Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)

Report

First meeting of the Global and Regional CSA Alliances, Platforms, Networks, and Initiatives

FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

17 June 2016

Report from the First Meeting of the Global and Regional CSA Alliances, Networks and Processes

FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

17 June 2016, 9:00-12:30, Lebanon Room

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Introduction

Background

In recent years, different multi-stakeholder alliances and platforms have been established at the national, regional and global levels to support the dissemination and practice of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA).

They have been established based on bottom-up, inclusive, independent and voluntary processes, with specific objectives, functioning and institutional setting. The emergence of CSA alliances and platforms worldwide is a positive and strong signal to the international community on the willingness of all stakeholders, at various levels of action, to tackle the climate challenges facing the agricultural sector, based on joint efforts and context-specific approaches.

The representatives of the regional CSA alliances and platforms have welcomed the suggestion from the GACSA Facilitation Unit to gather during the GACSA Annual Forum, to start an open and respectful dialogue amongst alliances and platforms, to share experiences, challenges and concerns, and to discuss potential opportunities for building cooperation amongst CSA alliances/platforms.

Objective

The objective of this meeting dedicated to CSA alliances and platforms was **to foster dialogue amongst the different CSA alliances/platforms**.

The specific objectives were:
- ➢ To have a greater understanding of each CSA alliance/platform (e.g. background, context, objectives, members, governance, functioning, value-added, challenges, bottlenecks, key actions, etc.); and
- ➢ To have an open discussion on the merits and potential opportunities to foster dialogue and build greater cooperation amongst CSA alliances/platforms (e.g. counterparts networking, experience sharing, mutual learning in face of key challenges, joint interest on specific scientific / political / funding concerns or on the global dialogue/agenda on CSA, etc.).

Participants

Participants in the meeting were the representatives from:

- The North America CSA Alliance (NACSAA):
    - o Mr. Fred Yoder, NACSAA Chair;
    - o Mr. Ernie Shea, NACSAA Coordinator;

- The Africa CSA Alliance (ACSAA) and the associated NEPAD-iNGO Alliance on CSA:
    - o Mr. Martin Bwalya, Head, Programme Development; Programme Implementation and Coordinating Directorate (PICD), NEPAD Agency;
    - o Mr. Douglas Brown, World Vision, iNGO NEPAD Alliance for CSA;
    - o Mr. Christopher Armitage, iNGO NEPAD Alliance for CSA;

- The Eastern Africa CSA Platform:
    - o Mr. Mathew Abang, Corp Production Officer, FAO Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Secretariat of the Eastern Africa CSA Platform; on behalf of Mr. Philip Kiriro,

Chair of East Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) and Chair of the Eastern Africa CSA Platform;

- The West Africa CSA Alliance (WACSAA):
  o Mr. Ablassé Bilgo, Head of Technical Division, ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) / Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF);
  o Mr. Pierre Haas, Technical Advisor for Food Security, ECOWAS Commission / Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (DAEWR);

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations - Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN):
  o Ms. Margaret Yoovatana, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand / Department of Agriculture, on behalf of the ASEAN-CRN;
  o Ms. Imelda Bacudo, Senior Advisor and Deputy Head of Project Forest and Climate Change (FOR-CC) under the ASEAN-German (GIZ) Programme on Response to Climate Change, GAP-CC;

- The Central Asia regional process for a CSA Alliance:
  o Mr. Reuben Sessa, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Climate Change and Energy Coordinator;

- The Central America regional process for CSA:
  o Mr. Roberto Azofeifa, Chief of Sustainable Production Department / Agricultural Extension Program, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica;
  o Mr. Raffaele Vignola, Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Costa Rica;
  o Ms. Kelly Witkowski, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA);

- The Global Alliance for CSA (GACSA):
  o Mr. Achuo Enow, Coordinator of the GACSA Facilitation Unit.

The meeting was facilitated by Ms. Mi Nguyen, deputy Permanent representative of Canada to the UN Agencies in Rome and newly appointed as GACSA co-chair, with support from Mr. Marwan Ladki, GACSA Facilitation Unit / Focal Point for liaising with regional CSA alliances and platforms.

Agenda
The final agenda, developed and agreed by all participants, is provided hereinafter.

8:45 – 9:00   *Arrival of participants*

9:00 – 09:10   **Opening remarks**
                    Remarks from the GACSA co-chairs
                    Introduction of the meeting by the facilitator
                    Participants introduction

9:10-9:50   **First set of presentations of the CSA alliances/platforms/initiatives**
                    9:10-9:15 – North America CSA Alliance (NACSAA)
                    9:15-9:20 – Association of Southeast Asian Nations - Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN)
                    9:20-9:25 – Eastern Africa CSA Platform (EACSAP)

9:25-9:30 – West Africa CSA Alliance (WACSAA)
9:30-9:35 – Africa CSA Alliance (ACSAA) and NEPAD-iNGO CSA Alliance
9:35-9:40 – Central America process towards a CSA Alliance (Costa Rica)
9:40-9:45 – Central Asia process towards a CSA Alliance (FAO-REU)
9:45-9:50 – Global Alliance for CSA (GACSA)

9:50-10:45 **Open discussion on cooperation and cross-learning (concerns, opportunities and challenges)**

10:45 – 11:15 *Coffee break (participants to meet further and have informal talks)*

11:15 – 12:00 **Open discussion on the (i) issues of mutual interests, (ii) key lessons, and (iii) the merits and opportunities to foster dialogue and build greater cooperation amongst CSA alliances/platforms.**

12:00 – 12:30 **Wrap-up on common messages (issues of mutual interest & key lessons) and recommendations (way forward & next steps).**

Meeting documents

Documents for the meeting were the *information sheets* prepared by each CSA Alliance/Platform/Network with the technical support of the GACSA Facilitation Unit, namely:

- Information sheet of the North America CSA Alliance (NACSAA);
- Information sheet of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations - Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN);
- Information sheet of the Eastern Africa CSA Alliance (EACSAP);
- Information sheet of the West Africa CSA Alliance (WACSAA);
- Information sheet of the Africa CSA Alliance (ACSAA) and NEPAD-iNGO CSA Alliance;
- Information sheet of the Global Alliance for CSA (GACSA).

No information sheet is available for Central Asia and Central America since they are ongoing processes to define how to best advance CSA in those regions.

These information sheets are available on the GACSA website, webpages dedicated to the regional CSA alliances: http://www.fao.org/gacsa/actions/csaalliancesl-platforms-networks/en/ and http://www.fao.org/gacsa/news/news-detail/en/c/422318/

Opening remarks

In his opening remarks, Martin Bwalya, as GACSA co-Chair, thanked the representatives of the various regional CSA alliances / platforms / networks / processes (hereinafter referred as the regional CSA alliances, for language simplification purposes) for joining this meeting, which is the first one gathering the different CSA alliances worldwide.

Although the different CSA alliances have been established through independent processes, with context-specific views on CSA and on the value-added of their alliance, he outlined the fact that they are part of the same community and family, looking in the same direction and addressing the same challenges at various levels.

It is now important for GACSA to show specific value-added towards the different regional CSA alliance and, in that respect, that regional CSA alliances express their needs and aspirations.

The meeting was continued by Ms. Mi Nguyen, deputy Permanent representative of Canada to the UN Agencies in Rome and newly appointed as GACSA co-chair. She detailed the background, the objective and the agenda for the meeting, stressing its intention to facilitate inclusive and open dialogue, and the potential for different CSA alliances to further collaborate for scaling-up CSA in their respective regions.

Presentation of the CSA Alliances and their respective concerns, opportunities and challenges

The representatives presented an overview of each of their respective CSA alliances, including the process by which it was established, its functioning and outcomes, as well as its concerns, opportunities and challenges. A brief summary is given hereinafter.

North-America CSA Alliance (NACSAA)

NACSAA is in a state of growth and evolution. It has been established as a place to convene the various stakeholders. Focus has first and foremost been given to the three aspirational outcomes (productivity, adaptation, mitigation) as a way to build consensus and foster cooperation among stakeholders, more than on the definition of the CSA concept per se. The NACSAA framework is key in that respect. In the North-American context, highlighting resilience and productivity concerns is a relevant way to get stakeholders on board. NACSAA is working on a non-competitive basis among its members, building on existing knowledge and experiences and fostering their sharing amongst all of them. The main challenges faced are (i) to manage to keep members active and informed, and (ii) to get sufficient resources, both in time and money, to sustain the functioning of the alliance and develop its activities. NACSAA is still looking for funding partners.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations - Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN)

Since December 31, 2015, ASEAN is now the "ASEAN Economic Community" (AEC). Its work is based on many working groups, including one on climate change, to which is linked the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (CRN). Both ministries of agriculture and environment are involved at the national level. Thus, communication and coordination is a key challenge for CRN, which has developed the "ASEAN multi-sectoral framework on climate change" (AMSFCC) in that respect. ASEAN being a formal body, all activities initiated by the ASEAN-CRN have to be reported for endorsement to the AMSFCC or to the ten Ministers in charge of agriculture and forestry (AMAF). In terms of achievements, ASEAN-CRN has delivered a regional study on climate resilience for food security in the ten member countries, to pick up best practices and develop implementation process based on a multi-stakeholder participative approach. ASEAN has also made its first ever submission to the SBSTA in Bonn this year.

Eastern Africa CSA Platform (EACSAP)

The Eastern Africa Sub-regional CSA Platform was established in October 2014 and officially launched in July 2015 with the purpose of coordinating the activities of organizations working to support the introduction and promotion of CSA in the Eastern Africa Sub-region. Much of the work on the formation of the Eastern Africa CSA Platform was supported by FAO with funding by COMESA through the project on FAO Technical Support to the COMESA-EAC-SADC Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Eastern and Southern Africa. The EACSAP has 4 thematic areas of work led by member organizations with strategic advantage in each of the areas as follows: (i) Policy and advocacy - East African Community (EAC); (ii) Knowledge management and capacity development - African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT); (iii) Research and Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) - Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA); and (iv) Value chain development (scaling up CSA) - Alliance for a Green

Revolution in Africa (AGRA). EACSAP is operating within the framework of the Climate Change Strategy of the Eastern Africa Community. Its activities are also aligned with the IGAD Disaster Risks Reduction and Resilience Initiative. For EACSAP, this alignment to the regional and sub-regional frameworks is key. EASCAP has also established terms of reference and a 3-year Work Plan to implement joint actions among EASCAP members, and to make the Eastern Africa CSA Platform fully functional. In terms of deliverables, EACSAP with the support of COMESA has conducted a stocktaking study on CSA in the Eastern Africa region. The members of EASCAP are now expecting from their platform to provide strategic leadership and way forward to scale up CSA in the region. To do so, EASCAP is still looking for additional resources from partners. NEPAD through ACSAA has already played an important role in that respect, showing the relevance of having an umbrella organization at the regional scale to support resource mobilization and actions at the sub-regional level.

West Africa CSA Alliance (WACSAA)

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is the regional economic community of the fifteen west African states. Under its leadership, WACSAA has been developed jointly with an Intervention Framework for CSA development in the frame of the West Africa Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP/CAADP), WACSAA being the multi-stakeholder platform for implementing this regional CSA intervention framework. They have been established through a 4-year process (2011-2015), based on a set of 5 sub-sectoral studies, 6 strategic studies, and 17 country-communications developed jointly by the ministries in charge of agriculture, water and the environment in the 17 countries of the ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS region on mainstreaming CSA into national agricultural investment programs (NAIPs) while reinforcing inter-sectoral consistency with NAPAs, NAMAs, and IWRM Action Plans. This process for CSA development in the region is part of a greater process called "ECOWAP+10" aiming at readjusting the West Africa Agricultural Policy implementation for the next ten years (2015-2025) by mainstreaming the so called "emerging dimensions" (e.g. climate change, nutrition, resilience, etc.). Methodology to do so has been agreed through a dedicated regional workshop in Abidjan (May 30 – June 1st, 2016). WASCAA value-added is mainly based on brokerage between the two colleges established within, namely the college of the beneficiaries (e.g. Farmers organizations, governments) and the college of the partners (e.g. technical partners, donors, etc.), for partners to meet beneficiaries' needs for support in implementing the intervention framework for CSA and mainstreaming / implementing CSA into the NAIPs. This initiative has been registered under the COP21 / LPAA. The CSA intervention framework is to be implemented through operational action plans. ECOWAS is now looking for mobilizing resources to do so and to make WASCAA operational (incl. establishment of the facilitation unit).

Africa CSA Alliance (ACSAA) and the NEPAD-iNGO Alliance for CSA

The ACSAA aim is to support the uptake and sustainable practice of CSA by 25 million smallholder farming households by 2025 (Vision 25x25). ACSAA is thus focusing on scaling up CSA. To translate that aim into action, ACSAA is relying on NEPAD action at the continental level, and coordination with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) at the sub-regional level. ACSAA through NEPAD is already developing capacity building activities at the national level in four action areas, including planning and financing. Its action is also based on an intervention program fostering initiatives on knowledge, technologies, implementation, etc. It is key to ensure coordination and consistency among the different alliances, in respect of the principle of subsidiarity. Activities undertaken at the continental level per se are mainly focusing on knowledge exchange and support. To support the grassroots scaling-up of CSA at the national level, collaboration with NGOs, scientific and technical partners, and other national stakeholders is essential and is developed through the NEPAD-iNGO Alliance for CSA. This multi-sectoral implementation alliance supports national governments to develop and implement scaling-up programmes, with a strong focus on leveraging existing initiatives, filling the gaps and avoiding inefficiencies brought by the fragmented business-as-usual approach to implementing CSA interventions. It was launched at the 23rd African Union Summit in Malabo, and aims to support at least 6 million smallholder farming households within the broader Vision 25x25 target. It has faced significant

challenges in collaboratively developing continental and national frameworks and processes with diverse stakeholders, but its inclusive approach and success in strengthening coordination and consistency amongst stakeholders and related interventions has become a key added-value for ACSAA and NEPAD-iNGO CSA Alliance. It is important that this approach continue, and that the NEPAD-iNGO CSA Alliance works collaboratively and in harmony with WASCAA and EASCAP.

Central America process towards a CSA Alliance

There is no Alliance formally set in Central America so far, however the overall environment is very positive to do so. Costa Rica, CATIE, IICA and other actors are working with key regional and national partners to define the best way forward. In Central America, this environment for setting a CSA Alliance is very similar to the one observed for ASEAN, with several sector-based political and economic articulation mechanisms to work through, including the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), which is one of the sectoral bodies working under the Central American Integration System (SICA). The ministers of Agriculture lead the CAC and meet several times a year. There are also several technical working groups associated. IICA is hosting the secretariat of the CAC and the working groups, which includes one on Climate Change and Risk Management that gathers several times per year and works to develop capacity building activities in the region. Various stakeholder groups and organizations are on board (e.g. IICA, FAO, ECLAC, CCAFS, etc.) to discuss how to best support governments in the region in implementing and scaling up CSA. Costa Rica, CATIE, IICA and their partners are now focusing on how to connect all the relevant stakeholders, partners and sectors with a joint vision and common objectives to promote sustainable, climate resilient agriculture in the region, building on the existing initiatives, organizations and dynamics. In doing so, mobilizing resources remains a key challenge.

Central Asia process towards a CSA Alliance

FAO has already considerable experience in addressing sustainability issues in the region. Recently it has obtained approval for GEF funds for the second phase of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACLIM-II) which has a regional CSA scope and will cover 4 main areas of work: 1: Multi-country collaboration and partnership to foster effective delivery; 2. Integration of resilience into policy, legal and institutional frameworks; 3. Upscaling of climate-smart agricultural practices in drought prone and/or salt affected production landscapes; 4. Monitoring and evaluation (see flyer submitted to GACSA during the meeting). Considering that CACLIM-II already has the endorsement of a number of Ministries of Agriculture and Environment it provides an important "backbone" for a CSA regional approach which will be expanded with contributions from other partners and funding sources. For example, disasters risks reduction and energy are two key issues that need to be addressed to ensure sustainable development in in the region and will be integrated into a CSA regional approach. Being relatively new, REU is keen to learn on what mechanisms other alliances have used to coordinate large multi-stakeholder consortiums, especially in the implementation of national and regional process.

Global Alliance for CSA (GACSA)

GACSA works towards three aspirational outcomes to: (i) Improve farmers' agricultural productivity and incomes in a sustainable way; (ii) Build farmers' resilience to extreme weather and changing climate; and (iii) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture, when possible. Context specific priorities and solutions need to be aligned with national policies and priorities. GACSA aims to catalyze and help create transformational partnerships to encourage the three pillars of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) – productivity, adaptation and mitigation. GACSA's work is led by its *Strategic Committee*, supported by a *Facilitation Unit* and organised in three *Action Groups*: Knowledge, Investment and Enabling Environment. *The Knowledge Action Group* (KAG) is increasing and promoting knowledge, research, and development into technologies, practices, and policy approaches for CSA. *The Investment Action Group* (IAG) is improving the effectiveness of public and private investments that support the three pillars of CSA. *The Enabling*

Environment Action Group (EEAG) is promoting the integration of CSA into policy, strategies, and planning at regional, national, and local levels and across landscapes. GACSA members, partners and interested parties come together at the *Annual Forum* to share knowledge, take stock of progress, and generate creative solutions regarding food security and climate change challenges. The Action Groups support the work of GACSA members in their efforts to contribute to the agreed vision and goals. They report regularly to the SC and take actions as requested by the SC. Action Groups act as the focal point to the Alliance on their respective thematic areas. Action Groups are led by facilitators appointed by the Strategic Committee and are open to members, observers, other entities and individuals.

Key lessons, issues of mutual interests, way forward and next steps to foster the dialogue and build cooperation among CSA alliances

Experience sharing between the representatives of the different CSA Alliances during this meeting has enable to highlight the following key lessons, issues of mutual interests, way forward and next steps to foster the dialogue and build greater cooperation among CSA alliances.

Key lessons

- The different CSA Alliances have been established through independent, bottom-up, participatory and inclusive processes, *usually* involving a large set of stakeholders (e.g. civil society, farmers' organizations, private sector, scientific and technical organizations, etc.). This set of stakeholders is however differing from one alliance to another, some alliances including governmental representatives (and regional economic community ones), others not, and one only those so far. Creating confidence and demonstrating added-value are key dimensions and on-going processes in establishing and running these CSA alliances;

- The CSA Alliances have built consensus and convergence among stakeholders by building consensus on the outcomes of CSA – that may differ from one alliance to another (e.g. productivity, food security, adaptation, resilience, competitiveness, mitigation, etc.) – more than by agreeing on a definition of CSA *per se*. Therefore, the CSA Alliances are usually seen by their members as a means to achieve a common goal (common outcomes) more than a means to promote the CSA concept *per se*. This outcomes-driven approach is key to CSA Alliances to pursue efforts in mobilizing stakeholders for scaling-up CSA;

- The CSA Alliances are facing a number of key similar issues, especially (see below for details): Demonstrating their value added, engaging with members, coordinating large-scale group of stakeholders, strengthening inter-sectoral consistency for CSA, communicating effectively, and mobilizing resources;

- Regional CSA Alliances are embedded in, and/or aligned with regional and continental agendas and frameworks (e.g. regional agricultural policies, climate change strategies, CSA intervention framework, multi-sectoral framework on climate change, conference of ministers, etc.). When developing cooperation with and among regional CSA alliances, getting along with this alignment, and the principle of subsidiarity, is key;

- Regional CSA Alliances are also part of global agendas, several of them being engaged, through their regional economic integration organization (e.g. ASEAN, ECOWAS, African Union), with the COP process of the UNFCCC (e.g. LPAA / COP21; SBSTA, GCAA and AAA / COP22, etc.);

- Most regional CSA alliances need strong support in mobilizing resources to have operational secretariat to run the alliance and/or implement their work plan;

- The Regional CSA Alliances recognize GACSA added-value in facilitating exchange, in helping opening finance and engaging with various stakeholders, and in building on existing initiatives.

Issues of mutual interest

- **Cross-learning and experience sharing** among the CSA alliances / networks / platforms / processes on:

  1) *Developing further and demonstrating their value-added* to members and non-members (incl. by developing relevant and efficient brokerage services towards their members);

  2) *Promoting CSA, especially, inter alia, by:*

     - *Building consensus and convergence among alliances' stakeholders, focusing on the outcomes* to be reached more than the definition of CSA per se (which may be sensitive in some regions / countries), and getting the buy-in from specific groups of stakeholders (e.g. political buy-in, farmers' buy-in, CSO and NGO's);

     - *Developing and/or strengthening inter-sectoral consistency* for CSA, both at regional and national levels, and promoting cross-sectoral approaches and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms;

  3) *Engaging with members* (e.g. farmers, CSOs, NGOs, businesses, governments), strengthening alignment and coordination among members and related initiatives (to avoid duplications and overlapping), and coordinating a large-scale group of stakeholders with limited time and resources and within context-specific environment (sensitivities);

  4) *Mobilizing resources* from various donors (e.g. GEF, GCF) and strengthening alignment from and coordination between donors;

- **Facilitating exchanges on how to mobilize funds** to get functional secretariat to operationalize the alliances and implement their work plans, if possible through a consistent approach to get Donors buy-in to scale up CSA;

- **Developing joint communication activities** among regional CSA Alliances and with GACSA, both internal (between CSA alliances) and external (vis-à-vis external partners and potential donors);

- **Develop brokerage and ensuring linkages between the GACSA Action Groups and the regional CSA Alliances**, in order to aggregate and disseminate clear and useful knowledge for action;

- **Building further the cooperation among the CSA Alliances through a dedicated "Community of Practices", "Network" or "Platform"**, with support and facilitation from the GACSA Facilitation Unit. It would foster knowledge exchange and experience sharing through dedicated mechanisms to be developed. This could potentially be a key interest for the regional CSA alliances in joining GACSA as members;

- **To be able to have a session in the Annual Forum that the Regional CSA Alliances would organize themselves**, and to participate again in a regional CSA Alliances meeting in the margins of the Annual Forum.

Way Forward

- **To organize thematic working meetings, either physical or virtual, to facilitate the cross-learning on issues of mutual interest** mentioned above. In that respect, the issue of the alliances' value-added being prominent (demonstrate and communicate on value-added more effectively);

- **To develop joint communication activities**, both:

- o Internal: Through information exchange among the representatives / secretariats of the CSA alliances, by analysing and selecting the relevant information to be shared (e.g. events, reports, news, etc.), and sharing it in a structured way explaining why this information is useful for the CSA alliances;

- o External: Through a repository of information on the regional CSA alliances on the GACSA website (incl. their profile information sheets), with associated links to their respective websites;

- **To mobilize the GACSA Action Groups**, especially the one on knowledge (KAG), to further develop their work in relation and in collaboration with the regional CSA alliances; to ensure linkages between the GACSA Action Groups and the regional CSA alliances and processes as part of the GACSA brokerage services; and to build joint activities (ex: region-specific work on knowledge) and common agendas (ex: linking the Actions Groups to the regional work and getting them on board for key regional meetings);

- **To get support from GACSA and its Facilitation Unit in facilitating dialogue and exchanges on the issue of resource mobilization** (especially how to mobilize funds);

- **To get "Regional Champions for CSA"** to help promoting the CSA outcomes and the value-added of the regional CSA alliances, and to help with members and non-members engagement. These "Regional Champions for CSA" could be either farming champions (to get farmers' endorsement, foster members engagement and demonstrate added-value), political champions (to get political endorsement, and foster inter-sectorial consistency and inter-ministerial or inter-governmental dialogue for CSA), etc., based on the regional context and needs, and focusing on the context-specific outcomes;

- **To organize a specific meeting to strengthen the cooperation and articulation among the regional CSA Alliances in Africa** (ACSAA, EASCAP, and WASCAA), and to mobilize the GACSA and its Facilitation Unit to facilitate the dialogue.

Next steps

- Immediately start operationalizing this collaboration through concrete actions for:
  - o **Keeping the representatives of the CSA alliances connected** (email lists) and developing a light mechanism to foster dialogue and exchange among them;
  - o **Developing a webpage dedicated to the Regional CSA Alliances on the GACSA website**, including their information sheets and the contact details of their focal points;
  - o **Developing a general repository of information** for all regions (alliances, processes) on all these related topics (issues of mutual interest);
  - o **Identifying fast-start and useful areas of collaboration** that require a minimal time commitment and of high value-added for the different CSA Alliances, such as sharing of expertise on specific areas (e.g. fundraising), sharing of tools on specific topics (e.g. CSA outcomes according to the different regions).