EUROPEAN FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (EFARD)

Involvement of CSOs

PAEPARD 3rd European NGO consultation,
Brussels, 2 May 2012

Ann Waters-Bayer, Stichting ETC, Netherlands
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
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, Agriterra, 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 Nicoliene 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 (Nicoliene) 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)