

Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs) to support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia



With technical assistance from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

The Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation - GFAR

Prof Dr Hildegard Lingnau
GFAR Executive Secretary



Presentation Structure

- Key messages
- Who we are
- How we work
- Collective Actions
- DeSIRA initiative

Key messages

- GFAR is well positioned and stands ready to work with smallholder / family farmers on the challenges they are facing with regard to food system transformation
- GFAR sees the role of Academia and Research Institutions (ARI) as follows:
 - Need to support academia's new learning conditions in support of co-research modalities which stimulate innovation through closer interaction of different knowledge systems
 - Developing professional actors' functional capacities, life/skills: concrete meaning, challenges for the emergence of these capacities and institutionalization of the related processes through curricula change
 - Redefinition of roles of research and of extension agents in the context of co-experimentation settings with farmers (knowledge and innovation brokers)

Who are we?

- A collective movement for the transformation of food systems
- A catalyst of collective actions
- 659 partners working together across 13 constituencies

How do we work?

- By bringing together partners from different constituencies to tackle development challenges at all levels
- By putting smallholder farmers at the center of agricultural innovation, shaping and delivering the opportunities and futures they desire
- By GFAR members bringing their own commitments and resources, joining together in Collective Actions that create change and impact on the ground
- By ensuring Collective Actions are done in an innovation cycle that encourages a feedback loop of learning

GFAR Collective Actions

A GFAR Collective Action is a multi-stakeholder programme of work at local, national, regional or international level, initiated by three or more partners and prioritized by GFAR Partners.

We are currently working in 2 Collective Actions

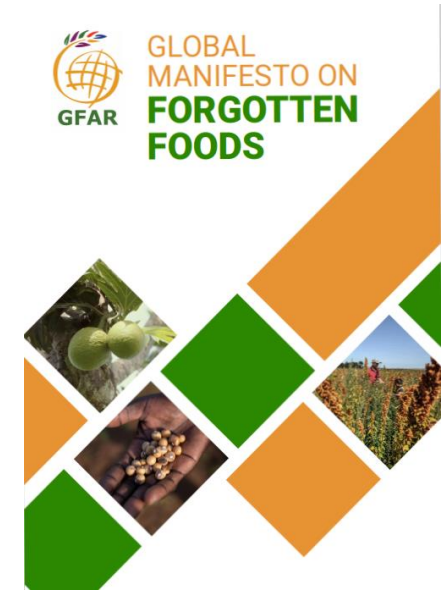
1. Collective Action on Forgotten Foods
2. Collective Action on Inclusive Digital Transformation of Agriculture

We are planning the following 2 new Collective Actions

1. Collective Action on Participatory Research and Family Farming
2. Collective Action on Curricula Change and Higher Education Transformation

Collective Action on Forgotten Foods

- GFAR constituencies across the globe are working together to re-position research and innovation in support of food security by making full use of the "Forgotten Foods".
- These foods have been neglected by research despite their intrinsic nutritional value and resilience in the face of climate change and other adverse factors.
- The “Global Manifesto on Forgotten Foods” facilitated by GFAR is the result of a broad and intensive consultation process carried out in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East gathering hundreds of stakeholders around a common vision.
- A Global Plan of Action has been put together to frame the development of projects/concepts notes that empower smallholder farmers and their organizations to govern and manage the use of forgotten foods, to enhance their resilience, economic situation and to bring better nutrition into their fields, plates, and value chains.



Collective Action on Inclusive Digital Transformation of Agriculture

- Farmers, in particular smallholder farmers are not harnessing the benefits of the ongoing and accelerating digital transformation.
- Digital Agriculture is expected to increase agricultural production and productivity, help adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, bring about more economic and efficient use of natural resources, reduce risk and improve resilience in farming, and make agri-food market chains much more efficient.

The DeSiRA Initiative

DeSIRA Initiative (The Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture) is a collective body funded by the European Commission (EC) formed to contribute to climate-relevant, productive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low and middle-income countries.

Funding provided to GFAR through the "Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture" (DeSIRA) initiative supports:

- Farmers and communities empowered at the center of innovation
- Knowledge and innovation turned into opportunity and enterprise
- Institutional architecture and capacity of agricultural research and innovation organizations strengthened, learning improved and dialogue enabled among regions
- Knowledge management, policy advocacy, communication, impact-demonstration and investment in transformed agri-food innovation systems integrated and strengthened

Thank you for your attention.

We look forward to working with you!