

Guiding Principles for GACSA Co-chair Selection Process

June 2016

GACSA is a volunteer-driven platform with a light structure that is still early in its existence, and the process for selecting a co-chair should reflect this reality. It should be driven by volunteer interest and capacity to act and not be overly bureaucratic. As such, a formal process for all eventualities need not be established at this time. Additional work on governance of the Alliance will be done by a subcommittee and submitted to the Strategic Committee for review over the coming months. However, this will not be completed in advance of the departure of one of the co-chairs. As a result, a streamlined approach is proposed to fill the immediate need for a new co-chair, while respecting principles of transparency. This approach may be amended in the future as needed by the Strategic Committee.

Principles - Candidates

- Capacity-based selection rather than constituency-based. The most important characteristics of a co-chair are their interest and availability to contribute positively to the Alliance, rather than directly representing specific constituencies.
- Candidate must be from a member institution of GACSA.
- Candidate must be able to demonstrate awareness of current trends and issues within the Alliance.

Principles - Process

- Process must be open and transparent, with steps clearly communicated to the membership (e.g. via the website and email).
- The Strategic Committee sets the process for selecting new co-chairs.
- The selection of the new co-chairs will take place on June 17th in Rome during the Strategic Committee meeting, which is open to all members and is an integral part of the GACSA Annual Forum.
- If possible, selection will be by consensus rather than by secret ballot, reflecting the volunteer nature of the Alliance. However, if many candidates present themselves, a paper ballot may be required (see process steps below)
- Where feasible the terms of the two co-chairs will be staggered so as to avoid the replacement of both co-chairs in the same year.
- Each co-chair will serve for two years, contingent upon availability and the timing of the Annual forum/Strategic Committee meetings. Co-chairs can serve up to two consecutive terms, based on their availability, interest, and the agreement of the Strategic Committee.
- Exceptionally, in the extension of the inception year, to achieve the staggering of co-chair terms and provide continuity, one co-chair will be extended for one additional year by consensus of the Strategic Committee.

Co-Chair Selection Process Steps

The GACSA Strategic Committee has determined the following steps will be taken to select a new GACSA co-chair:

1. Co-chairs announce to membership via email and the GACSA website that one co-chair position is open for selection.
2. Facilitation Unit posts process and expectations on the GACSA website two weeks before the Strategic Committee meeting (by June 3rd).
3. Selection process scheduled as part of the Strategic Committee meeting on June 17th with fixed time and location, communicated as part of Annual Forum agenda.
4. Candidates prepare their candidacies per the 'How to Apply' section
5. Two days before the Strategic Committee meeting (by 6pm CET, June 15) candidates submit their summary application, CV, a statement that their home organization supports their candidacy, and a nomination statement (per the How to Apply section) to the Facilitation Unit by email.
6. The Facilitation Unit posts the summary applications of candidates on the GACSA website in alphabetical order by June 16th.
7. Facilitation Unit assesses number of candidates:
 - a. If only one candidate presents themselves, approval by acclamation.
 - b. If 2-3 candidates present themselves, selection by a majority show of hands.
 - c. If >4 candidates present themselves, FU to prepare ballots with names of each candidate and prints sufficient copies.
8. At the Strategic Committee on June 17th, candidates are invited to speak 5-8 minutes regarding their candidacy.
9. Selection process proceeds based on assessment in 7 above.
10. Current co-chairs announce and welcome incoming co-chair.
11. Profile of new co-chair is published on GACSA website.

GACSA Co-chair Selection

GACSA is an alliance of diverse partners dedicated to promoting the three pillars of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) – sustainable increases in agricultural productivity, greater resilience of food systems and farmer livelihoods, and reduction and/or removal of greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture, where possible. The Alliance consists of a Strategic Committee, a Facilitation Unit, Action Groups (Knowledge, Investment, and Enabling Environments), and an Annual Forum. The Strategic Committee is headed by two co-chairs and approves key aspects of the Alliance such as the annual programs of works, budget etc. Participation in the Strategic Committee is open to all members. The Strategic Committee is now looking to fill one of the co-chair positions.

The Co-Chairs commit to deliver on a number of outcomes:

- Be a neutral voice in facilitating dialogue on climate smart agriculture
- Facilitate the application of an overarching vision for the Alliance
- Chair meetings of the Strategic Committee, and preside over the Annual Forum
- Manage stakeholder relations, speak for GACSA publicly, and present/sign formal communications for the Alliance
- Provide guidance to the Facilitation Unit and approve the selection of the Head of the Facilitation unit, in consultation with the host institution (FAO)
- Maintain high-level strategic oversight of the work of the Action Groups

Effectively delivering on these commitments will benefit from:

- Strong facilitation skills and the ability to communicate effectively to diverse audiences
- Significant experience in stakeholder management
- Knowledge of trends/issues/institutions in agriculture and climate change
- Fluency in English, capacity in other languages is an asset
- Availability for the equivalent of approximately 1d/week over a period of 2 years
- Have the support of the home organisation to dedicate sufficient time to the Alliance

How to apply

- Prepare a 1-3 paragraph summary outlining your interest, qualifications, and your view on current trends and challenges facing GACSA and a vision for achieving its aspirational goals .
- By way of an email to the Facilitation Unit (GACSA-Facilitation-Unit@fao.org) please submit:
 - your summary application;
 - your CV;
 - a statement indicating your home organisation supports your candidacy;
 - a statement with the GACSA member who nominates you as well as two other members who second your nomination.
- Attend the Strategic Committee meeting on June 17th or send a proxy if unable to attend in person and be prepared to speak briefly to your candidacy.



Application Deadline: 6pm CET, June 15, 2016