

EFARD Annual Technical and Business Meeting

Future of European Agricultural Research and Innovation Partnerships

11 December 2017

Venue: CDMA, DG Research and Innovation, Room -1/044,
21 rue du champ de Mars, 1050 Ixelles, Brussels

BACKGROUND

The European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development is a multi-actor platform which provides opportunity for dialogue on issues of strategic importance for European agricultural and research and non-research actors. Each year, the platform members meet to review their achievements of the previous year and develop strategies for possible (re)alignment of EFARD's priorities with those of key partners such as the European Commission (EC), the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) and partners in the South. The future of agricultural research and innovation partnerships for greater development impact and increasing the engagement of European stakeholders is the focus of this year's meeting.

The European Commission Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO) recognises and supports multi-stakeholder agricultural research and innovation partnerships as a crucial instrument for building effective Agricultural Innovation Systems. The EC has supported the implementation of such partnerships via the [EU DCI](#), the European Development Fund and [EU FP7](#), and more recently through the [EU Horizon 2020](#) funding mechanisms. To some degree, EU Member states are also contributing; directly or indirectly to fostering multi-stakeholder research and innovation platforms for greater development impacts as is the case of the [ARF funding](#) in the Netherlands.

Collectively, Europe is the biggest international funder of agricultural research for development (AR4D) and a major source of expertise. A key pillar of the [DEVCO strategy 2014-2020 on research and innovation](#) focuses on "improving European leadership, coordination and influence"¹. To achieve this objective, the EC and European Member States have to create opportunities for greater involvement of European researchers and research stakeholders in AR4D and EFARD has a role to play in supporting this process.

Currently, a number of the EU supported innovative multi-stakeholder agricultural research and innovation partnerships, for example, the [EIP-Agri](#), [PAEPARD](#) and [CDAIS](#) projects in which EFARD members have been well represented, are at an advanced stage of implementation or

¹ <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/devco/thematic-activities/rural-development-food-security-nutrition/Documents/Note%20support%20delegations%20oct%202014/Annex%208%20-%20Guidance%20note%20on%20research.pdf>

almost in the completion phase. The EFARD 2016-2017 study on “*Appraising the participation of European partners in the PAEPARD Users-Led Process*”², revealed low participation of EU researchers. A combination of factors; the long time required for engaging in innovation partnerships involving non-research actors and little or no core funding, constrain the participation of EU research and private actors in important consortium activities.

Capacity built during the innovation process is also advanced as a catalyst for achieving impact³. Hainzelin et al. (2017) have demonstrated that the impacts of AR4D are very diverse and are realized over a long period of time, creating challenges for both research organisations and funders to measure development impacts³. Furthermore, the observation of achieving impacts in the long term contrasts with the current demand to demonstrate impact in the short-term.

An interim evaluation of the Africa-EU Research and Innovation partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) in the context of the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue⁴, provides some additional insight, particularly in term of capacity building, research uptake and dissemination⁵. For example, while individual capacities of researchers and other actors have been indirectly built through their involvement in collaborative EU supported actions, inadequate or lack of funding is a main constraint to enhance or sustain the capacity developed post project interventions⁶.

This year, the EFARD annual meeting will seek to explore lessons learned including those from the mid-term review of CDAIS and the final evaluation of PAEPARD and from EFARD members to advocate on the way forward for strengthening the engagement, enhancing the contribution and achieving longer-term commitment of EU stakeholders and multi-stakeholder agricultural research and innovation partnerships for achieving greater development impact. The latest PAEPARD publication on lessons learned on AR4D funding will also be released.

Upstream, EFARD will formally install its new management team 2017-2019. Preliminary results of a survey show that members continue to appreciate [EFARD vision and mission](#). Nevertheless, members have pointed out the challenges EFARD faces to realise its various objectives considering its limited resources. EFARD’s future governance, including the different options for hosting the EFARD Secretariat, as well as its relationship with the EC will be discussed in-depth during this year’s meeting.

² L.Ollivier & J. A Francis, 2017. *Appraising the participation of European partners in the PAEPARD Users-Led Process*, WRENMedia (Ed.), FARA (Pub.), Accra, Ghana. 17p.

³ Hainzelin E., Barret D., Faure G., Dabat M.-H., Triomphe B., 2017. *Agricultural research in the Global South: steering research beyond impact promises*. CIRAD, Montpellier, Perspective 42.
DOI:10.18167/agritrop/00044.

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=africa>

⁵ A.Cherry, M. Path, A.konté, 2017. *Report of a light interim evaluation of the Africa- EU Research and Innovation partnership on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)*.34p.

⁶ <http://www.rinea.org/en/1143.php>

OBJECTIVES

- Deliberate on how to support and finance the engagement, contribution and long-term commitment of EU researchers in North-South and multi-stakeholder agricultural research and innovation partnerships in an era of dwindling financial resources.
- Deliberate on EFARD's future relevance and governance 2018-2020

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- EC (funding) mechanisms to support EU stakeholders in multi-stakeholder agricultural research and innovation partnerships are acknowledged.
- Critical challenges for various EU stakeholders as well as best practices to access and manage ARD funding for multi-stakeholder agricultural research and innovation partnerships are identified and suggestions on way forward are advanced.
- EU stakeholders' experiences regarding research uptake and development impact are captured.
- Consensus achieved on the new EFARD governance document and work programme for 2018 – 2020;

PROGRAMME

Chair: *Prof. Patrick Van Damme, Chair EFARD*

Rapporteur: *Laurianne Ollivier*

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| 9:00 – 9:15 | Welcome Remarks and Vision for EFARD – <i>Patrick Van Damme, Chair, EFARD, Belgium.</i> |
| 9:15 – 9:30 | Self - Introductions |
| 9:30 – 9:50 | Opening Remarks - EC Support for Research and Innovation and Perspectives on EFARD's Role' – <i>Christophe Larose, Head of Sector: Planet and Innovation, DEVCO C1 – Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition, Belgium.</i> |
| 9:50 – 10:00 | Discussion/Q&A |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Dutch Experience in AR4D Funded Projects – <i>Jennie van der Mheen, Manager International Cooperation Africa, and Pieter Windmeijer, Project Manager, Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands.</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Tracking the Evolution of the PAEPARD Users'-Led Process: Lessons Learned – <i>Laurianne Ollivier, EFARD consultant & Judith A. Francis, Executive Secretary, EFARD, The Netherlands.</i> |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Discussion/Q&A |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee Break and Networking |

- 11:00 - 11:15 **Seed Money as a Catalyst for Innovation Partnerships: the PAEPARD Sojabeen Consortium** – *Patrice Sewade, Coordinator Project Soya Afitin-Milk (ProSAM), Association of Development of Soybean (SOJAGNON), Benin.*
- 11:15 – 11:30 **EU-Africa Knowledge Exchange & EU Researcher Experience in Multi-Stakeholder Research and Innovation Partnerships** – *Falyath Babah Daouda, Postdoc, ProSeSS, Doyiwé PROJECT, and Paul Ingenbleek, Assoc Professor, Marketing, Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands.*
- 11:30 – 11:45 Discussion/Q&A
- 11:45 – 12:15 **PAEPARD External Evaluation: Lessons for EFARD** – *Remi Kahane, PAEPARD Management Team, Agrinatura/ CIRAD, France.*
- 12:15 – 12:30 Discussion/Q&A
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch** – *Enoteca da valentine- 13, Rue du Champ de Mars, Brussel (sponsored)*
- 14:15 – 14:30 **Fostering Processes of Participation between Family Farming Organisations and Research Institutes: GFAR Collective Action** – *Stéphanie Barrial, Knowledge management Coordinator, World Rural Forum, Spain.*
- 14:30 – 14:50 **TAP and CDAIS Project Mid-Term Review – Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems in Developing Countries** – *Karin Nichterlein, Research and Extension Branch, FAO, Italy & Jean Michel Sers, CIRAD, France.*
- 14:50 – 15:00 *Discussion/ Q&A*
- 15:00 – 15:45 **Working Group Session/World Cafe** – *Critical Challenges and Best Practices for engaging EU stakeholders in Multi-stakeholder Agricultural Research and Innovation Partnerships.*
- 15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break and Networking
- 16:00 – 16:15 **EFARD Management Report 2016-2017 & Draft EFARD 2018-2020 Governance and Strategy** – *Judith A. Francis, Executive Secretary, EFARD, The Netherlands.*
- 16:15 - 17:00 **Working Groups Session / World Cafe** – *Charting the future of EFARD: Role, Governance Mechanism, Priorities and Strategies to respond to EC and Development Priorities.*
- 17:00 – 17:15 Discussion/Q&A

17:15 – 17:30 **Summary of Main Decisions and Implications for the 2018-2020 EFARD Work Plan** – *Judith A. Francis, Executive Secretary, EFARD, The Netherlands.*

17:30 – 17:45 **Closing Remarks**

Christophe Larose, Head of Sector, EC

Patrick Van Damme, Chair, EFARD

18:30 – 21:00 **Working Dinner** (sponsored)

12 December

9:00-10:30 **EFARD MT meeting** (closed)

