



**Prof. Dr.
Hildegard Lingnau**
Executive Secretary
GFAiR

“ Through the Global NARS Consortium, we bring science, policy, and action together - because only by working as partners can we truly transform agrifood systems. ”



The Global NARS Consortium (GNC)

Transforming the Agri-Food System (AFS)
through multi-level collaboration



supported by



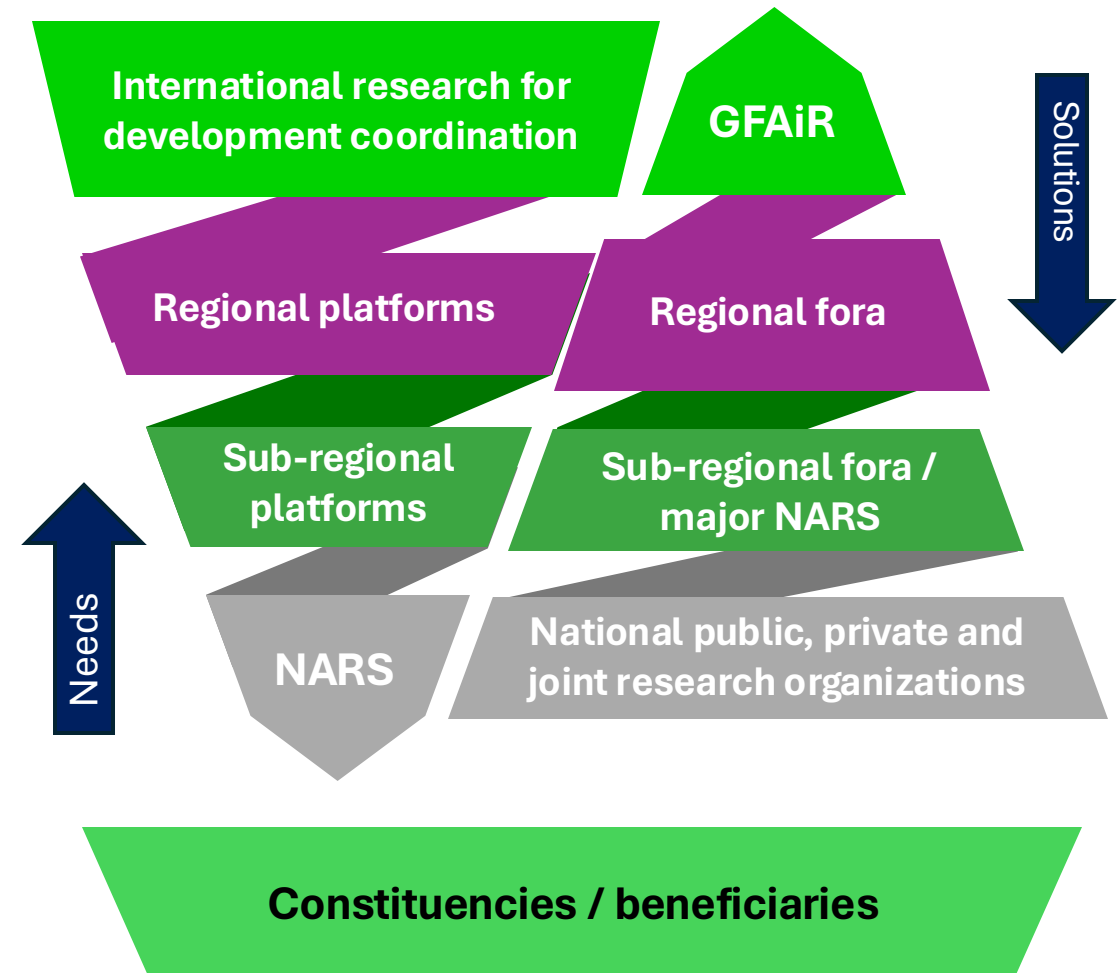
on Agricultural Research for Development
EFARD





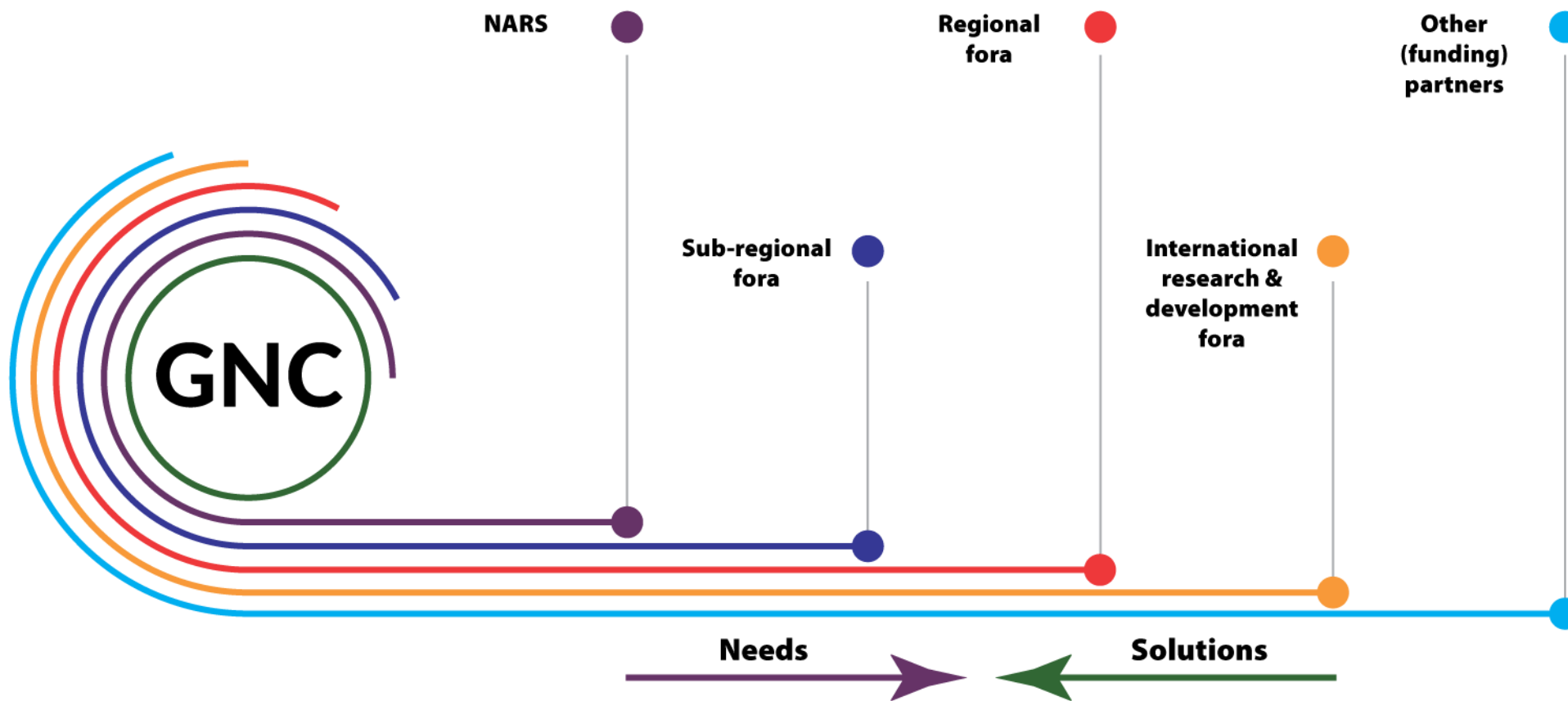
Why a Global NARS Consortium

- **Global agricultural systems** face unprecedented challenges: food insecurity, climate change, and diminishing resources.
- **NARS** vary widely in their nature, structure, level of development, and degree of integration within the innovation ecosystem.
- To address these issues, the GNC provides a **multi-level and multi-stakeholder system**.





GNC at a glance





Accelerating AFS transformation: the role of the GNC

The GNC

- **bridges the gap** between international research (CGIAR) and NARS ...
- ... ensuring that **global innovations directly benefit local AFS.**
- in parallel, **amplifies the voice of the NARS.**

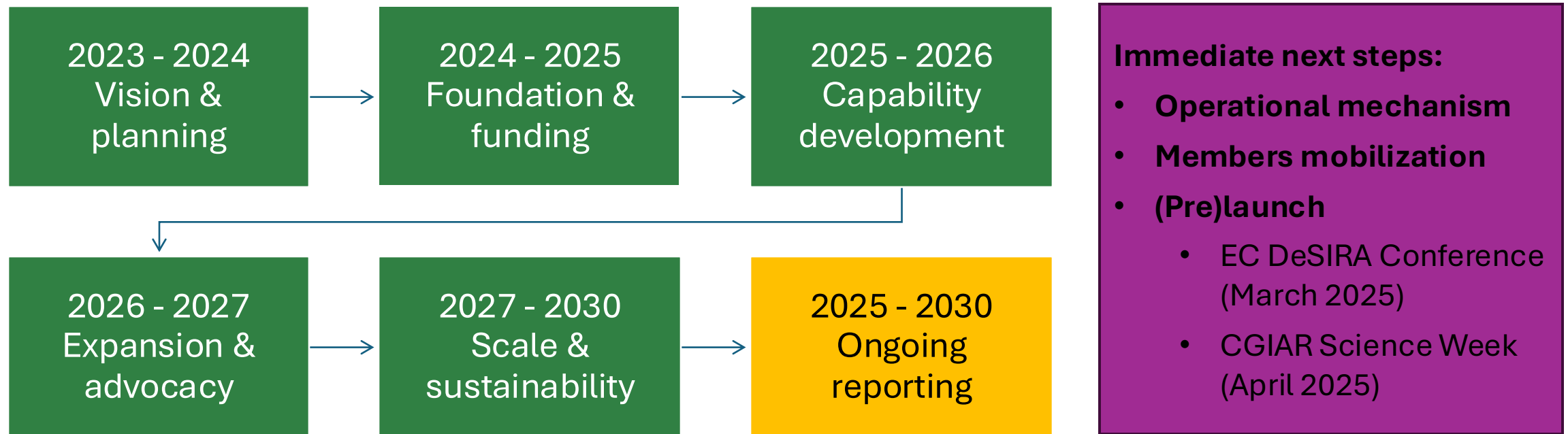
This collaboration achieves '**high impact at low cost**'.





Building the GNC: a phased approach

The GNC's implementation follows a phased approach over six years to ensure sustainable growth, capacity development, and scalability.





Manish Rai

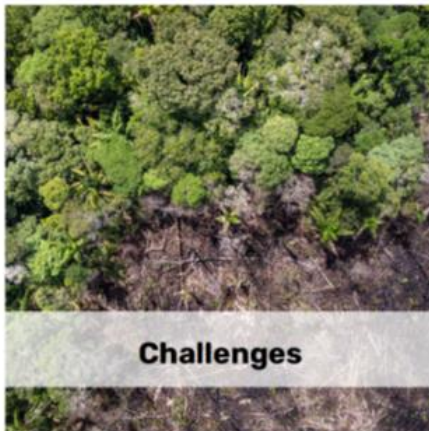
**GNC Consultant,
GFAiR and Head of
Operations, APAARI**

**“ The Global NARS Consortium is
the missing link - bridging
research, innovation, and
collaboration to unlock new
possibilities for sustainable
agrifood systems.**

”



Amplifying NARS Voice on the Global Stage



Challenges

How can NARS leverage partnerships with GNC to drive an inclusive green transition in agriculture?



Collaboration

What policies and funding mechanisms are needed to strengthen NARS leadership in global agricultural research and innovation?



Research and innovation

What mechanisms can be put in place to ensure NARS research outputs directly influence global agricultural policies?



Agricultural policies

How can NARS lead the shift towards farmer-driven research in (agroecology and) sustainable agrifood systems?



Promote NARS' expertise

How can digital transformation and knowledge-sharing platforms enhance NARS' role in shaping the future of agricultural research?

Who should be involved in strengthening NARS' voice on the global stage?



Enhancing Collaboration for Research and Innovation *Working Together for Better Agricultural Solutions*



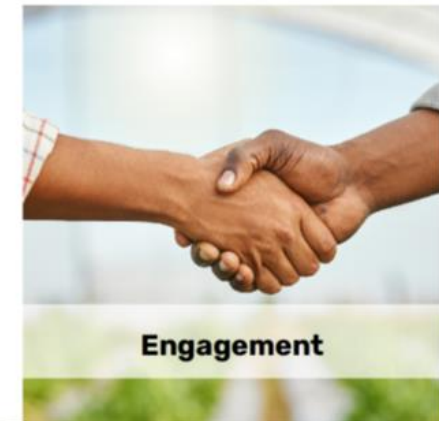
Challenges

The Agri-Food System (AFS) faces unprecedented challenges, demanding coordinated efforts to align public and private, national, regional, and international research to drive sustainable innovation and advance the SDGs.



Collaboration

Despite groundbreaking research, many agricultural innovations fail to scale due to fragmented collaboration between national and international research and across regions.



Engagement

To bridge these gaps structured engagement is needed – linking NARS with public and private international agricultural research via the Global NARS Consortium.



Innovation

Innovation isn't limited to high-end research centres and labs – it thrives on the ground, where challenges demand real solutions. The SDGs will be achieved by the countries that develop and implement these solutions.



Network

In the short term, collaboration networks and engagement metrics are established. Over time, pilot projects expand, financial partnerships strengthen, and innovation ecosystems take root.

What can (funding) partners do to strengthen research collaboration and scale agricultural innovations?

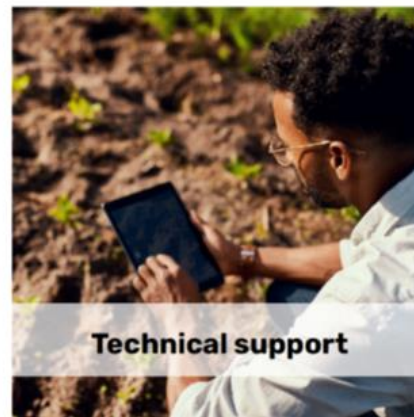


From End-Users to Innovators: Empowering Farmers in Research

Why we need to break the research barrier: farmers as leaders, not just beneficiaries

**Doing research differently**

Is traditional research and development too rigid for real-world agricultural challenges? How can action-research projects reshape the way farmers adopt and adapt new technologies?

**Technical support**

If farmers' organizations had stronger technical backing, could they become major players in shaping agricultural policies? What would it take for them to gain the credibility needed to influence decision-making at higher levels?

**Knowledge co-creation**

How can we break the barriers that prevent farmer-led research from receiving adequate funding and recognition? Are donors and research institutions underestimating farmers' ability to conduct meaningful research?

**Technology adoption**

Beyond just providing technical assistance, how can researchers and Agri-Agencies help farmers' organizations evolve into professional institutions that lead their own research initiatives?

**Policy support**

Does the time-intensive nature of collaborative research pay off in the long run? How can bringing together researchers, farmers' organizations, and Agri-Agencies create lasting and impactful agricultural solutions?

Resource allocation for capacity building within NARS often neglects farmers' organizations as key actors capable of leading action research initiatives.

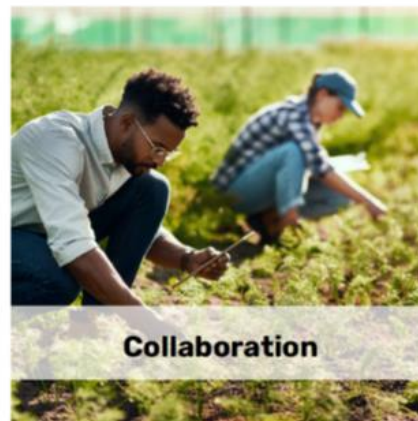


Scaling Research into Market Impact Through Co-Creation and Long-Term Partnerships



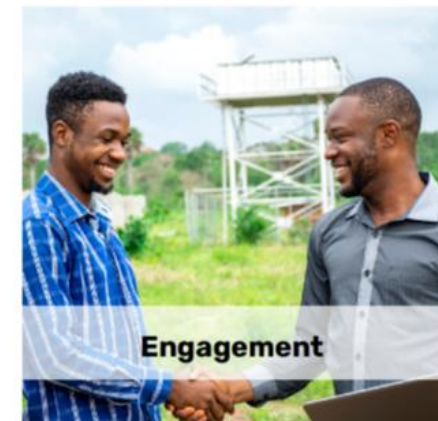
Challenges

Agriculture is at a crossroads. Climate change, food insecurity, and unsustainable practices threaten global food systems.



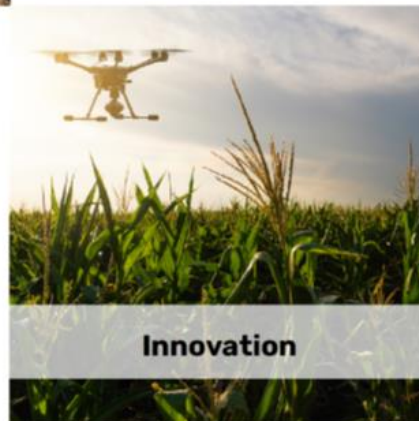
Collaboration

Despite billions invested in research, too many innovations remain locked in laboratories and fail to reach those who need them most.



Engagement

Agricultural research has long followed a linear model where researchers innovate and the private sector commercializes.



Innovation

Instead of fragmented, short-term projects, the GNC is building structured collaboration models that bring farmers, researchers, agro-industries, and investors together from the start.



Network

Achieving sustainable, market-driven impact requires co-defining priorities with farmers, agribusinesses, and NARS from the outset.

How can we bridge the gap between agricultural research and market adoption by actively involving farmers and agribusinesses in co-creating solutions?



Dr Leonard Mizzi

**Deputy Director,
Directorate F -DG INTPA,
European Commission**

**“ The agri research community
urgently needs more
collaboration on the ground. GNC
could be a beacon of hope in
today’s complex and highly
politically charged global food
system.**

”



Katja Vuori

CEO, AGRICORD

“

**Farmers and their organizations
are key partners within Global
NARS Consortium to ensure the
pertinence and scaling of
innovations for agrifood system
transformation.**

”



Dr Aggrey Agumya

**Executive Director,
FARA**

“ The GNC provides a vital platform for African NARS to exchange knowledge, skills, good practices, technologies, policy options and resources among themselves and with NARS outside the continent. ”



Dr. Romano De Vivo

**Vice President
GFAiR**

“

**The Global NARS Consortium
is more than a network, its a
movement - empowering national
research and extension systems
to drive transformative change.**

”



Patrick Caron

**Vice Chair, CGIAR
Integrated Partnership
Board**

“ Through their partnership, the GNC and CGIAR are combining their strengths to maximize impact and ensure research can best contribute to the urgent transformation of food systems. ”