

The Fifth Agricultural Science Week and FARA General Assembly, Burkina Faso, 19-24 July 2010

The Executive Secretary, Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan represented AARINENA in the Fifth Agriculture Science Week and Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) General Assembly, held from 19-24 July 2010 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The theme for this year was “African Agricultural Innovation in a Changing Global Climate” that brought together more than 650 participants and delegates attended the meetings, including ministers from the African continent, and leaders of international organizations. The week was comprised of various events including the marketplace, “open space” discussions, Burkina Faso Day, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) day, a Ministerial Roundtable, the FARA plenary session and ARA’s business meeting. One of the highlights of the week was the discussion meetings on “The New CGIAR”, the Mega Program on Fish and Livestock, “Agricultural Biodiversity in Africa”, “CG Map of Ongoing Research in Africa”.

The week saw a diversity of side events – nearly 30 in total – many of which were proposed



and facilitated by the stakeholders such as technological foresight, and an assessment of lessons learnt from the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program. There were approximately 40 exhibition booths at the FARA Science Week marketplace, one of the successful collective booths was the CGIAR exhibition booth that CGIAR not only showed what the CGIAR is all about by illustrating the overarching system, but also displayed the diversity of research efforts being carried out by the individual Centers.

Dr. Ibrahim Hamdan made a presentation on “Opportunities

for Inter-regional Cooperation”, focusing on AARINENA’s mission, sub-regions, objectives and its role as a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue on AR4D.

He emphasized the importance of inter-regional cooperation that including inter-regional experiences in one region can serve as lessons for implementing actions in another region; enforce and facilitate implementation of the identified research priorities; link the efforts with regional and international R&D organizations; and advocacy to policy makers on the importance of ARD for successful impact.