



## **CIARD Core Group Meeting**

24 January 2009

### **Key Decisions and Actions**

#### **Participants**

*In Rome:*

Chris Addison (FAO consultant)  
Peter Ballantyne (IAALD)  
Hugo Besemer (FAO consultant)  
Justin Chisenga (FAO – Africa)  
Michael Demes (FAO – Europe/Central Asia)  
Stephen Katz (FAO/KCE<sup>1</sup>)  
Johannes Keizer (FAO/KCE)  
Magdi Latif (FAO – Near East)  
Joost Lieshout (Independent consultant)  
Franz Martin (FAO – Latin America/Caribbean)  
Ajit Maru (GFAR)  
Valeria Pesce (GFAR)  
Enrica Porcari (CGIAR)  
Robert Portegies Zwart (FAO/KCE)  
Michael Riggs (FAO – Asia/Pacific)  
Stephen Rudgard (FAO/KCE)

*By telephone:*

Elizabeth Dodsworth (CABI)  
Thierry Doudet (CTA)  
Ibrahim Kadar (CTA)  
Martin Parr (CABI)

*Unable to participate:*

Marie-Claude Deboin (Cirad)  
Jean-Francois Giovannetti (MAE, France)  
Abigail Mulhall (DFID)

#### **1. ADVOCACY TASK FORCE**

It was noted that the main institutional members of the Advocacy Task Force comprised the core group partners and the regional research forums. The priorities for the Task Force as listed on the CIARD Website (<http://www.ciard.net/index.php?id=395>) were reviewed and it was identified that this Task Force did not have Terms of Reference,. **Action: Stephen Rudgard to draft a set of ToRs for the Advocacy Task Force by 28 February, and Core Group members to comment the draft by 6 March.**

It was noted that the Advocacy Task Force should aim wherever possible to build on and add value to existing activities by CIARD partners and others, tagging them as conformant with CIARD principles, and to avoid advocating additional activities. The CIARD initiative needed to provide a core set of materials to sell its approach to organisations.

It was noted that the area of capacity building needs to be addressed, and a Task Force should be formed. **Action: Core partners to activate Task Force**

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<sup>1</sup> KCE: Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building Division

## 2. ACTIVITIES

### 2.1. CIARD Manifesto / Principles / Checklists / Pathways

Manifesto and Principles: It was agreed that this is now in an acceptable form and should be translated. Once translated, designs for printed brochures and web versions should be prepared. **Action: FAO to arrange translations etc.**

Checklists and Pathways: It was agreed that these need considerable further work before they could be used to support the advocacy and collaborative work. The Checklists should be considered as elements of a framework for organizations suggesting practical options that allow them to adhere to the Principles, rather than obligatory conditions. The Checklists would have to be elaborated to cover the three areas of Availability, Accessibility, and Applicability, distinguishing essential and voluntary elements. It was noted that the first two "A"s can more easily be achieved under the CIARD agenda, and that many solutions already exist. It was also noted that Applicability is especially attractive to decision-makers, scientists and researchers, and that the CIARD initiative will need to 'harvest' efforts and results of CIARD partners/members in this area. The "many-to-many" relationships between the checklists and the pathways should be made explicit.

It was agreed that the Checklists and Pathways should be developed into a "Kit" in the next two to three months to be available as a resource for advocacy within partners' and other organizations, and for upcoming activities of CIARD Task Forces and partners (e.g. the CGIAR ICT-KM programme plans and the Web Ring), and meetings/events (see 2.2).

**Action: FAO to lead on identification and contracting, using resources from the FAO- DFID programme, of an individual/organization to work on the development of the Kit in two versions differentiated for the two main audiences of (a) information specialists, and for (b) scientists and managers (non-specialists), and on the gathering of evidence of successful adoption in different environments. The contractor would need to work in close contact with the Content Management Task Force (CMTF) on the Availability and Accessibility Checklists. The kit will be finalised by mid-end April 2009.**

### 2.2 Meetings / Conferences as CIARD advocacy platforms

The meeting took advantage of the background of the different participants to compile the list of meetings as below where the CIARD agenda can be presented and advocated:

#### 2009

- 4 April AARINENA Training Workshop on "*Building National Information Management and Knowledge Exchange Capacities*", Cairo
- 4 April FARA RAILS meeting, Accra
- April<sup>2</sup> CACAARI regional meeting, Kyrgyzstan
- 16-17 June CGIAR Science Forum, Wageningen [ICT/KM session]
- June Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (CARD), GFAR
- 22-24 June World Conference on Computers in Agriculture (WCCA), Reno
- 6-8 July EFITA, Wageningen
- 15-17 July "*Towards Opening Access to Information and Knowledge in Agricultural Sciences and Technology*", IAALD Africa Chapter conference, Accra
- 1-2 October "*Agricultural Knowledge Exchange in Russian Language*" conference, Moscow<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Date to be confirmed

- 27-29 October "Innovation in Open Access to Agricultural Information", RIBDA<sup>4</sup>, Lima
  - 19-20 October CABI Review Conference, London
- 2010
- February 16 ICT for ARD meeting, GFAR
  - April IAALD World Conference, Montpellier

After compiling this list, possible synergies between certain meetings were noted, and the relevant participants agreed to follow up on these as necessary.

It was agreed that the partners would review and amend this list. **Action: All** Corrected references to meetings with full meeting titles etc would be posted on the relevant page of the CIARD website, which would be updated as necessary. **Action: Valeria Pesce**

A possible CIARD Expert Consultation was discussed in the context of the list of other events. In view of the many meetings that are already scheduled and various financial constraints, it was decided that a separate meeting would not be an optimal use of resources. On this basis, the regional meetings in Accra, Lima, and Moscow would be used as the principal advocacy platforms with information professionals, and that the core partners would collaborate to ensure participation of key individual advocates from the Core Group and maximum leverage of each others' inputs. In this context, it was noted that no meeting was currently foreseen for Asia-Pacific, and the Near East. **Action: All to consider options for meetings.**

Based on the "Kit" including the manifesto, principles, and checklists (see 2.1), a format for a CIARD consultation session would need to be prepared for such meetings. **Action: FAO and GFAR to lead on preparation of the session format.**

### 3. APPROACHES TO DONORS

It was recognized that the core partners were already contributing significantly to the CIARD agenda from their current core and project-based resources. Possible approaches to other partners able to gather further resources were discussed, with specific reference to the European Commission (EC) Directorate General for Development and the Gates Foundation. At this stage, no proposal had been drafted even in outline format. It was noted in the first instance that an initial approaches could be considered to hold exploratory discussions to establish areas of mutual interest, but that it would be important to avoid overlap with other approaches by the core partners. **Action: GFAR to coordinate preparation of a dossier for the upcoming meeting of its donors in Rome on 2 February 2009.**

### 4. ARD WEB RING AS A CIARD INITIATIVE

It was acknowledged by GFAR that its originally proposed ARD Web Ring should be seen as a CIARD initiative. A discussion about the ARD Web Ring is scheduled in the CMTF e-conference, which will be linked to the points in the CIARD Checklist. As mentioned above, it was noted that the CMTF will add further detail to the current plan for the Web Ring, and will clarify what is meant by joining the ring and the implications of a benchmark of "AAA" conformance which in due course would act as a kind of Michelin guide. **Action: CMTF Convenors to develop plan.**

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<sup>3</sup> Working title of conference

<sup>4</sup> Reunion Interamericana de Bibliotecarios y Documentalistas Agrícolas

It was noted that there is currently no page on the CIARD website for organizations to "join" the initiative, and no way of recognizing membership. **Action: Valeria Pesce to prepare a new design for the Partners page, that includes a web form for registration and gathering information about CIARD-related benchmarked services that organizations offer.**

#### **5. CORE GROUP MEETINGS**

It was decided that the Core Group will meet in conjunction with the Moscow meeting in October 2009 to review progress on advocacy in 2009 and agree make plans for 2010.

It was agreed that regular meetings of the Core group would be essential to strengthen members' engagement in the initiative and to keep up momentum on activities. **Action: Stephen Rudgard to convene quarterly physical/telephone meetings.**