



MANDATE REPORT

SCAR European Agricultural Research towards greater impact on global Challenges (ARCH) SWG

Mandate: 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2022

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research

SCAR-ARCH support for agricultural research and development at European and global levels

The SCAR Strategic Working Group (SWG) ARCH¹ was established in 2013 to improve linkages between Agricultural Research (AR) and Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) as a contribution to SCAR reaching its objectives. The activities by the SWG ARCH successfully supported SCAR members in their work, targeting both the European Commission, but also national ministries and agencies of Member States and Associated Countries.

Despite the growing importance of addressing global challenges not only from the European but also from an International perspective, the group faced difficulties in keeping up with an appropriate level of participation from representatives of Member States. To face this difficulty, a new modus operandi was proposed, with a small Permanent ARCH Focus Group and Temporary ad-hoc expert groups:

- ✦ The **permanent Focus Group** comprises 3 to 5 officials and/or experts from various domains such as research for development, international relation, research management, policy advice etc., assisted by a part-time Secretariat. The Focus Group organises the constitution of ad hoc expert groups (project teams) and facilitates their subsequent work on specific issues of international dimension relevant to the mandate of SCAR.
- ✦ For each global/international issue identified, a **temporary ad-hoc expert group** comprises experts from Europe and abroad, with a track record of relevant experience and expertise. Proposals for experts from SCAR country delegates are also considered. This temporary expert group works on the specific issue under the steering Focus Group.

The group endorsed the new ARCH mandate in March 2021. Philippe Petithuguenin and Siegfried Harrer were elected co-chairs of the Focus Group, and then Emmanuel Albina replaced Philippe Petithuguenin as co-chair in June 2022. The group met virtually eight times during this mandate.

Achievements

- ✦ **Contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021:** an ARCH ad-hoc expert group was supposed to provide support to SCAR and its Working Groups to better participate in the preparatory process towards the summit, helping to bring in the relevant European perspectives: Two topics were proposed for virtual dialogue events in June/July 2021. Due to a lack of capacities, these activities had to be abandoned in a very early stage and instead SCAR SWG ARCH provided input and comments to the 2nd draft of the partnership for SFS.
- ✦ **Long-term Europe-Africa partnership on food nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (LEAP4FNSSA):** LEAP4FNSSA commissioned the study "Food system resilience - Recommendations for the EU-Africa R&I Partnership on FNSSA". SCAR-ARCH contributed to engaging a panel of experts in April 2021 to discuss the scope and key issues to improve and finalise the report.
- ✦ **Imported deforestation:** in 2022, a new ARCH ad-hoc expert group was constituted to work on imported deforestation (in coordination with the SCAR-FOREST co-chairs Taneli Kolstroem and Nicolas Picard). An expert dialogue event was organised in February 2022. This expert dialogue served as the basis for the development of a common policy brief « Combatting imported deforestation - challenges for science » published in October 2022 between SCAR SWG ARCH and Forest. To achieve this result, not less than 15 organisational and management virtual meetings of the SCAR-ARCH and SCAR-Forest Working Groups were organised, including meetings for policy brief writing.
- ✦ **Support for SCAR:** one of the SCAR-ARCH co-chairs participated in the construction of the RefreSCAR application that was submitted in October 2021 and accepted in February 2022

<https://scar-europe.org/>

¹ ARCH: European **A**gricultural **R**esearch towards greater impact on global **CH**allenges