

Interaction / partnership with CABI

- **Janny Vos (CABI) attended June 2014 Council meeting in the Hague**
- **Carol McNamara (CABI) proposed activities for knowledge documents and database hosting at the August 2014 CRG meeting in Debrecen**
- **Sjoerd Croque (GRA) and CABI developed GRA-wide proposal of partnership**
- **CABI approved GRA as affiliate member in April 2015**
- **GRA Council will consider CABI as partner in September 2015 meeting in Des Moines**

14 December 2014 [Message from GRA Council Chair to Council Representatives]

Dear Council Representatives,

The inter-governmental, non-profit, agricultural development and publications organisation CABI has shown interest in **partnering with the GRA as you could notice by their presence at the Council meeting in The Hague and by their contribution to the meeting of the Cropland Research Group in Hungary last August. Their presentation to the CRG was well appreciated.**

This was an incentive for the Netherlands, USA, and CABI to explore the mutual benefits of collaboration through partnership. Please find attached a **document that describes mutual benefits and potential short-term actions that could be taken under a partnership between the GRA and CABI. As Chair and Vice-Chair of the GRA, and supported by the co-chair of the CRG – Alan Franzluebbbers, we feel that a partnership with CABI would help extend the knowledge of the Research Groups to farmers and **to communicate the aims and interests of the GRA to a wider audience**. For example, CABI's membership is made up of 48 member countries, sharing only 13 of these countries with the GRA membership. A partnership with CABI would therefore also be an excellent way to promote the GRA in regions where we have few members.**

Being an affiliate member is the way CABI gives partners the possibility to link with several activities of CABI and vice versa. Please find attached (1) the CABI Affiliate Membership Agreement and (2) a position paper describing the mutual benefits of partnering between CABI and the GRA.

The Executive Committee of CABI will meet in January 2015 and this provides an opportunity for the GRA to be confirmed as an affiliate member of CABI. As Chair and Vice-Chair of the GRA we would therefore like to seek your agreement to the GRA entering into partnership with CABI including by becoming an affiliate member. If agreed by Council, CABI and GRA will be able to start working together on collaborative activities in the context of upcoming GRA Research Group meetings, allowing for report back to the GRA Council meeting and the taking of any follow-up decisions as necessary.

Please provide us with your comments within three weeks from now. If there is broad agreement to entering into partnership with CABI then we will look to progress this at the CABI Executive Committee meeting in January 2015. Otherwise, please send through your comments and we will look forward to discussing the potential partnership further in the lead up to the GRA Council meeting later in 2015.

Thanks in advance for your response

**Rudy Rabbinge
Chair**

**Chris Carson
Vice-Chair a.i.**

20 April 2014 [Message from Council Chair to GRA Research Group Leaders]

Dear colleagues,

As you know we're on our way to the situation that **GRA and CABI will be partners**. CABI's Executive Committee already formally agreed to accept GRA as an affiliate member, the upcoming GRA Council Meeting in September 2015 will be asked for a decision from GRA side. To support decision making we think it's worthwhile to **work on evidence for the Council as well for ourselves**. Janny Vos, (CABI), Alan Franzluebbbers and Sjoerd Croqué therefore would like to address to the GRA co-chairs the following suggestions:

- To summarize findings of key GHG mitigation strategies particular to each research group might be a good way to start the process. The goal would be to create a **2-4 page summary document of how a particular management strategy might mitigate GHG emissions and/or help agriculture adapt to climate changes**. The document would be available online and distributed also through CABI. We suggest that each GRA-group identifies persons to work with CABI to formulate this 2-4 page document on each intervention that could be published on relevant CABI websites (and the GRA website). Please contact Janny Vos for this (j.vos@cabi.org);

- Elaborate on a **list of current databases** within the range of the GRA group, CABI will provide guidance (see later) for that. With these lists, CABI can explore the potential of these databases considering the prospect of new knowledge products. They will have their result ready and offered to you before the Council Meeting. **Considering the issue of intellectual property rights, CABI will only draft a proposal on the usability of the data/information.** Please find attached an information request regarding the GRA members' databases. You're asked to complete a form for each database: then we and CABI will have a much better understanding of what the databases' potential is and what further questions CABI will need to ask. About the time-frame this could be an ongoing activity but when we would like to receive an assessment of the value of the members' databases as an **input to the September Council meeting**, you should submit the forms before July 1st. You can send it to Andrea Powell (a.powell@cabi.org) as indicated in the form.

I hope you'll take this opportunity to start the collaboration with CABI.

Rudy Rabbinge