

ARIs from the North

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How can ARI from the North best help support the work of the GCP?

Training

- Not in an operational “vacuum”, rather linked to specific project of interest to the trainees and their countries.
- ARIs in the North should partially waive the tuition fees to PhD students from the South.
- The importance of direct “in situ” training to prevent “brain drainage”.
- Need to integrate a strong breeding component in the training workshops and PhD programs.
- Bilateral exchanges (i.e. both South-North and North-South) to raise the awareness and engagement of students and young scientists from the North to the challenges/opportunities in the South.

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Genetic materials

- Many opportunities are available, at least for gene/QTL discovery but the IP issue has to be resolved upfront
 - mapping populations
 - breeding materials
 - mutant collections.

Genomics platforms

- Genotyping centres at ARIs can provide molecular profiling, though the cost is likely to be a problem; this is particularly relevant for the 'omics'.
- In Africa, three regional centres (e.g. NEPAD) already operate in this direction and also the GCP operates in this direction (e.g. GSS).

How can ARI from the North best help support the work of the GCP?

Expertise

- Many experts are available in all relevant areas but often are reluctant to engage themselves, because they prefer a North-to-North engagement.
- Helping in the writing of project proposals.

Dissemination and lobbying

- Raising the awareness about the GCP and its mandate among the different stakeholders in the North and the potential donors.
- Lobbying at the national and international (e.g. EU) level for additional funds for topics of interest to the GCP.

What can the GCP do to take maximum advantage of the expertise and perspectives in this partner community?

- Facilitate contacts and create win-win situations. An example is germplasm exchange that at times is difficult to manage, particularly due to IP issues.
- Help to improve the infrastructure for identifying the right genetic resources and translate them in products. An example are gene banks, often non-functional in the South; the GCP could provide expertise to improve their management and exploitation.
- Provide a “help desk” for scientists from the South to improve the management of experiments and statistical analysis of the data.

What can the GCP do to take maximum advantage of the expertise and perspectives in this partner community?

- Stimulate the interest of scientists in the North to more actively engage with scientists from the South.
- Facilitate opportunities for large-scale, accurate field phenotyping.
- Assist ARIs in the North in the process to evaluate applications for PhD programs and/or post-graduate training.
- Sponsor regional centers for genotyping and offer expertise for their proper management.
- Provide financial support for visits of scientists from ARIs in the North to ARIs in the South.
- Resolve IP issues.



Asante sana!