



FARA General Assembly Side Event Report June 10-11, 2007

Name of side event:	Participatory approaches to empower local communities in non-tropical dry areas of Africa: ICARDA experience
Sponsoring organization(s):	ICARDA
Name(s) & email(s) of contact persons:	Contact person: Khaled Makkouk k.makkouk@cgiar.org Rapporteur: Zewdie Bishaw Z.bishaw@cgiar.org

Background/rationale of the side event *(maximum one paragraph)*

Given their effectiveness in poverty targeting, reducing the time lag between technology development and adoption, and community empowerment, successful experiences in participatory approaches in marginal dry areas are presented, and the potential of scaling out their outputs is explored

Principle agreements/actions/recommendations *(include who is responsible for implementation & when)*

- Recommendation 1. Given that participatory plant breeding is (i) demand driven, (ii) reduce the time lag for variety release, (iii) accelerate adoption, and (iv) reach higher adoption ceiling, it is recommended that, "Global decentralized participatory plant breeding strategy is followed to reach out small farmers in Africa"
- Recommendation 2. Given the successful experiences of participatory approaches in targeting poverty, it is recommended that, "Decentralized participatory approaches and lessons learned be extended to all marginal environments in Africa"
- Recommendation 3. Given that community-based approaches are well developed in marginal dry areas and proved effective in empowering communities, technology development and dissemination, it is recommended that, "Community approaches be institutionalized and scaled out through linkages with development projects"
- Recommendation 4. Recognizing that the informal seed sector accounts for more than 90% of seed supply in developing countries, it is recommended that, "Village-based seed enterprises be promoted with an enabling policy and institutional options to ensure availability and accessibility of seed to poor farmers in marginal environments in Africa"
- Recommendation 5. Given that participatory approach is necessary for research relevance and problem solving dimension, it is recommended that, "Rigorous scientific base continues to be used for participatory research to be recognized as an international public good"
- Recommendation 6. Given the success stories in participatory research, it is recommended that, "Priority is given for out-scaling participatory approach outputs in partnership with civil society organizations and related public sector institutions with needed enabling policy and institutional environment"

Side event linked to which FARA networking support function? (check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to knowledge and technologies <input type="checkbox"/> Regional policies and markets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity strengthening <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnerships and strategic alliances
---	---

Where relevant, note who has success stories, &/or useful resource people or institutions related to side-event theme

ICARDA
 Ethiopian Seed Enterprise
 National Agricultural Research Institute of Eritrea
 INRAT (Tunisia)
 INRA (Morocco)
 Desert Research Center (Egypt)