



The Executive Committee Meeting on the

**26th of July, 2017
Izmir, Turkey**

Participants:

- 1. Dr. Mohamed Darghouth, AARINENA President**
- 2. Mesut Keser, ICARDA Turkey office Coordinator**
- 3. Dr. Mueen Qaryouti, Mashreq Sub-Region Representative.**
- 4. Dr. Chouaki Salah, Maghreb Sub-Region Representative**
- 5. Dr. Naser Khalefah, Arabian Peninsula Sub-Region Representative**
- 6. Eng. Dielk Kahraman, represent Dr. Bülent SÖNMEZ AARINENA Vice President/ Western Asia Sub-Region Representative.**
- 7. Dr. Mansour Alaqil, Nile Valley & Red Sea Sub-Region Representative.**
- 8. Dr. Mark Holderness, GFAR, Through Skype**
- 9. Dr. Salima Marzouki, Farmers representative, COFO-WANA president**
- 10. Dr. Mohammad M. Ajlouni, Executive Secretary.**

Agenda:

1. AARINENA Reports
2. Work Plan 2017-2018
3. The Strategic direction of AARINENA toward 2035
The TCP for the strategy project development.
4. ICARDA Strategy 2017-2026
5. Other Items: the following has been added under the other items;
 - 5.1 Extension for the Executive secretary.
 - 5.2 Governance of AARINENA.
 - 5.3 Network activities.
 - 5.4 Website.
 - 5.5 Coordination with other regional organizations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Decisions:

The agenda has been adopted as modified above, by adding five items under other items.

2. AARINENA Reports

2.1 Progress Report

AARINENA Report for the period between Jan-June 2017 presented by Dr. Mohammad Ajlouni, the executive secretary. It included the update of the steering committee members on the latest development concerning AARINENA Strategy Toward 2035 (Concept note development and the TCP); Transforming Higher Education of NENA Region, and other AARINENA activities such as 31st and 32nd GFAR Steering Committee Meeting, and NENA Regional Workshop on information related to plant Genetic Resources in cooperation with the International treaty for Plant genetic resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Decision:

The participants discussed the reports and approve it

2.2 Financial Report:

Dr. Ajlouni also present the financial report which shows that the opening balance on the year 2017 was 164489.64 \$, the membership fees received reached 65,000\$, and the funds received during the last 6 months was 35,000 \$ from GFAR. The expenses reached 31,520.48 \$, therefore, the closing balance for the period Jan-June 2017 was 232,969.160\$.

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.

3. Work Plan 2017-2018

The proposed work plan for the next year was presented by Dr. Ajlouni

Decision:

The EC approved the proposed work plan and agreed to give the priority to the following activities :

- Activities aiming to develop competences: a) Red palm weevil and b) Protected agriculture.
- Activities related to the multiactor systems in R&I toward a sustainable agriculture: a) Successful models of R&D and AKIS, but with merging the activity on innovation platform initially included under development of competences; b) Linking women's to market; and c) Regional network of young professionals.
- Follow up activities on the strategic and action plan for the next stage.

4. The Strategic direction of AARINENA toward 2035

AARINENA Strategy and the TCP for the strategy project development presented by Dr. Darghouth. The presentation included the update on:

- Development of the AARINENA Concept Note “BRIDGING MINDS INTO THE FUTUR” A Participatory Prospective Analysis to transform NENA agriculture. Focusing on innovation through research and higher education. An initiative developed with support of the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR)

Also, Dr. Darghouth focused on how to promote AARINENA Mission and vision among regional and international organizations working in the region, in this context he presented the AARINENA Strategic Diagnostic Framework that will lead to the development of the new AARINENA strategy that will be discussed at the next General Assembly. He stress on:

- The strategic weakness along the countries region of the systems for R&I and Transfer of Technology and Knowledge and hence the need for AARINENA to advocate for the new approaches to develop on a rational basis these systems. In this context, a model for this organization has been presented, it relies on a multiactor deployment of the Technology Readiness Levels methodology.
- The need to increase the visibility of AARINENA through participation and presentation of its program, strategy and agenda of work at different fora.

- Develop and strengthen partnerships with other international and regional organizations with similar objectives (AOAD, ACSAD, Diversity....)
- Develop a public awareness campaign targeting member and non- member institutions.
- Promote joint activities among national, regional and international institutions
- Prepare comprehensive reports on different activities of AARINENA. To cancel it is already included in the strategic diagnostic
- Enhance the activities of the networks by introducing other interested partners inside and outside the region

In addition the executive secretary Dr Ajlouni informed the participants that we should focus on increasing the membership of AARINENA and its financial resources:

- Conduct personal visits and meetings with decision makers of the non-member institutions,
- Increase the participation level of the non-member institutions on AARINENA activities,
- Invite the scientists of non-members institutions to attend AARINENA activities and join AARINENA,
- Develop joint activities such as workshops, conferences with international, regional and national networks,
- Develop projects to support the networks and collaborative research activities.

Decision:

- The concept note for the strategic directions of AARINENA toward 2035 approved.
- The committee recommended to give the implementation role of the strategy activities to NARS and to get benefit from other fora experience in developing the strategy.

5. ICARDA Strategy 2017–2026: Building Thriving and Resilient livelihoods in the Dry Areas.

Dr. Mesut Keser, ICARDA Turkey office Coordinator present ICARDA Strategy 2017-2026. The presentation focused on the following topics:

- Global Drivers of change and challenges in Dry Areas
- ICARDA’s vision and mission
- ICARDA Core Business Over the Next 10 Years
- Leveraging ICARDA’s strengths and comparative advantage
- How did ICARDA arrive at their research priorities

- ICARDA's Strategic Research Priorities

Decision:

Participants discuss ICARDA's strategy and they emphasized on the alliance between both AARINENA and ICARDA strategies to ensure the complementary among them.

6. Other Items:

6.1 Extension for the Executive secretary.

Dr. Darghouth informed the EC members that the contract of Dr Ajlouni as Executive Secretary arrived to its terms on the 1st of June 2017, due to the lack of attendees to the EC meeting of January 2017, the committee decided to extend exceptionally the terms of Dr Ajlouni to the present EC meeting where it will be definitely decided to renew or not the contract of Dr Ajlouni. On the basis of the positive global evaluation of Dr Ajlouni work, which was given by the President, the EC members adopted unanimously the decision to renew the contract of Dr Ajlouni as AARINENA ES for another term of four years.

6.2 Governance of AARINENA.

The committee discuss extended the governance by adding more stakeholders to the committee membership, the discussions included the higher education, NGO's, Private sector, and consumer's organizations.

Decision:

The committee approve to include the higher education, NGO's, consumer's organization. The secretary asked to find the method and/or the representative organization and to inform the committee members by e-mail.

6.3 *Network activities.*

The committee discuss the activation of NENA networks.

Decision:

The committee suggested to ask the networks coordinators to write concept notes for the network activities and ask the secretariat to help in write the concept note and promote it among funding agencies.

6.4 *Website.*

Dr. Darghouth explain for the committee the status of the website and the difficulties we faced to develop it.

Decision:

The committee ask the president and the secretariat to suggest a solution and send it by e-mail for approval.

6.5 *Coordination with other regional organizations.*

Dr. Darghouth inform the committee that we at AARINENA plaining to have a coordination meeting with the NENA regional organizations to coordinate their work and efficiently utilize its resources.

Decision:

The committee approve the suggestion and ask the secretariat to prepare for this meeting.

6.6 *Preparation of the next General Conference “Extension and technology transfer to foster adaptation and transformation of NENA Agriculture in the context of CC”*

Dr. Darghouth inform the committee that AARINENA is going to prepare the next general meeting which will be at the end of 2017 in the Maghreb sub region.

Decisions:

Dr. Darghouth will make the necessary contact to identify the hosting country.

Venue and Date for the next meeting:

The next meeting will be organized on the same Venue and Date of the General Conference.

The Meeting End at 16:30

