



**International Workshop on Fast Growing Economies' Role
in Global Agricultural Research for Development
经济快速发展在全球农业科研中的作用国际学术研讨会**



Report on the:

**International Workshop on Fast Growing Economies' Role
In Global Agricultural Research for Development
Beijing, China, February 8-10, 2010**

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**A Report on the International Workshop on Fast Growing Economies' Role
In Global Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)**

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The International Workshop on Fast Growing Economies' Role in Global Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)" was organized by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and the Chinese Academy for Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). It was hosted by CAAS and held at the Central Garden Hotel in Beijing during the period 8 -10 February, 2009.

The Workshop was set to cover a range of ARD subjects including how the research and technology development have been the foundation of impressive productivity gains in the agricultural sector for the fast growing economies, and how they can be engaged in various commonly beneficial collaborations and partnerships in research and technology transfer for contributing to agricultural development globally.

The Workshop brings together more than 20 people who came from a range of professional backgrounds across varied international, regional, and national organizations. These include:

- International organizations which include GFAR, FAO, and World Bank, who provide a forum for sharing of agricultural research information, technical assistance and funding for technology transfer,
- Regional organizations which include Asian Development Bank and the regional fora; AAIRNENA, APPARI, FARA, FORAGRO, CACAARI and EFRAD, to present their demands for ARD.
- National organizations, which include national research systems in: (a) fast growing economies, namely China, Brazil and India, and (b) in the emerging economies, namely South Africa, Egypt, and Viet Nam, and (c) developed countries, namely France, for sharing of experiences in ARD from fast growing and emerging economies.

Each representative presented a report to the Workshop concerning the work of his/her organization in promoting ARD. The presentations of fast growing and emerging economies reiterated how agricultural research and innovations were the pillars for development and

how various approaches in agricultural research and extension systems, Institutional reforms, agricultural investment, mobilizing public and private sectors, improving marketing strategies and positive policy environment have all contributed to ARD, and in lessening the negative impacts inflation of food prices and effects of the global financial crises.

The Workshop was structured into two and one-half days of sessions. These include group events on the way forward in further enhancing the role of the fast growing economies in ARD, and plenary sessions in two days to present and discuss reports from group work on specific issues. Attendees were able to choose from three groups working on the following areas:

Group1: Increasing emerging economies investment in international science, policy needs, capacity building for ARD and institutional reform in ARD.

Group2: Improving sharing and exchange of information, knowledge, skills & technology for agricultural development and research.

Group3: Enabling market participation by developing countries: common research goals and intervention.

Establishing a long-term cooperation among fast growing economies, developing countries and regional or international AR organizations, mutual benefit for common development and ARD have to be achieved. A win-win strategy has been stressed: a win for economic growth and eradication of poverty for the recipient country, and a win for sustainable development, growth, and expanding trade for the source country. In an increasingly inter-linked world, cooperation is a must. Strengthening strategic partnership in a mutually beneficial way is in the interest of the international community, and will make further contribution to, peace, prosperity, sustainable development and can save the environment.

My presentation was made at the 3rd session on Feb 8, 2010. The highlighted issues were the following, and many of which were repeatedly emphasized by presentations of the fast growing and emerging economies participants;

- The role of AARINENA and its technical networks as a platform for agricultural research and innovation in WANA region,
- The need to promote the financial resources and effective linkages of the NARSs,
- The need to promote regional approach to agricultural research to enhance the efficient allocation of resources, complementarities and synergies, and to improve self sufficiency of major crops,
- The need to stress on the process of “how” to identify researchable issues, rather than on identification of “what” to research,
- The need to decentralize governance and implementation of research and extension institutions and increase participation of stakeholders to focus on agricultural production challenges that are location-specific?
- How to promote development that balances economic growth with those of equity and environmental interests.

- The issue of public agricultural research and extension focus on public goods?
- The issue of developing an institutional system (either structural or managerial mechanisms) for linking national research with extension activities and to farmers?
- The issues related to the transfer of technology: such as funding, appropriateness of the technology, policy restrictions, the IPR, developing an effective division of labor among different actors in the technology generation and dissemination cycle and along different types of research.
- The need to establish a long-term cooperation to transfer technology among fast growing economies and developing countries based on a win win strategy.
- Suggested channels of technology transfer that include: international and regional institutions, national AR institutions, organizing regional or national agricultural exhibitions, post-doctoral and sabbatical leaves and training programs for professional research staff in selected research topics with potential technology to transfer, funding technology transfer that may eventually help to boost mutual trade, organize workshops and provide training to the decision makers in public research and extension on the policy environment based on the experience of the fast growing economies, and developing institutional linkages among stakeholders.

In the search for learning how the participating fast growing economies have benefited from advances in ARD and the various forms of exchange of experience, the means and mechanisms of collaborations and partnerships with other countries, and the their impact they had in developing their agricultural research capacities and systems, a main issue was raised, that is, *how to find out a mechanism for the fast growing economies to engage in a mutually beneficial to the parties involved in ARD activities.*

GFAR and its regional and sub-regional fora and networks would provide a forum at which technical issues or technology transfers of common significance can be discussed between fast growing economies and developing countries. This may requires that fast growing countries may will be more involved in GFAR government.

But, in the final analysis, different countries have different needs and realities. It is reiterated in the workshop that the political will of the national governments and a well founded and organized national research system who can draw lessons and follow the path of development of the fast growing countries who were able to find out their own way of development that suit their socio-economic conditions and resource endowments.

The Workshop was well organized, thanks to the GFAR and CAAS who spare no efforts to make it a success. It was a great professional event for the people attending the Workshop, as it provided a unique learning opportunity for the participants in general and for representatives of the GFAR fora in particular. In addition to the Workshop sessions, the chances to interact with other participants were very valuable experience.

The attached file and DVD includes all the papers presented to the Workshop, a Video and photos from the workshop.

<i>Acknowledgment</i>

Overall, it was a useful and interesting experience and great opportunity for me to attend the workshop. In addition to gaining knowledge in the various issues of transfer of technology, I was fortunate to get a deep insight into the things I did not put enough attention before: the regional and global issues of transfer of technology.

The kindness of the executive secretary of the AARINENA Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan and Dr. Ajit Maru, GFAR Secretariat, to give me the opportunity to participate at this distinguished event is truly and greatly appreciated.