

Minutes of GAFSR 2013 Beijing

Theme: The Global Alliance *into action*

By Ruiying Fan

Chaired by Steve Maharey from Massey University, with participants from CAAS, Wageningen UR, UC Davis INRA, Embrapa, Massey and CSIRO to attend this meeting, with the purpose of exploring opportunity to share knowledge and come up with some solution to contribute to global food security problem, the second meeting of GAFSR was held in Beijing on June 7th from 09:00 a.m. to 15:00 p.m.

1) Introduction of each institutes

- CAAS, by Dr. Nie Fengying from Institute of Agricultural Economics, CAAS

China has made remarkable achievements in reducing poverty and sufficient food supply in the past few years. While the key experience is to enhance the production capacity, including increase investing in infrastructure, policy support, institutional reform, R&D in agriculture and the extension of technological results. Her suggestion is to combine policy support, R&D&E of agricultural technologies as well as international cooperation to sustainably contribute to solve Food Security problem.

- b) Embrapa, by Dr. Damares De Castro Monte from EmbrapaLabex China

Embrapa is an institute mainly focusing on tropical agriculture in Brazil. It has been devoting into provide feasible solutions for the sustainable development of Brazilian agribusiness through knowledge and technology generation and transfer. Successful cases has been achieved including in zoning technology, no-till system, IPM, integrated crop-livestock-forest as well as breeding program and so on.

- c) INRA, by Dr. Robert Habib from International Affairs of INRA

Centering on the topic of 'Food security: Areas of intervention at INRA', Dr. Robert introduced the Food Security Research which has been undergoing in INRA, including "Ensure healthy and sustainable food systems", Metaprogram DID'IT "Determinants and impact of diet, interactions and transitions", "Analysis of transitions for global food security" and so on. Besides, INRA also participates in series of international alliances as well as projects on food security, such as FACCE JPI, HDHL JPI, Era-Net SUSFOOD, Food secure, and Global Alliance on Food Security Research.

- d) Massey University, by Dr. Stuart Morriss, Assistant Vice-Chancellor & University Registrar

Massey University has set up an interdisciplinary research center for food safety and food security, which is IDRec (Infectious Disease Research Centre), bringing together 6 research groups each with knowledge and expertise in different aspects of infectious disease research. Focusing on human–animal–ecosystem interfaces, it builds up a direct pathway between researchers and policy makers. Massey University is also involved in regional training on animal and human health epidemiology throughout the world. With extensive food security capability and experience, Massey University is looking for opportunities to work with GAFSR partners.

- e) UC Davis, by Prof. William Barkssdale Lacy, Vice Provost of UC Davis

Being one of the world's leading university in agriculture, UC Davis has made rich efforts to make difference locally, regionally and globally. Achievements has been also make in smart-agriculture, early-children nutrition, post-harvest and other agri-related areas. With advanced facilities, sufficient grants as well as influence worldwide, UC Davis hopes the partners of GAFSR partners could be fully engaged in Food Security research, and generate some new important projects.

- f) Wageningen UR, by Prof. Rudy Rabbinge

With mission of 'To explore the potential of nature, to improve the quality of

life', Wageningen UR has been devoting in the domain of healthy food and living environment for governments and the business community-at-large. It also lies in the combined efforts of the various fields of natural and social sciences. This union of expertise leads to scientific breakthroughs that can quickly be put into practice and be incorporated into education. This is the Wageningen Approach. Wageningen UR is the coordinator of GAFSR meeting, and is willing to cooperate with partners in action to solve Food Security problem.

- g) CSIRO, by Dr. Alastair Robertson

CSIRO, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, is Australia's national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world. It is one of the largest and most diverse scientific institutions in the world with more than 50 sites throughout Australia and overseas. For years, CSIRO has been working on pathways to address the food security challenges worldwide, which could be described as 'reduce demand, increase production and avoid losses'. CSIRO is willing to become the seventh member of GEAFS and work together with partners.

2) Keynote speech

- a) Wageningen UR: Global issues of Global Food Security, by Prof. Rudy Rabbinge

Food Security is defined by FAO in 2002 as 'a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'. It is one of the most important challenges the world is faced with at present. Key factors to deal with the challenge are: close yield gap and reduce food waste. Possible solutions to close yield gap lies in technological developments as well as socio-economic developments. GAFSR should adopt the challenges, advance interdisciplinary approaches built on disciplinary excellence, promote cutting edge approaches, connect research, education and outreach and utilize the Golden Triangle model (which turned out effectively and successfully in the Netherlands). Prof. Rudy Rabbinge proposed suggestions as followed: strengthen collaboration in research programs; exchange and

stimulate educational programs, including professional training; promote mutual use research infrastructures.

- b) CAAS: Agricultural Scientific Innovation to Secure Food Supply in China, by Prof. Mei Xurong, Professor & Director General, Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development in Agriculture (IEDA), CAAS

Prof. Mei introduced key facts of agriculture and food security in China through the presentation. Agriculture might be the most sensitive industry to global warming and climate change. By 2030, plant production may reduce 5%-10%, cereal crops are mainly loss yield due to high temperature, frequent drought and flood, and water scarcity. Chinese government has established National Agricultural Development Objectives are to realize “3S” strategies, which is Security, Safety and Sustainability. He proposed partners of GAFSR to establish a joint laboratory on Climate Change and Agricultural Disaster Prevention & Reduction, as well as to initiate of a program on Climate & Environment Smart Agriculture.

3) Discussion in groups to achieve shared vision

Participates of the meeting are divided into 3 different groups to discuss on a) what could GAFSR do to make it unique and instinct; b) mission of food security related education and research.

4) Shared vision of each group

- a) Group 1
 - top education/training
 - technology transfer from research to application (business)
 - diet health (nutrition) joint research program
 - climate-smart agriculture with least emission/disease/loss and produce products healthier to people

- b) Group 2
 - take more system analysis
 - focus on global decreasing demand for food
 - bring together the national research organizations from different countries and for knowledge share
 - maybe some policy analysis in long-term

- c) Group 3
 - close the golden-triangle circle to disseminate knowledge
 - demand-driving is essential when initiate project/program, so partners should first ask private sectors what they want from the Alliance
 - mechanism of this alliance is necessary to be established

All the abovetopics/proposals require collaboration and should start with small ones for gradual development. The first step is to ask stakeholders what they want from the Alliance, to achieve a demand-driving situation; and the opportunity to get grant will be bigger if so.

Mr. Gong Xifeng of CAAS proposed that GAFSR need a clear organization/structure to move forward, and for China's condition, a legal document will be required to apply for funds. Considering the theme of this year (into action), partners should start something immediately.

Dr. Dinghuan Hu of WUR China office proposed that, it is essential for 6 partners to get budget/grant to execute proposals. Food Security challenge faced by global population is becoming serious day by day. The strength of 6 universities and institutes to apply for projects together will get more attention than apply separately. He suggested partners to put forward 2 to 3 proposals which have significant meaning to Food Security of human beings, and apply for financial support from United Nations, World Bank, FAO, other grant foundations such as Bill Gates Foundation, or government of different countries to execute research project.

5) Final conclusion

- a) a legal entity – CAAS will provide a base of MOU to fill in specific content, Wageningen UR and CAAS will complete the draft of MOU for comment from each partner
- b) demand report composing – fresh the interest of industry (market research), to find out the demand in global food security urgent issues (will be completed together, with Wageningen UR as the coordinator)
- c) Officially invite CISRO as the seventh member of GAFSR
- d) roadmap/organization

All the above should be finished until partners meet again no longer than one year.