2007 to reach a peak level in the first months of 2008, underline that progress made towards MDGs is indeed very fragile, that food security is a global issue for DEEC and industrialised region like Europe, and that ARD is a needed long-term answer to enhance agricultural supply³⁴.

5. New institutional setup for ARD

Institutional arrangements are co-evolving in the dynamic described above.

At international levels, the CGIAR remains a significant player, currently undergoing a dynamic of renewal in its mission, governance, performance management, funding mechanisms and accountability in partnership with DEEC. The CGIAR Challenge programmes and ARD programmes supported by many donors including private foundations with a strong commitment to ARD offer new opportunities for broader collaboration in tackling problems in science and exploiting market-oriented opportunities. Important elements in the current institutional pattern include the evolution of the Global Forum for Agricultural Research for Development (GFAR), and convergence with the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD).

Significant institutional developments within DEEC include strengthening the capacity of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and sub-continental bodies (e.g. ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, SADC) whilst recognising the continuing weakness of most national level institutions in Africa. The emergence of multi-stakeholder research consortia such as the Andean consortium, the strengthened ARD capacities of some key emerging economy countries (such as Brazil, India, China, South Africa) and the development of South-South ARD cooperation (Brazil's EMBRAPA opened three liaison offices in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2007) are very welcome initiatives that should be further developed.

At EU level, the modes of collaboration with DEEC are changing. In the past, European/Developing Country collaboration has been generally of the *Technical assistance type* (European institutes selected on the basis of a tender to assist Southern Institutes) or the *Channelling type* (European ARD funds channelled to multi-lateral organisations e.g. FAO, CGIAR). In the future European/Developing Country collaboration will be more of the *Partnership type* (European and Southern research institutes collaborate on equal basis) or increasingly of the *Ownership type* (European ARD funds transferred to Southern research institutes as core programme funding and the recipient organisation buys-in European or other expertise as necessary). The challenges inherent in the Ownership Model could result in greater reliance on European/Developing Country ARD consortia. An important issue is how these changes might impact on partnerships with private commercial agricultural R&D. Important elements in the current institutional pattern include the future of the European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD), the positive developments of the European Research Area ARD project (ERA-ARD), and convergence with the Standing Committee for Agricultural Research (SCAR). These initiatives signal a progressive convergence of European ARD and European agricultural research at international and European levels and for joint and transnational collaboration.

6. New financial instruments and funding trends.

Financial investments in agricultural development have recovered (e.g. World Bank commitment - IDA for agriculture in Africa have increased from \$104 million in 2000 to \$278 million in 2005, and \$654 million in

³⁴ COM(2008) 321 - *Tackling the challenge of rising food prices Directions for EU action. May 2008.*

2006). African governments have pledged 10% support from national budgets; a commitment already met by some countries but not yet evident in actual allocations in most cases.

At the same time additional funding mechanisms have emerged, including major private foundations (e.g. the Melinda & Bill Gates Foundation), public-private partnerships (e.g. Syngenta's engagement with South-African universities and local extensions staff, community groups and schools throughout southern Africa in making available robust, interactive internet access to crop protection, fertility and soil management information), and a greater role for direct collaboration between Farmer Organisations (e.g. organised through IFAP) in mobilising funds to articulate research demand.

At EU level, some European states are considering a renewed engagement and others have already considerably increased their political commitment and financial support. The European donor community increasingly seeks to harmonise its contributions to the sector e.g. by pooling funding, moving to core budget support, establishing country-level or thematic working groups (such as EIARD). Specific instruments include the 10th European Development Fund (EDF10), the new Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) and Environment Thematic Programme³⁵, and the 7th Programme for Research (FP7) that opens all activities carried out under the Thematic Programmes to researchers in third countries. The consequences for Europe of these developments include:

- For European Member States:
 - New funding opportunities for ARD
 - Stronger pressures to invent new processes to coordinate and manage efficiently European funding for ARD
- For EC instruments that support ARD:
 - Release of new funding (EDF10, FSTP, FP7) for ARD.
 - A clear need to achieve better coordination and synergy among EC instruments supporting ARD
 - A requirement that ARD responds to the political objectives of FP7 concerning European competitiveness, sovereignty and security.

³⁵ *Under the new Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) the Thematic programmes take an integrated approach to ARD at global, continental, sub-regional levels, and make available Euro 233.5m for the period 2007-2010.*

Annexe 3

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European's comparative advantages in the ARD area

- **Political and funding weight:** Due to a long history with DEEC, Europe has a significant political weight to support rural development and ARD, and an investment in ARD at all levels from local to global which is equivalent to half of the worldwide investment.
- **Poverty elimination:** Europe has a comparative advantage based on a long and distinguished institutional base in pro-poor socio-economic research, participatory methodology development and design of related policy frameworks including safety nets to assist those whose land resources cannot sustain their livelihoods.
- **New major global scientific breakthroughs:** In the last decade there have been major scientific developments both in agricultural and non-agricultural sciences that offer radically different pathways for dealing with agricultural issues (e.g. genetic resistance to biotic and abiotic stress) in both developed and developing countries. Europe has strong scientific capabilities in many of these.
- **Expertise in key ARD areas.** Due to its own agricultural history, Europe has recognised competencies in research related to multi-functionality of agriculture and Innovation system approach in agriculture which have a special interest for DEEC. More over, its capacities are organised in an operational way both for scientific exchanges and for working on ARD together with Southern universities, NARS and continental organisations through NATURA, a consortium of European universities, and ECART, a consortium of dedicated research and expertise institutions
- **Focus on the role of the market for livelihood orientated development:** The 1.1 billion income poor people in the world earn their living in diverse and dynamic ways. Developing market-oriented innovation rather than improving agricultural productivity per se is a major focus in the drive to lift the poor out of poverty. Europe has a strong comparative advantage in focusing on livelihood orientated development goals with emphasis on food chains, market opportunities, entrepreneurship and the balance of public and private provision of products and services.
- **Capacity strengthening:** Europe has a competitive advantage in strengthening ARD capacity in developing countries by means of conventional university based and new (“open”, “life-long”) learning technologies that connect students in developing countries with European centres of learning.

Annexe 4

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EIARD Coordination Mechanisms

- EIARD members are the **Member States of the European Union, plus Norway, Switzerland and the EC** - represented by Directorates General for Research (DG RTD), Development (DG DEV), and Europe-Aid Office for Cooperation (DG AIDCO). Each member should have a **National EIARD Network**, consisting of ARD policy makers from the relevant Ministries and government departments, and their advisers. Each National EIARD Network is coordinated by a **National Contact Point**.
- EIARD is implemented by a **European Coordination Group** (ECG) consisting of representatives of each Member, appointed by their respective governments or the European Commission. The ECG is therefore accountable to both individual European Governments (through their representatives) and to the EU Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, through the Commission.
- The ECG elects an **EIARD Chair** from among its members, to serve for an agreed period of two to three years. The European Commission is permanent **EIARD Vice-Chair**.
- An **EIARD Executive Secretary**, is provided by one of the members, and hosted by the European Commission (DG RTD) as a Seconded National Expert. The Executive Secretary is responsible for the day-to-day management of EIARD.
- A **Working Group** (WG) consisting of voluntary EIARD members ensures the continuing activities of EIARD, and operates as an "Executive Committee". It meets about four times a year, and is fully accountable to the ECG. The EIARD Chair chairs the WG.
- A voluntary WG Member leads one of the EIARD Strategic Outputs to ensure that its outcomes are achieved in line with the EIARD Strategy (**Strategy Leaders**)
- The WG is assisted by ad hoc **Task Forces**, and **Expert Leads**, who prepare draft reports and positions on specific issues, for endorsement by the WG and eventually the ECG.

Annexe 5

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The reflection process for the revision of the EIARD Strategy

- A task force was nominated by EIARD Members to update the EIARD strategy.
 - Enrico Baccioni,
 - Pierre Fabre,
 - Jochen de Haas,
 - Jean-Luc Khalfaoui,
 - Guy Poulter,
 - Paolo Sarfatti.
- The task force was assisted by Pr. Janice Jiggings as expert and resource person in the agricultural development and ARD fields.
- A workshop among EIARD Members on the revision of the strategy was organised in Bonn in September 2007³⁶, followed by further collective reflections during the annual meeting of the EIARD European Coordination Group in Florence in November 2007, and by electronic consultation during 2008.
- External, prominent and experienced European and International ARD specialists were consulted to give their appreciation of EIARD past achievements and their views on its future³⁷.
 - Monty Jones,
 - Timothy Hall,
 - Francisco Reifschneider,
 - Rudy Rabbinge,
 - Uve Werblow,
 - Bob Watson.
- The new strategy has been further informed following public consultations in 2008. **The following external organisations have sent their written comments:**
 - CTA
 - ECART
 - EFARD
 - FARA
 - FORAGRO
 - GFAR
 - ICRA
 - NEPAD
 - Southern Advisory Group of ERA-ARD

³⁶ Reported in Schneider, W. "Documentation of the EIARD Strategy Workshop Bonn, September 13-14, 2007."

³⁷ Reported in Poulter, G. "Report on Consultation with High-Level ARD Experts November 2007."

