

CSA Alliances and platforms: Information sheet

The Global Alliance for CSA (GACSA)

Name: Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA).

Covered region / countries: All interested countries of the world.

Status: Established and operational

Core documents:

- Framework document (GACSA Series document 1 version 01: 1 Septembre 2014)
- Governance document (GACSA series document 2 version 11 : 9 March 2015)
- Report of first working meeting of the Alliance (GACSA series doc. 5 version 7: 18 March 2015)
- Inception Year Work Programme (GACSA series doc. 6 version 2: 2 March 2015).

Background:

Climate-Smart Agriculture emerged as a concept of the FAO to to enhance sustainable productivity and incomes, resilience to climate change and to reduce agricultural GHG emission intensities. As a buy-in to the FAO initiative, the African Union Commission and the government of Ethiopia organized a preparatory meeting in September 2010. This Africa-focused preparatory meeting mobilized action for achieving climate-smart agriculture but it was soon followed by a series of global conferences namely:

- The 1st Global conference on agriculture, Food Security, and Climate change organized in The Hague, in November 2010 by the government of the Netherlands in cooperation with the governments of Ethiopia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway and Vietnam, the World Bank, and the FAO;
- The 2nd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change held in Viet Nam in September 2012, where agriculture ministers called for utilization of climate-smart agricultural practices to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and build resilience to environmental pressures while simultaneously assisting farmers adapt to climate change while reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- The 3rd Global Conference on agriculture, Food Security and Climate change, hosted by the Government of south-Africa in December 2013 and co-organized by the Government of the Netherlands, FAO and World Bank. This conference offered a platform to discuss and share experiences on success, and set the scene for the design phase of a Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture.

In May 2014 at the High level meeting in Abu Dhabi to prepare for the UNSG's Climate Summits participants, including the UN Secretary General, expressed support for the establishment of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. A coalition of supporters then committed to work together for the Alliance to be launched at the Climate Summit in September 2014. This was followed by a meeting of Partners of the Global Alliance for Climate-smart agriculture in The Hague on 9-11 July 2014 involving over 120 representatives from governments, international and regional institutions, as well as national and regional research organizations, private sector, farmers organizations and Civil Society Organizations. This is where the final ground works were laid for the eventual launch of the Alliance on 24 September 2014 at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit.

Objectives:

The primary objective of GACSA is to improve food security and nutrition in the face of climate change by working towards sustainable increases in productivity of food systems. The focus is on adaptation of food system policies and practices to climate change, and efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, including mitigation of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions where possible. This objective is embodied in the three Aspirational outcomes of the Alliance namely:

- Sustainable and equitable increases in agricultural productivity and incomes;
- Greater resilience of food systems and farming livelihoods; and
- Reduction and/or removal of greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture where possible.

Approach

GACSA is designed to function as a clearing house mechanism to broker, catalyse and help create transformational partnerships to encourage actions that reflect an integrated approach to the three pillars of CSA and the synergies among them. The emphasis is on mutual and voluntary learning and sharing of knowledge, information, experience, technologies and practices to transform agriculture and empower farmers, particularly women and youth. GACSA aspires to achieve its goals through inclusive multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral approaches.

To achieve its three aspirational outcomes GACSA has embarked on a three-prong action plan that focuses on three interrelated areas: Knowledge, Investment, and Enabling Environment; each driven by an Action Group.

- The Knowledge Action Group focuses on increasing and promoting knowledge, research and development into technologies, practices and policy approaches for CSA.
- The Investment Action Group deals with improving the effectiveness of public and private investments that support the three pillars of climate-smart agriculture.
- The Enabling Environment Action Group works on integrating CSA into policy strategies and planning at regional, national and local levels and across landscapes.

Guiding Principles:

- GACSA is an open and transparent voluntary coalition of partners and builds on an inclusive participatory approach.
- Membership to GACSA is free, but members are encouraged to make voluntary donations in kind or cash towards the functioning of the alliance.
- Members of the Alliance are not bound by any commitments or obligations, and members individually determine the nature of their participation to contribute to the aspirational outcomes of the Alliance. However, members are expected to indicate their intended actions in pursuit of the aspirational outcomes, and also to provide periodic updates on their actions and the impacts thereof.
- The Alliance is food security and nutrition-focused, agriculture-driven, and action-oriented.

Members: Membership covers six major stakeholder groups:

- i. Farmers' Organisations;
- ii. Civil society and Non-Governmental Organisations;
- iii. National Governments;
- iv. International and Inter-governmental Organisations;

- v. Research and Academic Institutions/bodies; and
- vi. Private Businesses

Governance:

GACSA has a light structure composed of four elements:

- The Annual Forum which serves as the general Assembly of the Alliance. It is open to all members and observers and decisions are made by consensus.
- Strategic Committee, led by two elected Co-chairs. Membership to the SC is voluntary and open to all members. Observers of GACSA can also participate in SC meetings as observers.
- Facilitation Unit, led by an appointed Coordinator. The FU functions as the secretariat of the Alliance provides support to the Strategic Committee, the Action Groups and the members.
- Action Groups, each composed of a voluntary team of facilitators and led by two co-conveners.

Key events:

- Launch of the Alliance at the UNSG Climate Summit, 24 September 2014
- First working meeting of the Alliance at FAO Head Quarters in Rome on 17-18 December 2014
- First meeting of the GACSA Strategic Committee in Abu Dhabi on 11 March 2015
- Second meeting of the GACSA Strategic Committee at FAO head Quarters in Rome on 14 October 2015
- Third meeting of the GACSA Strategic Committee in Rotterdam on 09 May 2016
- First Annual Forum of GACSA at FAO Head Quarters in Rome on 14 – 17 June 2016

Contact person(s):

- Achuo Enow – Coordinator, GACSA Facilitation Unit: andrew.enow@fao.org
- Secretariat: GACSA-Facilitation-Unit@fao.org

Website: www.fao.org/gacsa/en