

# Organizational Innovation in AIARD



**AIARD**  
ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**AIARD 51<sup>st</sup> Conference**

**June 1, 2015**

# Gathering feedback

## Roundtable discussions



## Member survey

### Organizational Innovation in AIARD

\* Required

How long have you been a member of AIARD? \*

As a member of AIARD, what do you value most about this organization?

What, in your opinion, are the biggest weaknesses of AIARD?

Do you find AIARD's LinkedIn page helpful for interacting with other AIARD members?

- Yes  
 No  
 Have never used it





## Online Forum

Post Conference Forum > AIARD Online Forum Members | Sign In

[Login or Sign up](#)

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6 topics page 1


-  **Building Broader Support** 6 replies  
posted by [Samarina Abu](#) Mar 23, 2015, last reply May 09, 2015
-  **Welcome! Let's get started!** 1 reply  
posted by [allprograms](#) Sep 02, 2014, last reply Nov 18, 2014
-  **Organizational Innovation in AIARD for the Future** 6 replies  
posted by [KatyaSchroeder](#) Dec 02, 2014, last reply May 16, 2015
-  **Thinking Strategically About Key Focus Areas for AIARD** 11 replies  
posted by [allprograms](#) Sep 02, 2014, last reply Dec 03, 2014

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New Members (40 total members)

  
[See all](#)



# What value do members see in AIARD?

diversity  
camaraderie  
new ideas  
recognition of achievement  
sharing knowledge  
**networking**  
young professionals  
dedication  
advocacy  
multidisciplinarity  
collegiality



# Areas for Improvement

Limited engagement of the members between the annual meetings

Inability to adequately influence policies

Lack of funding

Not attracting enough new members (especially, young ones)

Lack of tracking members' research findings and achievements

Academic bias of the organization

Narrow focus of the meeting programs

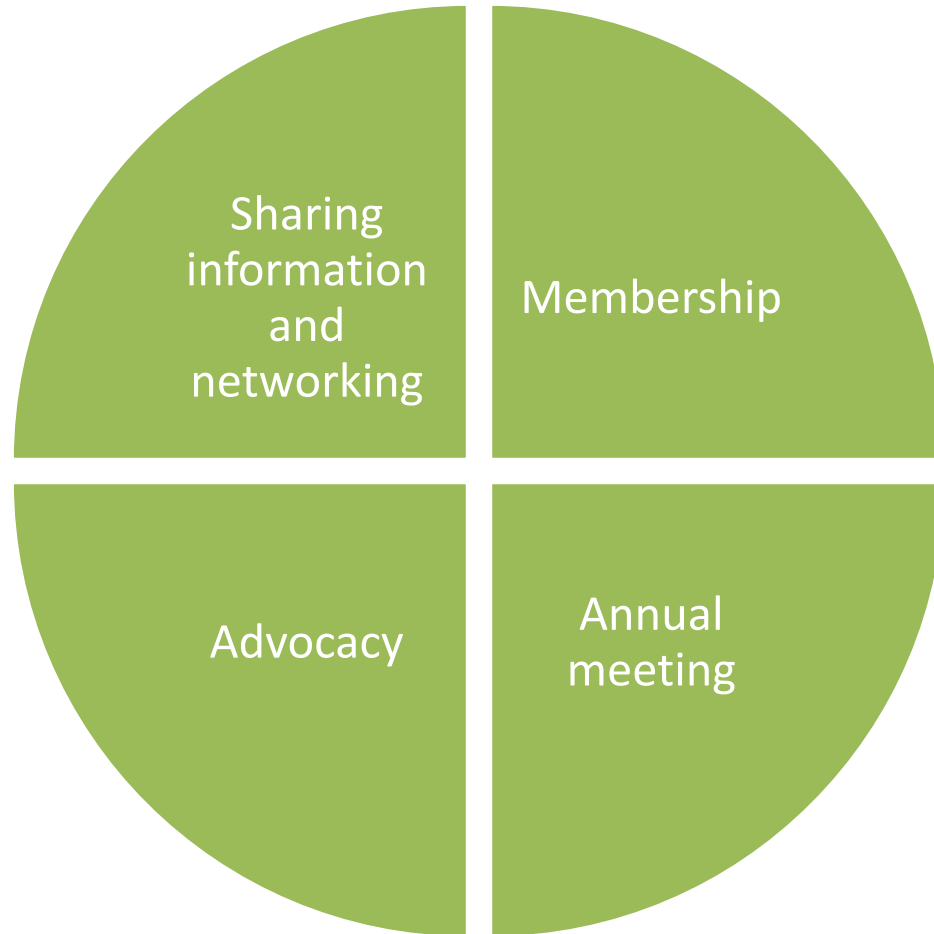
Lack of diversity in membership

Lack of a structured professional networking platform

Inconvenient timing and/or location of the annual meeting

Too much focus on agriculture, not enough focus on rural development

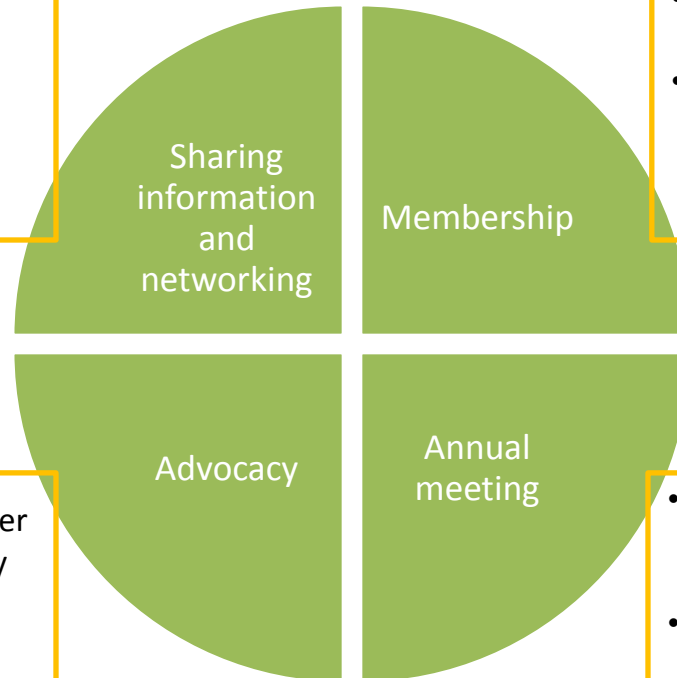
# Focus of the discussion



# Recent Innovations

- New improved website
- Improved newsletter
- Online forum
- AIARD LinkedIN page
- FLF alumni LinkedIN page

- Incorporating Future Leaders (FLFs) into AIARD's leadership
- Including FLFs in the conference planning process
- Giving FLFs free membership for one year



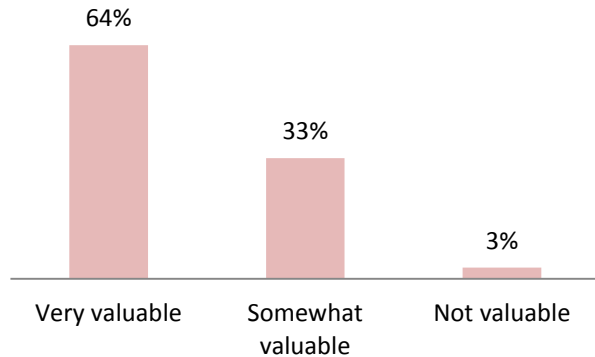
- Working more closely with other groups on Global Food Security Act advocacy
- Collaborating on advocacy events
- Prioritizing policy issues and legislative opportunities during the 2015 AAIRD annual meeting

- Internationally-recognized keynote, luncheon and dinner speakers
- Posting student posters at our meeting
- Interactive discussions among members on organizational innovation
- Lightning talks solicited via open competition

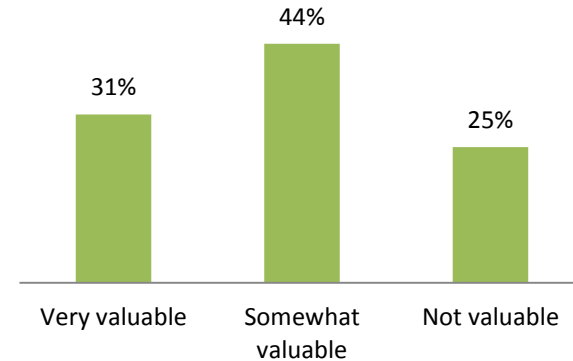
# Sharing information and networking

## Which of the following do you find valuable?

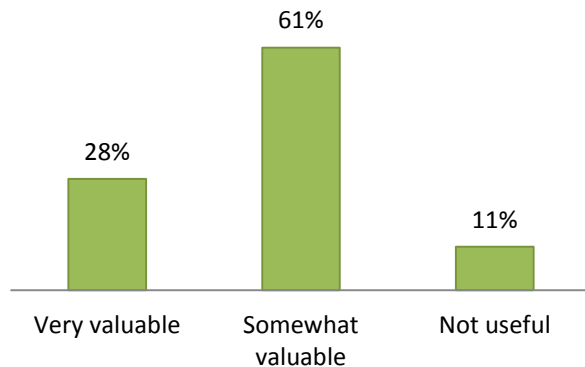
Coordinate with other organizations for joint events



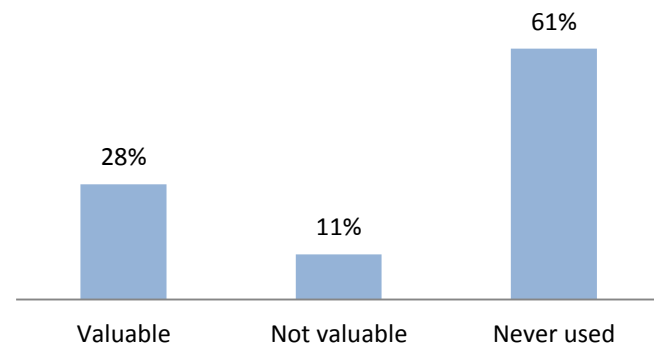
Offer an AIARD publication that would highlight members' research and projects



AIARD newsletter

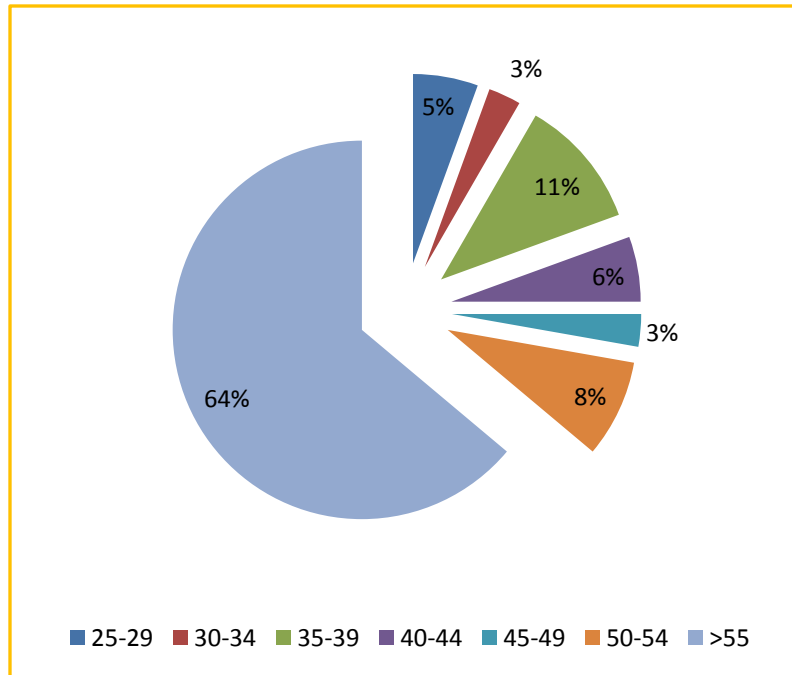


AIARD's LinkedIN page

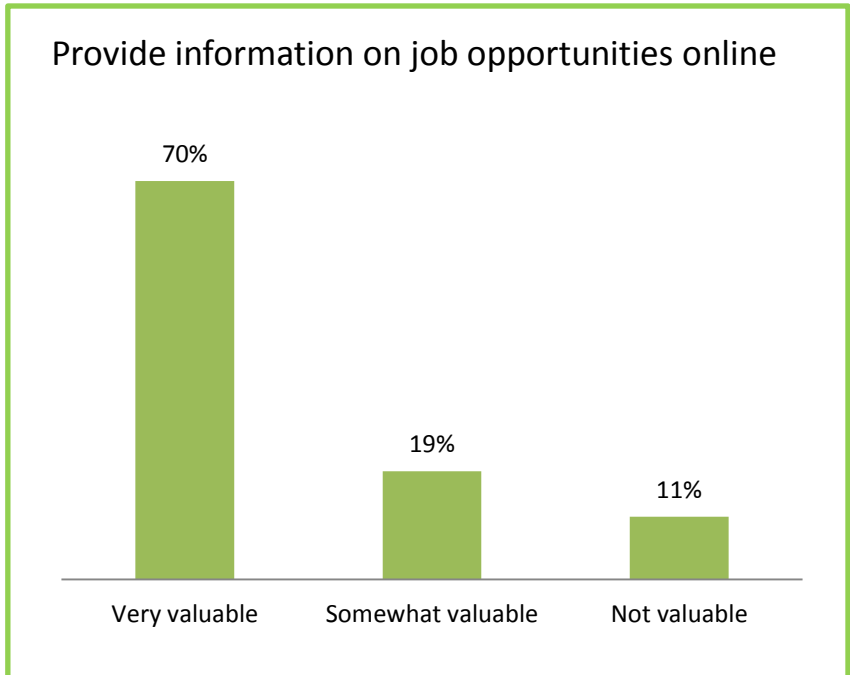


# Membership

Do we lack younger members?



How to increase the value of AIARD membership?

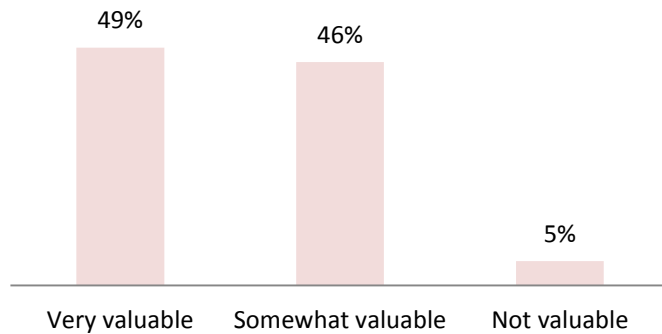




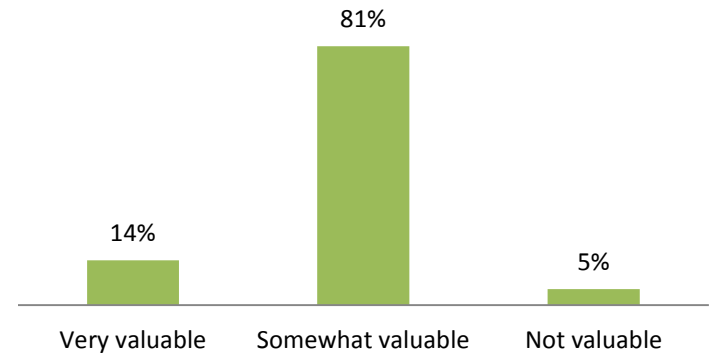
# Annual meeting

## Which of the following do you find valuable?

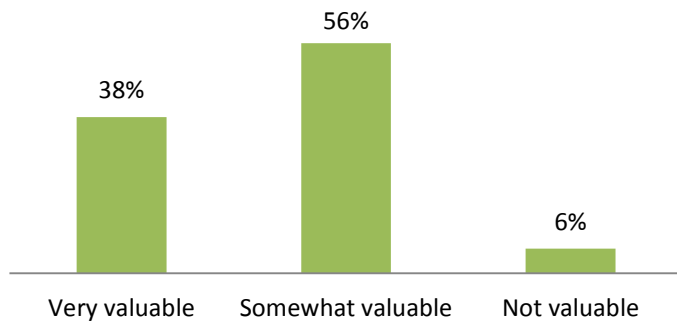
Include more interactive sessions during the annual meeting



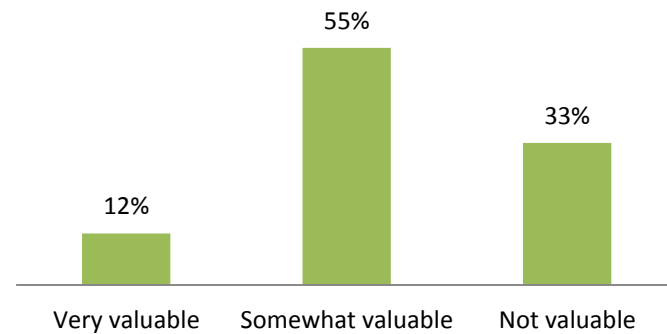
Offer an active e-consultation with the members to determine next year's conference agenda



Consider a call for presentations for the conference



Rotate the location of the annual meeting



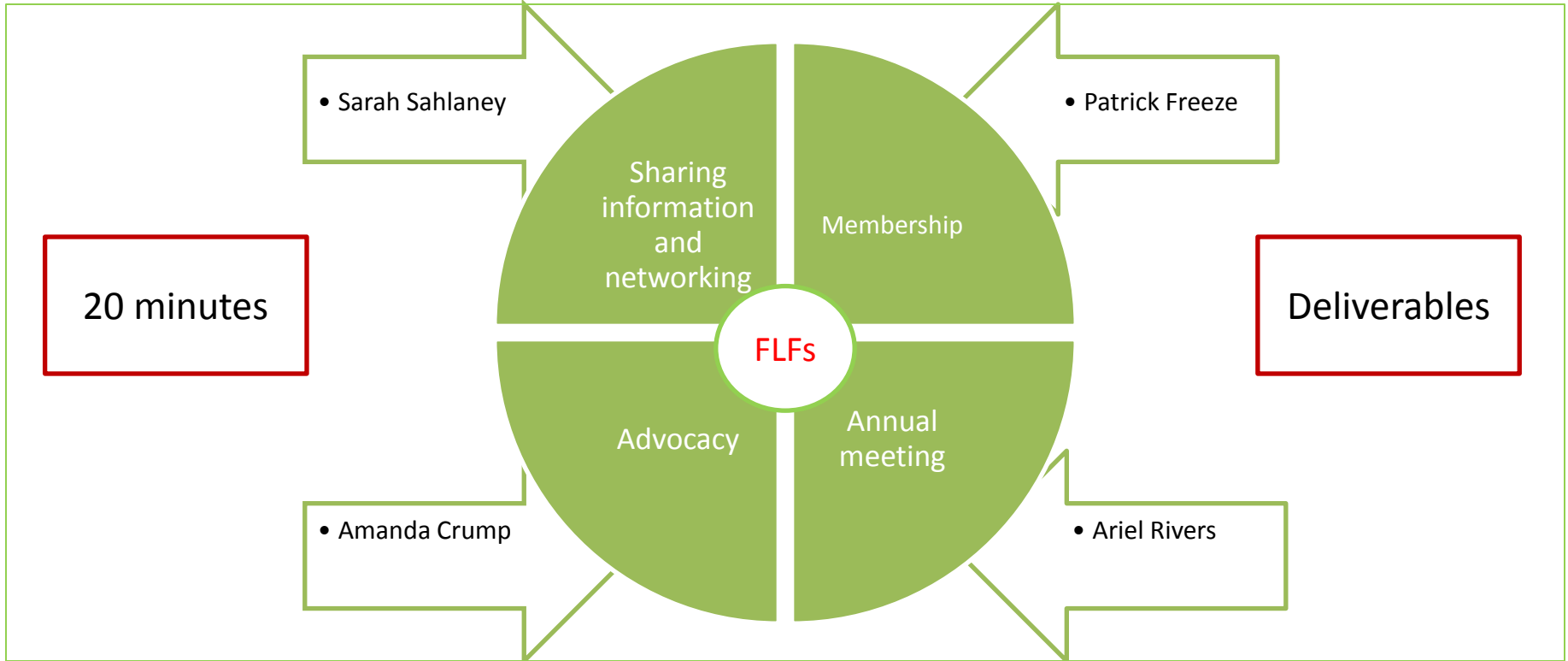
# Advocacy

**Are there any advocacy activities that would you like to participate in and/or help plan?**

- “Presidential campaigns have begun for 2016. Perhaps AIARD could join with other organizations to encourage statements from the candidates on global food security”
- “Bring back Capitol Hill Forum”
- “Would like to do more with APLU and Chicago Council”
- “Bring advocacy to the local school level (college mostly). I would love to personally participate in this at my university in conjunction with campus organizations focused on international work”
- “I would lead a roundtable on Youth in Agriculture”



# Instructions for round table discussions



Action Plan



# Sharing information and networking

- a. What specific steps need to be taken so that participants can actively engage in AIARD between conferences?
- b. What mechanisms for interaction among members, if any, should we introduce?
- c. Why, in your opinion, the AIARD online forum did not gather much feedback last year?
- d. How can we improve AIARD newsletter and website to make them more valuable to the members?



# Membership

- a. Reaching out: How can AIARD attract more members or groups from diverse backgrounds and disciplines engaging in global hunger, food, nutrition issues, both nationally and internationally?
- b. Inspiring young talent: Young professionals, who focus on global hunger, food, and nutrition, including the FLF selectees, come from a very wide range of expertise. How can AIARD attract more young talent “across the board”?
- b. Making our Presence Known: What can AIARD do to promote and enhance our presence and activities among the association of development practitioners actively working on similar issues pertaining to global hunger and food & nutrition security?



# Advocacy

- a. How do we organize ourselves to deal with the incoming administration? How can we adequately influence policy making process?
- b. Which policies should we prioritize?
- c. What kinds of advocacy activities can we do? (i.e. white papers, talking points to members, etc.)



# Annual Meeting

- a. What improvements can we make to the format of the annual meeting? (e.g. How can we use the meeting as a platform to plan for activities during the remainder of the year? How can we insure representation among various development practitioners at the meeting, etc.?)
- b. Is there a need for a broader focus of the annual meeting in general? If so, how should we broaden the scope? (e.g. how can we use the annual meeting to increase AIARD's interaction beyond the membership, for advocacy, etc.)
- c. How can we engage members in the meeting planning, and insure the members are motivated to attend and participate in the meeting?



Thank you for your feedback!