



Update on FORAGRO and GFAR

XIX MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
PROCINORTE

London, Ontario 2017



Outline

- Update of FORAGRO
 - Background
 - Reform process:
 - ✓ Constitution of the FORAGRO Assembly of Members
 - ✓ Approval of the Charter
 - ✓ Process to elect a new steering committee
 - ✓ New website
 - ✓ Next steps
 - ✓ Funding agreement
- Update on GFAR
 - Steering committee meetings
 - Constituency engagement initiatives



FORAGRO: Background

- Hemispheric mechanism for discussion of and agreement on research and innovation issues facing the agriculture and agri-food industry in the Americas
- Established by IABA resolution in 1997 and re-endorsed by that body in 2003. IABA also charged IICA with providing a Secretariat
- Inclusive representation of stakeholders of the Americas agricultural science, technology and innovation system
- Executive Committee has been the Forum's guiding body, currently chaired by the President of the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA), Argentina.
- A member of the Global Forum for Agriculture Research (GFAR)



FORAGRO: Reform Process

- In 2015, following conclusions of an external review, FORAGRO started process of renewal with the support of IICA
- In November 2016, the Executive Committee met in Turrialba, Costa Rica, and approved a proposal for a new, more effective, sustainable and inclusive FORAGRO
- In 2017, the reform was launched with the constitution of a Members' Assembly
- New Assembly met for the first time last August in San Isidro de Coronado, Costa Rica



FORAGRO: Reform Process

First meeting of FORAGRO's Assembly of Members - **Objectives:**




- Advance toward implementation of a new governance
- Identify priority areas of focus and discuss how FORAGRO should get involved
- Define next steps to establish governance model and develop an action plan



FORAGRO: Reform Process

First meeting of FORAGRO's Assembly of members - **Results:**

- Approval of the Charter
- Approval of process to elect new Steering Committee (*selection currently underway*)
- Approval of new web site (currently available at www.foragro.org)




Chapter 2. Mission, Vision and Functions

Article 2. Mission
To serve as a Forum to promote dialogue, actively discuss needs and opportunities, generate analysis and proposals and foster partnerships to strengthen science, technology and innovation systems for the sustainable development of agriculture in the Americas.

Article 3. Vision
To be recognized as the main Forum of the Americas for discussion and sharing ideas on the present and future of agricultural science, technology and innovation systems.

Article 4. Functions of the Forum
The basic functions of FORAGRO are:

- 4.1. Act as a catalyst and promoter of improvements, raise awareness, and exchange information with constituents and stakeholders in support of agricultural R+D+I and fair access to its benefits to respond to the needs of the agriculture, agrifood and agroindustry sector and of the rural territories in the Americas.
- 4.2. Generate relevant information and knowledge on priority R+D+I issues to support decision-making processes among policymakers and stakeholders of the production sector and of the agricultural R+D+I system.
- 4.3. Facilitate inclusive mechanisms to improve the representation of its stakeholder groups.
- 4.4 Represent FORAGRO stakeholders at the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR).

FORAGRO: Reform Process

First meeting of FORAGRO's Assembly of members – **Results** (cont'd):

Selection of priority areas of focus for future action:

- Natural resources supporting agriculture
- Technological innovation for environmental, economic and social sustainability
- Support innovation for family agricultura
- Capacity building (multidimensional)



FORAGRO: Reform Process

First meeting of FORAGRO's Assembly of members – **Results** (cont'd):

What should FORAGRO's role be and how it would add value

- Coordinating actions with other organizations and mechanisms, both internally and externally
- Facilitating the development of discussion papers on topics related to its priority focus areas to inform decisionmakers and the public
- Facilitating platforms to manage and disseminate knowledge and information



FORAGRO: Reform Process

Next Steps:

- Proceed with electing new governance bodies
- Develop Strategic Plan
- Enter into agreement with GFAR/FAO to support next steps



FORAGRO: Reform Process

Financial support for next steps

- External funding was pursued to support the development of an action plan for the new FORAGRO
- Letter of agreement negotiated and signed where FAO, on behalf of GFAR, contracts IICA as service provider to develop, plan, implement and communicate a strategy, with funding (USD 82,000) from EC Global Public Goods for Food and Nutrition Security program
- Project must be delivered by July 31, 2017



GFAR Update: first meeting of new Steering Committee, Rome, February 2017

Objectives:

Introduce the new committee and its constituents, continue to build the GFAR community, validate the agenda of the forum, initiate the work of formulating the PMP 2018-21 and a communication strategy

Agreements:

- Accept 5 focus areas for collective action from 2018 to 2021
 - Enabling and Empowering Sustainable Rural Communities
 - Increase knowledge flow for impact development
 - Support transformative learning and youth leadership development
 - Change the value and measurement system for ODS compliance
 - Enable sustainable rural enterprise

Objectives: Introduce the new committee and its constituents, continue to build the GFAR community, validate the agenda of the forum.



GFAR Update: First meeting of new Steering Committee, Rome, February 2017

Agreements (cont'd):

- Obligation of members of the SC to consult and represent constituents
- Prepare draft communication strategy
- Organize another meeting of the SC to continue with the definition of collective actions and preparation of the MTP
- GFAR Executive Committee (IFAD, FAO, EU, President and VP) to become a selection committee for new Chair and Vice-Chair

Objectives: Introduce the new committee and its constituents, continue to build the GFAR community, validate the agenda of the forum.



GFAR Update: Meeting of the Steering Committee and Strategic Workshop, Rome, June 2017

- Strategic Workshop: Members of the SC representing 13 groups of GFAR constituents discussed 14 initial proposals and distilled areas of collective action that will form the basis for the medium-term plan
- The results of the selection process were presented and the election of new GFAR authorities was approved:
 - Chair: Bongwiwe Njobe, South Africa
 - Vice-Chair: Raffaele Maiorano, Italy

Objectives: Introduce the new committee and its constituents, continue to build the GFAR community, validate the agenda of the forum.



GFAR Update: Constituency engagement initiatives

- Constituents' Google Groups
- Webinars and workshops



Thank you!
Questions?