Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research

SFIAR

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What's SFIAR?

• Informal multi-stakeholder group of Swiss institutions and private individuals interested in agricultural research for developing countries.

• Continuation of the Swiss Platform on International Agricultural Research, launched at the ministerial conference on international agricultural research in Lucerne in 1995.

www.sfiar.ch
Goals and objectives

- **Promote the visibility** of Swiss agricultural research for development (ARD) in the international ARD community and in the public.

- **Share information** between Swiss stakeholders in ARD and dialogue within this community on different views, interests and perspectives related to ARD.

- **Promote collaboration** and complementarities between different actors involved in international ARD in Switzerland.

[www.sfiar.ch](http://www.sfiar.ch)
Goals and objectives

- **Play an advocacy role** at national and international levels by contributing to shape political decisions about ARD.

- **Serve as a national partner** in the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) and the Global Forum for International Agricultural Research (GFAR), and supporting the aims of these organisations.
Guiding principles

- **Openness** to all parties interested in and affected by agricultural research for development.

- **Transparency** in SFIAR activities.

- **Collaboration** in the form of partnership, based on common interests and mutual benefits.
Organisation

The SFIAR consists of:

• A president
• Vice-president
• A secretariat hosted by HAFL
• An institutional memory
• Working groups (SFIAR Award)
Donors

• Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
• Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG
• Syngenta Foundation
Members

- Research institutions and universities
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- The private sector
- Farmers' organisations
- Public agencies
- Private individuals
- Networks reps (YPARD)
Activities

• [www.sfiar.ch](http://www.sfiar.ch): Swiss information platform on agricultural research for development (ARD).

• **SFIAR Award** for scientists working for a Swiss institution in ARD.

• **Meetings of SFIAR members** to discuss and decide on ARD issues.

• **Representation of Switzerland** in international ARD fora such as the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) and the Young Professionals’ Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD).
Opportunities and success

- 2011, a year of consolidation for SFIAR.
- Meetings were strongly visited and many new members participated.
- Main focus on new research program of SDC and a controversial discussion about genetic engineering.
Opportunities and success

- Website is used regularly and contributes to a better outward visibility of activities from all the different institutions.

- SFIAR Award prized already several interesting and innovative projects. At the same time it gains attention for ARD and contributes to new debates.

- Forum is highly active with a wide range of actors and interests.

- The secretary supports keeping continuity in that informal multi-stakeholder gremium.
Constraints

- Getting new members (private sector)
- Mobilization of members within SFIAR
- Lobbying
- Time
Contact

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