

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture
(GACSA)

Minutes

Third STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

9 MAY 2016

GACSA Series Document 14

Minutes from the Third Strategic Committee Rotterdam, the Netherlands, May 9th 2016

1. Opening

The Strategic Committee meeting was opened by Dr Hans Hoogeveen, Director General of Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. He is strong believer in the Alliance and proud to still be involved in the Alliance and will continue to be involved in the Alliance in the future.

He pointed at three main challenges to be addressed by the Global Alliance of CSA:

- i. Broaden/deepen the concept of CSA. One of GACSA's primary roles is to broker and do match - making for stakeholders who implementing CSA programs on the ground. GACSA does not need to start or implement projects and programs around the world but it should facilitate and accelerate getting things going across the world. GACSA needs to demonstrate accountable results.
- ii. Clearing house mechanism. GACSA needs to create a clearing house mechanism to show the best results as well as failures. What can we as Alliance learn from these experiences? We need to involve all the stakeholders and in particular private sector.
- iii. Mobilize action on the ground. This should be the focus now. It involves finding partners, matching partners and to scale up. GACSA should actively take the role of a broker: looking for new partnerships, link up agriculture and climate change in the light of contributing to the sustainable development goals and food security.

2. Introduction, Agenda and Minutes

The Co-chair of GACSA, Mr. Inge Herman Rydland (MFA Norway), presented the agenda of the day as well as the minutes of the last teleconference.

Decision: To Approve the Agenda of the 3rd Strategic Committee meeting and the Minutes of the SC teleconference on 18 March 2016.

3. Update on AF preparation

The Task Team for Annual Forum updated the SC members on the planning process for the Annual Forum. Follow-up questions were raised that needed to be addressed. The questions were centered on the need for more information on the content of the different sessions, especially in terms of:

- clarification on the content of the Partnerships in action session;
- Indication of who will facilitate the discussion during the morning parallel sessions of the Case studies presentations, and who will report on each case study in the plenary session in the afternoon.
- What will be presented to participants regarding the Metrics for CSA investment, and what is expected from the session? What will be the base for discussion?
- On the Innovator's pitch, how will the 3 videos be selected?
- For the session on Regional alliances, which regional alliance would be involved and on what topic?
- Who are the invited people/organizations to the annual forum? Is it possible to communicate the list of registered people to date to the strategic committee?

- What would be the working languages? This is an important means to ensure participation of different kinds of stakeholders coming from different regions

Decision: To note with appreciation, the substantive work laid down by the task team.

Decision: Facilitation Unit to respond to the questions regarding preparation of the Annual Forum and the communication thereof, as listed above.

4. Update on Action Groups activities (inception year and preparation of AF-draft work plan to discuss during the AF)

Following the presentation of status reports and 2016 draft work plans of the three Action groups, the SC members responded with the following comments and suggestions:

- The AGs should take into account the current global agendas when developing their detailed work plans. In particular the AGs should show how GACSA can:
 - support countries on these processes and introduce CSA in the policy agendas;
 - explore resource mobilization activities to support GACSA;
 - develop South-South cooperation activities;
 - assist members on how to access available funding instruments such as the GCF.
- The AGs to link their activities to Regional Alliances
- Strengthen involvement of the private sector - with the help of members, focus on how to reach the right audience.
- At the Annual Forum the AGs should not share results but also to comment on these results and solicit feedback from the audience on the activities reported and envisaged.
- Show the linkages among the three AGs. In particular the IAG should share the investment matrix it is developing in a simple way for members to understand.

5. GACSA 2015 Annual Report (including financial summary)

The FU Coordinator presented the 2015 GACSA Annual Report and the Status report of the FU for January – April 2016 including financial summary.

Decision: To set up a finance committee of six volunteers (Mark Manis, Federico Mannoni, Ludovic Larbodiere, Marijke Langeveld, Maarten DeGroot, and Harry Palmier) to look at fundraising and to address the current financial situation and planning of GACSA. The team will present its thoughts at the next meeting of the SC.

Decision: SC members to send comments on FU status report (including financial issues) to the FU through GACSA email by 17 May 2016

6. GACSA 2016/17 work plan and budget

FU Coordinator presented the work plan and budget 2016/2017. The SC was of the impression that the work plan was too ambitious and included issues that should rather be handled by the members or the Action groups. Members stressed the importance of timely provision of information and transparency.

Decision: To revise the work plan based mainly on the three roles of GACSA raised earlier by Dr Hans Hoogeveen, and that only covers the period till 31 December 2016. The plan should describe the main goals for the Alliance and how FU would address these goals.

Decision: To provide a detailed itemized budget for FU that reflects the real cost of activities in the revised work plan.

7. Status report from MET

Ernie Shea, participating in the meeting via teleconference, presented an update on the members' survey and status of preparation for the Annual Forum. He also presented a proposed plan of work for 2016-2017.

Decision: To note and commend the work in progress carried out by the team.

8. Communication Strategy and material

The communication Consultant presented the Communication Strategy. Members commended the strategy but questioned what the GACSA communication languages are and what process is there to vet messages before they are communicated. The following specific recommendations were made:

- Condense the key messages and reduce the repetitions in the messages
- Link the global agendas as part of the target audience for communication
- identify some indicators of an effective and efficient communication strategy
- Make a distinction between the target audience that is already in the Alliance and that which is still outside the Alliance.
- Identify the Human resources required to implement the communication strategy and indicate the associated cost, including cost of producing the communication material.
- Some level of screening is required for the use of the GACSA logo. The FU has to be consulted for approval before any members uses the logo.

Decision: To revise the communication strategy and plan based on the above comments. In particular, provide a prioritised list of activities and tools and the associated costs for developing and implementing the tools.

Decision: To share the revised draft communication strategy with SC members before the next meeting.

Decision: A redraft of the GACSA mission statement to be circulated among SC members for approval before the Annual Forum.

Decision: To review the guidelines for use of the GACSA logo, including the criteria for use, as well as the procedure for requesting and obtaining authorisation to use the logo.

9. Election of Co-chairs

Mr. Inge Herman Rydland announced that he will step down as GACSA co-Chair after the Annual Forum. The governance structure of GACSA provides for two elected Co-chairs. It would therefore be required to elect another co-chair at the Annual Forum to replace Inge.

Decision: To develop the modalities and procedure for electing the co-chairs and share these with the members ahead of the Annual Forum

Decision: Mr. Maarten DeGroot to draft a proposal on election of the Co-chairs and circulate among SC members for comments and eventual approval.

10. Wrap up by Co-chairs on decisions, actions and next steps

Four major follow up actions:

- i. Revision of the Annual work plan for 2016
- ii. Provide a balanced budget based on the work plan
- iii. Appointment of a volunteer Task team on funding and finance
- iv. Drafting of procedure/process for election of Co-chairs (task volunteered by Maarten DeGroot).