

AARINENA

Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa

Vol. 21 No. 1 and 2 **Bi-Annual Newsletter** **Dec 2016**

| Executive Committee | | |
|--|------------------------------|----------------|
| President: | Dr. Mohammad Aziz Darghouth | (Tunisia) |
| Vice President Representative of West and Central Asian Sub-Region: | Dr. Bülent Sonmez | (Turkey) |
| Members: | Dr. Nasser Al-Khalifah | (Saudi Arabia) |
| | Mr. Chouaki Salah, | (Algeria) |
| | Dr. Fawzi El Sheyab | (Jordan) |
| | Dr. Mansour Alaqel, | (Yemen) |
| | Dr. Aly Abousabaa | (CGIAR) |
| | Dr. Mark Holderness | (GFAR) |
| | Dr. Ismahane A. Elouafi | (ICBA) |
| | Dr. Salima Marzouki Ben Aziz | (CSOs) |
| | Dr. Mohammad Ajlouni | (AARINENA) |
| Editorial Committee | | |
| Executive Secretary Mohammed M. Ajlouni | Ola F. Shunnar | Hala Hamati |

| Contents | |
|---|----|
| • EIDITORIAL | 3 |
| • AARINENA IN ACTION | |
| • Can implementation of the Water Nexus support economic growth in the Mediterranean region?, Turkey, February 2015 | 4 |
| • Capacity Development Expert Group Workshop (TAP meetings), France, March 2015 | 5 |
| • Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA), Abu Dhabi, March 2015 | 6 |
| • Integrated, gendered Systems Modelling Research Approach to Dryland Systems: From Concepts to Practices and Implementation, Egypt, August 2015 | 7 |
| • THE RURAL COMMUNITIES: NO MORE LEFT-BEHIND, The Role of Rural and Regional Development In the Southern and Northern Mediterranean and the New European Neighborhood Policy, MILAN CONGRESS, OCTOBER 2015 | 8 |
| • Training course on “Project Proposal, Management and Reporting”, Jordan, August -September 2015 | 9 |
| • Foresight and Strategic Planning workshop, Tunisia, December 2015 | 9 |
| • The Scoping and planning meeting for an initiative on stabilizing livelihoods in rural and peri-urban communities in the MENA region 10-11 March 2016 in Montpellier, France | 10 |
| • 3rd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3): No One Left Behind: Agri–food Innovation and Research for a Sustainable World; 5-8 April 2016 Johannesburg, South Africa | 11 |
| • Set-up and management of the Northern Africa Sub-regional Organization (NASRO) April 25 - 27, 2016. | 12 |
| • Training of facilitator workshop for the NENA region. Foresight and co-elaborative scenario building for Transforming Agricultural Research and Innovation Systems for Sustainable Rural Futures and Improved Livelihoods in NENA. 6-17 May, 2016 | 13 |
| • NENA Plant Genetic Resources Strategy Diecudssed at COP22, 8 Nov 2016, Morocco | 14 |
| • The 5th International Course “Organic Farming” 21-25 November 2016 | 15 |
| • The 2nd International Course “Agricultural Research and Extension (05-09) December 2016” | 15 |
| • Quinoa for Future Food and Nutrition Security in Marginal Environments, December 6-8, 2016 Dubai, United Arab Emirates | 16 |
| • Fifth International Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: siPaM2016 16-18 December, 2016 Zarzis, Tunisia | 17 |
| • AT A GLANCE | 18 |

EDITORIAL

AARINENA and its Members with wider support from GFAR propose to carry out a project aiming at *ensuring rural populations' influence and local control over their futures through the development of a long term strategy for the NENA Region*. The strategy focuses on harvesting and capitalizing on the benefits of innovation through research and higher education. This initiative aiming at the development of foresight capacity and explore future scenarios for agriculture in the NENA region; establishing NENA Foresight for Innovation through Research & Higher Education in the agricultural sector towards Horizon 2035; building up the AARINENA long term strategy for Innovation through Research and Higher Education in the agricultural sector and developing an operational Action Plan for the next decade.

The tools and methods including building actors' capacities to bridge the gap between the uncertainties of the present situation and the conditions for a better future. AARINENA will focus on Innovation through Research and Higher Education in order to bringing minds into the future of the region through building the capacity in participatory prospective analysis to transform NENA Agriculture.

The first phase of this initiative proposed *to create changing in policies and changing in practices*, at country level in at least two sub-regions which directly affecting *smallholder, family farmers and rural communities* and then scale out to the other countries in the region. This initiative will ensure the transfer of the agriculture in the region to be innovative and to respond to the rural community development needs. We hope to get the support of all AARINENA partners for this initiative.

Editors

Can implementation of the Water Nexus support economic growth in the Mediterranean region?, Turkey, February 2015

The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Livestock and the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs from Turkey sponsored and organized a workshop on “**Can implementation of the Water Nexus support economic growth in the Mediterranean region?**”, at Ankara Turkey, on February 2015”. The main objective of this workshop was to discuss the potential for economic growth deriving from the adoption of a Water Nexus approach in the Mediterranean region



Experts in water economists, ecologists and agronomists, governmental and regional policy makers, business and water users from the across Mediterranean countries participants discussed how policies in the Mediterranean region can be improved by a Water Nexus perspective in order to create opportunities for green economic growth.

The integrated perspective provided by the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus may help meeting the needs of ecosystem protection and water use, by stimulating appropriate investments in the Mediterranean region, on the basis of consistent and effective water policy and governance.

The following questions were addressed during the discussions:

- What are the **economic benefits** for stakeholders and companies to adopt a cross-sectoral perspective for water management in the Mediterranean region?
Discussions covering benefits provided by aquatic ecosystems and also those derived from saving water, using it efficiently and reducing polluting loads.
- What are the **barriers** hampering the adoption of a cross-sectoral perspective for water management?
Discussions could focus on administrative, legislative and market-related barriers (transaction costs, role of interest groups, constraint due to limited water property rights, etc.).
- Which **public policies** (incentives mechanisms such as taxes or subsidies and administrative tools such as river basin management plans) could, and should be promoted in order to remove such barriers?

The optimal level for implementing these policies and the cost of implementations were discussed during this section.

- Which issues should be addressed in order to *improve water governance* and *collaboration* among stakeholders and between stakeholders and governments, in order to fully tap into the economic growth potentials of the Mediterranean region?

Outputs:

- Information exchange on synergies and priorities among sectoral water usages and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region and trade-off solutions on how we are going to allocate water in the future discussed
- Best practices on bridging the gaps between governments, communities and business concerning collaboration among water users that result into water cost reduction shared among participants.
- Mechanisms of how policies in the Mediterranean region can be improved by a Water Nexus perspective in order to create opportunities for green economic growth discussed.

Capacity Development Expert Group Workshop (TAP meetings), France, March 2015

Dr. Adil Abdulrahim, Sudan Agricultural Research Corporation represented AARINENA in this workshop. The workshop was sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture platform initiative and organized by the Tropical Agriculture platform secretariat to discuss the framework of the CD for AIS. The main themes of the workshop were: Elements of the Framework, Needs Assessment, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Participants from TAP Capacity Development expert group members stressed that the Framework, besides a conceptual structure, shall provide operational and practical guidance on CD for AIS at the systems as well as at project level. Moreover, the Framework is to be adaptable and flexible, allowing for adoption by broad range of stakeholders.

Recommendations and Outputs:

- The Framework provided a range of options in terms of tools for needs assessment and M&E that also served as a basis to explore more coherent upstream funding of AIS interventions. These tools should be robust, simple to use and not mutually exclusive (combination of tools).
- The Framework provided explanations on which approaches and tools work better than others in order to enable users to make strategic decisions.
- The development of a catalogue of core measures for each progress and results dimension of CD for AIS as part of the Framework discussed
- The development of a theory of change as part of the Framework discussed
- The practical case studies and flagship domains that can inform the Framework identified
- The conceptual design of TAP built in an interactive knowledge resource that presented the Common Framework online, as well as complement it with a TAP information service

that helped users discover existing knowledge sources on CD for AIS from the TAP network.

Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA), Abu Dhabi, March 2015

The conference on “**Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA), Abu Dhabi, March 2015**” was held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE, Minister of Presidential Affairs and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority and in strategic partnership with the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA), the exhibition and conference will feature more than 300 next-generation agricultural solutions that could shape the future of sustainable farming around the world

AARINENA delegate took a place on the keynote presentations, panel discussions, workshops, innovation presentations, roundtable discussions and they discussed the possibility of establishing the innovation platforms in the NEANA region and how to a line it to the CGIAR midterm plan and the role of the regional and national institutions in addressing these needs including keynote presentations, panel discussions, workshops, innovation presentations, roundtable discussions and a large number of technologies in the exhibition.

The GFIA conferences addressed a range of key issues critical to the future of global agriculture and food production, including:

- Solutions for the reduction of post-harvest losses and food waste;
- ICT in agriculture: how ICT can promote sustainable and climate resilient agriculture;
- Land restoration and agroforestry: restoration of the world's degraded arable land;
- Non-conventional water use and agriculture in arid climates;
- Edible cities: growing the food where the majority of the world's population lives; and
- Workshops on aquaculture and indoor agriculture.

Outputs:

- The mechanisms to promote innovation platforms at the NENA region was discussed.
 - The foresight workshop was attended.
 - The Hosted Scientist Program at GFIA organized by GFAR and Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA) was attended.
-

Integrated, gendered Systems Modelling Research Approach to Dryland Systems: From Concepts to Practices and Implementation, Egypt, August 2015

ICARDA (CDU) and CRP Dryland Systems (PMU) organized a workshop on “**Integrated, gendered Systems Modelling Research Approach to Dryland Systems: From Concepts to Practices and Implementation**” to enhance the participant’s knowledge, skills and perspectives in (1) integrated systems approach to research sustainable transitions of agricultural livelihood systems (ALS), (2) major related methodologies/tools with a clear plan for creative implementation of learned methods/tools for own research purposes, and (3) contextualization and embedment of operational systems work.

Researchers from partner CGIAR Centres and NARS who were holding an adequate interdisciplinary background, doing integrated systems research in DS actions sites as supported by the DS Plan of Work , having sufficient allocated time and budget for follow-up implementation and having background data attended this training course.

Central concepts, principles, frameworks, and methodologies/tools of new systems science were systematically presented and discussed from basic and applied perspectives regarding the coupled ALS in drylands.

The course that targeted trainees who intend to implement what they learned during the training. With close instructions given by trainers, participants would have a chance to attain skills for the use of methods/tools through sequential units of computer labs with real-world examples and data, as well as to initially implement the learned methods/tools for own systems research projects. Each learning units would progress with input lectures, discussions, and practical application in computer labs.

The ultimate goal of the course was that the trainees would become trainers. Participants provided with sufficient learning materials - ranging from handouts, selected text book chapters, articles, computer lab manuals, open-access software and data templates - that was used for re-training activities in participants' groups/institutes or further self-learning/developing.

Recommendations and outcomes:

- Central concepts, principles, contemporary frameworks and methodologies of new systems science for sustainable agricultural livelihood systems (ALS) understood
- The needs for integrated systems approach to understand the nature of ALS transitions recognized
- Gender and other social roles and dimensions into account in analyzing feedback loops regulating the system dynamics adopted
- Theoretical and framework-based knowledge on conceptual representation and analysis of ALS's problems, key drivers, integrative options and causal hypotheses for systems research-in-development applied
- Rationales/claims, strengths, limitations, and relevant usages of different systems modeling methods understood
- Steps and basic techniques of two common integrated systems modeling approaches (multi-agent system and bio-economic modeling) operated
- The learned frameworks/methods/ tools to develop a first version of systems model (at conceptually specified, or an operational level depending on own data) toward answering own research questions applied
- Contextualize and embed own operational systems in CRP-DS regional impact pathways,

- Have a better self-learning and re-training capability to solve research problems of group's interests, as well as be familiar with systems thinking to inspire change for development through research project

THE RURAL COMMUNITIES: NO MORE LEFT-BEHIND, The Role of Rural and Regional Development In the Southern and Northern Mediterranean and the New European Neighborhood Policy, MILAN CONGRESS, OCTOBER 2015

Rural populations from the Southern and Northern shores of the Mediterranean are facing important challenges: economic threats, rural exodus, social and political turmoil, pressure on agricultural lands, lack of access to services and infrastructures, weakness of public and private investments, competition for natural resources and especially water, increased environmental stress including extreme climatic phenomena. Those challenges have disastrous impact especially on women and young people.



The Milano Congress gathered farmers, policy makers and entrepreneurs on an equal footing in order to ease an open dialogue, built on mutual respect and consideration.

The Congress forged a common vision for the future, which is the mission of the Foundation “Dialogue Sud-Nord Méditerranée” in collaboration with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).

This inclusive dialogue was built on the basis of regional discussions held throughout the Mediterranean (Volos, Alexandria, Montpellier and Rabat). Each study day gathered public authorities, farmers and companies in order to share examples of local initiatives and to bring them closer to each other leading to new types of cooperation that were shared and strengthened at every level.

Roundtable discussions on the state of rural communities and major challenges they face in achieving their desired Futures. The Working Groups validated strong points to build upon, and defined and prioritised the major challenges to rebuilding/reinvigorating rural areas and their communities. Also, the participants discussed the profit from lessons drawn from Collective Actions at Local, National and Regional level and identified actions ongoing or planned that they collectively choose to address the challenges.

After two-day discussions, Participants adopted a Final Declaration in order to propose the implementation of practical and collective actions. The Final Declaration was submitted to the ministerial authorities who presented their policies.

Outputs:

- The organizing committee developed the proceeding including the outputs and provided it to participating institutions.
-

Training course on “Project Proposal, Management and Reporting”, Jordan, August - September 2015

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) organized a training course on “**Project Proposal, Management and Reporting**” which aimed to provide participants from AARINENA and ICARDA with the necessary theoretical and practical knowledge on project proposal writing, project implementation and reporting to improve the effectiveness and persuasiveness of project proposals, to guarantee smooth project implementation and reporting.

Two researchers from Lebanon Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) were sponsored by AARINENEA to attend this course.

The course covered the following topics:

- result oriented proposal development and budgeting,
 - importance and structure of a log-frame,
 - process of proposal development and reporting.
-

Foresight and Strategic Planning workshop, Tunisia, December 2015

AARINENA in cooperation with GFAR and IRESA organized a workshop on “**Foresight and Strategic Planning**”.

Dr. Aziz Dargouth, president of AARINENA, opened the workshop by welcoming the twenty two participants from AARINENA, GFAR, COFOWANA and participants representing research institutions, youth, farmers, women NGOs, and academic institutions from Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia.

The main aim of the workshop was to raise awareness of the participants on what foresight is about, to engage them concretely in a forward thinking approach about the futures of food, agriculture and rural development (FARD) in the region and to contribute to defining AARINENA strategy for promoting and using foresight in the region

Outcomes:

- Agreement among participants developed an awareness-raising brief for decision makers in each country.

- Agreement among participants to promote the foresight approach at country level within their respective institutions and actors in agricultural innovation and research for development.
- Participants from the seven countries showed their interest to pursue a development of the foresight approach in their respective countries as well as across countries.
- Expression from participants of a strong desire had a more in-depth foresight training workshop with the objective of engaging people from committed countries and organisations to acquire technical skills and concepts for engaging in foresight at national level.
- The participants had a clear mandate to champion foresight within their institution and pursue capacity building within their countries

The Scoping and planning meeting for an initiative on stabilizing livelihoods in rural and peri-urban communities in the MENA region 10-11 March 2016 in Montpellier, France

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) are consequently co-organizing a two days meeting on “**Scoping and planning for an initiative on stabilizing livelihoods in rural and peri-urban communities in the MENA region (TANMIA) 10-11 March 2016 in Montpellier, France**”.



Dr. Mohamed Ajlouni the Executive Secretary of AARINENA participated this workshop with experts from ICARDA, Dryland CRP, CGIAR, GFAR, CIRAD, CIHEAM, EU, IFPRI, IWMI, INRA, ARC and IRESA.

TANMIA aims to improve the lives of people through the development of modernized climate-resilient agricultural systems that mitigate land and resource degradation in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) whilst providing opportunities for job and wealth creation. The program engages in integrated agricultural systems research to address key socioeconomic and biophysical constraints that affect food security as well as equitable and sustainable land and natural resource management. It promotes equitable and inclusive growth focusing on the livelihoods of poor and marginalized communities. The program brings together partners and uses unique partnership platforms to bind together scientific research results with the skills and capacities of national agricultural research systems

(NARS), advanced research institutes (ARIs), non-governmental and civil society organizations, development organizations, the private sector, and other actors to help scale up readily available technologies and test and develop practical and innovative solutions to address the plight of rural agricultural communities.

The main objectives of the meeting are:

- To review the role of agriculture in stabilizing rural and peri-urban communities in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA).
- To identify a range of work packages that will constitute the new program including; aspects of operational research on improving livelihoods and sustainable agricultural production; the interactions of the heterogeneous components of current and future livelihood strategies, especially in terms of the employment and employability of women and youth; a capacity development strategy; the enabling environment needed for progress.

Outputs:

- Task force group represented all partners to modify the document based on the outcomes of the meeting formed.
- Project targeted countries identified to be Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.
- Targeted countries for ownership contacted.
- Technologies and areas of enterprises that are attractive to youth identified.

3rd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3): No One Left Behind: Agri–food Innovation and Research for a Sustainable World; 5-8 April 2016 | Johannesburg, South Africa

Dr. Aziz Darghouth the president of AARINENA, Dr. Mohamed Ajlouni and twelve representatives from the region representing Universities, Consumers, NGOs Farmers, Women, Youth attended the GCARD partners assembly and the 3rd Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3):
No One Left Behind: Agri–food Innovation and Research for a Sustainable World
from 5-8 April 2016 on Johannesburg, South Africa.



The Partners assembly organized on April, 5 to discuss the followings:

- Challenges in implementing the Charter.
- Implications of the Charter for the way we work now and in future - roles, responsibilities and expectations of Partners in GFAR.
- Basis & criteria for selection of who legitimately represents each sector in the Partners' Assembly and Steering Committee, how do we ensure effective representation of, and accountability to, other stakeholders in each sector/region?



The GCARD3 addressed the overall theme of ‘No One Left Behind; Agri–food Innovation and Research for a Sustainable World.’

The meeting was Co-hosted by CGIAR, the GFAR and the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa (ARC).

GCARD3 was organized as the global event within a broader process of national and regional multi-stakeholder consultations taking place from 2015-2016, that focused on realigning research needs and priorities with countries’ own development needs and national processes and with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Following the official opening session on 5 April, the main Conference took place on 6 and 8 April and organized around five thematic discussions:

- Scaling up - from research to impact;
- Showcasing results and demonstrating impact;
- Keeping science relevant and future-focused;
- Sustaining the business of farming; and
- Ensuring better rural futures.

A major outcome of the meeting was the GCARD3 Pledge to Sustainable Development, in which GCARD stakeholders would make commitments to take action to deliver on the SDGs. The Pledge is expected to serve as a “touchstone” for partners across public, private, and civil society sectors in developing their agri-food research and innovations programs and activities to 2030.

**Set-up and management of the Northern Africa Sub-regional Organization (NASRO)
April 25 - 27, 2016.**

AARINENA and FARA delegations visited Cairo, Egypt from April 25- 27, 2016 to meet with official of Agriculture Research Center (ARC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the institutional strengthening of the Northern Africa Sub-regional Organization (NASRO) and to define an action plan for building NASRO governance structure, the establishment of a functional secretariat and relevant institutional arrangements as well as the formulation of a demand-driven programme.

The delegations from AARINENA and FARA met the ARC team led by Prof. Prof Abd El Moneim El Banna and included Dr. Hashem Mohamed, Dr. Mahmoud Medany and Dr. Hesham Allam.

The FARA and AARINENA delegations thank the entire ARC team for the collaborative and fruitful working sessions.

The key findings and conclusions from the working sessions are listed below:

- i) ARC expressed its willingness to lead the efforts and the processes and procedures leading to a fully functional interim NASRO Secretariat by May 2017.
- ii) It was also determined that the sources of funding and other resources must be clearly identified prior to initiating activities.
- iii) Both AARINENA and FARA should work with each other to activate NASRO.
- iv) AARINENA during its coming General Conference Meeting will elect a NASRO President, who will be the inter-regional coordinator.
- v) This person will be elected by NASRO-AARINENA country members.
- vi) For now the Executive Committee of AARINENA will discuss this issue during its next meeting.
- vii) AARINENA Secretariat suggested that Dr. El Banna will be the President of NASRO till the next General Conference.
- viii) FARA will invite NASRO members to attend to participate in the 7AASW & FARA GA.
- ix) ARC to submit a letter and concept note to FARA about participation of ARC in the 7AASW & FARA GA and Exhibition of the work of ARC institutes.
- x) ARC to submit a letter and concept note to FARA to request a side meeting for NASRO members at in the 7AASW & FARA GA.
- xi) Dr. Hashem Mohamed is appointed as the first Ex-officio of NASRO in FARA Board.
- xii) Dr. El Banna will be elected as NASRO President and Inter-regional representative of NASRO until AARINENA General Conference.
- xiii) FARA will invite and cover attendance of Dr. El Banna, Dr. Hashem Mohamed, and Dr. Mahmoud Medany to attend in the 7AASW & FARA GA.

Training of facilitator workshop for the NENA region. Foresight and co-elaborative scenario building for Transforming Agricultural Research and Innovation Systems for Sustainable Rural Futures and Improved Livelihoods in NENA. 6-17 May, 2016

Twenty-two participants selected by AARINENA in accordance to a list of a criteria set by AARINENA and GFAR took part on the “Training of facilitator workshop for the NENA region Foresight and co-elaborative scenario building for Transforming Agricultural Research



and Innovation Systems for Sustainable Rural Futures and Improved Livelihoods in NENA”. The training workshop took place on Tunisia, Hammamet, from 6-17 May, 2016 . The ten-day training-of-trainers workshop relied on a learning-by-doing approach combining concepts and practices. The training focused on the following topic: “What could happen to agriculture and rural areas in the NENA region by 2035”.

The immediate purpose of the workshop is to develop the capacity of participants to become catalysts and facilitators, in their respective countries, contributing to the emergence of national visions and related actions for ARISinD, nurturing AARINENA’s vision of ARISinD in the region.

The immediate outputs/deliverables resulting from the workshop activity are as follows:

- Conceptual and practical knowledge, and operational know-how, for implementing multi-stakeholder co-elaborative scenario building on the futures of ARISinD at national/intra-national level.
- Training and facilitating material on co-elaborative scenario building.

The immediate outcomes resulting from the production of outputs/deliverables are:

- Committed groups of catalysts in each participating countries willing to engage in facilitating the implementation of co-elaborative scenario building on the futures of ARISinD.
- A proactive group of catalysts lobbying and convincing leadership within their institutions as well as with other stakeholders in country as spokespersons for foresight. This will lead to funding commitment with allocation of resources – physical, human and financial – to building foresight capacity and its application.

Expected longer-term outcomes include:

- A community of pro-active stakeholders engaged in shaping the transformation of ARISinD to address current problems with an understanding of anticipated challenges and desirable directions.
- A foresight-based multi-stakeholder transformative process of ARISinD framed by a future-oriented vision of food, agriculture and rural development in participating countries.

NENA Plant Genetic Resources Strategy Discussed at COP22, 8 Nov 2016, Morocco

The NENA IPGRFA strategy discussed in a side event at COP22 in the 8th Nov 2016 at Morocco. This event organized by the International Treaty, and the participants are the international partners: AARINENA, AOAD, ICBA, Oman and Qatar.

| | |
|--|--|
|  | |
| COP22 Steering Committee - Side Events Pole | |
| Parallel Events on the margins COP22 Concept Note | |
| 1- Information on the Organizer(s): | |
| Lead Organization | The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) |
| Contact Person | Ale/Nelida; Marino/Mario Contact info: Nelida.Ale@fao.org ; Mario.Marino@fao.org ; PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org |
| Co-organizer | International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) |
| International Partner(s) | AARINENA, AOAD, ICBA, Oman, Qatar. |

The 5th International Course “Organic Farming” 21-25 November 2016

AARINENA and IARTC are cooperated in organizing training courses for NENEA member countries on many subjects. Each year IARTC prepare international training program were AARINENA support the participants of member countries.

Last Nov 2016, six candidates from Iraq , Sudan and Qatar AARINENA’s country members attended training course “**The 5th International Course “Organic Farming” 21-25 November 2016**” to increase and promote knowledge exchange among participants in this field.

Objectives:

- Discuss organic farming practices
- Understand organic farming regulations and certification
- Promote knowledge exchange among participant in organic farming

Outputs:

- Six experts from NENA countries trained in this course (two from each Sudan, Qatar and Iraq)



The 2nd International Course “Agricultural Research and Extension (05-09) December 2016”

AARINENA and IARTC are cooperated in organizing training courses for NENEA member countries on many subjects.

On December 2016, four candidates from Qatar and Sudan AARINENA’s country member attended training course **The 2nd International Course “Agricultural Research and Extension 05-09 December 2016”** .

Objectives:

- Understanding the new approach of extension

- Understanding how to transfer research results to farmers
- Discussing the mechanisms of adopting technologies by farmers.

Outputs:

- Four experts from Sudan and Qatar were trained through AARINENA.



Quinoa for Future Food and Nutrition Security in Marginal Environments, December 6-8, 2016 Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates, Zayed University, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), with the technical contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) convened the International conference “Quinoa for Future Food and Nutrition Security in Marginal Environments” in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, on December 6-8, 2016.

The conference aimed to provide a unique platform for discussions on ecological, economic and social aspects related to introducing quinoa for sustainable agricultural production in marginal environments.

Expected Outcomes:

- Bringing together leading scientists, practitioners and decision-makers from the public and private sectors to showcase the latest developments in quinoa research, production and trade,
- exploring opportunities for collaboration between the public and private sectors;
- highlighting quinoa uses and niche market opportunities; and
- connecting young professionals to experienced professionals.

Dr. Mohamed Ajlouni the AARINENA executive secretary and seven countries representatives attended this conference .

Objectives of AARINENA participation:

- To raise awareness on Quinoa crop cultivation,
- To exchange information on quinoa cultivation technologies and
- To document new techniques to be tested in the region and distribute to other countries.

Outputs:

- Back to office report written by AARINENA supported participants
 - Virtual expert group organized for NENA region country participated
-

Fifth International Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: siPaM2016 16-18 December, 2016 Zarzis, Tunisia

Arid Zone Research Institute (IRA) with the support of many other national and international partners organized the fifth edition of symposium (SIPAM 2016) in Djerba (Tunisia), during December 16-18, 2016 in the frame of the fortieth anniversary of IRA.

As represented of AARINENA, Dr. Mohamed Ajlouni, the executive secretary of AARINENA, attended this symposium and was one of the symposium scientific committee.

This symposium provided a forum for the scientists, traditional health practitioners, academicians, representatives from the medical and pharmaceutical industries, conservation biologists, biochemists, NGOs, policy makers, farmers, government agencies etc. to discuss and share the advanced information and experiences on MAP.

Objectives:

- Establish future research collaboration and networking between institutions
- Promote and develop of medicinal and aromatic plants cultivation and industry for sustainable health and environment activities.

The conference covered the following main topics:

1. Biodiversity, management and conservation of MAPs
2. Biotechnology, cultivation and industrial processing of MAPs
3. Phytochemistry, Pharmacology and toxicology
4. Herbal drugs in human and animal health and industrial applications
5. Economics and Marketing/Value chain
6. Regulation and standard requirements

Outputs:

- FAO, AARINENA and IRA task force group established to draft concept note of conservation and sustainable use of M&HP.

AT A GLANCE

H.E Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi has been appointed as a Minister of Climate Change & Environment by the President of UAE in February 2016.

AARINENA family would like to congratulate H.E Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi for his appointment as a Minister of Climate Change & Environment in UAE in February 2016. AARINENA appreciate Dr. Al Zeyoudi for his strong support to agricultural research for development while serving as a member of AARINENA. AARINENA would take this opportunity to confirm the Association continued cooperation with the Minister of Climate Change & Environment in UAE for promoting agricultural research for development in UAE and the Region.

Dr. Nevzat Birişik has been appointed as the president of Director of General of Agricultural Researches and Policies/ Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

AARINENA family would like to congratulate Nevzat Birişik for his appointment as a president of Director of General of Agricultural Researches and Policies/ Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock. AARINENA would take this opportunity to confirm the Association continued cooperation with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock for promoting agricultural research for development in Turkey and the Region.
