

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE (GACSA)

FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

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I Vision

1. In today's world there is enough food produced for all to be well-fed, but one person in eight is suffering from chronic hunger. Population growth is, projected to exceed 9 billion people globally in 2050, and current patterns of consumption and production increase pressure on already scarce natural resources. Climate change represents an additional threat, already undermining agriculture and food systems in many regions, making it more difficult to achieve food security and nutrition goals and reduce poverty. Smallholder farmers, including livestock keepers, fishers and foresters, especially women and indigenous peoples, are the most vulnerable to climate change. To enable people to achieve food security and for food producers to improve their livelihoods, there is a need for sustainable increases in agricultural productivity; for reducing food losses and waste; for all food systems to be more resilient and able to adapt to climate change; and for enabling agriculture to contribute to the reduction and removal of greenhouse gas emissions, where possible.

2. This Framework Document describes the formation of a Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (hereafter "the Alliance") which seeks to improve people's food security and nutrition in the face of climate change. The Alliance will help governments, farmers, scientists, businesses, and civil society, as well as regional unions and international organizations, to adjust agricultural, forestry and fisheries practices, food systems and social policies so that they better take account of climate change and the efficient use of natural resources. Members will work toward sustainable increases in the productivity of food systems, by a sustainable management of natural resources – including soil, water and biodiversity, the adaptation of people's livelihoods that are threatened by climate change, and agricultural practices that contribute to reduced emissions and less deforestation/land degradation as a result of agriculture. The Alliance will enable governments and other stakeholders to make these transformations in ways that bridge traditional sectoral, organizational and public/private boundaries.

3. The Alliance will take into account other international processes, related to agriculture, food security and nutrition and climate change, such as the UN Committee on World Food Security and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as initiatives such as the Climate-Smart Agriculture initiatives in Africa, and will make full use of synergies between them. In particular, the Alliance recognizes the role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the primary international, intergovernmental forum focused on addressing climate change and notes that the actions supported by the Alliance do not prejudice efforts under the UNFCCC to address climate change.

4. Acknowledging that food security is the point of departure for climate-smart agriculture, the Alliance takes note of international agreed principles, conventions, and work done within the UN and international financial institutions, including the Rome Principles, among these are the Voluntary Guidelines to the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food Guidelines adopted by the Food and Agricultural Organization in 2004.

II Aspirational Outcomes

5. Members of the Alliance recognize the urgent need to act at scale and to contribute towards three aspirational outcomes:

- i. Sustainable and equitable increases in agricultural productivity and incomes;
- ii. Greater resilience of food systems and farming livelihoods; and
- iii. Reduction and/or removal of greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture (including the relationship between agriculture and ecosystems), where possible.

6. Members of the Alliance acknowledge that it may not always be possible to achieve all these objectives simultaneously and balance might differ. Context-specific priorities and solutions need to be aligned with national policies and priorities, and be determined based on the social, economic and environmental conditions at site, including the diversity in type and scale of agricultural activity, as well as evaluating the potential synergies and tradeoffs and net benefits. 1

7. Members of the Alliance will include governments (from countries at all levels of development), businesses, farmers' organizations, civil society groups, producer organizations, research bodies and intergovernmental entities. They will each indicate their actions in support of the aspirational outcomes, aligned with the principles of the Alliance.

8. To encourage progress the Alliance will advocate the use of methods for measuring the impact of its participants' collective actions, particularly in terms of improved food security, nutrition, and resilience that are relevant to farmers. These outcomes might be expressed in terms of expected achievements globally, or within specific countries or regions, if possible numerically, bearing in mind internationally agreed goals, such as SDG's. They may include:

- i. Voluntary adoption and implementation of national or regional climate and agriculture policies, plans, frameworks and strategies that promote climate-smart agriculture, within the context of national strategies for agriculture, food security and nutrition;
- ii. Development of enabling environments that encourage people to adopt climate-smart agriculture approaches through accessing (a) appropriate national or international expertise, (b) lessons from pilot studies, and (c) resources needed to establish the necessary operating principles, extension services and farmer support schemes;
- iii. The engagement of businesses, foundations, civil society, development agencies and intergovernmental organizations in support of this agenda - in ways that bring benefits to the people whose livelihoods are most threatened by the impact of climate change on agriculture;
- iv. Integration of climate smart agriculture approaches into ongoing rural development programs, aiming at improved integration and coordination.

9. The Alliance could create an environment for common outcomes that builds on indigenous knowledge systems, and also bears in mind smallholders and the poorest and most marginalized communities.

10. The Alliance recognizes the importance of ensuring activities embrace sustainable development in all its three dimensions: social; environmental; economical, to transform agriculture in a successful way.

III Approach

11. It is envisaged that the Alliance will be:

- i. A food security and nutrition focused, agriculture-driven and action-oriented coalition of entities committed to incorporating climate-smart approaches encompassing all scales and types of agriculture systems, across all climates and approaches to farming, including crop, livestock, fishery and forestry activities, providing farmers an innovative toolbox of options from which to choose;
- ii. A broad, open and inclusive, platform focused on action, knowledge and practice sharing and learning, that inspires its members, promotes far-ranging dialogue that encourages concerted advocacy, and where all relevant voices can be heard;
- iii. A voluntary association whose members hold a joint interest in both food security and nutrition and climate change, support the adoption and implementation of climate-smart agriculture, and provide regular updates on progress toward their individual and collective aspirations.

12. The Alliance will function as a clearing house mechanism, which will broker, catalyze and help create transformational partnerships to encourage actions that reflect an integrated approach to the three pillars of climate-smart agriculture, as well as synergies between them. The three pillars of Climate-Smart Agriculture are sustainable improvements in productivity, building resilience, and reducing and removing greenhouse gases where possible. The partnerships will inspire the development and dissemination of innovative, evidence-based options for climate-smart agriculture in different settings, by voluntary sharing of information and experience, technologies, knowledge and practices, pursuing actions to transform agriculture and empower farmers, particularly women and youth, by involving a broad range of stakeholders. The partnerships will take account of the synergies and trade-offs relating to agriculture, climate change and food security.

13. The Alliance will encourage efforts undertaken across sectors and among stakeholders that promote participatory approaches and consultation mechanisms, providing a voice for farmers, including women farmers, and recognizing the crucial role of farmers' organizations, to yield maximum community - and country - level benefits. The Alliance will bring stakeholders together to discuss and promote climatesmart agriculture and food systems policies in an integrated manner across differing agro-ecological conditions, aligned with local, national and regional priorities. The Alliance will aim to achieve significant, measurable benefits, for both food security, nutrition and climate in ways that can be taken to scale.

14. One of the functions of the Alliance will be to identify priorities for action with the aim of maximizing the impact of the actions taken. Members will determine their particular voluntary actions according to their needs and priorities. Each member will inform the Alliance on actions made and qualitative or quantitative impact achieved.

IV Initial Focus

15. The work of the Alliance will focus on three initial action areas: knowledge, investment and enabling environment.

15.1 Knowledge: Increasing and promoting knowledge, research and development into technologies, practices, and policy approaches for climate-smart agriculture; practices and technology sharing and cooperation; improving communication and information sharing among participants; and outreach, extension, and technical assistance. Objectives pertaining to knowledge may include:

- Identifying and filling knowledge gaps that hinder decision making/policy setting, adoption and implementation of climate-smart agriculture;
- Developing or identifying metrics that can be useful for measuring progress in climate-smart agriculture;
- Stimulating research and investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems, drawing on indigenous knowledge systems and expertise where feasible;
- Brokering relationships between partners and programmes for increased and improved research and learning on the critical role of gender in climate-smart agriculture;
- Linking research to implementation to improve approaches;
- Connecting research findings to the experiences of practitioners and to farmers' empirical and traditional knowledge in a transparent and open way, to share knowledge;
- Developing knowledge platforms in order to exchange data and information;
- Scaling up both south-south and north-south knowledge sharing and support;
- Strengthening extension and support tools for climate-smart agriculture, reflecting the perspectives knowledge and experience of producers;
- Strengthening institutional capacity development for knowledge, practice and technology sharing relating to climate-smart agriculture; and
- Assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local levels.

15.2 Investment: Improving the effectiveness of public and private investments that support the three pillars of climate-smart agriculture. Objectives pertaining to investment may include:

- Encouraging existing public and private investments to review their compatibility with climatesmart agriculture;
- Facilitating the identification of existing and new sources of financing for climate-smart agriculture, through leveraging new public and private investment from domestic and external (multilateral and bilateral) sources;
- Developing methodologies and metrics to guide investment strategies;
- Improving climate-resilience of rural and agriculture infrastructure while reducing greenhouse gases where possible;
- Engaging government departments, institutions, farmer organizations, the private sector and agri-businesses (large and small) and others in multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate-smart investments in agriculture and food systems, including supply chains;
- Increasing farmers' access to weather forecasting and risk management tools, such as insurance;
- Creating incentives for farmers, to adopt climate-smart practices, providing the best social, economic and environmental results; and
- Development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events.

15.3 Enabling environments: Integrating climate-smart agriculture into policy, strategies and planning at regional, national, and local levels and across landscapes. Objectives pertaining to enabling environments may include:

- Strengthening and enhancing public policy frameworks, for example through linking sustainable agriculture intensification with climate adaptation, resilience and disaster risk reduction efforts, and aiming to reduce emissions (including through reduced intensity of emissions) where possible – resulting from agriculture and land use change;
- Identification of adaptation measures, taking into account the diversity of the agricultural systems, indigenous knowledge systems and the differences in scale as well as possible cobenefits;
- Identification of agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity in a sustainable manner, food security and resilience;
- Incorporating climate-smart agriculture practices into agriculture extension and outreach services; o Mainstreaming climate-smart agriculture practices into local, community-driven programs, national investment and food security plans and policies for development assistance, including national adaptation plans of Action (NAP's); and
- Establishing policies that encourage responsible practices and investment along the value chain.

V Management Structure/Arrangements

16. The Alliance will have a light organizational structure composed of a Strategic Committee and a supporting Facilitation Unit, to be hosted by FAO. It will meet initially after its launch as a leadership level forum to agree upon an initial work plan for its inception year. It is anticipated the Alliance will evolve into an annual forum, to take stock of progress, and facilitate a learning platform, capable of elevating climate-smart agriculture to an appropriately high-level of consideration in meeting our food security and nutrition and climate challenges.

17. The Alliance includes views from all stakeholders, focusing on how to generate lessons learned, including on what is working or not, catalyse actions and new initiatives, and reports of progress made. It will take into account and, where possible, draw upon existing programmes and initiatives to avoid duplication or the creation of parallel organizations. The Alliance will draw on international, as well as regional and national organizations, with mandates that include coordination and facilitation, with the aim of avoiding the establishment of any additional mechanisms for these purposes.

18. Participation in the Alliance will provide Members access to information, experiences, expertise, contacts and support, and will provide all members access to services, bearing in mind women, smallholder and family farmers and youth. Initially there will be three action groups available to members of the Alliance – on knowledge sharing, access to investment and the creation of enabling environments. They will also be encouraged to engage in regional and thematic programmes. The structure of the Alliance will be sufficiently flexible to enable participants to organize additional working groups, actions and programmes objectives.

VI Participation

19. The Alliance will be a voluntary coalition, open and transparent and will build on a participatory approach. It will be open to governments, international and regional organizations, institutions, civil society, farmers' organizations and businesses who subscribe to the Alliance's framework, including its vision and aspirational outcomes, as described in this document, and who intend to be actively engaged in and/or contribute to activities and impact of the Alliance.

20. There is no fee for participation in the Alliance. Members may choose to provide voluntary in-kind or financial contributions in support of its administration as well as of the actions defined by the Alliance.

21. Entities that join the Alliance will be expected to indicate their intended actions in pursuit of the aspirational outcomes and approach described within it. They will be expected to provide periodic updates on their actions in support of these aspirational outcomes and on their qualitative or quantitative impact being achieved.

22. Membership in the Alliance does not create any binding obligations and each member individually determines the nature of its participation. Those interested in becoming a founding member of the Alliance can join by signing on to the Alliance Framework before or during the inaugural meeting of the Alliance. Thereafter, membership will be conferred upon receipt by the Facilitation Unit of a letter: i. stating that the entity subscribes to the Alliance Framework; and ii. identifying a primary point of contact with name, title, and contact information for communications with the Alliance.

Governance and structure

Refer to Addendum to the Framework Document "Governance and structure" GACSA Document 02.

Members List

Refer to Addendum to the Framework Document "Members list" GACSA Document 03.