



FARA 4th General Assembly Side Event Report June 10-11, 2007

Name of side event:	NGO Consortium
Sponsoring organization(s):	FARA Secretariat & NGO Consortium
Name(s) & email(s) of contact persons:	Silvie Mbog Sidi Sanyang

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

During the 3rd FARA General Assembly (GA) held in Entebbe, Uganda in June 2005, about 35 NGO representatives from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), met to launch a regional NGO Consortium in order to mobilize the SSA NGOs to actively participate in the agricultural research for development (ARD) agenda. Since its establishment the consortium did:

- developed a governance structure, code of conduct, mission statement and objectives,
- launched a profiling and typology exercise
- developed a communications strategy
- carried out case studies to assist its advocacy work
- participated and contributed to various regional and global ARD debates

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

In the next biennial (2007-2009) the consortium will carry out the following activities:

1. Advocacy and public awareness.

Advocacy will be the main thrust of the consortium. In the coming biennial the consortium will:

- a) Advocate for inclusive ARD at all levels (regional, sub-regional and global): The aim is to enable NGOs to effectively participate in the ARD processes, that is through from research planning and decision making, to implementation and evaluation.
- b) advocate for and raise awareness on the role of women in agriculture and rural development
- c) advocate and raise awareness on the benefits of underutilised species in Africa for enhance nutrition and food security
- d) raise awareness on the issue of IPR

2. Partnerships and Strategic alliance

Closely engage with other FARA initiatives such as PEAPARD, SSA CP, DONATA and CAADP of NEPAD. In addition the consortium will closely work with FARA to enhance access to knowledge and technology.

Side event linked to which FARA networking support function? (check one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Access to knowledge and technologies <input type="checkbox"/> Regional policies and markets <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity strengthening <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnerships and strategic alliances
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Where relevant, note who has success stories, &/or useful resource people or institutions related to side-event theme

Various NGOs participated in the side-event (see the list of participants)

Facilitation: FARA, GFAR, Government of South Africa

Technical and Support: National and sub-regional NGOs (members), FARA, SROs, NARS.