

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture  
(GACSA)

**Minutes**

**SIXTH STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FAO HQ, Rome, Italy**

**14 June 2017**

GACSA Series Document 17

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## 1. Opening Session

### 1.1 Opening Remarks

GACSA co-chair Mr Martin Bwalya, Head of the Programme Development Division of the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), welcomed participants to the meeting, and invited Mr René Castro Salazar, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department Assistant-Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to open the meeting.

In his opening remarks, Mr Castro Salazar gave an overview of the urgency of climate change threats and projections, and stressed the importance of investment in agriculture over the next ten years, as it will be a major force in meeting international emissions goals and mitigating climate change as other energy innovations and technologies are developed. He also emphasized the urgency of addressing climate change-related migration, which has become a powerful, destabilizing geopolitical force, disproportionately affecting the world's most socially and economically vulnerable. The most recent figures, in this sense, point to a global crisis with 250 million people migrating to other countries and 750 mln IDPs for climate related issues, resulting in 1 billion people on the move overall in the next five years with some hotspots distributed across the globe, namely Latin America and the Caribbeans, Sub-Saharan Africa, Peninsula Arabica including Middle East, China and the Philippines.

Poverty, food insecurity, lack of employment, climate change and environmental degradation are among the root causes of migration. For these reasons, Mr. Castro Salazar explained that sustainable agricultural practices to limit the impact of climate change, promote sound natural resource management and increase productivity are key elements in this context.

Ms Mi Nguyen (GACSA co-chair), Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to Rome-based UN agriculture organizations, highlighted the importance of FAO's active engagement in promoting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and its efforts to assist the Alliance in meeting its requirements during the transition period. She outlined that the strategic objectives of the SC meeting were to inform the SC on progress achieved, both on activities and resource mobilization fronts, to discuss how to purposefully focus our efforts in the next six months within financial constraints with a view to identifying the required next steps to position GACSA well by the end of 2017 for take-off in 2018.

### 1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

*Discussion point:* Co-chair Martin Bwalya introduced the Draft Annotated Agenda for approval.

*Decision:* Agenda approved.

### 1.3 Adoption of the Fifth Strategic Committee Meeting Minutes

*Discussion point:* The co-Chair introduced the minutes of the Strategic Committee Teleconference on 27 February 2017 (Document SC6\_2) and invited comments.

*Decision:* Minutes approved.

## 2. GACSA Progress Reports and Upcoming Participation in International Events

### 2.1 GACSA Progress Reports

Marwan Ladki, GACSA Facilitation Unit, presented the GACSA 2016 and January-June 2017 progress reports (Documents SC6\_3, SC6\_4).

Discussion point:

- i. Information was sought on CSA Booster/Climate-KIC presented as a regional CSA hub for Europe, and the extent to which European governments are participating in its functioning. The FU offered to foster dialogue between CSAb/Climate-KIC and interested EU countries;
- ii. Many commented that there was little, if any, of the initial controversies surrounding CSA and GACSA manifested in recent global events (COP22, SBSTA), with more stakeholders, including some NGOs, interested in collaborating on CSA;
- iii. On communication activities, the importance of assessing the uptake of communication products, including monitoring online communications reach, was highlighted;
- iv. Appreciation was expressed for efforts undertaken to broaden and diversify membership, in particular for engaging further civil society organizations, farmers and the private sector, and the need to continue such efforts was reaffirmed
- v. Dr Martin Frick, FAO Director of Climate, Energy and Tenure Division (NRC) reaffirmed FAO's support of GACSA, and that his division will continue hosting the Facilitation Unit (FU), and assistance in staffing needs during the transition period

Decisions:

The overall 2016-2017 Work Plan will be circulated to SC members as an annex to the GACSA progress report. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq855e.pdf>

## 2.2 GACSA Finance Report

Mr Kyle Poorman, GACSA Facilitation Unit, presented a summary of the Alliance's financial assets (Document SC6\_1).

Discussion Points:

- i. A request was made for the GACSA FU to develop a financial report listing the total amount of money currently spent out of the budget line, and in the narrative, the associated remaining activities to be achieved.

Decision: The mid-term GACSA financial report (Document SC6\_5) will be finalized and sent to the Strategic Committee.

## 2.3 Participation in Regional and International events

Ms Federica Matteoli, GACSA Facilitation Unit, presented the Proposal for GACSA's participation at regional and international events in 2017 (Document SC6\_6).

Discussion points:

- i. Global events were identified as strategic opportunities for GACSA:
  - a. UN Climate Week (18-23 Sept, NY) to promote the importance of agriculture in climate action;
  - b. UNFCCC COP 23 Bonn (6-17 November, 2017), through one-day events, including a high-level one, at a venue close to the COP 23 location, plus participation in relevant FAO Action Days regarding land use, oceans and water given the interlinkages;

c. Global Science Conference on CSA (28 November-1 December, Johannesburg)

- ii. An invitation was given for GACSA's participation in the 7th Global Meeting of the Low Carbon Technology Partnership initiative (LCTPi) in Brussels, 19-20 June, 2017. Other events such as UNCCD Food Loss and Waste conference were mentioned as possible opportunities
- iii. GACSA's participation in regional events was also deemed important. Support was offered to explore options for one to two regional events/workshops over the next several months.

Decisions:

A GACSA high-level side event will be organized on the margins of COP 23 in Bonn (November 2017) at a separate venue, and will have a representative at the Global Science Conference on CSA in Johannesburg (November 2017), FAO Action Days in mid-November 2017, High-Level political forum in New York (July 2017)

### 3. Annual Forum 2017

#### 3.1 Discussion of Annual Forum Task Team Meeting 13 June, 2017

Tobias Baedeker, GACSA AFTT member and Agricultural Economist at the World Bank, presented the results of the AFTT meeting and reviewed the proposed agenda and themes for the 2017 Annual Forum.

- i. GACSA has sufficient financial resources to put on a similar event to the 2016 Annual Forum, with USD 120 thousand budgeted on the proposed dates of 4-6 October 2017.
- ii. In terms of human resources, the AFTT identified the need for three full time employees (logistics, administrative support, communications) to ensure successful delivery of the 2017 Annual Forum, depending on other staffing measures undertaken to meet requirements according to previous spending priorities.
- iii. In light of discussions regarding GACSA's participation at COP 23 in Bonn, including a high-level event, some members explored the option of holding the AF at a later date in the year, as it would be more conducive to preparing and attracting concrete deliverables/outcomes for the AF, and paving the way for greater GACSA actions in 2018. It was reported that facilities were available on the dates of 12-14 December, 2017 at FAO Headquarters, Rome.

Decisions:

- i. Annual Forum will be held 12 - 14 December, 2017 at FAO Headquarters (Rome, Italy). Preliminary themes and agenda were accepted as a good base to move forward with planning.
- ii. A Regional Engagement Task Team will be established to prepare and support the engagement of regional CSA alliances in the preparation and delivery of the 2017 Annual Forum. The Regional Engagement Task Team will be facilitated by Marwan Ladki.
- iii. A COP 23 Task Team facilitated by Marcel van Nijnatten (Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture) will be dedicated to preparing GACSA's engagement at the event in Bonn. Interested members, including Mr Ernie Shea (North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance) and Mr Mark Manis (USDA), may contact the facilitator.

- iv. Save-the-date invitations for COP 23 Bonn event and GACSA AF will be sent as soon as the Member Directory is updated.

#### 4. Facilitation Unit staffing and short-term support

The Facilitation Unit reported that as of 17 March 2017, the FU has moved to CBC and supports three staff at in-kind contributions (at no cost to GACSA), two based in Rome, one based in the Netherlands. There is an intern supporting GACSA until 20 August 2017. One staff contract will be ending at end of August 2017, one in December 2017, and one in 2019, all under CBC. Efforts are underway to contract a communications consultant (now recruited). There is possible temporary additional staffing support available from CBC, including to provide administrative services.

#### 5. Resource Mobilization Strategy

In the absence of Maarten de Groot (Canada) as convener of the AHFC, Ernie Shea (North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance) presented on ongoing resource mobilization efforts:

- i. The Facilitation Unit developed a story-telling document for GACSA covering activities since its inception, which was summed up in a 2-page document to be shared, as well as a resource mobilization strategy that lays out possible ways to mobilize resources and fundraising goals in the medium and longer term (five years), as per Document SC6\_7.
- ii. Some members of the AHFC met on 13 June, 2017 to discuss the desirability of exploring potential alternate ways to channel funds to GACSA, as well as additional possible options to attract additional resources.
- iii. The co-chairs indicated having started implementing the resource mobilization strategy by engaging and meeting with members"

##### Discussion points:

- i. Some members expressed a preference for GACSA FU to operate through FAO in order to benefit from FAO legal and financial management accountability standards and procedures.
- ii. Experiences were shared with respect to financial sustainability: membership fees (\$50 thousand USD), supplementary funding based on interest, and unspent balances from donors between October-December;
- iii. Request for regular updates on the co-chairs' fundraising strategy and activities, potentially to be included in GACSA's monthly finance reports.

##### Decisions:

- i. Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted.
- ii. A task team on funding sources was established to explore possible options (pros and cons), and will report to the Strategic Committee in consultation with the AHFC

#### 6. Any Other Business

##### Discussion points:

- i. The co-Chairs feel comfortable that the group has assessed critical elements to move forward to December and to deliver a successful side-event in Bonn and Annual Forum in December 2017. The co-chairs encourage the facilitators of the AFTT, the COP 23 Task

Team and the Regional Engagement Task Team to liaise on a regular basis, and the co-chairs will convene meetings to ensure coherence and coordination, as required.

- ii. Regional Alliances are emerging as an important space and priority in future work of GACSA, and how we move forward concretely. Having the RA and stakeholders present at conferences and events will highlight GACSA’s contributions to CSA and will encourage membership in GACSA.
- iii. A new co-chair will be elected at the outcome of the next Annual Forum to succeed to Martin Bwalya. Guidelines were developed last year regarding the elections process of a new co-chair, and will be circulated for comments before the process is launched.

## 7. Wrap Up and Closing

In conclusion of the proceedings, the co-Chairs recognize the dedicated work of the Action Groups and Ad Hoc Committee members. They hope for continued action in the future and vertical engagement. A Strategic Committee meeting or teleconference will be convened in the fall, as appropriate, ahead of COP 23 and the GACSA Annual Forum.

### Annex 1: Decisions and actions agreed to at the 6th GACSA SC meeting

Agenda Item	Decisions	Related Action and Responsible Parties
2. GACSA progress reports, and upcoming participation in international events	1. GACSA will prioritize attendance at high-level international events, including COP 23 and the Global Science Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture in Johannesburg  2. GACSA will host a high-level side-event at the margins of COP 23, and will host a COP 23 Task Team  3. Explore ways to assess uptake of communications reach  4. Regional Engagement Task Team is established, including to plan GACSA's participation in or organization of regional events as well as CSA regional alliances participation in Annual Forum	1. Co-Chairs with FU support  2. Task team on COP 23 side-event. Marcel van Nijnatten is facilitator, interested members to contact him directly.  3. GACSA FU  4. GACSA FU—Marwan Ladki is facilitator

<p>3. Annual Forum 2017</p>	<p>1. The GACSA Annual Forum 2017 will take place at FAO headquarters, Rome, 12-14 December 2017</p> <p>2. GACSA Member Directory will be updated with current organizational contacts. Save-the-dates for AF and COP 23 events will be mailed as soon as directory is updated.</p>	<p>1. AFTT with FU support and in collaboration with AGs and Regional Engagement Task Team will organize sessions and side events for the core event. FU will organize the SC meeting on the 3rd day.</p> <p>2. FU</p>
<p>5. Resource Mobilization</p>	<p>1. Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted and now in the implementation stage</p> <p>2. Ad Hoc Team on funding established.</p>	<p>1. Co-chairs implementing first stage.</p> <p>2. Ernie Shea (NACSAA) is lead, interested members may contact him.</p>
<p>6. Other decisions</p>	<p>1. Synergies and coherence required amongst the COP 23 task team, the Regional Engagement Task Team and the AFTT</p> <p>2. Process to elect a new co-chair to replace Mr Martin Bwalya as of the 2017 Annual Forum</p> <p>3. A Strategic Committee teleconference or physical meeting will be planned for fall 2017 to discuss planning of AF and COP23 in Bonn side-event.</p>	<p>1. Co-chairs will convene calls as required. Facilitators of respective Task Teams to liaise on a regular basis.</p> <p>2. Co-chairs/FU to send Guidelines to SC for comments, if any, after which the process will be launched.</p> <p>3. Co-chairs and FU</p>