

AARINENA



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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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EDITORIAL

Information and communication management is one of the key activities of AARINENA working plan this year. AARINENA in collaboration with GFAR established a prototype Regional Agricultural Information System (RAIS) in 2001 followed by establishing an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) steering committee in 2003. Since then, it has made steady progress in its development. However, its capacity to globally share and exchange information remains incomplete due to weak integration and insufficient linkages between National Agricultural Information System (NAIS) and RAIS and because of incomplete and in-coherent information system and lack of gateways for access to this information at national, regional and global level. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen AARINENA-RAIS as a starting point to improve sharing and exchange of agricultural information in the WANA region. Based on recommendations endorsed by the Inter-regional consultations held in Cairo in May 2005, AARINENA is planning the following series of activities to strengthen information and communications management of its National Agricultural Research System (NARS) members:

Generate a status report on information and communication management for agricultural research and development in the WANA region to support advocacy activities for improved information and communication management;

Organize an advocacy workshop for NARS managers during AARINENA 10th General Conference meeting to be held in Sana'a Yemen 25-27 of June 2006 to create awareness and sensitization towards the urgent need to improve information and communication management (ICM) and ICT enabled agricultural information systems; and

Develop prototype National Agricultural Research Information Management System (NARIMS) followed by organizing a capacity development workshop for NARS-ICM managers.

The above activities could not be realized without inputs from all those concerned with agricultural information system in the region. It is with great enthusiasm and hope that we look forward to seeing the largest possible number of national, regional, and international agricultural research institutions representatives attend the forth coming AARINENA 10th General Conference with their valuable ideas and innovative suggestions.

Executive Secretary

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