AARINENA's Role in Research, Networking and Innovation

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AARINENA stands for

Association of the **A**griculture **R**esearch **I**nstitutions in **N**ear **E**ast and **N**orth **A**frica

N.A. (Maghreb) Sub-Region

Nile valley Sub-Region

Mashreq Sub-Region

Arabian Peninsula Sub-Region

West Asia Sub-Region

AARINENA Sub-Regions

AARINENA Vision

AARINENA aspires to be the hub for NENA agricultural stakeholders who strive to jointly strengthen and transform agricultural research and innovation to effectively address challenges and realize together a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future for the region

AARINENA Mission

As a unique network of representative multi-sector partners, AARINENA promotes and facilitates the development of state-of-the-art transformational solutions that enable NENA agricultural research and innovation systems to address more effectively critical and pressing agricultural and innovation challenges.

AARINENA Mission

In this respect, AARINENA focuses on:

- **Mobilizing dialogue, knowledge exchange and partnerships over collective actions;**

- **Empowering rural women, youth and small holder farmers;**

- **Impacting policies, and strengthening capacities of NENA agricultural and innovation systems.**

AARINENA Networks

- Biotechnology
- Date Palm
- Medical & Herbal Plants
- Olive
- Plant Genetic Resources
- Water Use Efficiency
- Extension (Honeybees & Agribusiness)

AARINENA Strategy
2019-2030

AARINENA Action Plan 2019-2024

AARINENA Goals

Goal 1:

Establish AARINENA as a global knowledge platform to facilitate, mobilize and coordinate multilateral exchange and dissemination of actionable specific and transversal knowledge among stakeholders at south-south and south-north levels

Objectives of Goal 1 :

1
- Develop mechanisms to promote the production of quality agricultural research and publications

2
- Establish a knowledge platform, mobilize partners' participation and input into the platform, create a data base of experts to map and integrate available regional knowledge, and share and disseminate scientific breakthroughs

3
- Promote mechanisms that support the development of institutionalized open agricultural research and innovation systems

AARINENA Goals

Goal 2:

Support and enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships over collective dialogues and actions, aiming at collectively building up open systems of agricultural research and innovation that are more effective in finding innovative and applicable solutions

Objectives of Goal 2 :

1 Mobilize existing and new networks and sub networks of partners in the form of innovation platforms towards working together on regional priorities

2 Support the development of partners' national and sub-regional strategies that promote and implement agreed upon AARINENA principles and approaches

3 Encourage major partnerships at the regional and sub-regional levels that fundraise collectively for the purpose of producing required technologically mature research deliverables to the partners in the region; this is towards promoting the development of a special fund with partners for research and innovation projects that respond to regional or sub-regional research strategies

4 Disseminate models of open systems for R & I and of effective research/ private sector partnerships, and mobilize their scaling out

AARINENA Goals

Goal 3:

Facilitate and coordinate education and capacity strengthening of various partners to enable them to communicate and interact effectively within agricultural research and innovation open systems. This will include promoting the transformation of higher education and research, and reforming research and innovation organizations and their governances in alignment with the goal of developing efficient open systems and in accordance with agreed upon AARINENA mission and goals.

Objectives of Goal 3 :

1
- Promote jointly with higher education regional organizations and relevant stakeholders an agreed model of transforming higher education to produce the comprehensive graduate who is capable of meeting present and future challenges of agriculture in the NENA region

2
- Facilitate the offering of capacity development programs to diverse partners focusing on areas of relevance to the strategy especially on the development and management of open agricultural systems for R & I.

3
- Support organizational review and reform of partners' organizations to adapt to new challenges

AARINENA Goals

Goal 4:

Contribute to advancing rural women, youth and small holder farmers along the agricultural value chains through promoting collective actions among open agricultural R&I systems that prepare these targeted populations for employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in order to improve their income, enable them to impact relevant policies, and make rural areas attractive to them.

Objectives of Goal 4 :

1
- Promote mechanisms, schemes and best practices that support the progress of rural women and youth along the value chains and their inclusion in R&I open systems, move young agricultural professionals up the career ladder and ensure their engagement in their organizations and environments

2
- Support and promote the sharing of and scaling out of best practices that target the empowerment of rural women and youth through multiple approaches across the region

3
- Support national partners in developing formal channels with policy makers and ensure continued visibility and communication of AARINENA principles and news through these channels

AARINENA Goals

Goal 5:

Strengthen the architecture of AARINENA to enable the fora to perform and realize its reviewed mission, goals and expected outcomes &impact.

Objectives of Goal 5 :

1
- Ensure that the organizational structure and governance of AARINENA is fit for the implementation of its new mission and expected outcomes

2
- Institutionalize AARINENA's new direction through documenting it in pertinent strategies including AARINENA's Strategy 2019-2030, AARINENA's Communication Strategy and AARINENA's Partnership Strategy and Mechanisms together with guidelines and mechanisms for fund-raising and donor relations

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference 2020

Gearing up for the Fourth Industrial Revolution
September 15-17, 2020
Amman, Jordan

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IEC' 2020
Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference 2020
Gearing up for the Fourth Industrial Revolution
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First Call for Papers

Arab Nations, through their research and academic centres, together with other countries around the world, have been seeking to keep up-to-date with international happenings and challenges and to continually reform to better serving the needs of their constituents and the communities involved. To realize these goals, the Association of Arab Universities (AArU) together with the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) and some regional/international partners are setting out to strengthen its multi-stakeholder capacity on research and innovation for development. The new strategy on towards 2030 focuses on reforming and strengthening industrial research and innovation systems, enhancing multi-lateral collaboration, and influencing development in the Arab region. More specifically, the lack of a good grasp on the value of innovative work products on sustainable development and the potential bearing it has upon economic growth across the entire Arab and NENA regions.

One of the challenges that the region is experiencing includes the huge knowledge losses. Emanating from this, the knowledge produced locally is often times not of a level to be turned into innovations on towards the betterment of the wellbeing of the nations involved. Commensurate with this, the new Strategy draws on the joint role AArU and AARINENA share in facilitating and mobilizing dialogue and engaging collective actions among partners to overcome the main challenges of the Arab region. These include lack of expertise in areas related to innovative research, undernourishment, gender inequalities, water scarcity, lack of understanding or realizing the impact of value-added work products along the ways of achieving economic prosperity and further growth, low agricultural productivity under scarce natural resources and food import dependencies. In order to alleviate such adversities, the strategies for both AARU and AARINENA identify innovation as the process, and way to go, which it will communicate, adapt, and adopt during the upcoming period. As there is a lack of expertise in this area, AArU and AARINENA will initiate a process of capacity building on innovation for all stakeholders to bridge this gap, once and for all.

The conference brings together academic institutions (public and private), government agencies, and private industries from diverse fields, including environment and agriculture, energy, industrial innovations, and Fintech (financial technology) Solutions. Therefore, IEC' 2020 aims to:
a) Establish collaboration between countries in the Arab world and the NENA region in the diverse domains of research and innovation for socio-economic development,
b) Introduce member countries to the significance of adopting innovation as the way to go for economic development and growth, and
c) Explore the current success stories in the Arab world and NENA region in the diverse fields where innovation can lay a foothold.

It therefore lies right within the scope of AArU and AARINENA's activities to foster an international event aimed to bolster the importance of adopting innovation as the way to go over the next 10 years, with some lasting effect. This will inherently target participants from around the AARU and NENA geographic span in a way that would harness innovative thinking, leverage collaboration amongst member nations, and target the furthering of the wellbeing of citizens of the Arab sphere. Consequently, AArU and AARINENA strive to host the first international conference titled, "Innovation and Entrepreneurship" with its motto set as *"Gearing up for the 4th Industrial Revolution."* IEC' 2020 is pleased to announce the themes of this conference. Each theme includes several subtitles.

Innovation Centers around NENA Region
- *Success stories to date*
- *Fostered start-ups*

Innovation in Higher Education
- *Technology Transfer offices*
- *Innovation processes for researchers*

Innovation Platforms
- *Platform development*
- *Platform engagement*
- *Platform management*

Technological Incubators
- *Building incubators*
- *Incubator readiness to foster projects*

Industrial Innovation for the 4th Industrial Age
- *Linkages between academia and industry*
- *Research commercialization*

Innovation-related Legislations & Policy
- *Incubator-supporting policies*
- *Bylaws and regulations*
- *IP registration & process*

Prospective participants of IEC'2020 are invited to submit an abstract using our TrackChair online submission system at: iec2020.trackchair.com. Authors should follow the guidelines posted on the conference website: iec2020.aaru-confs.org.
Submitted papers will be peer-reviewed. Accepted and presented papers will be published in the proceedings of the IEC' 2020 conference. Further publication of select papers presented at the conference will be considered in one or more of education and innovation journals; further information on this will follow. A poster session will also be organized to report latest research/project findings. Abstracts of presented posters will be compiled in a separate booklet. There will be a best poster competition.

Important Deadlines
Full paper submission:
January 19, 2020
Notification of Acceptance:
March 31st, 2020
Final submission:
April 26th, 2020
Submission of accepted poster presentations:
August 16th, 2020

Thank You