

Regional CSA Alliances and platforms: Information sheet

The North America CSA Alliance (NACSAA)

Name: The North America CSA Alliance (NACSAA).

Covered region / countries: North America / USA, Canada and Mexico.

Status: Established and operational.

Core documents:

- NACSAA (2015), North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance: Framework Document. Version 4.0 :: December 1, 2015: 4 p.

Background: Through the NACSAA, farmers, ranchers and foresters will collaborate with industry value chain, academic, government, and NGO partners in sharing and discussing new adaptation practices, tools and production systems designed to improve resiliency, adapt and mitigate the current and future risks of changing climatic conditions. The Alliance, which will interface and collaborate with the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, provides North American agricultural and forestry leaders with several platforms for shaping an integrated approach for simultaneously pursuing the three pillars of Climate Smart Agriculture: 1) sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and livelihoods (i.e. sustainable intensification); 2) adapting and building more resilience; and 3) delivering ecosystem services and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mission: The NACSAA is a platform for knowledge sharing and application of climate science to agriculture. The Alliance enables farm leaders and their value chain partners to collaborate in developing ways to improve the resiliency of production systems, adapt and mitigate present and future risks from changing climatic conditions. The Alliance advocates solutions for agricultural landscapes, under variable weather and climate, to maintain sustainable productivity of food, feed, fiber and energy and ensure the integrity of our natural resource base.

Goals and Objectives: The overarching goal of the NACSAA is to improve resiliency, adapt and mitigate the current and future risks of changing climatic conditions. Towards this end the founding partners have endorsed the following objectives for the Alliance:

- Educate agricultural and forestry leaders on the potential impacts of climate change in ways relevant to their daily lives;
- Equip producers with the tools and knowledge they need to make informed decisions and manage new risks under changing conditions;
- Mobilize thought leaders to advocate for needed changes in land use practices, research, education and policy; and
- Inspire agricultural and forest sector leaders to become leaders in the broader discussion of climate change, including adaptation and mitigation.

Desired outcomes:

- ✓ Productivity is increasing in ways that allow landscapes to provide the full range of needed ecosystem services.
- ✓ Production systems are becoming more resilient.
- ✓ Landowners and managers are making more efficient use of inputs, reducing waste and overall consumption of natural resources.
- ✓ Farmers, ranchers, foresters and other land managers are supported and compensated for their stewardship of ecosystems and the ecosystem services the land provides, such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat preservation, promotion of biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

Approach: It is envisioned that the North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance will be:

- A farmer led, agriculture-driven and action-oriented coalition of entities committed to advancing the three pillars of Climate Smart Agriculture, encompassing all scales and types of agriculture systems, across all climates and approaches to farming, including crop, livestock, fishery and forestry activities, as well as providing farmers an innovative toolbox of options from which to choose;
- 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;
- A voluntary association whose members: hold a joint interest in improving agriculture systems and mitigating the damage of climate change; support the adoption and implementation of the three pillars of Climate Smart Agriculture; and provide regular updates on progress toward their individual and collective aspirations.

Initial focus: The work of the Alliance will focus on three initial action areas: (i) knowledge, (ii) investment, and (iii) enabling environment. Initial areas of focus for the Alliance are:

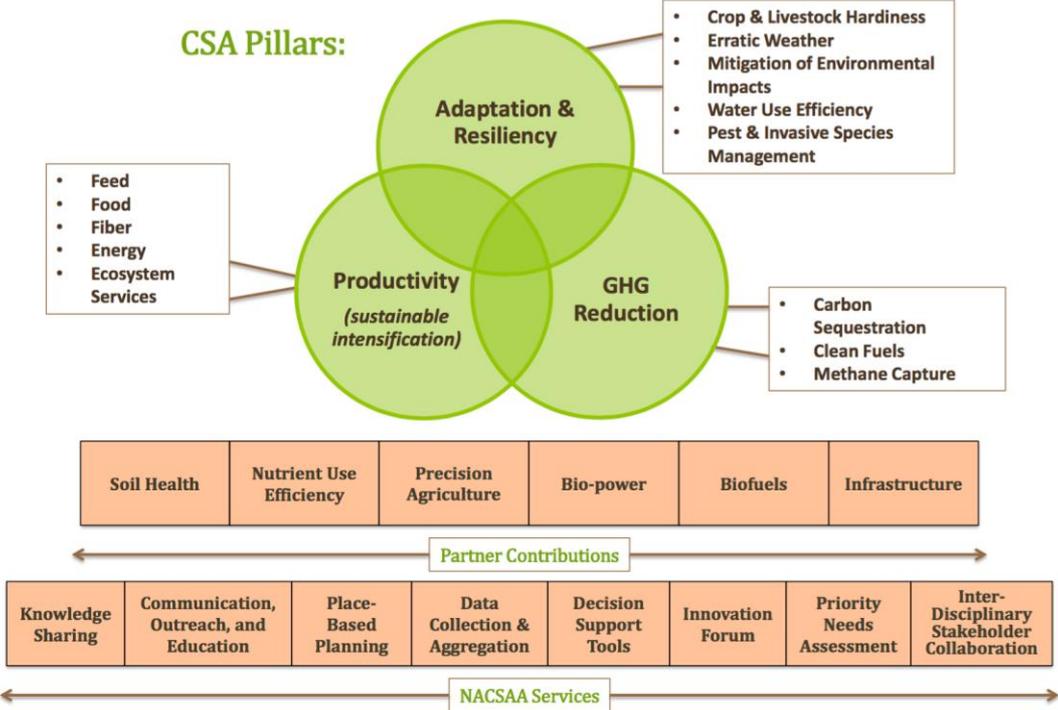
1. Leadership outreach and engagement
 - a. Board of Director Briefings
 - b. Leadership Workshops
 - c. Grower Study Groups
2. Knowledge sharing forums
 - a. Presentations & Exhibitions at grower meetings
 - b. Video Abstracts
 - c. Webinars and other Web-based Resources
 - d. Climate Smart Agriculture Blog and Social Media Outreach
3. Intra-sector communication and collaboration
 - a. Participation in the Global Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance
 - b. Development of place-based adaption strategies (states and/or regions)
 - c. Roundtables and Summits (U.S and North American)
 - d. Collaboration with USDA Climate Hubs, SARE and NIFA Global Change and Climate program.

Governance, management, and participation: The North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance operates under the wing of Solutions from the Land (SfL), a not-for-profit corporation focused on land based solutions to global challenges. SfL functions as the fiduciary agent for the Alliance and serves as the NACSAA Secretariat.

The Alliance is guided by a self-directed Steering Committee comprised of industry leaders, farmers, conservation representatives, government officials, equipment providers, and value chain partners. This nucleus of leadership represents interests from all three countries across the North American continent, Canada, Mexico and the United States. The Steering Committee is directed by a chair person elected by its members. The chair person will facilitate Steering Committee meetings and help with member engagement.

Membership within the Alliance is open to any organization or individual who embraces the mission of the Alliance; commits to collaborate with other members in advancing its goals and objectives; and embraces the principles of Climate Smart Agriculture. The Steering Committee of the Alliance anticipates that it will hold quarterly in- person meetings at regionally convenient locations, as well as hold periodic teleconference meetings with the entire Steering Committee, or sub-groups thereof. Members of the Alliance that are not represented on the Steering Committee will be invited to attend an annual summit to collaborate with other members, and join various action teams for future development.

North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA):
 A platform for knowledge sharing and the application of climate science to agriculture



Members: 58 members (April 2016) from all stakeholder groups.

Timeline / Key events:

Contact person(s):

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