

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.

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.

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: 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 informel multi-stakeholder gremium.

Constraints

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

Contact

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Thank you for your attention!