

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture

(GACSA)

Final Minutes

SEVENTH STRATEGIC COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

23 October 2017

1. Opening Session

Ms Mi Nguyen (GACSA co-chair), Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to Rome-based UN agriculture organizations, presented the meeting objectives and the draft agenda.

Decision: Agenda approved

2. Situation – GACSA resources

2. a. GACSA financial situation

An update was provided on GACSA budget since the last monthly financial report that was sent mid-July. It was reported that out of the approved spending budget for 2017, expenses of some USD 53,000 had been incurred so far in 2017.

2. b. Facilitation Unit resources

An update was also provided on the resources in the Facilitation Unit, based on the document that was circulated to the Strategic Committee prior to the call, explaining that there were currently 7 people providing support to the Facilitation Unit, in different capacities, on a part-time and full-time basis, to assist in delivering GACSA's planned activities until the end of 2017, in particular, the Annual Forum.

Discussion Point: The usefulness of receiving monthly financial reports was stressed. Ms Nguyen explained that due to reduced staff capacity, and the summer holiday period, monthly reports were not produced for neither August nor September.

Discussion points via email: as some SC members couldn't share their points through teleconferences, we have called them in this space

- The Strategic Committee is getting too large to be of very useful to the FU. Cornell University proposed requesting GACSA to develop a draft revised structure to be considered at the AF, based on a number of rotating slots for each representative group and region (countries, farmers, INGOs NGOs, etc), perhaps with a max size of 15-25. Each slot would have a termed time on the SC, set up so that not all the SC members change out at one time.

Decision: A financial report will be sent to SC members by the end of October, and a final one at the end of the year.

3. Updates on events

3. a. COP23

Marcel van Nijnatten, chair of Task team for COP23, presented on the progress made in the preparations for the GACSA high-level side event at COP23, including the the concept note and the

proposed high-level speakers (member country from one of the regional CSA alliances such as Ethiopia or Vietnam, FAO Director-General, IFAD President, David Nabarro).

Discussion Point:

- Participants stressed the value of selecting speakers from the Regional Alliances, to the importance of involving Action Groups and the need to promote the side event soon.
- No objection was made on the proposed high-level speakers. It was suggested to involve Erik Solheim, UNEP Executive Director. It was clarified that the proposal of GEF CEO as speaker was an alternative solution, considering availability, geographic diversity and gender balance.
- It was clarified that each Action Group had been asked to identify panel members for their respective panels. It was proposed that Allison Morrill Chatrchyan, Director, Cornell Institute for Climate-Smart Solutions, be a speaker for the KAG panel.
- Given that many SC members had not received the concept note, it was proposed that the concept note would be circulated again with a further opportunity to provide input.
- Identifying an opportunity to highlight CSA investments on the ground, such as the GEF-IADB investments in Central and Latin America in CSA, was stressed as valuable, including in the preparations of the IAG sessions for the Annual Forum.
- Case studies or practice briefs on landscape approaches were also mentioned as important for the KAG work.
- Interest was expressed on receiving an update regarding IAG work on CSA metrics.

Discussion points via email: as some SC members couldn't share their points through teleconferences, we have called them in this space

- COP 23 CSA side Events: the details are now up on the UNFCCC website – Allison M. Chatrchyan proposed that Cornell's intern will fill out the table, and send it back.
- CSAYN is available to speak as panelist during the GACSA side event at COP23 for the Panellist 1: Catalysing action; innovative partnerships as well as embracing gender and youth implications in CSA advances

Decision:

- SC members to indicate to Marcel (m.j.h.vannijnatten@minez.nl) and Federica (Federica.matteoli@fao.org) whether they will attend COP23 in Bonn and if, for which dates – by 31 October.*
- SC members to send views to Marcel (m.j.h.vannijnatten@minez.nl), if any, on the concept note regarding COP23, by 31 October.*
- Points expressed will be conveyed to the KAG and IAG facilitators, respectively, relevant to their work.*

3. b. CSA Johannesburg Conference

Martin Bwalya presented the concept note for GACSA side event during the CSA Conference

Discussion Point: N/A

3. c. Annual Forum

Marcel van Nijnatten, Chair of Task team for AF provided an update on the preparation of the Annual Forum.

Discussion Points:

- To put Leida Mercado from Costa Rica in contact with the KAG conveners, as they are working to identify speakers to populate the sessions of the Knowledge group. The criteria is to give visibility to institutions and organizations which participated and were very active during the year.
- Moderators: Options for consideration by the AFTT include: identify 4 moderators amongst the members for each half day; identify 1 professional moderator for the whole event (should a member be ready to cover the costs).
- Actions groups to decide and confirm what they want to showcase during the AF sessions.
- The AfDB is a new member and will organise, with FAO, a side event on December 14.

Discussion points via email: as some SC members couldn't share their points through teleconferences, we have called them in this space

- AF Lunch: this cost seems high with constrained budgets –participants can purchase lunches on their own in the cafeteria – no cost to AF. However, Coffee breaks are essential!
- Sponsorships: prioritize the sponsorship to developing countries
- In the future, move the Annual Forum to a one-two day event in connection with the COP, or the UNFCCC meetings in May, or the UN General Assembly in NY. That way, you could get wide participation from country delegations and NGOs, without incurring additional large travel expenses. Many groups do this, such as the Global Landscape Forum at COP 21, with great success.
- In India, very substantive work is done for introduction of Climate Smart Agriculture and providing Legal Guarantee for food security to poor families. NCCSD would like to share this experience – the subject could be a strategy “Doubling of Farmers’ Income in Arena of Climate Change – Indian perspective”. Perhaps Bhutan can be called upon to share their environmental initiative.
- There is need to set up a Forum for actual ‘Transfer of Technology’ and Expertise between Members and with FAO. This transfer is “From those who have it to those who need it”. This could be concrete ‘outcome’ of GACSA initiative. Discussion and Case Studies are very useful – but proof of actual physical achievements at ground level by GACSA initiative is need of time. In developing countries where there are re-currents draughts and subsequent exodus to neighboring countries or deaths due to hunger is the challenge world is facing due to fierce and un-predictable increasingly intense adverse weather / climatic events.

4. Pending issues and discussions

4. a. Sponsorship for participants to the Annual Forum

Discussion Point:

- Sponsorship – list of 13 sponsors was approved in principle, recognizing that some may be sponsored by GACSA members or partners.
- “Nice-to-have” proposal from Marwan for regional sponsorship received support – no objection.
- With a view to prioritizing sponsorship requests, it was stressed that sponsorship should seek to enable a wider range of committed and active participants on CSA from developing countries and from different constituencies and regions.
- It was also proposed that partial sponsorship for AF participants should be explored, where possible.

***Decision:** The Facilitation Unit can proceed with the sponsorship process, as discussed.*

4. b. GACSA Strategic Vision 2018 and Beyond

Mark Manis mentioned the 1-pager document that was developed for the GACSA Strategic Vision 2018 and beyond, based on the desire expressed by SC members to have such a document.

Discussion Points:

- The document was deemed useful to underpin the activities ahead (COP23, CSA Johannesburg Conference, Annual Forum) and for resource mobilization purposes;
- A call was made for members from various constituencies to participate in the Platform Team created to explore options regarding funding from the private sector.

***Decisions:** SC members to send comments on the Strategic Vision 2018 and beyond to the GACSA Facilitation Unit by 31 October.*