



The Executive Committee Meeting on the

9th of Dec, 2017

Hammamet, Tunisia

Participants:

The meeting was chaired by the president of AARINENA of Dr. Mohamed Darghouth, and attended by the following members:

Dr. Nizar Haddad, Mashrek Sub-Region Representative

Dr. Nasser Khalifah, Arabian Peninsula Sub-Region Representative

Dr. Bülent SÖNMEZAARINENA Vice President/ Western Asia Sub-Region Representative.

Dr. Iman Kaffess, GFAR

Ms. Seta Tutundjian, ICBA

Mr. Salah Chouaki, Maghreb Sub-Region Representative.

Dr. Salima Marzoukai, Farmers representative, COFO-WANA president

Dr. Mohammad M. Ajlouni, AARINENA Executive Secretary.

Agenda:

- I. Adoption of the Agenda
- II. Strategic Directions of AARINENA “Transforming AARINENA to be a multi-stakeholder Fora on Research and Innovation for Development”, implementation of the strategy development project: plan of actions collaborations and fund raising.
- III. AARINENA next General Assembly.
- IV. AARINENA Reports and work plan:
 - i. Progress Report (2017-2018)
 - ii. Financial Report
- V. Other Items.

I. Adoption of the Agenda

Decisions:

The agenda was adopted and approved as presented.

II. The Strategic direction of AARINENA

- Dr. Darghouth presented the strategic Directions of AARINENA: “Walking together on the way forward”
- The presentation concentrate on the following points:
 - ✓ The global challenges of the NENA agriculture:
 - Natural Resources Constraints;
 - Food Security, and
 - Threats due to the dynamic of climate changes
 - The role of research and innovation for overcoming the challenges
 - ✓ Historical background and Missions of AARINENA.
 - ✓ Two projects to transform AARINENA and develop its strategy prepared:
 - Bridging Minds into Present and Future, Developing and Transforming NENA agriculture by Research and Innovation and
 - Transforming AARINENA’s Capacity as a Multi-Stakeholder Futuristic Regional Forum on Research and Innovation for Development. This project has been recently launched with GFAR and the first amount of its budget released to AARINENA

Discussion:

- Dr. Nizar asks if it’s possible to help member institutions to develop a national communication and knowledge sharing plan.
- The secretary asked to send again the TCP to all members.
- Another suggestion to send the approved minutes to all Members not only the Executive Secretary Members.

Decision:

- The secretary asked to take all recommendations and send the TCP and the minutes to all members.

III. AARINENA next General Assembly

- The General Conference (GC):

It has been suggested to:

- To delay the next GC to the end of 2018 for the following considerations:
 - To validate by the GC the new AARINENA strategy delivered by the Project on transformation of AARINENA funded by GFAR. Since this project is expected to deliver its results in September 2018, the GC should be organized later on. Due to the cost of the GC it might not be possible to organize two general conferences in 2018. Accordingly the most reasonable issue is to postpone the GC at the end of 2018 for renewing the AARINENA elected staff and validating the new strategy.
 - The executive committee need to have time to raise Fund for the GC and not depend on AARINENA Budget.
 - The members suggested also to organize the technical part of the conference on attractive subjects such as new technologies in protected agriculture; Soil conservation; honey bee and climate change; underutilize species of medicinal plants.....(*each member will do his consultation back office and give feed back in this issue*)
- To include in the Agenda of the next General Conference the identification of venue and time of the next meeting and the meeting after. So that the secretary will do the arrangement in very early time.
- Keep the Executive committee meeting in cc for the communication with Morocco concerning the time of the next GC.
- The will of Morocco, which has been retained as a venue country for the next GC, organize this meeting in the spring/summer 2018.

Decision:

- The committee approve the delay of the next GC to the end of 2018 the above reasons.
- The committee asks the secretariat to include the above suggestions in the agenda of the next GC.

IV. AARINENA reports

i. Progress report

The AARINENA report for the period between Jan-Nov 2017 has been presented by Dr. Mohammad Ajlouni, the executive secretary.

Decision:

- The participants discussed the reports and approve it as it is.
- The Committee asks the secretary to review the work plan by including the suggested activities by the EC members and send it for approval be e-mail.

ii. Financial Report:

Dr. Ajlouni also presented the financial report which shows that the opening balance on the year 2017 was 164489.64 \$, the membership fees received reached 70,000\$, and the funds received during the year was 64,310 \$ from GFAR. The expenses reached 68,745.022 \$, therefore, the closing balance for the period Jan-Nov 2017 was 230,054.620 \$.

The Participating members stressed the importance of raising funds to improve the financial situation of AARINENA to enable it to conduct more activities.

Decision:

- The financial report has been approved as it is.

V. Other Items:

The committee discusses the extension of the Executive Committee membership to include Young professional, Women Farmers organizations, and NGO's representatives. WHAT DECISION

Venue and Date for the next meeting:

The EC members ask the secretariat to suggest the next meeting Venue and date later.

The Meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

Summary table of the actions to undertake

Action to undertake	Responsible	Due date of delivery	Means of reporting
Consultation on potential technical topics for the GC	Each member of the EC	28 February	By email to EC members
Proposition of ways of fund raising for the GC	Executive Secretary (ES)	31 st of March 2018	Validation with the EC members by email and at the next EC meeting
Propose a procedure of selection by the GA of the venue of the following two GC	ES in coordination with President (P)	Proposal to be included and communicated to the members three months before the GA (August 2018)	By email to each AARINENA member
Send the TCP proposal to the EC members	(ES)	With the EC minutes	By email to the EC members
Readjust the plan of work for 2018	(ES) in coordination with (P)	15 February 2018	By email to the EC members
Date and venue of the next EC	(ES) in coordination with (P)	15 February 2018	By email to the EC members