

**Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture
(GACSA)**

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

First STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING

ABU DHABI, UAE

11 MARCH 2015



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The First Strategic Committee Meeting of GACSA was held on 11 March 2015 in Abu Dhabi, UAE during the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA). A total of 44 individuals attended the meeting representing 23 GACSA Member Organizations.

The documents and relevant materials for the meeting were made available for review on the GACSA website prior to the event and sent by email by the GACSA Facilitation Unit Team on 2 March 2014.

A summary of the discussions that were undertaken during the Strategic Committee (SC) meeting and the main conclusions reached on each agenda item are summarized below.

1. Welcome, Introduction and Objectives of the Meeting

The co-chairs of GACSA Mr Inge Herman Rydland (MFA Norway) and Mr Martin Bwalya (AU/NEPAD) welcomed all participants to the meeting and opened the floor for all to introduce themselves.

Mr Rydland opened the floor for comments on the agenda of the meeting. No issues were raised. The agenda was adopted without any change.

Mr. Bwalya presented the objectives of the SC Meeting and referred to the draft documents listed below:

- GACSA 1: Framework Document version 1 :: 1 September 2014
- GACSA 2: Governance Document version 11 :: 9 March 2015
- GACSA 3: Members List version 4 :: 25 February 2015
- GACSA 4: Facilitation Unit TORs version 3 :: 9 March 2015
- GACSA 6: Inception Year Work Programme version 2 :: 2 March 2015
- GACSA 7: Strategic Committee Members version 6 :: 26 February 2015
- GACSA 8: Action Groups Terms of Reference version 2 :: 3 March 2015
- GACSA 9: Communication Strategy version 1 :: 9 March 2015

2. Prioritizations of GACSA Areas of Work: Roles and Responsibilities

The Inception Year Work Plan (January to December 2015) and the urgency to act at scale and to contribute to the aspirational outcomes and goals of GACSA, including the target first announced at the UNSG Climate Week in September 2014 in New York, US, was discussed amongst participants. The GACSA aims to enable 500 million farmers worldwide to practice climate-smart agriculture: increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, strengthening the resilience of food systems and farmers' livelihoods and curbing the emission of greenhouse gases related to agriculture

Mr. Bwalya emphasized the important role of the Action Groups (AGs) in reaching the GACSA objectives. The current action groups are:

- Knowledge Action Group (KAG)
- Enabling Environment Action Group (EEAG) and
- Investment Action Group (IAG).

Members are free to join any or all of the (AGs) they deem appropriate. Each AG will elect one or more facilitators to lead the work of the respective group.

Main points of discussion:

- The World Bank (WB) noted that the text on intellectual property and fund raising in the TORs of the AGs would need to be discussed and agreed by all members. Facilitation Unit to ensure this is undertaken before or during the next GACSA SC Meeting.
- Participants underlined the need to develop the criteria and guidance materials on how the new GACSA logo could be used.
- Participants also raised the issue of the criteria for the events that can be held under GACSA.
- The US pointed towards the importance of interface among the three AGs and the implementation of actions agreed and their evaluation and how this relates to real progress and impacts on the ground.
- A number of participants strongly urged that GACSA must involve Farmer Organizations (FOs), NGOs and their representative bodies in the development of the Programme of Work of the AGs.
- Switzerland and Norway indicated the need for political mobilization and support to undertake the commitments made to address CSA.

Actions:

1. The FU to ensure that the text on intellectual property and fund raising in the TORs of the AGs is discussed within GACSA and that this is undertaken before or during the next GACSA SC Meeting.
2. The FU to further define issues related to intellectual property and fund raising of AGs and circulate to GACSA members for endorsement.
3. The FU to provide the criteria and develop standard protocols and instructions for the use of the GACSA logo.
4. The FU to develop the criteria for the events to be held on behalf of GACSA.

3. Knowledge Action Group (KAG): review of draft work plan

FAO jointly with CGIAR presented a detailed work plan for the Inception Year 2015.

Main points of discussion:

- France showed appreciation for the progress made. It was noted the KAG will hold a workshop on March 15 during the Global Conference on CSA in Montpellier, France to further review the draft work plan and begin to elaborate /develop the knowledge gaps identified.
- Participants noted that the draft of the KAG Work Plan could be too research-orientated and there might be a need to re-focus. In addition, the number of priorities (11) identified in the draft of the KAG Work Plan could be excessive. In contrast, the importance of prioritizing 3-4 areas of work in order to show results by the end of the Inception Year, was highlighted.
- CSU briefed the participants on their valuable experience in research and indicated that they would like to collaborate with KAG through CGIAR.
- FAO noted that KAG's priorities were to generate knowledge needed on the ground, as well as to engage the research community, which is seen as an important opportunity to contribute to this goal.
- FAO briefed other participants about the dialogue with the Global Research Alliance (GRA). GRA has given GACSA it support on translating their research into practical tools or information to be used by GACSA members.

Actions:

KAG co-conveners (FAO and CGIAR/CCAFS) will revise the KAG Work Plan to emphasize the following actions for the Inception Year:

1. Make the analysis of already existing practices in the area of CSA.
2. Identify and fill knowledge gaps that hinder decision making/policy-setting, adoption and implementation of CSA.
3. Develop or identify metrics that can be useful for measuring progress in CSA.
4. Stimulate research and investment in CSA and food systems, drawing on indigenous knowledge systems and expertise where feasible.
5. Link research to implementation to improve approaches.
6. Assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local levels.
7. Indicate three or four areas where progress/results can be shown by the end of 2015.
8. Finalize and communicate the Group's Facilitators.
9. Refine and prioritize the 2015 Work Plan including having this to be posted on the website for "public" inputs/comments.

4. Enabling Environment action group (EEAG): review of draft work plan

For the EEAG the US presented a five point-work plan while highlighting the importance of the appropriate knowledge backed policies. EEAG will work in close collaboration with the other two AGs as the interface between policies, knowledge and investment are deemed very important.

Main points of discussion:

Special emphasis is required on:

- building country case studies to replicate successful experiences across regions;
- response to what is happening on the ground;
- involvement of farmers and farmer organizations;
- encouragement of the GACSA's agenda at a country level;
- building trust in GACSA.

Actions:

Will be defined by the process started in the AG.

5. Investment action group (IAG): review of draft work plan

The United Kingdom presented a Work Plan for IAG, indicating that the first meeting will be held at the end of April or beginning of May in London. The meeting will be in collaboration with KAG and EEAG to align their work plans and consider the synergies and interrelation of all three Action Groups.

Main points of discussion:

- It was emphasized that there should be a difference between the investment frameworks of developed and developing countries.
- France expressed a willingness to join the IAG.
- Switzerland and FAO informed that CFS has endorsed the voluntary guidelines on responsible investment in agriculture. However, the decision to adopt the above guidelines is left up to individual countries.
- Gender empowerment was also noted as a critical area to be addressed and should also be considered as an important work area in GACSA as a whole.
- Showcasing what other countries have done should also be taken into consideration and recorded appropriately.

Actions:

Establish the dates for the physical meeting in April-May in London to discuss the Work Plan for the Inception Year. The invitation is to be sent out to all interested entities.

6. Action group round-up, cross check and final endorsement

The co-Chairs thanked the organizations for the work done so far on the AGs. They noted it was important to keep up the momentum on the AGs and that there was a need to bring on board the representatives of farmers, NGOs/CSOs etc. within each AG. It was agreed that it is important for WPs to remain flexible as GACSA moves forward.

Suggestions from participants focused on the following areas in particular:

- Build trust is a key process to bring in different stakeholder groups into GACSA.
- Identify four pilot countries from different regions where all three AGs could work together and support CSA implementation. The pilot project can also take place in a developed country.
- Produce an individual WP for each AG and subsequently create a collective document containing a synergy for all three AGs.
- Receive feedback on WP of each AG from different stakeholder groups, especially farmers and NGOs.
- Involve ministries including the ministry of agriculture and ministry of environment at a country level.
- Document and make accessible the progress and lessons-learned in up scaling CSA.

The Meeting agreed on the following time line for the finalization of WPs for AGs:

- ✓ Each AG submits to FU a revised WP with key thematic areas to be addressed, services rendered, products delivered, and targets to be achieved by the end of Inception Year 2015
The WP of all three AGs should be aligned and contain three to four priorities for 2015
Deadline: 25 March 2015.
- ✓ The FU to share the revised WPs for comments with GACSA members -Deadline: 8 April 2015
- ✓ Comments to be sent to the AG facilitators who will then finalize WPs - Deadline: 15 April 2015
- ✓ The FU to finalize the AG WP for AGs for 2015 on the basis of final WPs submitted by facilitators of each AG and post all the materials on the GACSA Web site.

7. Broadening the membership and creation of regional clusters

GACSA has presently 80 members out of which 20 are countries and 60 are entities. Co-chairs invited the members to brief the SC on their efforts to broaden the membership. See Annex 3.

The US informed that through their embassies they have approached governments of 193 countries to invite them to become members of GACSA. To date more than 80 countries have responded. About 25 of them have shown a willingness to become members and have started their internal approval processes. Some are still involved in an internal consultative process while some have asked for additional information and have raised some questions. The US prepared a four-page document to brief host governments, which will be shared with GACSA FU (action done).

The North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA) provided a detailed briefing on their activities. The Alliance includes 36 farmer organizations. It assembles the tools and production systems and practices, which can be used by farmers and NGOs to adapt, improve resilience and mitigate current and future risks of changing climate conditions. The Alliance offers a “farmer-to-farmer talks” trainings that would help farmers to cope with the concrete problems caused by the climate change. The Alliance also addresses issues related to national policies and legislation. The NACSAA Meeting will be held at the end of 2015.

The members found the experiences shared by the US and the President of NACSAA positive.

Main points of discussion:

- The WB suggested that GACSA may attract potential member countries through highlighting the GACSA objectives of increasing productivity and resilience which are priorities for most countries.
- The UK suggested that objectives on improved sustainability, profitability and resource efficiency may be initial points of discussion with civil society and farmers. In addition the UK noted that NGOs are being approached in the UK.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway shared its experience of work with civil society in the country. The Ministry organized a specific meeting with the concerned NGOs and CSOs where the GACSA vision, mission and the way forward were discussed.
- Participants reemphasized that GACSA cannot be effective until FOs and their representing bodies in Asia, Africa, North and Latin America, Europe and the Middle East are actively involved.
- The Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), that participated in the First Strategic Committee meeting remotely, noted the importance of creating a taskforce for creating a dialogue with CSOs/NGOs. To succeed in this, the importance to provide further information on CSA definition, including its relation to environmental criteria and social safeguards, was noted.
- It was also noted that the success of GACSA would be in its ability to promote and support regional and country discussions which lead to agreed action which is supported by national policy and legislation.

Actions:

1. The FU to explore the possibility of cooperation with African Alliance for CSA.
2. The FU to prepare an invitation for Mongolia, Thailand and Cambodia to join GACSA.

8. Facilitation Unit: current status and future priority support to members

FAO presented the current status of the Facilitation Unit and its future role in supporting GACSA members. A GACSA dedicated Facilitation Unit has been established. It is hosted at FAO HQ Rome.

The Facilitation Unit will be headed by a Senior Coordinator. Over one hundred applications were received for the position and eight individuals have been shortlisted for the interview expected to be taken in the 3rd week of March. The selected professional will be in place within two months after the appointment.

Main points of discussion:

- As part of the outreach strategy FAO made a proposal to organize a GACSA side event during FAO 39th Conference in June 2015 in Rome to pursue and motivate more countries and organizations to join GACSA.
- FAO also suggested to organize a meeting with the concerned NGOs and CSOs in order to present an accurate information about the goals, vision and mission of GACSA. It was emphasized that the Alliance will greatly benefit from the membership of NGOs and CSOs.
- Secondments for GACSA FU – not only in Rome, but in FAO regional offices

Actions:

The FU to report to the SC about the recruitment process.

9. GACSA Communication Strategy, resources, web site

FAO presented the draft communication strategy and other related resources.

Main points of discussion:

- The participants appreciated the efforts made by the FU in preparing an outline of the GACSA communication strategy. It was agreed that the FU should prepare a summary version of the communication strategy on the key areas that require inputs and comments of GACSA members.
- FAO briefed participants on the recently launched GASCA website, including its current structure and future “active” functions. It was also noted that all resources and documents will be made available on the GACSA web site using a document number and version classification system for ease of reference.
- Participants recommended to have a web site under a separate domain (www.gacsa.org) rather than www.fao.org/gacsa. Switzerland requested FU to require the GACSA domain with Swiss funding already paid to FU.
- Given that communication is fundamental for the success of GACSA, participants recommended that a “task force” be formed by GACSA members who are interested in supporting communication efforts.
- Action groups should have a component dealing with the WP on communication.

Actions:

1. The FU to prepare a summary version of the communication strategy on the key areas that require inputs and comments of GACSA members.
2. The FU to prepare a letter to DG FAO to shift the website from www.fao.org/gacsa under a separate domain www.gacsa.org.
3. The FU to elaborate the ToRs and facilitate the establishment of a “task force” composed of GACSA members who are interested in supporting communication efforts.

10. GACSA Events

The importance of GACSA events were discussed by the participants. The major highlights of the Inception Year would include: GACSA Annual Forum, GACSA Second Strategic Committee Meeting, GACSA side-event at the big conferences, including 39th FAO Conference, CFS as well as the events at regional and country levels. COP 21 in December 2015, Paris, France was agreed to be a critical venue for GACSA to present its work during the Inception Year.

Main points of discussion:

- The US raised the issue of criteria for who can organize the event on behalf of GACSA.
- COP 21 in Paris in December 2015 will be a critical venue and participants requested the FU to undertake early planning and provide a list of options which GACSA could undertake in Paris.
- It was agreed the Annual Forum will be held in January 2016 in Rome.
- Second SC Meeting needs to be scheduled in the end of 2015 beginning of 2016. Different options were presented by the members and reviewed. The discussion on the venue revealed the possibilities to host the SC Meeting outside Rome, preferably in a member country.
- The SC noted with appreciation that a GACSA side-event 39th session of FAO Conference in June has been approved by the FAO Director General.
- CFS in October will include a GACSA side event and a special session on NGO/CSO engagements. In addition the last day of CFS will be held in Milan and the Expo. This will be a good opportunity to raise awareness on GACSA.
- There are a number of regional and country CSA related meetings where GACSA could be presented. The possibilities for conducting a side event during the Finance for Development Conference in Addis Abeba the coming summer will be explored by FU.

Actions:

1. The FU to develop the criteria for the events to be held on behalf of GACSA.
2. The FU to prepare a proposal giving merits and demerits of several possible dates and venues for the Annual Forum.
3. The FU to prepare a proposal giving merits and demerits of several possible dates and venues for Second Strategic Committee Meeting.
4. The FU to send the request for a side event during COP 21.
5. The FU to collect the information from the GACSA members and create a calendar of events where GACSA could be presented See the list of events provided by participants - Annex 2

11. Funds Mobilization

FAO Facilitation Unit (FU) informed that the 5 year multi donor TF was for a budget of USD5 million and so far USD 1.2 million was received from USA, Norway and Switzerland. The SC debated thoroughly this aspect and most of the members deliberated on it.

Main points of discussion:

- It was agreed to prepare of the detailed budget of the FU for the Inception Year involving FOs and building their capacity which may be integrated in this budget.
- Private foundations could be seen as potential donors.
- Secondments be included as in-kind contribution.

Actions:

1. The FU to prepare and submit through Co-Chairs to SC a detailed budget for the Inception Year covering its needs, capacity building and support to out-reach.

12. Any Other Business

The UK suggested that Co-chairs may consider thanking UAE and GIFA as well as other supporting organizations by writing letters.

Actions:

The FU to prepare the draft of the letter to the organizers of the SC Meeting as well as to the government of UAE.

Annex 1 :: Participants List

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Annex 2:: List of CSA Related Events in 2015

Date and Venue	Title of the Event
16 - 18 March 2015, Montpellier, France	Third global Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture
24-27 June 2015, Milan, Italy	World Farmers Organization General Assembly
June 2015, venue and day to be confirmed	UNFCC SBSTA
7 - 10 July 2015, Paris, France	Our Common Future under Climate Change
13 - 16 July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Financing for Development
July 2015	KFW Financing Event on Food security and Agriculture
25-27 September, New York, US	UNGA Launch of SDG's
16 October 2015, Milan, Italy	World Food Day
30 November - 11 December 2015, Paris, France	COP 21
4 th Quarter 2015, US	North American Climate Smart Agriculture Summit
Date to be determined, Dublin, Ireland	IIEA Leadership Forum on CSA
Date to be confirmed, Africa	Global conference om Agriculture Research for Developments (GCARD3)

Annex 3:: List of GACSA Members

1. *Costa Rica*
2. *France*
3. *Grenada*
4. *Ireland*
5. *Japan*
6. *Netherlands*
7. *Malawi*
8. *Mexico*
9. *Nigeria*
10. *Niger*
11. *Norway*
12. *Philippines*
13. *Republic of Cyprus*
14. *South Africa*
15. *Spain*
16. *Switzerland*
17. *Tanzania*
18. *United Kingdom*
19. *United States of America*
20. *Viet Nam*
21. *Africa Partnership on Climate Change Coalition*
22. *Agriculture for Impact*
23. *The Alliance of Religions & Conservation (ARC)*
24. *Asia Farmers' Association for Sustainable Development (AFA)*
25. *Association for Agricultural Research Asia Pacific (NAARAP)*
26. *Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID)*
27. *Carbon Drawdown Solution*
28. *CGIAR Consortium (Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers)*
29. *Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA)*
30. *Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)*
31. *Common Market For Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)*
32. *CROPP Cooperative*

33. *Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)*
34. *Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)*
35. *Colorado State University*
36. *CSA Youth Network*
37. *Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)*
38. *Danone*
39. *Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)*
40. *Evergreen Agriculture Partnership*
41. *EcoAgriculture*
42. *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*
43. *Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)*
44. *The Fertilizer Institute (TFI)*
45. *Fertilizers Europe*
46. *The Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)*
47. *Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA)*
48. *GLOBAL G.A.P.*
49. *Haifa Chemicals Ltd.*
50. *International Coffee Organization*
51. *International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA)*
52. *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)*
53. *International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI)*
54. *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*
55. *International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)*
56. *Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)*
57. *Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE)*
58. *Koppert Biological Systems BV*
59. *Mosaic Company*
60. *New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)*
61. *Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)*
62. *The Nature Conservancy*
63. *Organic Consumers Association*
64. *Rainforest Alliance*
65. *Solutions from the Land*
66. *SCS Global Services*

67. *Tropenbos International*
68. *UK-China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN)*
69. *University of Missouri, National Center for Soybean Biotechnology*
70. *University of California, Davis, USA*
71. *Wageningen University and Research Center, the Netherlands*
72. *World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)*
73. *World Bank*
74. *World Farmers Organization (WFO)*
75. *World Food Programme (WFP)*
76. *The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)*
77. *World Resources Institute (WRI)*
78. *Yara International ASA*
79. *Youth Millennium Development Ambassadors Initiative, Sierra Leone*
80. *501Carbon*

Annex 4:: List of Acronyms

AFA	Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development
AGs	Action Groups
AU	African Union
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CGIAR	Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EEAG	Enabling Environment Action Group
FOs	Farmer Organizations
FU	Facilitation Unit
GACSA	Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture
GFIA	Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture
GRA	Global Research Alliance
IAG	Investment Action Group
KAG	Knowledge Action Group
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NACSAA	North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-governmental Organization
SC	Strategic Committee
TF	Trust Fund

TORs	Terms of Reference
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNSG	United Nations Secretary General
US	United States
WB	World Bank
WP	Work Plan