


The Global Forum on Agricultural Research

The Global Forum: Shaping Tomorrow's Agriculture Today

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GFAR Executive Secretary



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Business as usual is not an option...

- *Climates are changing*
- *Demographic pressures are growing*
- *Food demands are changing*
- *Land use is changing*
- *Agricultural water resources are decreasing*
- *Soil resources are eroding*
- *Urbanization is advancing*
- *Indigenous knowledge is disappearing*



The poor are increasingly marginalized

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Challenges from the IPCC, High Level Conference, International Assessment & World Development Reports 2008

How can we increase agricultural productivity and farmer incomes in a world of changing climates while:

- Ensuring food is affordable to the poor
- Ensuring wider societal needs are met
- Sustainably managing environmental resources
- And what kind of institutions do we need to meet these challenges?



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Society is full of natural innovators...

Constrained by resources & risk-aware

Empowered by Knowledge

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Science in Society

- Scientific knowledge is reductionist, trusted & validated by its method
- Local knowledge is holistic, trusted & validated by experience & culture
- Need to link & reconcile these knowledge & trust bases
- Sustainable development must value & capitalize on both




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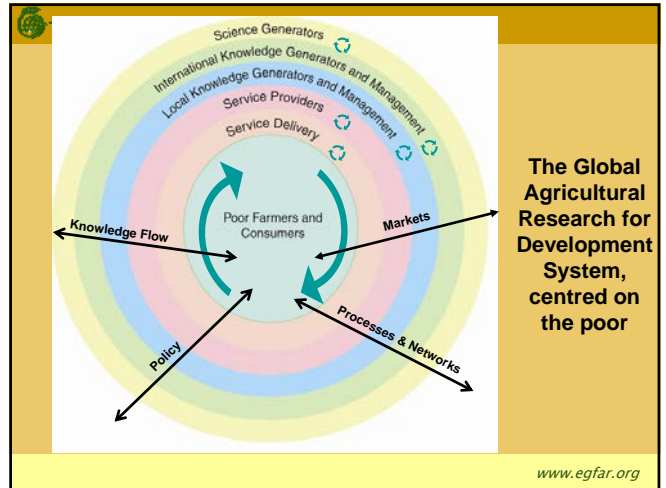
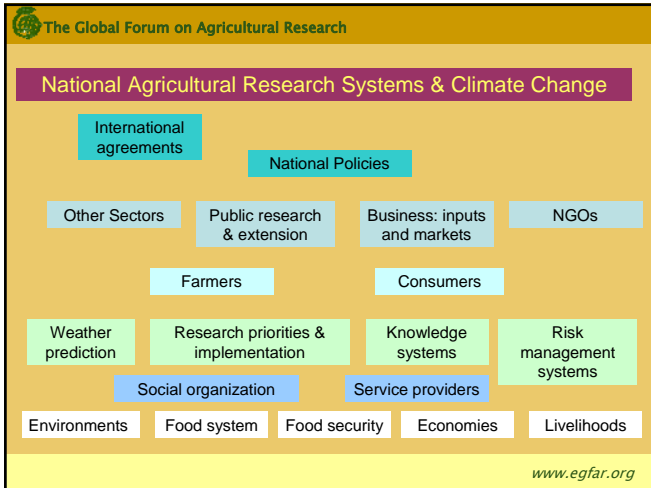
The nature of innovation



Information is passive, becomes knowledge through use

Knowledge is not static, derives from actions & interactions

Innovation derives from the interaction and knowledge of multiple actors within a context



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What constrains these interactions?

- Control
- Awareness
- Media
- Accessibility
- Reductionism/complexity
- Intelligibility & format
- Relevance
- Institutional barriers
- Belief systems
- Attitude to change

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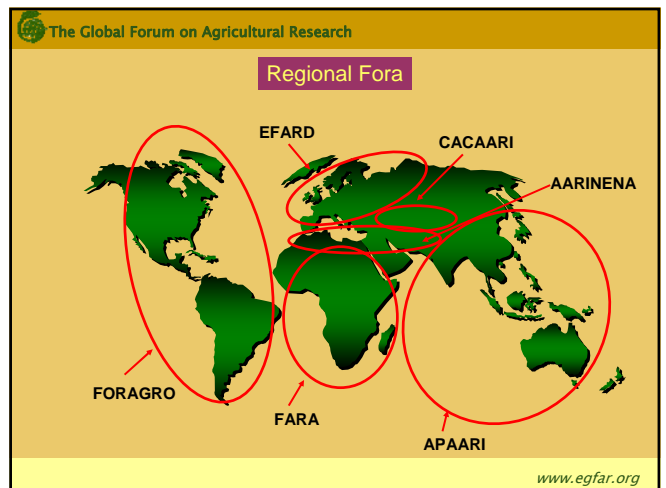


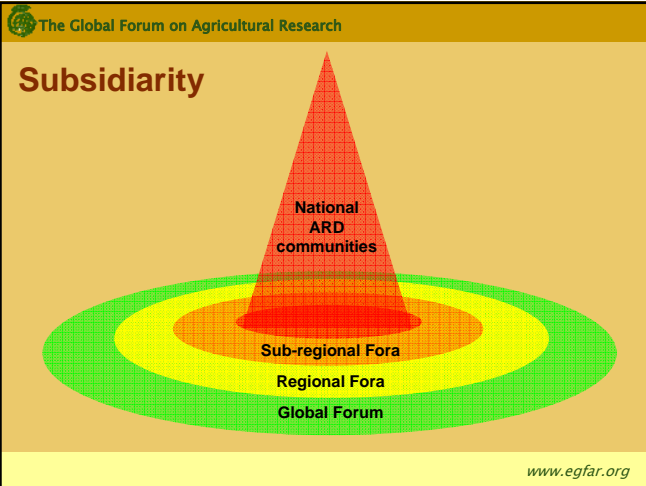
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We Are You

- **Farmers** – putting communities at the *centre* of research
- **Civil Society** – a voice for the needs of the disadvantaged, bridging local and scientific innovation
- **National Agricultural Research & Extension** – capable, relevant and valued systems meeting the needs of the poor
- **Private Sector** – effective & responsible input delivery & output markets
- **International Research Centers** – dynamically connected to their intended beneficiaries
- **Fundamental Research Institutions** – basic research driven by real needs
- **Donor organizations** – fulfilling development aims through explicitly demand-driven policies and processes

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- ## Global Forum: Strategic Objectives
1. Advocacy for change – addressing agriculture's future needs
 2. Institutions for the Future
 3. Inter-regional learning for global impact
 4. Knowledge for all - putting knowledge to use
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Over to You...

- **You** are the drivers at the centre of the research for development process
- **You** have the power to shape and determine the future of farming
- **Your** voices and your collective actions are crucial for delivering rapid change
- **Your** Global Forum provides the mechanism and the opportunity...

Use it to achieve peace, prosperity and stability for all

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Thank You

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