

What can we expect from IAR4D Initiative in Kenya?

- Rural communities empowered to demand services, participation, ownership and sustainable change
- Institutions with relevant, effective and efficient sustainable partnerships developed
- Enhanced synergies in the activities within and between institutions for effective, efficient and relevant delivery of targets.
- Stakeholders capacitated to participate in development
- Better integration of service provision at national level.
- Efficient allocation and use of resources
- Personnel better trained and able to deliver effectively
- Graduates from institutions of higher learning better equipped to meet market demands
- Donors focused in funding of R& D projects

IAR4D



*For more information contact:
The IAR4D Coordinator
PO Box 57811-00200
NAIROBI
Tel: 020-4183301-20
E-mail: <gmkaranja@kari.org>*

INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT (IAR4D)



*Facilitating Rural Innovations
and Building Partnerships*

INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT (IAR4D)

What is IAR4D?

Integrated agricultural research for development embraces new concepts for conducting research and catalyzing development in rural areas. The approach is interdisciplinary and inter-institutional. It involves stakeholder mobilization and platform formation to address a common opportunity or challenge. IAR4D is today widely used in international organizations and is an approach of choice by many donors. Adoption of the approach by Kenyan institutions could impact positively on agriculture and rural development agendas. It is a process-oriented approach that recognizes that rural development problems are complex and therefore require collective actions involving a broad range of stakeholders to resolve.

Why we need IAR4D in Kenya

Research and development is a key to improving the agricultural sector and rural livelihoods. However, previous approaches in Agricultural Research and Development have had limited and often unsustainable impact. The participatory approaches adopted, in most cases, did not promote ownership of the challenges and involved a narrow rather than a broad range of stakeholders needed for effective innovation delivery systems. The current development agenda recognizes the need to work together within and between partner organizations to bring about sustainable and positive impact in the agricultural sector with resulting development and change. The capacity (knowledge, skills, mindsets and attitudes) to bring this about is currently lacking in our educational institutions. Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) has been embraced as an innovative way of doing business in agricultural research and development.

This responds well with the current national thinking in the agriculture sector that recognizes the need for the promotion of pluralistic extension service, decentralized extension service provision through clientele organizations and other grass root institutions, value chain extension approach, partnerships, networking and research-extension linkages. These are well articulated in draft policy documents that are awaiting implementation such as National Agricultural Sector Extension Policy (NASEP) and the National Agricultural Research System Policy (NARSP). It also recognizes that integration of agricultural research, extension and education (AREE) is necessary for effective and efficient delivery of research and development services.

Who started IAR4D in Kenya? Where?

The IAR4D initiative was launched in Kenya by 8 institutions (KARI, KENFAP, UoN, JKUAT, EU, KU, MOA and MOLD&F) in partnerships with ICRA in The Netherlands. This initiative recognizes the need for a holistic approach, integrating a wide range of stakeholders and disciplines in order to enhance their contribution to the national goals of plurality, food security, poverty reduction and sustainable natural resource management. It further acknowledges that varying capacities and experiences in IAR4D exist in different institutes and organizations but that what is lacking is a mechanism to link them up and expand and use this knowledge base. The initiative thus aims at promoting agricultural productivity and economic development of Kenya and the region through the facilitation of national and regional capacity building in Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) concepts, approaches, and methods.

What are the objectives of IAR4D in Kenya?

The overall objective of the Initiative is to promote relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural research and development programs

in ensuring sustainable livelihoods through innovations and collective action. The broad objectives are:

Objective 1: Create a national management organ for the effective implementation of IAR4D in Kenya

Objective 2: Build the capacity of a critical mass of agricultural research, extension and education/training personnel in IAR4D concepts, approaches and methods who will then build capacity of other professionals

Objective 3: Transform the critical mass of IAR4D professionals into effective institutional trainers, managers and educators.

Objective 4: Institutionalize IAR4D by integrating its concepts, approaches and methods into the national agricultural research, extension and education systems

Objective 5: Establish multiple learning sites for continuous learning and interaction of stakeholders starting with the Katulani collaborative initiative

Objective 6: Promote functional national and regional networks and partnerships among IAR4D actors

Who benefits from IAR4D in Kenya?

- Institutions partnering in the IAR4D Initiative
- Stakeholders and the other actors involved in addressing complex challenges in IAR4D
- Personnel in partner institutions
- Graduates of agriculture and related programmes.
- Development agents