

West Asia & North Africa regional consultations

Face-2-Face meeting
Alexandria, Egypt
10-12 Nov 2009

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Features of WANA

hot spot for climate change impact

water scarcity

land degradation

desertification

population boom

weak governance

diverse economies

conflict&war

gender gap

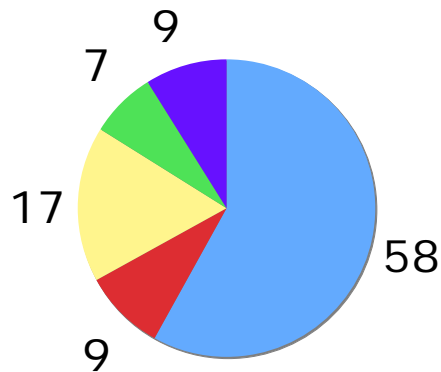
poverty

constraints in
human resources



WANA regional review and e-consultations

Sub-regional surveys and review of past priorities for R&D
Resulting in challenges and key-researchable issues
Followed by e-consultations in Sep 2009



■ RC and uni ■ Farmers/PS ■ NGOs
■ Int'l org ■ Govt.

150 messages, 85
participants, 18 countries

New issues

New theme: water scarcity

Face-2-Face meeting

56 participants, 18 countries

4 women, 9 farmer/private sector/civil society

Few “young” scientists

Nevertheless fruitful discussion!



What we did...

Set our goals:

prioritize key-researchable issues
understand barriers in AR4D
proposals how to overcome these
find new mechanisms and partnerships
distill key-messages for Montpellier



Thematic working groups
Cross-cutting working groups
Feedback on SRF and MPs
Work hard and have fun!



Feedback on Strategy paper CGIAR

SRF and MPs broadly in line with WANA needs

Climate Change MP is highly relevant for WANA

High interest in next level of detail....How, who, where...

Concerns	Advice to Strategy team
National research capacity	Capacity development is key!
Ownership by who?	Provide research management experience
Stakeholder involvement	Ensure equal partnerships
Governance structure	Involve national and regional centers
Implementation and M&E	Flexibility to respond to emerging needs
Knowledge sharing	Work with centers outside the CGIAR
Integration of MPs	Establish linkages between MPs
Funding	Establish learning networks for MPs

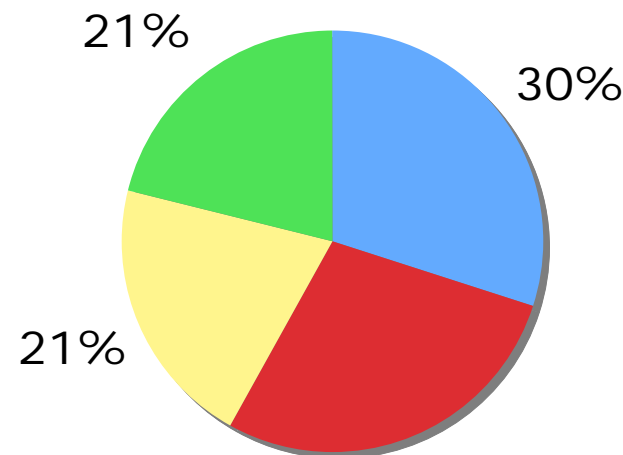
Thematic issues

Groups revised the list of key researchable issues

Group did ranking based on development impact, time-frame and focus of poor and smallholders

Plenary feedback/comments on group results and voting on priorities (“stickering”)

- 1) Food security and productivity
- 2) Natural resources management
- 3) Livestock, rangeland and fisheries
- 4) Markets and value chain development



■ Food security ■ NRM ■ Livestock ■ Markets

Food security and productivity

Food security and productivity	votes	rank
improve varieties to increase yield and cope with stress	37	1
increase of productivity for plant, animal & fisheries systems	23	2
monitoring and management of plant & animal diseases	19	4
conserve plant and animal genetics (gene banks)	16	5
generation of alternative income for small farmers	15	3
improve nutritional value of crop	13	6
international trade agreements and policies	11	8
food security and vulnerability mapping	10	plenary
position of agriculture in WANA region in global context	6	7

Natural resources management

Natural resources management	votes	rank
preservation, conservation and utilization of biodiversity	45	1
water management and optimization of water productivity	35	2
preservation and use of soil, water, forestry and rangeland	24	4
integrated management of plant-soil-water resources	21	3
Ecosystem services for environmental protection	18	5

Livestock, rangelands & fisheries

Livestock, rangeland and fisheries	votes	rank
animal health and disease control	12	1
conservation and utilization of animal genetic resources	11	9
land property rights	11	10
enhance feed base	9	2
value addition (processing of dairy/poultry/fish)	9	3
integrated crop and livestock systems	9	plenary
range management and sustainable use	8	7
improve productivity and production of fisheries	8	6
development of native rangeland species	8	8
develop farmer and producer organizations	8	plenary
animal nutrition	6	4
improve productivity and production of livestock	6	5

Markets and value chain development

Markets and value chain development	votes	rank
geographic indicator system for agri-food businesses	17	9
comparative and competitive advantage of regional products	16	1
developing better post-harvest systems	14	4
Food safety and tracing system	13	plenary
marketing extension services	12	2
market information systems and ICT	11	6
agricultural market policies and regulation	7	5
Adding value on farm	6	plenary
understanding constraints and improving access to markets	5	3
agro-enterprises and cooperatives	3	7
long-term relationships in supply-chain	0	8

Cross-cutting issues

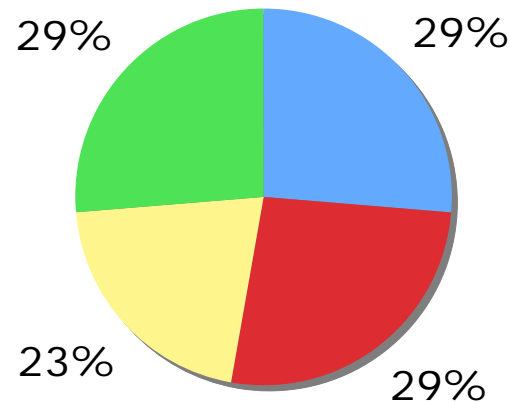
Groups revised the list of key-issues

Group did ranking based on development impact

Plenary feedback/comments on group results and voting on priorities (“stickering”)

More “hot debate” and less consensus

- 1) Research management and capacity development
- 2) Climate Change
- 3) Poverty and socio-economic policy
- 4) Dissemination and scaling up



■ RM & CD ■ Climate ■ Poverty ■ Scaling up

Research management and capacity development

Research management and capacity development	votes	rank
Align research with development needs and restructure research system	28	1
Support R&D at local, regional, global level with increased funding	28	2
Set-up incentive system for NARS to be attractive and creative centers	22	6
Awareness on value of agricultural research & innovation for development	16	3
Farmer engagement in setting agricultural research priorities	12	plenary
System for impact assessments of agriculture research	10	4
Network for regional centers of excellence	10	7
Improve agricultural education system	9	5

Climate Change

Climate Change	votes	rank
Adaptation: salinity & drought tolerant crops, conservation agriculture, etc.	28	
Data management capabilities, analysis and climate modelling	25	
Impact assessments of climate change	17	
Climate forecasts, early warning, land use planning and hazard zoning	15	
Advocacy on importance of climate change to policy makers and politician	12	
Use of local community-based knowledge in adapation	10	
Develop climate change policies and sectoral action plans	10	
Energy efficiency in agricultural production and use of renewable energy	6	
Risk management and developing options for increased resilience	4	
Promote carbon sequestration	4	
Feasibility and opportunities for non-food bio-fuels	2	
Collective action of farmers to achieve scale to access carbon credits	1	

Poverty & socio-economic policies

Poverty and socio-economic policy	votes	rank
Risk and vulnerability mapping and risk mitigation strategies	25	1
Food security and trade-policies	25	3
Role of women in agriculture	14	4
social policies and safety nets	12	2
Opportunities and challenges for poverty reduction	11	8
Local governance and institutions targeting the poor	10	7
Promotion of agricultural growth	8	5
Conflict / post conflict resolution and reconstruction after emergencies	4	6

Dissemination, knowledge sharing and scaling-up

Dissemination, knowledge sharing and scaling up	votes	rank
National/regional collaboration on knowledge sharing and exchange	20	
Networks to improve availability and accessibility of information	19	
M&E to ensure learning and better knowledge sharing	15	
Usecfarmers, opinion leaders, private sector, etc. in scaling-up	15	
Advocacy for policy support for technology transfer and dissemination	13	
Revitalize and develop new models for extension service	7	

Barriers and constraints to translate R in2 D

- Mistrust between farmers and extension and researchers
- Different “languages” and worldviews
- Communication is poor
- Institutional weakness
- Coordination capacity
- Funding and human resources insufficient
- Lack of infrastructure and logistical capacity
- Low public awareness
- No incentives to collaborate
- Focus on scientific publications only
- Policy makers and politicians not on board
- Individualism farmers
- Illiteracy farmers

Proposed measures: more than business as usual...?

- Public awareness campaigns
- Make an evidence-based case to politicians
- Invest in communication
- Redefine extension
- Attract private sector funds and use CSR
- Participatory approach
- Capacity development on all levels, tailored to needs
- Building alliances to convince policy makers
- Use (social) networks
- Organize farmers, CBOs, WUAs, producer groups, etc

New partners ?

- Farmers and grass-root organizations
- Opinion leaders, tribal leaders
- Work more with women and their informal networks
- Work more with policy level, not restricted to Ministry of Agriculture
- Tap experience from new-media firms, PR advisors, ICT firms
- Public-private partnerships and CSR
- Public figures/celebrities as champions
- Revitalize relationship with existing research and extension partners



Learning by doing

- Lost in “translation”:
perspectives and worldviews
- Lost in complexity:
struggling with
“grouping”
- Easy to list the
constraints...
- Not so easy to think out
of the box!
- **Shared sense of
achievement of main
goals of the meeting**



Key-messages for GCARD

- Climate change impact is large, natural resources are vulnerable, thus:
 - Adaptation is a key-issue for the region
 - Matching funding for WANA is needed
- Emphasis on resource poor and food insecure in both urban and rural communities (not just farmer)
- Smallholder needs to be central in AR4D
- Water, food security and biodiversity are key-issues for WANA
- Capacity development is required to scale-up
- Build and strengthen AARINENA as regional network in AR4D

Thank you

