

Rome, 16 April 2020

The Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) Calls for Coordinated Approaches Amid COVID-19

The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates that a collective action is possible and that information and knowledge sharing is paramount.

GACSA, as the only global multi-stakeholder alliance promoting climate-smart solutions for food and nutrition security, is committed to bring together all voices around the COVID-19 food systems debate.

What we are looking for, are examples of multi-sectoral cooperation, leaders driving towards positive change, alignment and inclusiveness of incentives, innovative initiatives beyond agricultural production, and platforms for action-based approaches. Farmers and their role in food supply chains, in the context of COVID-19 emergency response are crucial, in order to ensure a broad prospective of the situation and set the basis for a collective action towards food security.

Therefore, to maintain and accelerate progresses on how to transform food systems during the COVID-19 crisis, GACSA would like to identify best climate actions in agriculture, to support farmers affected by socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

GACSA, thanks to its structure, reaches a broad spectrum of decision-makers and stakeholders with relevant and timely evidence. GACSA's actions reflect an integrated approach that are determined through three Actions Groups:

- Knowledge: increasing and promoting knowledge, research, and development into technologies, practices, and policy approaches;
- Investment: improving the effectiveness of public and private investments that support climate actions and agriculture; and
- Enabling environments: integrating best bet options into policy, strategies and planning at regional, national, and local levels and across landscapes

In addition, GACSA is able to take a decentralized approach, by working closely with Regional CSA Alliances, reaching out to local audiences and decision-makers are enabling us to accelerate the food system transformation even further during the COVID-19 outbreak. We need to think differently and stimulate further the interface between and among stakeholders, to develop local perspectives on climate change impact, farming and agricultural practices. We are all key players and we must act to meet the immediate needs, long term solutions, and support recovery and build resilience.

GACSA invites you to share with us (GACSA-Facilitation-Unit@fao.org) any articles, publications and reports that displays how worldwide we are dealing with the current crisis to compile a collection of CSA responses to COVID-19.