

AARINENA NEWSLETTER

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JUL-DEC 2025
VOL 30, NO. 2



Welcome to AARINENA's 2025 Biannual Newsletter – Vol. 30, No. 2

In this issue, we share key updates on ongoing programs, member achievements, expert insights, and forthcoming events. Together, these highlights reflect AARINENA's continued dedication to strengthening sustainable agricultural research, innovation, and regional collaboration.

Thank you for being part of our network, and we hope you enjoy reading this edition. 🌿

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Amman, Jordan – 4 December 2025



DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR WATER IN AGRICULTURE
Opportunities and Trends in the Near East and North Africa Region
DECEMBER 4, 2025

AARINENA 16th General Conference

Focuses on *Digital Water Solutions in Agriculture*

Amman, Jordan – 4 December 2025

AARINENA held its **16th General Conference** under the patronage of **FAO**, focusing on **“Digital Water Solutions in Agriculture: Opportunities and Trends in the Near East and North Africa.”**



Technology as a Solution to NENA’s Water Crisis



FAO Representative Eng. Nabil Assaf highlighted that the NENA region faces one of the world’s most severe water crises, calling for modern, **technology-driven agricultural practices** to enhance water-use efficiency and climate resilience, aligned with FAO’s “Four Betters” initiative.

The event brought together **NARS members from Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Sudan, Tunisia, and Morocco**, along with partners from **FAO, ICBA, ICARDA, GFAiR, APAARI**, the private sector, and experts from AARINENA member universities.

Regional Cooperation Key to Water Security



“Digital tools—remote sensing, precision irrigation, smart monitoring, digital advisory services, and big data analytics—are transforming agricultural water management.”

AARINENA Executive Secretary Dr. Rida Shibli

Accelerating Digital Water Solutions



Speaking on behalf of AARINENA President, Vice President Dr. Ibrahim Al-Rawashdeh: “AI, satellite analytics, and precision irrigation are essential tools to improve efficiency and resilience in the agricultural sector.”

Showcasing Innovations and Regional Experiences



AI-Enabled Climate Adaptation



Precision Irrigation Technologies



Earth Observation Applications

Looking Ahead

The 16th General Conference reaffirmed **AARINENA’s commitment to fostering regional collaboration and innovation** in agricultural water management, paving the way for a **sustainable and resilient future** for farmers and communities across the NENA region.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Amman, Jordan – 4 December 2025

AARINENA 16th General Conference

Focuses on *Digital Water Solutions in Agriculture*

Conference Sessions at a Glance

The 16th General Conference featured two high-level technical sessions, bringing together regional and international experts on digital water solutions.

Session One: Regional and Global Perspectives

Chair: Dr. Ibrahim Al-Rawashdeh

Minute Taker: Dr. Samar Shawqfeh

Dr. Wafa Ramadneh

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Jordan

Dr. Mustafa Altuğ ATALAY

Director General
General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies, Turkey

Dr. Joanna Kane Potaka

Executive Secretary
Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAiR)

Dr. Roshanak Darvishzadeh Varchehi

Faculty of Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)
University of Twente, Netherlands

Dr. Charbel Tarraf

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)

Dr. Govind Ajit

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
(ICARDA)

Session Two: National Experiences and Innovations

Chair: Dr. Hassan Machlab

Minute Taker: Dr. Rasha Tarawneh

Dr. Saif Alkhamisi

Director
Date Palm and Plant Production Research Center, Oman

Dr. Zohra Lili Chabaane

President
Institution of Agricultural Research and Higher Education
Tunisia

Dr. Rachid Moussadek

National Institute for Agronomic Research, Morocco

Dr. Abeer Al-Balawneh

National Agricultural Research Center, Jordan

Dr. Fadilah Al-Salameen

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
Kuwait

Dr. Ahmed Abu Assar

President
Agricultural Research Corporation, Sudan

Eng. Ahmed Al-Nobani

OLITEC for Agribusiness Company

Ms. Samitha S. Haldar

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
(APAARI)



AARINENA General Assembly Convenes in Amman and Elects New Executive Committee

AARINENA convened its General Assembly Meeting on 4 December 2025 in Amman, Jordan, bringing together member institutions to review progress and shape the organization's future direction.

Dr. Mustafa Altuğ ATALAY Elected as AARINENA President for 2026-2028



The Assembly celebrated the election of Dr. Mustafa Altuğ ATALAY, Director General of the General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM), Turkey, as the new President of AARINENA for the 2026–2028 term.

The Elected Executive Committee

Dr. Mustafa Altuğ ATALAY

Turkey
President and representative of the West Asian Sub-Region

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Rawashdeh

Jordan
Vice President and representative of the Mashreq Sub-Region

Dr. Fadilah Al-Salameen

Kuwait
Representative of the Arabian Peninsula Sub-Region

Dr. Rachid Moussadek

Morocco
Representative of the Maghreb Sub-Region

Dr. Ahmed Abu Assar

Sudan
Representative of the Nile Valley and Red Sea Sub-Region

Dr. Joanna Kane Potaka

GFAiR
GFAiR and NGO's Representative

Dr. Hassan Machlab

ICARDA
CGIAR organizations - ICARDA Representative

Dr. Charbel Tarraf

ICBA
Non CGIAR organizations - ICBA Representative

Dr. Anas Al-Soud

Association of Arab Universities
Universities Representative

Dr. Zeinab Almomany

Specific Union for Farmers Women in Jordan
Youth and Women Representative



AARINENA Welcomes New Members

Expanding Collaboration Across the NENA Region



Growing Our Network for Agricultural Excellence

We are pleased to announce that **Jerash University** has joined the AARINENA network. This **new partnership** will enhance our capacity for agricultural research collaboration and knowledge exchange in Jordan and across the NENA region.



Jerash University



Jordan

Founded in 1993, Jerash University is a leading institution in northern Jordan, with a dedicated Faculty of Agriculture advancing education, research & innovation in sustainable farming, crop production, and agri-environmental sciences.

Looking Forward

We look forward to collaborating with **Jerash University** on innovative projects, regional conferences, and AARINENA's digital platforms.





AARINENA Builds New Partnerships

Advancing Cooperation Across the NENA Region

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)

AARINENA has signed a strategic partnership agreement with the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) to strengthen regional and inter-regional cooperation in agricultural research and innovation. The agreement was signed online by Dr. Rida Shibli, Executive Secretary of AARINENA, and Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Director of APAARI. This collaboration focuses on knowledge sharing, joint research, capacity building, and policy advocacy, with particular

attention to empowering women and youth in agriculture and agribusiness. Shared collaborative activities under this partnership are scheduled to begin in 2026. Through this collaboration, both organizations aim to address common challenges such as climate change, food security, and sustainable resource management, while enhancing resilience, productivity, and sustainability of agri-food systems across the Asia-Pacific and NENA regions.





Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)

AARINENA formalized a new collaborative framework with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) during the GFAiR Annual Steering Committee Meeting held in Abu Dhabi in a hybrid setting. The partnership was endorsed by Dr. Rida Shibli, Executive Secretary of AARINENA, and Dr. Aggrey Agumya, Executive Director and Head of Mission of FARA. This alliance seeks to deepen cooperation between agricultural research institutions in the Near East

and North Africa and those across Africa by encouraging the exchange of expertise, the development of joint research efforts, and the strengthening of institutional capacities. The agreement reflects AARINENA's continued dedication to expanding cross-regional networks that drive agricultural innovation and contribute to global initiatives for more sustainable and resilient food systems.





Jerash University, Kingdom of Jordan

AARINENA has signed a cooperation agreement with Jerash University, Jordan, to enhance collaboration in agricultural research, education, and innovation. Founded in 1993, Jerash University's Faculty of Agriculture is a leader in sustainable farming, crop sciences, and agri-environmental studies. The MoU, signed by Prof. Mohammad Al-Khalaileh, President of Jerash University, and Prof. Rida Shibli, Executive

Secretary of AARINENA, will focus on rural development, biotechnology, food and water security, and climate-smart agriculture, with a joint committee overseeing an annual work plan. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing agricultural innovation and sustainability across the Near East and North Africa region.



AARINENA Networks and Webinars

Sharing Expertise and Innovations Across the Region

AARINENA Networks regularly host expert-led webinars to share the latest research, techniques, and innovative practices in agricultural science. Here are some of our recent network highlights.

Date Palm Network

The Most Economically Significant Pests Affecting Date Palms in the Arab Region

Speaker: Dr. Fathi Abdallah, Egypt

Coordinator: Dr. Mohammed Kamal Abbas, Egypt

Logistics of Date Transportation and Storage

Speaker: Prof. Mustafa Assous, Egypt

Coordinator: Dr. Mohammed Kamal Abbas, Egypt

Water Use Efficiency Network

Interpretation of Symbols and Numbers Labeled on Plastic Packaging Materials

Speaker: Eng. Emad Saad, UAE

Coordinator: Dr. Alia Radwan, Jordan

Herbal & Medicinal Plants Network

The Role of Healthy Nutrition in Promoting Sustainable Human Health

Speaker: Dr. Tala Taha Ali, Iraq

Coordinator: Dr. Tamara Al-Qudah, Jordan



Plant Protection Network

Remote Sensing Assessment of Crop Diseases and Insect Pest Injuries

Speaker: Dr. Roshanak Darvishzadeh Varchehi, Netherlands

Coordinator: Dr. Rida Shibli, Jordan



Honeybees Network

The Reality of Beekeeping in Jordan: Challenges & Opportunities for Leadership & Innovation

Speaker: Mohammed Al-Rababeh, Jordan

Coordinator: Eng. Banan Al-Shagour, Jordan



Agribusiness Network

Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) and its BioProtection Portal: Sharing Knowledge to Improve Lives Worldwide

Speaker: Dr. Mohammed Al-Rababeh, Jordan

Coordinator: Eng. Banan Al-Shagour, Jordan



Biotechnology Network

Measuring Plant Root Carbon and Its Contribution to Soil Carbon Storage: The Mixed Species Approach

Speaker: Dr. Abdulkadir BAL, Turkey

Coordinator: Dr. Ali ILKHAN, Turkey

The Future of Input Management: Variable Rate Applications (VRA) and Decision Support Systems

Speaker: Dr. Ahmet Bedei EMEN, Turkey

Coordinator: Dr. Ali ILKHAN, Turkey



Stay informed and connected by joining our future webinars for in-depth insights and regional collaboration.

<https://aarinena.org/>



View Past Webinars: [here](#)



Participations with Partners and Members

Conferences, Workshops and Webinars



AARINENA at JANA's 9th Annual Conference

The conference was scientifically significant in advancing dialogue on smart agriculture and water technologies as critical solutions to Jordan's future challenges. It provided a high-level platform for innovation-driven discussions and strengthened collaboration between local institutions and global expertise to support sustainable development.



Sustainable Plant Protection Workshop

The workshop underscored strong scientific collaboration between AARINENA and the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), bringing together international and national expertise. It highlighted contributions from Applied Bio Research Inc. (Canada) and Al-Balqa Applied University (Jordan) in advancing sustainable, science-based crop protection solutions.



Scientific Day of the Faculty of Agriculture at Jerash University

The workshop underscored strong scientific collaboration between AARINENA and the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), bringing together international and national expertise. It highlighted contributions from Applied Bio Research Inc. (Canada) and Al-Balqa Applied University (Jordan) in advancing sustainable, science-based crop protection solutions.



Second Meeting of the Arab Forum for Rural Advisory Services (AFRAS)

The meeting was significant in advancing regional efforts to strengthen rural advisory services for inclusive rural transformation in the Arab region. It provided a multi-stakeholder platform to address governance, investment, innovation, and practical system strengthening, while achieving key outcomes such as validating the AFRAS Charter, endorsing a shared governance structure, and exchanging national experiences and good practices.



Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA) General Assembly Annual Meeting

The GCHERA Annual Meeting was significant for advancing global collaboration and strengthening higher education in agriculture and life sciences. It provided a platform for strategic discussions and knowledge exchange, with AARINENA supporting research, education, and capacity building in the NENA region.



The 12th International Conference on Agriculture (AGRICO 2025)

The AGRICO 2025 conference was significant for addressing global challenges in sustainable food security, climate resilience, and resource management. AARINENA's participation highlighted NENA innovations, shared regional research successes, and strengthened international collaboration in advancing sustainable agriculture.



Sustainable Agriculture Toward Integrated Food Security Conference

The workshop underscored strong scientific collaboration between AARINENA and the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), bringing together international and national expertise. It highlighted contributions from Applied Bio Research Inc. (Canada) and Al-Balqa Applied University (Jordan) in advancing sustainable, science-based crop protection solutions.



Inter-Regional Meeting of Asian and Arab Parliamentarians

The Inter-Regional Meeting of Asian and Arab Parliamentarians was significant for advancing youth empowerment, gender equality, and inter-regional cooperation for sustainable development. AARINENA's participation emphasized integrating population, environmental, and development policies to promote sustainability, innovation, and progress toward the 2030 SDGs.





AARINENA Participates in GFAiR Annual Steering Committee Meeting

The GFAiR Annual Steering Committee Meeting was significant for reviewing progress, setting strategic priorities, and strengthening coordination among global and regional agricultural research networks. It addressed institutional developments, collective actions, and future planning, reinforcing collaboration to advance innovation, capacity building, and sustainable responses to food security and climate challenges.



AARINENA Participates in Academia-Industry Conference

The conference was significant for strengthening academia-industry collaboration to promote applied research, innovation, and technology transfer. It provided a platform to align research and education with labor-market needs, supporting the modernization and competitiveness of the agricultural sector and sustainable development in the region.



AARINENA Participates in Organizing the 7th Jordan International Date Palm Festival 2025

The 7th Jordan International Date Palm Festival 2025 is significant for promoting sustainable growth, innovation, and collaboration in the date palm sector. It brings together research, industry, and international partners to strengthen value chains, knowledge exchange, and the global profile of Jordan's date industry.



Global Workshop on Neglected and Underutilized Species in Nairobi

The Nairobi regional workshop was significant for advancing the establishment of a global network and open-source curriculum on Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS). It promoted integration of NUS into education, research, and innovation systems, strengthening nutrition, food security, climate resilience, and multi-stakeholder collaboration across regions.

Webinars

AARINENA Joins ACSAD's Ninth Arab Conference Online

The ACSAD Ninth Conference was significant for promoting scientific research to enhance grain production and strengthen Arab food security. AARINENA's participation highlighted regional cooperation and innovation in developing climate-resilient, high-yield cereal crops.

Enhancing Collaboration on SMTA Use and Genetic Resource Exchange

Over 400 participants joined a joint online workshop, organized by ISF, CGIAR, and the ITPGRFA Secretariat, to discuss experiences with the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA). The event, part of an MoU between ISF and CGIAR, aimed to enhance mutual understanding of key treaties and promote collaboration in seed sector development and genetic resource exchange.

Strengthening Innovation and Collaboration for Climate Change Adaptation in Jordan

The webinar was significant for advancing knowledge and innovative solutions for climate change adaptation in Jordan. It provided a platform for experts and stakeholders to share technologies and strategies, fostering collaboration across research, academia, industry, and civil society.

UN-CEAG Progress on Institutionalizing ASTI at the Global Level

The UN Statistical Commission side event was significant for advancing the institutionalization of Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) globally. It highlighted the development of harmonized methodologies and statistical guidelines to support evidence-based policymaking in food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development.

Boosting Agrifood Research and Innovation Cooperation for Impact at Scale

The Brussels conference was significant for advancing research and innovation to transform agrifood systems toward sustainability, inclusivity, and climate resilience. It showcased lessons from EU initiatives, promoted scalable innovation approaches, and strengthened international RCI cooperation in support of the SDGs and the EU Global Gateway Strategy.

Enhancing the capacities of CSO in promoting healthy diets and reducing food loss and waste workshop

The FAO-RNE workshop was significant for strengthening CSO capacities to address food loss and waste and promote healthy diets in the NENA region. It highlighted sustainable solutions, advocacy roles, and collaboration to advance SDG 12.3 and SDG 2 through innovation and community engagement.

APAARI Quarterly Associate Members Meeting

The APAARI Quarterly Associate Members Meeting was significant for fostering regional cooperation in agricultural research and innovation. It provided a platform to share updates, discuss new initiatives like the E-learning Academy and EUPHRESKO III, and explore collaboration opportunities among member organizations.



GFAiR Extraordinary Steering Committee Meeting

The GFAiR Extraordinary Steering Committee meeting was significant for reviewing achievements from 2021-2025 and planning future directions. It focused on strengthening collaboration, enhancing global network engagement, and advancing GFAiR's mission in agricultural research and innovation.

12th CABI BioProtection Portal Development Consortium Meeting

The meeting was significant for advancing the CABI BioProtection Portal, focusing on enhancements, member engagement, and marketing strategies. It strengthened collaboration within the bioprotection community and guided efforts to support agricultural innovation and knowledge sharing.

FAO Webinar on FLAPP Deployment in the NENA Region

The FAO virtual webinar was significant for advancing the deployment of the Food Loss App (FLAPP) in the NENA region. It highlighted solutions to reduce food loss, improve data availability, and support sustainable agriculture, aligning the app with national efforts and SDG 12.3.

AFRAS Regional Webinar on Rural Advisory Services in Crisis Contexts

The AFRAS regional webinar was significant for advancing the role of Rural Advisory Services in crisis-affected areas across NENA. It highlighted innovative, gender-responsive, and community-led approaches, emphasizing investment in RAS systems to strengthen recovery, coordination, and rural resilience.



FAO Session on Farmer Field Schools and Climate Change Adaptation

The FAO interactive session was significant for strengthening Farmer Field Schools' role in climate change adaptation. It provided practical tools and participatory methods to enhance resilience and promote sustainable agricultural development in vulnerable crop and agropastoral systems.

EU Green Deal and Agri-Food Regulations Update Webinar

The AGRINFO/COLEAD webinar was significant for supporting Egyptian agri-food exporters in navigating EU regulations and the Green Deal. It provided guidance on compliance, introduced the AGRINFO system, and facilitated adaptation to evolving policy requirements for international trade.

APAARI Public-Private Partnerships Community of Practice Series

The online session series was significant for strengthening public-private partnerships to enhance agricultural trade in the Asia-Pacific region. It promoted innovation, investment, and capacity building, while fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and developing joint policy recommendations for sustainable agriculture.

FAO FFS Innovation Award Pitching Event

The 2025 FFS Innovation Award Pitching Event was significant for highlighting farmer-led innovations that promote sustainable agriculture. It showcased practical solutions addressing climate change, food security, biodiversity, and rural livelihoods, strengthening resilience and sustainability in global food systems.

Inter-Regional Fora Meetings

The inter-regional fora meetings were significant for fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among global agricultural research networks. They enhanced innovation, capacity building, and policy advocacy, strengthening agricultural research systems and promoting sustainable, resilient food systems across regions.

AARINENA's Role in the Tropical Agriculture Platform Steering Committee

AARINENA's participation in TAP's 2025 Steering Committee meeting was significant for advancing global agricultural innovation and capacity development. It contributed to setting strategic priorities, aligning with global agendas, and promoting sustainable food security and resilient agricultural systems worldwide.

Radical food system futures: Signals of Change and Uncertainties Brainstorming Session

AARINENA's participation in the 5th Global Foresight4Food Workshop was significant for contributing regional perspectives to global discussions on future food system scenarios. It enhanced knowledge exchange, strengthened networks, and supported engagement with emerging trends and uncertainties in food system innovation.

APAARI Associate Member states Quarterly Meet

AARINENA's participation in the APAARI Q2 Associate Members' Meeting was significant for engaging in discussions on ongoing projects and collaborative opportunities. It facilitated knowledge exchange, highlighted regional updates, and strengthened cooperation among NARS members through initiatives like the eLearning platform and Community of Practice.

***Empowering Youth in
Agriculture:
Strengthening RAS
through Education and
Digital Learning in NENA***

The FAO webinar on empowering youth in agriculture was significant for strengthening rural advisory services in the NENA region through education and digital learning. It highlighted regional initiatives, promoted collaboration, and launched efforts to develop Arabic-language e-learning courses for universities and TVET institutions to enhance youth engagement in agriculture.

***APAARI General Assembly
Meeting***

AARINENA's participation in APAARI's 18th General Assembly was significant for advancing regional agricultural research priorities and collaboration among NARS. The meeting emphasized innovation, digital transformation, and sustainability, while AARINENA highlighted regional experiences and strengthened inter-regional knowledge exchange.

***FLAW-CoP Session: New
Strategies on Handling
Waste in Animal-
Agriculture Systems for
Controlling GHG Emission***

AARINENA's participation in the FLAW-CoP session was significant for advancing sustainable waste management and GHG reduction in animal-agriculture systems in the Asia-Pacific region. The event promoted cross-sector collaboration, knowledge sharing, and strategic research, reinforcing climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable livestock practices.

***WFSD25: Exploring
Toolbox for Food Safety:
The Good Hygiene
Practices (GHP) and
HACCP Toolbox***

AARINENA's participation in the FAO/WHO "Food Safety: Science in Action" webinar was significant for strengthening food safety systems in the region. The session promoted science-based practices, knowledge sharing, and collaboration to improve hygiene, certification, and resilience across agrifood systems.

***Extraordinary GFAiR
Steering Committee
Meeting***

AARINENA's participation in the GFAiR Extraordinary Steering Committee Meeting was significant for shaping strategic priorities and strengthening global and regional agricultural research collaboration. The meeting focused on resource mobilization, operationalizing the Global NARS Consortium, and enhancing governance to advance innovation, partnerships, and sustainable agricultural development.

***Inter-regional Meeting of
the Executive Secretaries
of the Regional Fora***

AARINENA's participation in the Inter-regional Meeting of Executive Secretaries was significant for guiding the Global NARS Consortium's prioritization and activity roadmap. The meeting focused on strengthening NARS' global representation, fostering cross-regional collaboration, and enhancing advocacy, resource mobilization, and innovation in agricultural research and policy.

***FAO-WHO Webinar:
Building Robust National
Food Control System***

AARINENA's participation in the FAO/WHO webinar on "Building Robust National Food Control Systems" was significant for strengthening food safety governance, regulatory frameworks, and operational practices in the NENA region. The session promoted science-based approaches, regional knowledge exchange, and collaborative efforts to enhance public health and food system resilience.

***The Community of
Practice (CoP) on Food
Loss and Waste***

AARINENA's participation in the FLAW-CoP session on "Management of Food Waste: Technological Options" was significant for promoting technological solutions to reduce food loss and waste. The session fostered knowledge exchange, regional collaboration, and sustainable practices to enhance food system efficiency in the NENA region.



***Asia-Pacific Biopesticides
Community of Practice***

AARINENA's participation in the FLAW-CoP session on public-private partnerships for biopesticides was significant for advancing sustainable agriculture. The session promoted collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building to support innovation and environmentally sustainable pest management in the NENA region.

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***APAARI Associate Member
states Quarterly Meeting***

AARINENA's participation in the APAARI Associate Members Quarterly Meeting was significant for promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange among NARS members. The meeting facilitated updates on ongoing projects, explored joint initiatives like e-learning and Communities of Practice, and strengthened regional partnerships in agricultural research and innovation.

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***World Food Forum
Flagship Event***

AARINENA's participation in the 2025 World Food Forum was significant for engaging in global efforts to advance sustainable agrifood systems. The forum provided a platform for dialogue among youth, leaders, and experts to promote innovation, collaboration, and a resilient future for food systems.

***Inter-regional Meeting of
the Executive Secretaries
of the Regional Fora***

AARINENA's participation in the quarterly interregional meeting of Executive Secretaries was significant for coordinating upcoming agricultural research initiatives and events. The meeting facilitated alignment on resource mobilization, Global NARS Consortium activities, and inter-regional collaboration to advance research, innovation, and capacity-building across NENA and global networks.

***Introduction to the IPPC
Plant Health Campus***

AARINENA's participation in the IPPC Plant Health Campus webinar was significant for promoting knowledge and capacity-building in national phytosanitary systems. The session highlighted e-learning courses, guides, and resources to strengthen plant health management and biosecurity practices.

***14th Development
Consortium Meeting for
the CABI BioProtection
Portal***

The 14th Development Consortium meeting of the CABI BioProtection Portal was significant for advancing sustainable crop protection. The hybrid event facilitated knowledge exchange and collaboration among stakeholders in the biocontrol and biopesticide sectors.

***AFRAS: Cultivating
Solutions: Youth-Led
Pathways for Agrifood
System***

AARINENA's participation in the "Cultivating Solutions: Youth-Led Policy Pathways for Agrifood Systems" webinar was significant for promoting youth-driven innovation in agrifood policy. The session facilitated knowledge exchange, regional perspectives, and development of actionable recommendations to advance sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems.

***AFRAS: Bridging
Knowledge and Action:
Climate Change in Farmer
Field Schools***

AARINENA's participation in the "Bridging Knowledge and Action: Climate Change in Farmer Field Schools" webinar series was significant for integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation into FFS activities. The series provided practical tools, shared knowledge, and promoted approaches to support smallholder farmers in building resilient agricultural practices.



***AFRAS National Focal
Point Meeting***

The AFRAS National Focal Point Meeting was significant for reviewing progress and coordinating future actions to strengthen Rural Advisory Services in the Arab region. It reinforced regional collaboration, knowledge exchange, and planning of joint activities to enhance capacity building and advisory systems toward the 2026 work program.

Looking Ahead

As we conclude Volume 30, Issue No. 2 of the AARINENA Newsletter, covering the period July-December 2025, we reflect on a dynamic and productive half-year marked by strengthened partnerships, renewed leadership, and meaningful regional engagement.

This period witnessed key milestones for AARINENA, including the successful convening of the 16th General Conference and General Assembly in Amman, the expansion of our membership network, and continued collaboration with partners and member institutions through conferences, workshops, and webinars. These activities reaffirm AARINENA's commitment to advancing agricultural research, innovation, and knowledge exchange across the Near East and North Africa.

Looking ahead to 2026, AARINENA remains dedicated to supporting its members in addressing critical regional challenges—particularly water scarcity, climate resilience, food security, and digital transformation in agriculture. Under the guidance of the newly elected Executive Committee, the Association will continue to foster inclusive collaboration, promote evidence-based solutions, and strengthen regional and international partnerships.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all member institutions, partners, experts, and stakeholders for their continued engagement and contributions. Your commitment is essential to achieving our shared vision of sustainable and resilient agricultural systems in the region.



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