

Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture

Strategic Vision 2018 and Beyond

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Background

The impacts of climate change are reducing the capacity of natural resources (soil, water and biodiversity) to sustain food demand of the world's increasing population. Food security and climate change are therefore interlinked challenges that need to be addressed simultaneously. Increasing resource efficiency in agriculture and building resilience to climate risks are the key actions for undertaking these challenges. This implies a significant transformation of agriculture and food systems, with concerted and coordinated involvement and action of all stakeholder. While this largely implies medium to long term transformative actions, immediate action is needed for short term concerns and results.

Since its launch in 2014 the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) has consolidated as a platform where people and institutions come together to work on solutions regarding technical, policy and investment issues required to achieve sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition in the face of climate change. It aims to enhance resilience and sustainability in food systems as well as livelihoods. GACSA established three action groups on knowledge, investments and enabling environment, respectively, as well as a regional engagement task team to bring collaboration closer to implementation on the ground and achieve greater impact at scale.

Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the international community has put a clear emphasis on implementing policies and practices. The recent decision relating to Agriculture adopted at UNFCCC CoP23 underlines this focus on implementation.

GACSA recognize and aims to pursue its support and value within the context of existing national, regional and global frameworks and development policies and plans. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which represent the country-driven roadmap to implement the Paris Agreement, emphasize the importance of supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation through the agricultural sectors.

GACSA is uniquely positioned to catalyze action focused on implementation. For this to happen GACSA needs to scale up in terms of membership, regional initiatives and partnerships.

To this end the Strategic Vision for 2018 and beyond should serve as a framework for the work carried out by the action groups and the guiding document for the work undertaken by the co-chairs and the facilitation unit.

GACSA is

- Addressing the three pillars of adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable productivity towards climate-smarter food systems
- Voluntary, inclusive, transparent

- Growing with more than 190 multi-stakeholders members including governments, farmers, researchers and academia, civil society, private sector and international organizations at regional, national, and local scales
- A global platform amplifying and connecting the work of members
Supporting knowledge enhancement of technical interventions, practices and policy

Key Objectives:

- **Provide an open, diverse and inclusive multi-stakeholder platform to foster dialogue and action** among members on agriculture-climate change nexus issues for food security and nutrition that empowers farmers, bearing in mind women, smallholder and family farmers, youth and indigenous peoples, and recognizing that smallholders, including farmers, livestock keepers, fishers and foresters are the most vulnerable to climate change;
- **Leverage multi-institutional action to generate problem-solving knowledge and partnerships**, and synergies to act at scale for enhancing agricultural, forestry and fisheries practices and systems that sustainably increase productivity, improve resilience and adaptation and, where possible, reduce or sequester emissions;
- **Contribute to informed public dialogue and public opinions** on agriculture-climate change nexus issues for food security and nutrition

For 2018 and beyond GACSA will focus on activities listed below. The work of GACSA will be brought to the attention of the international community, potential members and the broader public to ensure maximum impact and maximum potential to scale up activities.

2018 and Beyond:

- Build multi-stakeholder support for using climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to implement NDCs
- Scale up CSA at the regional level, building on existing regional/national partnerships and networks
- Support members on fostering application of CSA practices and systems on the ground
- Achieve greater impact at scale along the value chain by mobilizing the private sector and fostering Public-Private Partnerships and collaboration
- Bring together the agriculture – climate change nexus to attain sustainable economic growth and development for food security and nutrition
- Promote and support enabling institutional and policy reforms for scaling-up CSA
- Consolidate action on knowledge, investment and policy through three Action Groups
- Expand regional engagement in conjunction with the three Action Groups
- Develop an inclusive approach to resource mobilization
- Connect the work of individual members to deliver a “greater good” that would otherwise not be possible within the involved organisations/players
- Generate and share practical implementation related information, knowledge and insights based on experiences of members