

Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP)

Rethinking needs, shaping policies, promoting resource mobilization and action, and sharing good practice to empower women in agriculture and rural development

1. The Genesis of GAP: A Brief Overview

1.1 Who are we?

GAP is a multi-stakeholder network of institutions and individuals promoting gender equity and women's empowerment in the agricultural sector in order to increase production and productivity, value-addition and increases in incomes, reduce losses and wastage, and ensure food and nutrition security, particularly at the household level. Such an approach requires the re-conceptualization of agriculture as a vehicle for household and community well-being rather than just economic growth.

The GAP partnership has its origins in a desire for greater attention to gender-related issues in agriculture, recognizing that, despite their importance, these are currently not receiving the attention they require at all levels. GAP has come together through the open and inclusive forum of GFAR, in particular; through actions of the 3 Rome-based agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP) with mandates for agriculture, food and nutrition, gender specialists from the CGIAR system (IFPRI, AWARD and the Consortium Office's Gender Unit), three Regional Fora (APAARI, AARINENA and FARA) and civil society networks such as DIMITRA (see Annex 1 for acronyms). The GFAR Secretariat has played a unique role to convene these partners and catalyze the process.

The GAP was launched through the Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (GCWA, New Delhi, 13-15 March 2012), organized by ICAR and APAARI and sponsored by GFAR, BMGF and others. Building from the conference outcomes, those initiating GAP are now working to develop a common vision for GAP's actions, prior to the second Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (Punta del Este, Uruguay, 29 October – 1 November 2012). A wide range of stakeholders are being actively engaged, including key actors from civil society organizations, NARS, research institutes/universities, the private sector policy makers, donors, and media and advocacy partners, the Regional Fora, UN organizations (ILO, UN Women, World Bank), and many other international research and development organizations.

1.2 A common vision for GAP

Partners in GAP recognize the huge cost of neglecting women in agriculture, and agree that we can no longer remain silent. We commit to working together to make a major impact within our organizations, countries or globally in this important area. As core members we are also committed to joint action to bring about transformative change, placing gender

equity and women's empowerment at the heart of agricultural policy, research and development, capacity-development and institutional-building agendas.

Although commitments to strengthen the role of women in agriculture have been made in several landmark UN events (e.g. in the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 3)), progress has been modest so far.

1.3 A paradigm shift

So why is this particular moment in time more propitious for addressing gender equity in agriculture? Five major reasons are:

1. **The paradigm has been changed as seen in FAO's recent State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)¹ which presents new data showing that, on average, women represent 43 percent of the world's agricultural labour force** (with large differences within and between regions and countries), **and that women farmers are as efficient as men if they use the same level of inputs** such as improved seeds, fertilizers, tools, labour, and extension services.

The SOFA provides **estimates of the potential gains from closing the gender equity gap in agriculture worldwide** (Box 1). A second, also highly influential report, issued in 2011 by the World Bank, reinforced FAO's data and conclusions in a wider development context demonstrating that **gender equality is also smart economics.**²

Studies for GAP have shown that women's priorities for agricultural innovation and change can differ widely from those prioritized by men; resource constraints and competition for time and energy are all seen as more important than productive technologies based on ultimate yield alone.

These data and analyses demonstrate dramatically the costs of neglecting women. However, referring to the global level and specifically to staple food crops (primarily cereals), they represent only the beginning. The Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (GCWA) put the spotlight on the AR4D community's concentration on increasing production and yields and the relative neglect of the specific needs of women farmers and the role of women in rural households and societies. With focused advocacy and new data on the entire agricultural sector, the change process that has been initiated will gain a positive momentum. GAP can play a vital role in advocating for and encouraging its members to provide technical

Box 1: Closing gender gaps brings huge yield gains, greatly reducing hunger

Recent data show that reducing the gender gap in men and women farmers' access to productive resources could raise yields on women's farms by 20-30 per cent. This would raise total agricultural yields in developing countries by 2.5-4 per cent and reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 100 -150 million.

Source: FAO, 2011, p. 42

¹ FAO. 2011. *State of Food and Agriculture. Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development*. Rome.

² World Bank. 2011. *World Development Report 2012. Gender Equality and Development*. Washington DC.

input and resources for much more groundbreaking work, and in disseminating their results widely. Critical areas where members could develop work within their own programmes include, to:

- a) **Collect robust, gender-differentiated data for cereals and other staple crops at national, sub-national and regional levels in order to estimate the costs of neglecting women at these levels** and the potential gains from closing the gender gap in inputs, and to regularly update **global estimates**.
 - b) **Collect/analyze gender-differentiated data to estimate the costs of neglecting women in other agricultural subsectors such as livestock, horticulture, forestry and fisheries** (women represent 47 percent of the fisheries and aquaculture workforce worldwide),³ and the potential benefits of closing the gender gap in these subsectors.
2. **Stressing that food security does not necessarily ensure nutritional security at the household or individual level, the GCWA highlighted ongoing efforts in the international community to forge a better understanding of the key determinants of good nutrition and to reposition nutrition within the agricultural and broader development agenda** through, for example, the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement established in 2010 by a group of diverse stakeholders. The distinction and inter-linkages between food security and nutrition are also being institutionalized by FAO's Committee on World Food Security which is currently developing terminology to build *conceptual and programmatic bridges* between food security and nutrition security.⁴

Good nutrition depends on the inter-related pillars of food, care, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and knowledge, decision-making power and practice. At the household level, women are custodians of all these pillars. The inter-relationships between the pillars can involve tradeoffs; for example, women's increased engagement in food production can reduce the time available for other essential pillars such as childcare. A growing body of empirical evidence is demonstrating the critical importance of women's economic and social empowerment and education for assuring their own and their children's nutritional security (Box 2).⁵

Growing commitment to ensuring household nutrition security, and increasing recognition of women's critical role in this, is leading to another paradigm shift for AR4D policies and programmes. In response to the priority given since World War II to food security - ensuring the availability, access, utilization and stability of cereals and other foods that maintain minimum levels of dietary energy, the AR4D system has focused on the production, supply and trade of these staple crops. The paradigm shift to food and nutritional security has made it clear that this focus has been at the expense of AR4D on

³ World Bank, FAO and WorldFish Center, 2010. *The Hidden Harvests: the global contribution of capture fisheries*. World Bank, Washington DC.

⁴ FAO. Committee on World Food Security. *Coming to Terms with Terminology*. Revised draft 25 July 2012 (final version to be presented at the CFS in October 2012).

⁵ FAO. 2011. *State of Food and Agriculture. Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development*. Rome. Lele, Uma, *The Incredible Gender Gap*, presented at the GCWA, New Delhi, March 2012

complementary food crops (often minor food crops and vegetables grown by women), and fish and livestock products (commonly processed by women), which contain vital micronutrients that are **critical** for household nutrition security.

A food and nutrition security agenda requires gender-sensitive multi-sectoral action where the AR4D community engage as partners with actors in the other key sectors. While GAP can play an important role in advocacy and disseminating data, knowledge and findings on gender dimensions of nutritional security, the core technical work relies on commitment of operational organizations, including technical development work, definition of indicators for measuring nutritional security, strengthening women's nutritional knowledge and decision-making power within the household, involving men in nutrition-awareness programmes, and exploring effective institutional models for mainstreaming citizens' participation in the delivery of food, nutrition and agriculture flagship programmes.

Box 2: Gender and nutritional status

Increasing the share of household income earned by women contributes positively to household food consumption and nutritional outcomes (FAO, 2011: 43)

Food and nutrition security are worse in countries with high gender inequality gaps; for example the rates of child malnutrition in South Asia are twice those found in Sub-Saharan Africa despite South Asia's better record in food supplies (FAO, 2011: 43)

In Asia and the Pacific, a larger share of girls than boys are underweight, whereas the opposite is true in Sub-Saharan Africa demonstrating the importance of gender sensitive data and approaches at regional, country and local level (FAO, 2011: 27)

Comparison of IFPRI's 2009 Global Hunger Index with the World Economic Forum's 2008 Global Gender Gap Index showed that higher levels of hunger are associated with lower literacy rates and access to education for women (Lele, 2012: 3)

- 3. Post-production/capture processing and storage are areas in which women often predominate.** As the GCWA stressed, this neglect needs to be urgently remedied in order to exploit new opportunities for value-addition and incomes, produce more nourishing, palatable and diversified food products (e.g. yoghurt, preserved fish and fish products, dried fruit), improve quality and safety, and reduce losses and waste.⁶ Since women are largely responsible for these post-production/capture tasks at the household level, and often play major roles in artisanal and industrial agro-processing, it is vital that such AR4D work is gender-sensitive.

⁶ FAO estimates that global food losses and waste amount to 1.3 billion tonnes per year – roughly one-third of the world food production for human consumption – and correspond to more than 10 percent of the world's total caloric energy consumption. Global losses and waste are roughly 30% for cereals; 40-50% for root crops, fruits and vegetables; 20% for oilseeds, meat and dairy; and 30% for fish. FAO. 2011. *Global food losses and food waste, extent, causes and prevention*, by J. Gustavsson, C. Cederberg, U. Sonesson (Swedish Institute for Food, and Biotechnology) and R. van Otterdijk and A. Meybeck (FAO). Rome. See also: FAO. 2012. *Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction*.

4. The SOFA 2011, the World Development Report 2012, and the GCWA **underlined the need for AR4D policies and programmes to address rural women’s interlinked triple work burdens (agricultural production and post-harvest/capture work, child raising and care work, and domestic and food preparation tasks)**. Since this will require **multi-disciplinary approaches**, GAP members would make a significant contribution by integrating within their own programmes efforts to:
 - a) Incorporate gender-sensitive questions in the analysis of major value chains in each agricultural subsector and quantify the contributions of women in the different tasks along these value chains, recognizing the challenges of competing responsibilities for care and domestic work.
 - b) Encourage the expansion and disseminate the results of in-depth case studies of gender issues in agriculture, scaling out the underlying reasons for successes to other contexts and challenges.
 - c) Encourage the development and field-testing of labour-saving and productivity-enhancing technologies for rural women’s agricultural production, processing and domestic work.
 - d) Disseminate the results, including to private sector entrepreneurs to encourage them to manufacture and provide retail and maintenance outlets.

5. **Governments and the international AR4D community are beginning to take gender and women’s empowerment in agriculture more seriously**, inspired by recent international declarations and targets such as the MDGs. These emphasize that gender equity and women’s empowerment are social justice and rights issues and are fundamental to economic development. Today these rights issues are being increasingly interwoven with gender-related work on agriculture, as demonstrated in major international agriculture-related conferences such as the first Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD, Montpellier, March 2010), the Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (GCWA, New Delhi, March 2012), the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20 (June 2012), and the G20 meeting (Mexico, June 2012).

However, despite the rhetoric at the international level and the gender equity goals, policies and strategies of most international, regional and national agricultural organizations, many of these organizations perpetuate a “silo approach” to gender, particularly at the operational level. For example:

- a) Many organizations claim they are “mainstreaming” gender but **ignore gender in their flagship programmes**, for example, in programmes to reduce food losses and waste, promote food and nutrition security, improve processing of fisheries and livestock products, strengthen health and safety practices in food and agriculture, and expand the production, selection, storage and dissemination of improved seed varieties, as well as in the design of large-scale surveys in, for instance, the livestock sector.

- b) Within most agricultural organizations, from local to global level, **gender programmes are invariably marginalized, small and under-resourced for their role and importance.** Recent calls for **gender equity and women's empowerment** in the Rome-based agencies' joint statement to the Mexico G20 meeting and the Rio+20 Outcome Statement were only inserted late in the drafting process after senior UN officers mobilized colleagues in sister agencies to work on getting gender issues included in the statements.

Such examples demonstrate the need for a **multi-stakeholder body with a "watching brief", working across global, regional and country levels, to identify well in advance key conferences and organizational flagship programmes where gender/women in agriculture issues are highly relevant, and to mobilize partners across the sector to get these issues included in the discussions, outcome statements, and programmes.**

1.4 Priority areas for GAP partners to address

Designed as one of the first building blocks to develop GAP, the GCWA recognized these paradigm shifts and called for *transformative* change to empower women in agriculture, and identified **five priority action areas:**⁷

- 1) Making women/gender aspects in agriculture more visible and recognized;
- 2) Strengthening the evidence and knowledge base to address gender/women's issues in agriculture;
- 3) Promoting collective action and leadership of rural women in order to take advantage of opportunities and address discrimination;
- 4) Establishing globally women's rights at large; and
- 5) Promoting women's ownership and ensuring availability of capital resources.

As the facilitating platform for the GAP network that is directly guided and governed by UN agencies, the CGIAR, regional bodies and civil society organizations, the GFAR mechanism plays a primary role in helping to trigger actions in each of these areas and in particular to help take forward action areas in agricultural research, innovation and knowledge sharing. Work in areas 2-5 would be undertaken by GAP members within their own institutional programmes.

In advocacy, GAP can:

- Disseminate in a variety of fora, sound data, lessons from experience, and the policy and programme implications of work undertaken by GAP members on gender/women in agriculture across each of these areas;

⁷ Global Conference on Women in Agriculture 2012. *Synthesis Report*. page 5.

- Encourage policy makers, donors and AR4D institutional leaders to support adequately resourced programmes in these areas; and
- Provide a discussion forum for GAP members to share their work programmes at the planning stage, to facilitate identification of complementarities and opportunities for practical collaboration and value-addition.

1.5 Potential benefits that GAP could bring its members

As a multi-stakeholder network rather than an implementing institution, GAP fills a current gap in the AR4D architecture by:

- *Providing opportunities for linkage, coordinated action and advocacy beyond that of any single institution, and*
- *Disseminating strategies, results, findings, data, learning, and the recommendations of GAP members' programmes on women and gender in AR4D, inspired by the Rio+20, the GCARD Roadmap and other global, regional and national strategies that address (inter alia) AR4D.*

GAP's specific objectives could be to:

- 1) **Facilitate dialogue and debate** among committed GAP professionals on priority AR4D needs and actions to ensure gender equity in agriculture, identify potential trade-offs and unintended consequences of such actions for some population groups, share data, learning and examples of good practice for remedial actions and/or promoting alternative livelihood opportunities.
- 2) **Bring members** together to plan and coordinate advocacy activities on women/gender in AR4D at major conferences and through the many formal and social media channels open to the diverse partners involved.
- 3) **Serve as a clearinghouse** for GAP members to discuss how they could work together, combining their resources for maximum impact while reducing the inefficiencies and conflicts that are endemic with current fragmented efforts.
- 4) **Establish a prize/prizes to be awarded at each GCARD for the best example(s) of gender success stories from all stakeholder groups**

1.6 Outputs and Outcomes expected from GAP

GAP's initial deliverables and their timeframe would be developed alongside a comprehensive participatory process, for discussion/recommendations at GCARD2. As GAP gathers strength, gains in membership and develops its governance mechanism, it would adopt a rolling process for discussing and agreeing on future deliverables.

GAP's initial deliverables could include:

1) Firm, public commitments made at GCARD2 by policy makers, AR4D organization leaders and donors to adopt policies and allocate resources for large-scale gender-equitable AR4D

Activities to achieve this deliverable include GAP members contributing to:

- a) Setting up a sub-group of GAP members with links to the ground at national and regional levels (CSOs, NARS, Farmer Organizations, SMEs, Regional Fora etc) to develop advocacy messages supported with data and share these with other stakeholders;
- b) Presenting the GCWA conclusions and recommendations at GCARD2, with emphasis on recent data estimating the costs of neglecting women and benefits to be gained from closing the gender gap in AR4D;
- c) Sharing tangible examples at GCARD2 of how gender equity policies and actions have addressed agricultural constraints effectively with detail on how they work and why;
- d) Organizing a High-Level Plenary Panel at GCARD2, comprising world-renowned opinion leaders and executive heads of selected major global, regional and national AR4D organizations, to discuss and make recommendations on gender/women issues in AR4D; and
- e) Advocating in GCARD2 plenary and parallel sessions for resources to build the evidence base on the advantages of closing the gender gap in access to assets, services, technologies, communication and information, transport etc, and the costs of not doing so, at national, regional and global levels, by agricultural subsector value chains.

2) Timely inclusion of gender equity in AR4D in future major declarations/statements of UN Conferences, G8 and G20 meetings, future GCARDs

Activities could include:

- a) Setting up an oversight group of GAP members, representing different types of AR4D organizations globally and in different regions, to identify in advance the opportunities for including gender/women in agriculture issues in major statements emanating from such conferences;
- b) Developing a list of key GAP members in AR4D organizations (including civil society, farmer/fisher organizations and cooperatives) ready to advocate within their organizations and elsewhere for gender equity in AR4D and establish and implement collective plans of action;

- c) Encouraging the establishment of a group of “volunteers” to contribute to the work of the Intergovernmental Open Working Group to be set up following Rio+20 that will develop, with the full involvement of relevant stakeholders including civil society, the scientific community and UN system, global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the UN General Assembly,⁸ and
- d) Developing an advocacy strategy.

3) Establishment of a platform for members to share their work programmes at the planning stage and explore opportunities for collaboration among members

Shared preparatory activities could include:

- a) Organizing parallel working meetings for GAP members attending international, regional or national conferences;
- b) Organizing teleconferences and e-conferences;
- c) Developing other forms of networking and collaborating; and
- d) Mobilizing funding to support such a platform and staffing.

4) Developing action-based partnerships in the field

Possible areas for direct collaboration among GAP members could include:

- a) Collaborating in the development of gender-sensitive indicators for the agricultural sector and methods and tools for their application and analysis, joint field testing, and sharing of results, including:
 - Developing *realistic, specific, measurable* targets, and gender-sensitive indicators and methods to assess progress in reaching these targets;
 - Developing indicators to “profile” smallholder farmers, fishers/fish processors/traders, livestock producers/processors in order to capture “women” in a practical way so they can be included among a project/programme’s beneficiaries (these could be comparable across regions or region/country-specific); and
 - Developing/sharing indicators to measure gender-differentiated outputs and outcomes, including collaborating in pilot testing the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index.
- b) Providing expert technical advice, including toolboxes and/or best practices in applying gender-equitable AR4D policies and strategies to help GAP members

⁸ United National Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, Outcome Document, para. 248.

“validate” their organizations’ draft gender strategies and capacity-building support (including mentoring) to assist in their implementation/M&E processes.

- c) Providing technical guidance/peer reviews to help members include neglected action areas of particular concern to women, such as post-production/capture processing for value-addition and loss reduction, measures to improve food safety and quality along the value chain, and diversification to improve the nutritional balance of household diets (especially for children) to enhance health and welfare.
 - d) Fostering participatory innovation processes in each country and region: Gender is a social construct and only by having context-specific practical and pragmatic interventions will the situation on the ground improve. Development of participatory processes for gender-related innovation and learning/knowledge sharing in each region/context needs to be a committed part of the GAP establishment process from the outset of the agenda setting process, rather than coming in later. Development and piloting of participatory processes to address specific local contexts will help build credibility for the common vision within this document so that partners can see their success in partnership with specific processes
- 5) Establishment of a prize/prizes to be awarded at each GCARD (starting at GCARD3 in 2014) for the best example(s) of gender success stories from all stakeholder groups**

Activities could include:

- a) Developing the criteria for a fair, transparent, competitive process of selecting the best example(s) of gender success stories from all stakeholder groups;
- b) Acquiring the necessary funding and making provision for its administration;
- c) Publicizing widely the winners’ achievements through a variety of international, regional, national media and professional networks; and
- d) Facilitating opportunities for the winners to share their experiences through direct or indirect means, including mentoring others who wish to adopt/test the same/similar innovations.

1.7 Towards a coordinating mechanism for GAP

- 1) A coordinating mechanism, interlinking global, regional and national levels, will be developed during the participatory multi-stakeholder development process.
- 2) In GAP’s start-up phase, the initiating partners would constitute the coordinating mechanism, until a broader, more participatory, multi-stakeholder structure is developed and funded. GCARD2 will provide the next important forum to take

forward the multi-stakeholder development process and these partners would benefit from GFAR's further support and provision of the open mechanism for their interaction and development of agreed agendas for their actions.

1.8 Some guiding principles in the GAP development process

GCWA agreed that systemic change in collective management of socially and culturally sensitive global challenges requires a complex and delicate approach to leadership and governance. Drawing on experiences from other global partnership programmes, GCWA suggested that the following principles merit consideration:

- a) Avoid placing emphasis on the partnership as an end in itself diverting attention from the objectives and expected outcomes – the focus should be on *“how will this partnership contribute to the projected impacts and achieving the objectives at local, national, regional and global levels?”*;
- b) Clear and achievable strategies⁹ are an essential requirement of good governance and baselines should be established to measure partnership performance in different contexts;
- c) Whilst partnerships are based on shared purposes, they need to acknowledge and accommodate divergent interests and there are trade-offs between inclusiveness and effectiveness;
- d) Without adequate and predictable funding and dedication of human resources there is a trade-off between performance and the time spent on mobilizing resources; and
- e) Oversight at different levels is most effective where relying on boards comprising individuals serving in their personal capacities; these have provided better governance practice such as transparency in decision making, performance reporting and systems for accountability.

⁹ Specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time bound objectives are key.

2. Milestones in the GAP Development Process and Next Steps

2.1 The milestones

The milestones are listed in Box 3.

Box 3: Milestones in GAP's development/implementation

GCARD1 (Montpellier, March 2010). The Roadmap, adopted by GCARD, flagged the neglect of gender/women in most AR4D policies and programmes.

GFAR's informal consultative process (2010-2012). A meeting hosted by FAO in May 2010 for representatives from several CGIAR centres, the Rome-based agencies, the World Bank, and GFAR, to draw up draft TORs for the CGIAR Consortium's gender review, also informally requested GFAR to develop a Gender in Agriculture Partnership.

Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (GCWA, New Delhi, March 2012) organized by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) with financial support from GFAR's new mechanism for GAP, and attended by a cross-section of stakeholders produced valuable insights on the issues and recommendations for future action.

GAP was formally launched at GCWA.

Multi-stakeholder consultative process (March-Oct 2012) to draft preliminary concept, governance and initial activities for GAP, for presentation at GCARD 2.

GCARD2 (Punta del Este, October 2012) stakeholders to review draft GAP proposal and make recommendations on way forward.

Planning/resource mobilization (2012-3)

Implementation (2013-??)

Reporting:

GCARD3 (2014)

GCWA2 (2015)

2.2 Next steps

- 1) **The consultation process started with a teleconference on 23 July 2012 among a small group of GAP partners** from the Rome-based agencies with mandates for agriculture, food and nutrition, and representatives from the CGIAR system, two Regional Fora. In follow-up, the GFAR secretariat will:
 - a) Prepare and distribute the minutes of the teleconference and this Note on GAP to the participants. Employ a senior consultant to help catalyze and take forward this process on behalf of all involved (**deadline: 12 October 2012**); and
 - b) Share these documents with GCARD2 participants and other stakeholders in the **run up to GCARD2, including through the GCARD2 website (deadline: 15 October**

2012) and develop desired outcomes at different scales and timelines for the following year(s) to establish a vibrant and working partnership in GAP.

- 2) The consultative process will be expanded to include other UN organizations (ILO, UN Women, World Bank), other Regional Fora, partner research institutes/universities, policy makers, and civil society and private sector organizations, working at global, regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels (deadline: 25 October 2012). The initial activity in this process will be an e-survey to prepare an inventory of work underway or planned and opportunities for collaboration among GAP partners and potential partners. The report of this survey will be included in summary form in the GAP proposal to be submitted to GCARD2.**

Given the complexity of such a process and the extremely short timeframe available, the most effective method would be to organize an e-survey that reaches a wide range of female and male respondents representing different **types** of stakeholder organizations operating at international, regional or national **levels**. The respondents should be representative of the different agricultural subsectors, and different levels of work within these organizations. **GFAR will recruit immediately an expert e-survey facilitator to design the survey questions, facilitate it online and analyze the results, in order to ensure a legitimate, impartial and efficient e-survey process and credible, representative results to present at GCARD2.**

Using this Note as an initial complementary “consultation document”, the e-survey could cover:

- a) an introductory section to capture each respondent’s background (the organization he/she works in, level (global/region/country), type of work (policy, technical by agricultural subsector, capacity-building, institution-building, M&E, information dissemination etc) with a very brief description of work “content”, level of position in the organization;
- b) sections covering:
 - i. benefits, priorities, constraints, solutions and trade-offs, and opportunities for promoting gender equity and women’s empowerment in agriculture
 - ii. what benefits could GAP bring them?
 - iii. suggestions for criteria for GAP membership?
 - iv. suggestions for a governance structure for GAP?

This Note and the e-survey could be sent to all the GCWA participants and to the networks of core GAP members (e.g. FAO’s and IFAD’s lists of civil societies accredited to their organizations, CGIAR and GFAR networks, etc).

Given the short time and limited resources available to prepare, implement and analyze this e-survey, it would not be possible to conduct it in more than one language. As the GAP development process was launched at the GCWA in Asia in March 2012, it would be appropriate to undertake this first e-survey in English. E-surveys in other languages (Spanish, French, Arabic) could be envisaged for the future.

A more dynamic, participatory multi-stakeholder consultative process will be carried out after GCARD2 in order to build on the process so far, capture key lessons and priorities emanating from GCARD2, and respond to and deepen the discussions on these and issues highlighted as priorities in other relevant fora, to further refine the objectives, activities and modalities for GAP.

- 3) **This Note should also provide a constructive and focused contribution to the organization of the High Level Panel on Gender at GCARD2.** This is vital to ensure that the Panel discussion: (i) complements, reinforces and contributes in a practical way to the participatory GAP formulation process, (ii) encourages ownership and buy-in by potential GAP members, and (iii) raises support from senior policy makers and leaders in stakeholder organizations, donors and the media.
- 4) **A meeting of the GAP initiating and potential members should be organized at GCARD2** (by initiating members, with support from the GFAR Secretariat), in order to distil the fresh ideas arising including those from the High Level Panel on Gender, and their implications for GAP.
- 5) **The GCARD also includes a session specifically on learning and the empowerment of youth and women in agricultural research for development, led by the GAP partners AWARD and CTA.**
- 6) **Contacts with donors and the media** should also be undertaken by GAP members prior to GCARD2 as well as at GCARD2, with a view to furthering support for and dissemination of information on GAP.

Annex 1: Acronyms

APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
AARINENA	Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa
AR4D	Agricultural Research for Development
AWARD	African Women in Agricultural Research and Development
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CGIAR CRPs	CGIAR Consortium Research Programmes
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTA	Centre Technique de Coopération Agricole et Rurale (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GAP	Gender in Agriculture Partnership
GCARD	Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development
GCWA	Global Conference on Women in Agriculture
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
WFP	World Food Programme