



Strengthening National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) through the Global NARS Consortium (GNC)

The issue

The current absence of a Global NARS Consortium (GNC) highlights a critical issue within the field of agricultural research and development. While National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) play a vital role in driving innovation and sustainable practices at the national level, their collective global voice remains fragmented and dispersed. The lack of a unified platform hinders their ability to address global challenges, share knowledge, and advocate for their needs on the international stage. Recognizing the urgent need for a cohesive and empowered NARS community, the establishment of the GNC within the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) becomes imperative. By creating the GNC, NARS stakeholders can leverage collective strengths, enhance their influence, pool resources, and promote collaboration to effectively address the rapidly changing global context and ensure the sustainable development of agricultural research worldwide.

Through the establishment and operationalization of the GNC, GFAR and its partners aim to strengthen and revitalize NARS, ensuring their global representation and influence in the ever-evolving field of agricultural research and development.

The action

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) has taken on the important task of developing the Global NARS Consortium (GNC) based on the Declaration signed in Bangkok in March 2023. The GNC aims to empower and amplify the global voice of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), encompassing various public and semi-public stakeholders involved in research and development within a country, including National Agricultural Research Institutes, universities, and government laboratories.

Overall, the establishment of the GNC is expected to result in a strengthened, unified, and empowered NARS community, leading to enhanced global cooperation, impactful research outcomes, and sustainable agricultural development.

The roadmap to establishing the GNC is being implemented following the GNC Declaration of Bangkok made on 17 March 2023 (Declaration of GFAR Regional Fora on the Establishment of a Global NARS Consortium) and discussions scheduled to take place in the GFAR Steering Committee meeting in Durban in June 2023. An effort to identify and categorize NARS in the different regions is underway, in consultation with GFAR Regional Fora, and a global NARS meeting hosted by GFAR will concretise plans and activities for the GNC over the coming years. This global event to formally establish the GNC, its originating members and its activities/workplan for 2025 will take place in September 2024.

Expected results

The establishment of the Global NARS Consortium (GNC) within the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) is expected to yield significant results and bring about transformative changes in the field of agricultural research and development. Some of the expected results include:

- **Strengthened Global Voice:** The GNC will provide a global platform for NARS, strengthening their voice in development debates and enabling them to collectively advocate for their interests, share knowledge, and influence global agricultural research policies and agendas.
- **Enhanced Collaboration and Linkages:** Through the GNC, partnerships and collaborations among NARS and other stakeholders will be strengthened, fostering greater synergy, knowledge sharing, and joint efforts, leading to more effective and impactful research outcomes.
- **Improved Resource Base:** The GNC will facilitate the mobilization of resources, both financial and technical, to support joint NARS activities. This will ensure that NARS have the necessary funding, infrastructure, and capacity-building support to address emerging challenges and pursue innovative research initiatives.

The geographic focus

Global, Regional and National.

In partnership with

GFAR Regional Fora that represent the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) around the world, viz.: AARINENA (the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa); APAARI (the Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions); CACAARI (the Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions); EFARD (the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development); FARA (the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa); and FORAGRO (the Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development).

Revitalizing NARS at the Global Level

This initiative will build on and implement the agreement in the Bangkok Declaration, starting with an effort to identify and categorize the existing NARS across the regions and mobilizing NARS to establish a functioning forum, Consortium, in GFAR. This will be formally launched at a global event in September 2024.

Why invest?

The Global NARS Consortium (GNC) is intended to provide a space for NARS to work together, to strengthen their capacities to engage in and influence agricultural and rural development policies, strategies and investments in partnership with all key stakeholders in agri-food systems. Such a platform will serve to discuss and foresee alignment with key global and regional R&I and development systems (such as GFAR, FAO, IFAD, EU, CGIAR, OECD, AfDB, etc.) as well as with national actors to accelerate the transformation of agri-food systems.