

EUROPEAN FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (EFARD)

Involvement of CSOs

**PAEPARD 3rd European NGO consultation,
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EARLY YEARS OF EFARD

- ✘ Formed 1997 to provide multistakeholder platform for dialogue among European stakeholders to promote Europe–South ARD partnerships to achieve food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable use of natural resources
- ✘ Organised 1st European ARD Forum in Netherlands in 1999, one of several regional meetings leading up to 1st GFAR conference in Germany in 2000
- ✘ Several European countries formed national ARD fora
- ✘ As chair of German NGO Agrecol, I was in German ARD forum: DFOR
- ✘ EFARD Steering Committee made up of one representative/country
- ✘ National representatives in SC were persons from public-sector organisations: research institutes or universities

FIRST TRY TO BRING CSOs INTO GOVERNANCE

- ✘ 2002: I asked EFARD Secretariat to reconsider SC structure; German Govt paid my way to plead case at SC meeting in Rome
- ✘ SC decision: 1 seat to be created for each stakeholder group not already represented by members from national fora, i.e. seats for FOs, NGOs and private sector
- ✘ SC Working Group was to work out modalities for identifying representatives of these constituencies
- ✘ Not decided how participation in SC meetings to be financed for FOs and NGOs without government funding or commercial profits
- ✘ No mechanism was set up for stakeholder-group representation

EUROPEAN CONFERENCES ON ARD IN SOUTH

- ✘ 2002: EFARD conference in Rome – trying to plan joint ARD proposals (most came to nothing)
- ✘ 2005: EFARD conference in Zurich – first idea for YPARD developed
- ✘ Before each conference, mobilisation of CSOs in Europe
- ✘ Some came to conference, also to CSO meetings on margins, but little happened afterwards

GRADUAL DECLINE OF EFARD

- ✘ After 2005 conference, EFARD Secretariat functioned at very low level
- ✘ No further conferences (no funds)
- ✘ No stable funding for Secretariat; only occasionally from EC + contribution in kind from EU countries sending representatives to SC meetings
- ✘ Several country fora (also DFOR) dissolved for lack of funding
- ✘ EFARD continued to represent European “constituency” in GFAR Steering Committee

REVIVING AND REVAMPING EFARD

After evaluation in 2007, SC reconsidered role of EFARD:

- ✘ Greater emphasis on development context of agricultural research and therefore on development actors
- ✘ EFARD no longer apex body for national fora but rather focused on linking European-level governmental & non-governmental bodies
- ✘ Membership to include FOs, NGOs & private sector (but still no funds for their participation)
- ✘ EFARD regained momentum in 2009, when EC funded PAEPARD (jointly hosted by FARA & EFARD) incl. funds for EFARD Secretariat
- ✘ But funding of EFARD Secretariat unsure for budget-neutral extension of PAEPARD (2013)

NEW EFARD STRATEGY IN 2011

- ✘ Vision: to enhance mobilisation of European resources (expertise & funds) to support demand-driven ARD to achieve MDGs
- ✘ Mission: to build partnerships between Europe and South in ARD
- ✘ Activities include:
 - Enabling dialogue between European stakeholders in ARD
 - Improving access to information on ARD
 - Stimulating more active involvement of European stakeholders in ARD
 - Facilitating multistakeholder dialogue at national level in Europe
 - Integrating Eastern European stakeholders into EFARD
 - Supporting ARD initiatives within framework of GFAR and GCARD process
 - Enhancing awareness of decision-makers & public about importance of ARD

EFARD'S CURRENT STATUS & STRUCTURE

- ✘ Informal network of stakeholder groups from European countries and EC with interest in ARD (not a legal entity)
- ✘ Members cover costs of EFARD activities themselves
- ✘ Chair (COLEACP), Vice-Chair (SFIAR) & Executive Secretary (EC) responsible for management
- ✘ SC comprises 15 people from various organisations committed to developing mechanisms to ensure representation of their stakeholder groups

CSOs IN EFARD STEERING COMMITTEE

- ✘ 2 NGO people: Ann Waters-Bayer, ETC, Netherlands; Myriam Ait Aissa, Action Contre La Faim, France
- ✘ No direct FO person: Kees Blokland, Agriterre, Netherlands, in SC on behalf of AgriCord, network of NGOs working with Southern FOs in development cooperation
- ✘ Linked with own networks (INSARD, Agrecol etc) and 64 people from European CSOs in CSO-GARD e-list set up after GCARD1
- ✘ Other than these people showing interest in ARD, no defined European CSO “constituency”

CURRENT CSO ACTIVITIES IN EFARD

- ✘ I or Nicolienne Oudwater (INSARD coordinator) attend SC meetings; costs covered by ETC
- ✘ I am EFARD rep in PAEPARD SC; costs covered by PAEPARD
- ✘ We keep CSOs informed about ARD matters via CSO-GARD (Ann), Agrecol (Ann) & INSARD (Nicolienne) e-lists
- ✘ We are both in Working Group for EFARD website
- ✘ We encourage more people, also from Eastern European CSOs, to engage in ARD networking & partnerships (incl. CSO-GARD)
- ✘ Aims:
 - better informed & coordinated European CSO constituency on ARD
 - European CSOs able to make contribute more strongly to smallholder-driven ARD from field to policy level

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR CSOs

- ✘ Opportunities for CSOs to become involved in EFARD activities (depends on own initiative)
- ✘ Interest in EFARD to have NGO person chairing SC (current chair: private sector)
- ✘ Major constraint: time & funds for CSOs to be actively involved
- ✘ Opportunity for CSOs to be partners in ARD projects, e.g. in response to EU calls
- ✘ Challenge to stimulate European networks of development NGOs (e.g. CONCORD) to give more attention to ARD
- ✘ Opportunity for anyone interested to join EFARD Open Forum (www.efard.eu)