

Consultative meeting Alliance for CSA

18-20 June 2014 Hanoi, Viet Nam

Concept note

Background

In November 2010 agriculture, food security and climate change were addressed as part of the same agenda for the first time, during the *1st Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change*, hosted in The Hague, the Netherlands, co-organized by the Governments of Ethiopia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway and Viet Nam, together with FAO and the World Bank. The conference attracted 1000 participants, including 60 government ministers, as well as representatives from international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, farmers organizations and the scientific community. At the Conference FAO presented the concept of Climate-Smart Agriculture¹ (CSA), and the outcomes of the conference were captured in a concrete Roadmap for Action, addressing the policy-science gap and looking into more efficient and new ways of funding. In September 2012 this Conference was followed-up by a formal stocktaking during the *2nd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security, and Climate Change*, hosted by the Government of Viet Nam, in close collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands and partners FAO and World Bank. The most recent *3rd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change*, hosted by the Government of South-Africa in December 2013, co-organized by the Government of The Netherlands, FAO and World Bank, offered a platform to discuss and share experiences on successes, and set the scene for the design phase of an Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, to be formally launched during the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit in September 2014. Early May the initiative for an Alliance for CSA was welcomed in the Abu Dhabi Ascent meeting, as a concrete deliverable of the Climate Summit.

Consultative meeting Asian region

The Governments of Viet Nam, South-Africa and The Netherlands will co-organize a Consultative meeting, with support from the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), FAO, CGIAR/CCAFS, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Italy, for an Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. This consultation for the Asian region, which will take place from 18-20 June in Hanoi, Viet Nam, is part of the formal preparatory work for launching the Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) at the UN SG's Climate Summit in September 2014. Initial work has started between the current partners, through interim action groups focused on Investment, Knowledge and Enabling Environments. In support of this work a consultative meeting took place in The Hague, mid April, which resulted in the proposed Framework document for the Alliance (See Annex I).

The outcomes of the consultative meeting will feed into the global meeting planned in July in The Hague and relevant ongoing international and regional processes, related to agriculture food security and climate change.

¹ Climate-smart agriculture promotes production systems that sustainably increase productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes GHGs (mitigation), and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals. <http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/72610/en/>

The meeting in Hanoi will involve representatives from international and regional Institutions and bilateral financiers already –or potentially- supportive of the Alliance for CSA as well as representatives of national and regional research organizations, Farmers Organizations and Civil Society Organizations, mobilized by GFAR and the Asian Development Bank.

Coming after the Abu Dhabi Ascent meeting (May 4-5) preparing for the Climate Summit, and before the last global consultative meeting planned in the Hague in July, the regional meeting in Hanoi will also be framed with a global perspective, involving to the extent possible Representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations, National Agriculture Research Systems (NARS) and Farmers Organizations from Sub Saharan Africa and Latin America, as well as participants in the ongoing dialogue on the Alliance for CSA taking place in Sub Saharan Africa.

Asian context and Africa and Latin America experience

A dedicated session of the meeting will focus on the Asian context and share experiences from Asia, as well as Africa and Latin America, facilitating dialogue between the different stakeholders.

Objectives and scope of the meeting

The Consultative meeting is part of the formal preparatory work for launching the Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA). The Alliance will help all stakeholders in government sectors and non-government sectors to adjust agricultural practices; food systems and social policies so that they better take account of climate change and efficient use of natural resources. The Alliance will enable governments and other stakeholders to make these transformations in ways that bridge traditional sectoral, organizational and public/private boundaries. The Alliance on CSA will support other international processes, related to agriculture, food security and climate change.

One of the objectives of the Consultative meeting is to provide an opportunity for cross fertilization, in particular, between the work of the interim Action Group on Enabling Environments, the interim Action Group on Investment and the interim Action Group on Knowledge and identify next course of action for the three action groups established in Johannesburg. (More specific information on these action groups has been attached in Annex II).

In specific the meeting will:

- Inform participants on what is CSA, the vision and added value of the Alliance and list the interest of stakeholders to be part of the CSA Alliance
- Understand Asian context and requirement, share experiences from Asia, Africa and Latin America, facilitating dialogue between the different stakeholders.
- Evaluate if priority areas under the action groups are in line with the regions priorities and identify potential areas of regional and cross regional collaboration and CSA initiatives;

- To support government and different stakeholders in adopting agricultural practices to achieve more climate-friendly and climate-resilient agricultural sector in countries

Timing & Venue

The envisaged date is Thursday 19 and Friday 20 June, with the possibility for a field trip to a new rural development area, on Wednesday 18 June. The meeting will be hosted by the Government of Viet Nam in Hanoi, at the Melia Hotel.

Participants

100 to 120 representatives from governments, private sector, scientific institutes, farmers organizations and unions, foundations, civil society and international organizations, are expected to take part in this consultative meeting, which will feed into the global process, through The Hague arriving in New York in September 2014.

Annex

- Proposed Framework document
- Information note on Action groups for Enabling Environments and Knowledge

ANNEX II

Enabling environments: The action group on Enabling Environments is co-led by the Governments of Viet Nam, South-Africa and The Netherlands, and aims at integrating Climate-Smart Agriculture into policy, strategies and planning at regional, national, and local levels and across landscapes. Objectives pertaining to enabling environments may include:

- Changing public policy frameworks, for example through linking sustainable agriculture intensification with climate adaptation, resilience and disaster risk reduction efforts, and acting to reduce emissions where possible- as a result of agriculture and land use change;
- Incorporating Climate-Smart Agriculture practices into agriculture extension and outreach services;
- Mainstreaming Climate-Smart Agriculture practices into local, community-driven programmes, national investment and food security plans and policies for development assistance;
- Establishing policies that encourage responsible practices and investment along the value chain; and facilitating the adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture technology, practices and systems.

Knowledge:

The Action Group on Knowledge is co-led by FAO and CGIAR/CCAFS. Its objective is to identify the major knowledge priorities, key areas of work and knowledge products which will facilitate the successful and efficient adoption and up-scaling of CSA.

The idea is to increasing and promoting knowledge, research and development into technologies, practices, and approaches for Climate-Smart Agriculture; technology transfer and cooperation; improving communication and information sharing among participants; and outreach, extension, and technical assistance.

Objectives pertaining to knowledge may include:

- Identifying and filling knowledge gaps that hinder adoption and implementation of Climate-Smart Agriculture;
- Stimulating research and investment in Climate-Smart Agriculture and food systems, drawing on indigenous knowledge and expertise where feasible;
- Connecting research findings to the experiences of practitioners in a transparent and open way;
- Developing knowledge platforms in order to exchange data and information;
- Scaling up south-south knowledge sharing and support;
- Strengthening extension and support tools for Climate-Smart Agriculture, ensuring they reflect the perspectives of producers, are based on their empirical knowledge and draw on their experiences (through farmer-to farmer engagements); and
- Strengthening institutional capacity development for knowledge and technology transfer relating to Climate-Smart Agriculture.

To help shape this common agenda for effective knowledge systems, knowledge priorities and knowledge products, a survey was held from Tuesday, 8th April till Tuesday, 29th April 2014. Almost 500 responses were received. The results are currently being evaluated, and will be shared at the event.

Investment:

Improving the effectiveness of public and private investments that support the three pillars of Climate-Smart Agriculture.

Objectives pertaining to investment may include:

- Encouraging existing public and private investments to review their compatibility with Climate-Smart Agriculture;
- Leveraging new public and private investment into Climate-Smart Agriculture from domestic and external (multilateral and bilateral) sources;
- Developing methodologies and metrics to guide investment strategies;
- Improving climate-resilience of rural and agriculture infrastructure while reduces greenhouse gases where appropriate;

- Engaging government departments, institutions, farmer organizations, the private sector and agri-businesses (large and small) and others in multi- stakeholder partnerships for climate-smart investments in agriculture and food systems, including supply chains; and
- Increasing farmers' access to weather forecasting and risk management tools such as insurance.