Report of GACSA FU participation at COP22

1. Introduction

Represented at COP22 by the two co-Chairs and the Coordinator of the Facilitation Unit (FU), the Global Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) actively engaged various stakeholders at COP22 to continue to position climate-smart agriculture as a critical approach in providing climate solutions and addressing the triple win (enhanced productivity, adaptation and mitigation). Building on its convening power of facilitating interest-neutral and apolitical dialogues focused on innovative solutions and putting farmers at the centre, GACSA organized two side events on topical issues: investments opportunities for CSA, and gender and CSA. The Alliance also participated in the panel of other side events, displayed its products at two exhibition booths, as well as disseminated the work of two Members at the speaker's corner in the Holland pavilion in the Green zone. This report summarizes the major outcomes of these events, as well as others that may be of interest to the Alliance.

2. GACSA Side Events

2.1. Innovative Investment Opportunities for scaling up CSA[1]

This side event was organized on 12 November 2016 at the Italy pavilion in the Blue zone in partnership with the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land, Water and Sea. Moderated by GACSA co-chair Mi Nguyen and featuring representatives of three major stakeholder groups (farmers, knowledge organizations, and financial institutions), the interactive panel discussion sought to identify opportunities to attract investment in CSA that can more effectively benefit farmers. This is based on the recognition that farmers are themselves the biggest investors in agriculture, yet smallholders are hugely underfunded and face barriers to accessing financing. The following key points emerged from the discussions:

a) Farmers face numerous challenges, including the fact that the sector is characterized by aging farmers, as it is not attractive to the youth. With the decreasing amount of arable land due to historical extensive production methods, a sustainable increase in production requires intensification which farmers cannot afford, with low incentive for investment by farmers as they get only about 10% of the production benefits. However, there are opportunities for investment in non-farm activities on the food systems value chain, e.g. in local food processing.

b) There is a huge opportunity for investment in new agricultural technologies due to the technology boom that has pushed down prices. Some of the modern technologies are applicable to both large and small scale farmers, e.g. the sky walker, a drone that monitors drought tolerance of crops, and detects crop fertilizer needs at localized levels.

c) While investment in CSA is growing, it remains relatively very low, with the current global annual investment standing at 14 billion USD compared to the needed 150 billion. As it will be impossible to reach the desired investment target without private sector funding, a mechanism is needed to leverage private investment from public funding. The most effective approach for small holder farmers to get access to the limited funding would be to organize themselves in groups and partner with the private sector and other stakeholders along the food systems value chains.

d) Farmers need to be empowered with knowledge and free flow of data and information in order to make them truly climate smart. Climate smartness should include minimizing risk and this should be a shared responsibility between farmers and financing institutions.

e) Some funding instruments such as the Green Climate Fund target climate resilience in all sectors including agriculture but it is not clear how small holder farmers can be funded in such programmes due to the difficulty of measuring impact, hence the importance of metrics. It would be useful for small scale farmers to aggregate small projects and turn them into bankable projects targeting other lower level funding mechanisms. Through the readiness support scheme to the National Adaptation Plans, FAO is helping countries to prepare proposals that are driven by the needs and priorities of the country.

f) The African Development Bank has included in its action plan the provision of funds for technical development to increase productivity of agricultural systems, but expects to leverage additional funding from the private sector, namely through four initiatives, including funds to assist commercial banks to de-risk as well as a plan for affirmative financing action to support women. The bank encouraged farmers to be proactive and negotiate affordable loan terms with governments through their national associations, e.g. using livestock as collaterals for loans.

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[1] The panelists were representatives of the World Cocoa Producers Organization, CCAFS, CTA, GODAN, GCF, and AfDB.

In conclusion, climate finance can be used to strengthen the links between financial institutions and smallholders in order to increase the capital flows to smallholders, such as supporting financial institutions to further develop and strengthen their risk management mechanisms and to reduce transaction costs, and strengthening their capacities in agriculture finance and in developing customized agricultural financial products and services.

2.2. Climate smart farmers: scaling up rural women's innovative practices for impact[2]

The side event was held on 16 November 2016 in the Green Zone in partnership with the Climate Change Sustainable Development and Public Leadership (NCCSD) initiative in India. This side event brought to light a new focus area for GACSA on gender, building on the momentum triggered at the Annual Forum. The purpose of the event was to highlight successful approaches to rural women engaging in climate smart adaptation and mitigation practices, recognizing that women represent on average 43% of the agricultural labour force but yet still lack access to productive assets and services. Moderated by GACSA co-chair Mi Nguyen, and featuring farmers, representatives of government, private sector, knowledge organizations, and NGOs, the interactive panel discussion brought out the following:

a) Through targeted policy measures, the NCCSD is driving a change in the agricultural landscape in India by increasing the level of women engagement in farming and farm decision-making while men are increasingly engaging in off-farm income activities. However, rural women are still marginalized in this paradigm shift.

b) Kellogg is an example of private companies that are investing in the development of small holder farmers, especially women. The company has already attained its 2020 target of supporting 15,000 small holder farmers, 30% whom are women. The support was mainly through training programmes and projects such as "organic kitchen farms" that are adapted to attract women participation in training.

c) Academic and research institutions recognize the need to take their institutions to the farmers, especially the women, in order to better valorize the power of the knowledge they produce.

d) Social scientists have a crucial role to play in empowering women and youth. They are more in contact with communities and best placed to identify local champions for scaling up innovations. CCAFS is currently doing a lot of work with local communities in this regard.

e) Considering that smartness is based on knowledge, Costa Rica has created special programmes for rural women participation in vegetable production and marketing; and for capacity building towards developing multi-commodity and post-farm businesses. Costa Rica has also been a consistent strong advocate of the recognition of gender issues in the Paris Agreement, but efforts must continue.

f) One challenge that small holder farmers (and women in particular) are facing is that there are too many intermediaries that reap off the benefit that should be due to the farmer.

In conclusion, the leading role of women in agriculture and their strength as agents of change is recognised and now is the time for action to support and empower them in terms of: a) massive campaigns with governments on inheritance and land tenure issues; b) training programmes to rural women farmers on the food systems approach, including finances, ownership, access; c) using social science to ensure gender-transformative CSA innovations and to undertake impact assessments through their unique methodologies; and d) advocating for gender issues to be appropriately addressed in the INDCs and NAMAs. These actions will build on the GACSA Knowledge Action Group practice brief produced in collaboration with CCAFS and FAO on "*A Gender-Responsible Approach to Climate-Smart Agriculture Evidence and guidance for practitioners*", and inform future cross-cutting activities of the Alliance on gender, facilitated by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (GFAR), with the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP) as the focal point.

3. Exhibition and Speakers' corner.

GACSA was invited by the Netherlands to share its exhibition booth in the Holland pavilion in the green zone, and was also allocated three speaking slots at the speakers' corner (one was eventually cancelled due to last minute change in time).

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[2] The panel was constituted by representatives of UK Farmers' Union, Kellogg, CCAFS, Ministry of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Florida A&M University and Vivekanand Research and Training Institute, India

a) Visitors to the exhibition booth showed great interest in CSA and GACSA. They included students, young farmers, leaders of NGOs and farmer-based CSOs, and government officials; some of whom have expressed interest to join GACSA.

b) Speaking for Fertilizer Canada at the speakers' corner, Clyde Graham presented the 4R Nutrient Stewardship approach to fertilizer management in CSA. He demonstrated a triple win strategy to increase agricultural production with less fertilizer inputs and reduced fertilizer-based GHG emissions. The approach is based on applying the **R**ight amount of the **R**ight type of fertilizer at the **R**ight place and at the **R**ight time to ensure most efficient uptake by plants, with no losses to the environment.

c) Divine Ntiokam, founder of the CSA Youth Network showcased empowerment and promotion of youth for engagement in CSA through various approaches including sensitization campaigns, especially among school children. The initiative has embarked on a tree planting programme by school children and aims to uphold Wangari Maathai's legacy by planting about 1 billion trees in 70 countries by 2020.

4. Side events with invitation to speak

4.1. International Agricultural Research Cooperation for climate change (G7 side event)

This event was organised on 10 November by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, as a follow up on the meeting of G7 Agriculture Ministers in Niigata, Japan in April 2016. The purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity for all participants to follow the existing initiatives, in particular, GRA, GACSA, 4/1000 Initiative, and GSP in a concerted manner, in order to act as a "catalyst" for facilitating the further development of these initiatives. Invited to speak for GACSA the FU coordinator presented the work of the Alliance with emphasis on the research-related activities of the KAG, and pointed out that the four initiatives (GRA, GACSA, 4/1000 and GSP) have several areas of common interest where collaboration would add value to the efforts of individual initiatives and foster more efficient use of limited resources. From the responses of the participants, the following points were noted:

a) The G7 countries and the EU are willing to support all four initiatives but their levels of commitment are currently variable across the four, with GRA receiving the most support so far, while GACSA is receiving support from few of them and is still being considered by the others.

b) The research priorities and funding limitations vary from one country to another, and this will influence the kind and level of facilitation that each country can provide to the four initiatives.

c) Donors would like to see more integrated collaborative research programmes that strengthen synergies among the initiatives, rather than thinly spread their investments across isolated programmes.

d) While the wide and open nature of GACSA's membership and the broad scope of its activities ensure inclusiveness, it is feared that this may lead to lack of focus for the alliance.

e) The CGIAR consortium supports all four initiatives through its research which focuses on adaptation with mitigation co-benefits.

f) The FAO plays the integrative role of aggregator of the four initiatives, as they all contribute to the organization's focus on food security and zero hunger which cannot be achieved without dealing with climate change.

In conclusion, for GACSA to attract the interest of the other G7 member countries and even those outside the G7, its added-value and contributions to the countries' national programmes and priorities needs to be clearly articulated. Countries need to clearly see what benefits they can gain from GACSA, especially what they can achieve through GACSA that they would not achieve otherwise.

4.2. Common Challenges, common solutions: Collective actions to enhance resilience of South East Asian Agriculture

The side event was organised on 11 November by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) to articulate regional priorities for climate action in the agricultural sector, particularly in relation to discussions at SBSTA and the COP; showcase national level actions and efforts of member states to support regional priorities, including through South-South cooperation mechanisms; and develop partnerships with relevant organizations and networks to further scale out climate actions to address regional priorities. The network was interested in upscaling CSA in the region and wanted to know how GACSA can support, or what plans GACSA has in the region; as well as how the network would benefit from joining GACSA. The FU coordinator responded to the issues addressed to GACSA and also noted the following points that may be of interest to the alliance:

a) In the ASEAN region, GCIAR-CCAFS has adopted a bottom-up approach based on assessing local priority needs, and building the capacity required to deal with them. Programmes developed on the basis of locally identified priorities are likely to produce better resilience even if the economic benefit is lower than what would be achieved through alternative approaches. However, some economic incentive is necessary for farmers to adopt resilient practices, such as alternate wetting and drying of rice paddies to reduce water consumption and GHG emissions.
b) The ASEAN countries have a regional common position for scaling up climate resilience in agriculture but to achieve the goal, countries need assistance in capacity building and technical exchange. In addition to the overarching regional priorities the counties also have national priorities on which they are working, with varying degrees of success.
c) Thailand has a prominent NGO, the Mae Fah Luang Foundation (www.maefahluang.org) that is carrying out high impact climate resilient projects at local community level. One success story worth scaling up is the mountain forest restoration in the Nan community where denuded mountain landscape has been re-afforested and repartitioned for specific uses (utility forest, economic forest, and reserve watersheds) through a people-centered project.

This side event provided an opportunity to build on the relationship between GACSA and ASEAN CNR that started at the Annual Forum, given the great interest and potential in the region for CSA. Collaboration will be further strengthened through the regional linkage activities for which a dedicated work plan has been developed by FU.

4.3. Youth engagement in CSA in Africa

This side event was organised on 15 November by CCAFS and the CSA Youth Network to explore the contribution of African youth to CSA and showcase examples of youth taking the lead in CSA; highlight gaps in the uptake and implementation of CSA by the youth, including skills and resource gaps; and identify available opportunities and incentives to promote youth engagement in CSA. GACSA co-chair Martin Bwalya stressed the importance of engaging youth as key agents for accelerating the necessary paradigm shift to make agriculture climate-smart, and the need to transform the agricultural sector into a viable economic activity through CSA with attractive opportunities for youth. He expressed the importance of knowledge, innovation, technologies, financing, capacity-building and enabling political frameworks for this to happen. Other key messages emerging from the event are as follows:

a) Youth initiatives such as CSAYN are mobilizing many youths across Africa to engage in CSA through innovative approaches but the youth need a lot of support to access production resources (land and capital).
b) CSA needs to be made attractive and accessible to the youth by stimulating and supporting young agri-business development through appropriate policy interventions.
c) CTA sees an opportunity in the demographic shift and increased consciousness on the environment and food quality which has stimulated the emergence of role models of successful youth in agriculture. These role models need to be identified and marketed, as they can serve as incentives for other youth to get engaged in CSA.
d) The youth need to receive information and technologies in forms that are adoptable and attractive (easy to use). They should also be engaged at other segments of the food system value chains, especially at the level of market access, price negotiations and value addition on farm products.

This side event has provided ground for GACSA to build onto, and develop a new cross-cutting focus area on youth, similar to the one on gender, to be facilitated by GFAR through the Young Professional's Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) as the focal point.

4.4. Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Losses and Waste

This high-level event was organised in the Italian pavilion on 16 November by the Italian Ministry of Environment, to discuss the CSA approach and the potential of agricultural systems to support development, and ensure food security in the face of climate change. GACSA co-chair Martin Bwalya stressed the importance of taking a holistic and food systems approach to climate-smart agriculture, recognizing that according to FAO's data, one third of the food produced worldwide is either lost or wasted every year, generating about 8% of the total GHG emissions per year. GACSA is looking at how food systems along the value chain, not just on-farm practices, can be climate-smarter, including by reducing food loss and waste.

5. Bilateral and informal meetings

5.1. Meeting with Farmers' representatives

GACSA co-Chair Mi Nguyen and the FU coordinator held an informal meeting with the representatives of farmers' organisations on 14 November, organized in collaboration with the World Farmers Organization (WFO) which represents 72 farmers' organizations. This meeting was the first of its kind and the purpose was to understand the views of farmers about GACSA, what they would like to see in the Alliance, and how they can contribute to its activities, including participation in the Action Groups, building on the Annual Forum's call to put farmers at the centre of GACSA's activities. The meeting was attended by representatives of 8 farmers' organizations, including a non-member (the Danish Agricultural Council). The views expressed by the attendees are summarised as follows:

a) More efforts should be made to explain to farmers the benefits of the CSA concept, as many of them are still skeptical. CSA should not be sold to farmers as a set of rules but rather as a mentality, in a way that makes economic sense to them and that keeps politics out.

b) Farmers need to be supported in various ways such as being provided with accurate and regularly updated information, including market information; technical support and extension services and affordable technological options; removal of bottlenecks on access to funding; etc.

c) Farmers' organizations can facilitate outreach to less privileged farmers through events such as agricultural shows where the farmers can see and learn from the achievements of others. How to foster direct farmers-to-farmers dialogue should be further explored, including on the margins or in the lead up to GACSA meetings.

d) WFO and GACSA FU (including the co-chairs) would pursue a dialogue and explore how to further engage farmers' organizations in GACSA activities..

5.2. Meeting with UN Global Compact

The purpose of this bilateral meeting was to better understand the work of the UN Global Compact and how it engages with private companies, and to explore potential collaboration of mutual benefit for the compact and for GACSA, especially with regard to supporting small-scale farmers.

The UN Global Compact's work on environment is designed to help companies develop a holistic and comprehensive strategy and advance the SDGs and Paris Agreement, recognizing the growing linkages among various environmental issues (climate, food, water) as well as their connections to social and development priorities:

a) Through Caring for Climate (C4C), the Global Compact, together with UNEP and the UNFCCC secretariat, engages over 400 companies (large, small and medium size) from 60 countries to take climate actions, including upholding the five commitments to action outlined in the C4C Leadership Statement.

b) Climate actions include the following work streams: carbon pricing (during COP22, 200 companies announced that they were aligned with the Business Leadership Criteria on Carbon Pricing), setting science-based targets to reduce GHG emissions, climate adaptation, and responsible policy engagement.

c) The Global Compact is working with businesses in supporting countries to implement their NDCs, and the SDGs. It supports local networks of private businesses, which in turn, support countries in the implementation of their NDCs.

d) On the monitoring side, the Global Compact has put in place a mechanism by which listed companies must regularly report on their progress in reducing GHGs as a condition to remain on the list. Companies are also expected to provide status reports on the Global Action Agenda to enable tracking the collective effort led by the private sector.

e) With a new Executive Director, the Global Compact will have a new strategy as of January 2017, including focusing on a few topics with companies leading leadership platforms on water, soil, etc.

Considering GACSA's interest in engaging the private sector on how CSA can impact the SDGs and contribute to the zero hunger challenge, and how they could support small holder farmers in this

regard, a follow up meeting will be organized with the Food and Agriculture section of the Global Compact.

5.3. Meeting with Climate Interactive

Climate Interactive is an NGO that is developing real-time support tools to guide decisions on specific climate actions depending on the desired outcome. The tools are developed through participatory interactive research involving potential users.

The CSA tool is still under development and it is expected to do analysis to inform decision making, as well as facilitate dialogue. It is based on a systems approach on how a set of policies on various components of the production system affects the overall impact on production and on the environment (emissions). There is potential for this tool to add value to the work of the KAG in providing support to governments for decisions on implementing the NDCs.

5.4. Informal meeting of GACSA members

The purpose of the meeting was to have informal discussions among GACSA members and provide an opportunity for members to receive an update on the outcomes of the last Strategic Committee meeting and work of the Action Groups; and also to network, share views and build or strengthen partnerships. The meeting was attended by 37 individuals representing 21 members, 4 observers and two interested guests.

Members briefly presented the work of their organizations, indicating areas of possible collaboration and partnerships. Some members expressed their commitment to the Paris Agreement and the SDGs and suggested that members' actions in this regard should be aligned by GACSA as a group. Some members indicated the specific contribution of their activities to the overall goals of GACSA and identified areas in which they would need support from the alliance as a body.

5.5. Meeting with Sahara Forest Project (SFP)

The meeting, initiated by the CEO of the project and the GACSA co-chairs, was open to all GACSA members and other interested parties. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the CSA in relation to the Food-Water-Energy nexus and how to find concrete practical solutions, e.g. ensuring that climate smart agriculture is also water smart; and how the private sector and other non-state actors can help turn political ambitions into actions for CSA solutions. To kick-start the discussions the SFP team presented the project concept which is based on providing climate solutions and contribute to food security through three technologies: solar energy technology, salt water-cooled greenhouses, and revegetation of arid lands; with scope to extend to other technologies. The project concept has been tested in Qatar with great success and is now ready for scaling up and extension into other countries. One advantage of the package is the possibility to produce all year round, thus significantly increasing productivity of the land.

Responding to the presentation, participants raised some concerns, notably the profitability of these technologies to the farmer, considering that they may require huge initial investments. It was suggested that the project feasibility should be evaluated through the entire value chain to ensure equitable profitability and sustainability of all the components. The feasibility studies should be done in the context of local conditions, including markets.

The GACSA co-chairs appreciated the importance of building synergies among agriculture, water use and energy to foster a cross-sectoral approach to CSA. They stressed the importance of engagement of the private sector in bringing practical solutions through innovative technologies.

6. Other meetings attended (of interest to CSA and GACSA)

6.1. Agriculture in the NDCs of African countries

This side event was co-organised by NEPAD and FAO to discuss the important role of agriculture in the INDCs and examine the challenges and best practices in planning, design and implementation of CSA policies and action plans. The following key points were retained from the event:

a) Adaptation is crucial and priority for the NDCs of African countries and mitigation should rather come as a co-benefit, not a core objective.

b) Agriculture has potential to be the priority game changer for achieving the NDCs but it should be taken as part of an integrated national strategy that covers all the sectors in a systems approach.

c) The role of government in implementing the NDCs is critical.

6.2. Oceans Action Event (High level opening)

The Oceans Action event was opened with a high level session featuring Princess Lalla of Morocco, Prince Albert of Monaco, Morocco's Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the COP21 president, the EU Commissioner on Environment Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and the FAO DDG - Coordinator of Natural Resources. The following key messages were drawn from the event:

a) As a major source food, oceans make a substantial contribution to food security; and as a source of oxygen and a sink for anthropogenic CO_2 and heat they have a great effect on the climate. However, their ecosystems are endangered and in some places, already severely damaged.

b) The important role of oceans in climate resilience provides good justification for a blue economy and blue growth actions such as the creation of the blue belt initiative for sustainable fishing, alongside the development of aquaculture.

c) Oceans need to be sustainably valorized while avoiding over-exploitation and pollution. Sustainable management of oceans requires effective scientific, political, and financial support, as well as data and knowledge sharing and international collaboration.

d) Implementation of SDG14 on oceans requires innovative activities for concrete actions to ensure that exploitation of marine resources for their economic benefits is not done to the detriment of vulnerable coastal communities.

6.3. Quo Vadis? Agriculture and Food security under the Paris Climate Agreement

This was a high level panel discussion featuring representatives of governments, intergovernmental and international organisations, private sector and farmers' organisations. The following key messages were noted from the discussions:

a) Agriculture and forestry constitute a sink for GHGs through their sequestration effects and need to be supported through proper policy to ensure that existing carbon-rich soils are conserved and protected. The carbon content in arable soils can be increased through crop rotation approaches that enhance sequestration but farmers may need some incentives e.g. tax reduction for compliance in order to implement these practices.

b) Agriculture can deliver the type of transformational change required for climate solutions especially through small-scale producers, given that 75% of countries' NDCs talk about food security.

c) The Uruguay success story shows that with appropriate support policies for good practices and efficient use of resources and farm inputs, a country can produce a lot more food than is needed to feed its population. Trade plays an important role in food security based on the principle of "package nature and sell trust".

d) There are very many initiatives but they need to be coordinated to better support countries in achieving their NDCs and other goals, while giving deserved attention to small holder farmers, especially women.

e) Farmers, especially in Africa, generally face very high costs of production due to several factors including lack of information and policy support. Having been recognized as the agents of change, women particularly need to be empowered.

f) High income countries need to support adaptation actions in low income countries, and mitigation should be included in all actions. The global economy needs to be decarbonized in all sectors including food and agriculture, and this may require adjustment of dietary habits towards a more sustainable consumption of biomass and reduction of food waste.

6.4. Adaptation of African Agriculture: from Science to Action

The event was an external workshop organised by CCAFS to reflect on the implementation of the AAA initiative launched by the Moroccan Government. The conference provided a platform for various stakeholders to present, reflect upon experiences, and share success stories and approaches to enhance food security, resilience and productivity in the agricultural systems; and to inform the AAA initiative on priorities and approaches for transforming agriculture in Africa.

Alluding to the devastating effects of extreme whether events like the El-Nino Mohamed Ait Kadi (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Morocco) pointed out the urgency to implement adaptation measures to help African agriculture achieve increased productivity and resilience. This would require technology transfer, capacity building and South-South cooperation. Implementation of the AAA initiative would accelerate growth and create opportunities for agri-business development on the continent.

The FAO Director for Climate, Energy and Tenure identified key areas for adaptation in the agricultural sector, namely: soil management; forestry; water management; fisheries; crop production and protection; and disaster risk reduction and resilience building. He noted that Africa's priority is food security for which climate adaptation is required, and if done correctly, mitigation would not be excluded. He identified CSA as an essential tool for achieving this goal.

The Breakout group reflecting on sustainable and resilient soil management identified a number of challenges such as the absence of sustainable soil management practices; nutrient and organic carbon depletion beyond the critical levels for maintaining soil health; and lack of reliable soil data on the basis of which management recommendations could be made. Soil management strategies in the context of AAA should bear in mind the diversity of soil types and should target carbon sequestration not just to curb emissions but also for net gains in soil organic carbon, including growing and sustaining soil microbial biomass. Some options for efficient nutrient management would include the 4R nutrient stewardship, integrated soil management and site-specific nutrient management.

The group on water management recommended using integrated, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral context-specific interventions, including the use of indigenous knowledge to build resilience, a nexus approach with joint implementation and tracking of impacts, public-private partnerships for financing, sharing information and experiences to enable learning from the mistakes and successes of others, and stimulating multi-scale ownership of interventions.

The group reflecting on risk management recommended the use of insurance for risk sharing between farmers and funders, and the use of climate services for informed decision making. The use of climate services would require training, linking knowledge to action, bridging the information gap at local level, and integrating and leveraging good practices.

6.5. Climate Action and Gender

UN Women is the global champion for gender equality, working to develop and uphold standards and create an environment in which every woman and girl can exercise her human rights and live up to her full potential. The organization has developed 12 strategic programmes of gender-responsive climate actions to transform the global gender balance much needed for sustainable development.

The strategic programmes contribute to 14 SDGs and they consider the importance of CSA and the role of women in achieving the SDGs. This is the basis for the organization's theory of change to close the gender gap in agriculture.

Some gender responsive actions have been or are being developed at national level in some countries but several other countries still face some challenges such as the need for capacity reinforcement to empower women, and the need to identify clear targets to be achieved in the gender-responsive programmes.

6.6. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Agriculture: the challenge of effective international support

The focus of this side event was on: (i) new initiatives of international institutions to contribute to climate-relevant transformation through agriculture-based on NDCs; (ii) supporting West African states' NDCs by the ECOWAS CSA programme; (iii) EU national indicative programs on the agriculture – climate change nexus in developing countries; and (iv) GDPRD analysis of donor responses to blend climate finance in programmes of agriculture and rural development. The following points were retained from the discussion:

a) The NDCs are enormous political commitments some of them from very poor countries who do not have the resources for implementation. FAOis helping countries transform the NDCs to bankable projects.
b) Implementation of the NDCs will require capacity building and funding; as well as broadening the base with coherent policy frameworks that enable going beyond the ministries of environment, to include other ministries and communities.
c) ECOWAS endorsed the creation of a West Africa CSA Alliance as the implementation framework for the regional agricultural development programme. The same framework will serve for implementing the AAA and 4/1000 initiatives. However the region is still facing a funding challenge and relies on mobilizing resources from its external technical partners to supplement internally mobilized funding. The region appeals for climate finance to be channeled to the countries that are most affected and are the most in need of financial support.
d) The European Commission anticipates resource mobilization through multi-stakeholder partnerships with involvement of the private sector. Minimal public seed funding is invested to leverage more funds from other sources

e) The IFAD funding mechanisms combine grants and loans to stimulate stakeholder buy in and attract more investments. The second phase of the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP II) will prioritize certain activities and ensure that the climate component is included in all investments.

6.7. Famers of the Future

This side event was organized by the World Farmers Organization to discuss a youth centered approach to farming, giving the youth the possibility to be agropreneurs. The following key points came out of the discussions:

a) Engagement of the youth in agriculture would require bridging the financing gap for young farmers and making agriculture attractive to the youth.

b) Currently about 80 % of food is produced by only 20% of the farmers. Productivity of the other farmers can be improved by establishing climate smart villages to ensure and facilitate implementation of research results on CSA, through mutual learning between farmers and researchers.

c) The climate challenge presents opportunities for the youth on job creation in non-farm segments of the food system value chains where they can more efficiently implement emerging technologies, including cell phone Apps.