

Trending issues from the Annual Forum: How to scale up CSA

1. Long-term funding

This issue was identified as a major challenge at all levels: farmers' access to credit; funding to implement CSA projects and programs; poor understanding on funding flows and relatively low investment of climate financing in the agricultural sector, and particularly for CSA.

- *GACSA was encouraged to stimulate and incentivize private sector investment in CSA. Well-developed CSA investment metrics would provide clarity on the current funding landscape and inform actions to leverage investments in CSA.*

2. Meaningful and trustworthy partnerships

It was repeatedly emphasized that meaningful partnerships require mutual respect and should cut across stakeholder groups, across sectors, across scales, and across regions.

- *GACSA was encouraged to further reach out to producers, civil society, the private sector and to widen the geographic base.*

3. Integrated systems approach

There were many calls for advancing CSA from an integrated systems approach that looks at the whole landscape and include synergies with other sectors (energy, transportation, health, water).

- *GACSA was encouraged to consider the sustainability of the food systems value chain in a holistic manner, rather than just focusing on farm-level production activities and practices, looking also at the issue of food loss and waste.*

4. Inclusive and cross-sectoral perspective

It was pointed out that while the CSA concept defines agriculture to include crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry, in the common narrative, emphasis has often been mainly on crop farmers and this tends to unintentionally exclude forestry, fisheries, and livestock production in discussions.

- *GACSA was encouraged to include forestry and fisheries in its Annual Forum, and to use a more inclusive language to capture all the agriculture sub-sectors.*

5. Gender and Youth

Gender was a recurring issue in nearly all the sessions of the Annual Forum. The need for youth empowerment and integration in all CSA actions was also stressed, recognizing the importance of actively involving the youth in agriculture and CSA, especially with regard to developing and using new digital technology.

- *GACSA was encouraged to establish a Gender Action Group focused on gender and CSA, and to think about ways to involve youth.*

6. Farmers at the centre

In almost every session, it was advocated that GACSA and CSA should be even more farmer-focused. Farmers need to be convinced of the economic profitability and other co-benefits of CSA.

- *GACSA was called upon to intensify engagement with farmers' organizations in its activities and increase their membership in the Alliance. GACSA was also encouraged to provide farmers with knowledge support and also facilitate other enablers (e.g. access to markets, land, credits, etc.) for farmers to invest in CSA.*

7. Expanding the toolbox and thinking outside the box

It was consistently clarified that climate-smart agriculture provides a framework for identifying sustainable solutions that are context-specific.

- *GACSA was encouraged to explore how the multiple solutions are relevant to local and regional priorities and aligned with national policies and development agendas.*