

**Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture
(GACSA)**

SUMMARY REPORT

Second STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING

ROME, ITALY

13-14 OCTOBRE 2015

GACSA Series Document 11

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The Second Strategic Committee Meeting of GACSA was held from 13-14 October 2015 in Rome, Italy. The meeting was held at the Centro di ricerca per lo studio delle relazioni tra pianta e suolo (day 1) and at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (day 2). A total of 39 individuals attended the meeting representing 26 GACSA Member Organizations (see attendance list in Annex 1).

The agenda and other meeting documents (Annex 2) were sent to members of the Strategic Committee by email by the GACSA Facilitation Unit Team on 07 October 2015.

A summary of the discussions that were undertaken during the Strategic Committee (SC) meeting and the main conclusions reached on each agenda items are presented below.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The co-chairs of GACSA Mr. Inge Herman Rydland (MFA Norway) and Mr. Martin Bwalya (AU/NEPAD) welcomed all members and observers present at the meeting and conducted a quick round of self-introduction.

2. Overview and Adoption of the Agenda

Issue: Adoption of the meeting agenda (document **SC/02/01**).

Discussion points:

- Need to open up the meeting to observers;
- Addition of one agenda item to discuss the messages and the content for the meeting to be held with the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the 15th of October;
- Need to interact in the most flexible, open and informal manner during the Strategic Committee meeting (avoid too much of processes on the agenda);
- Additional agenda item on communication.

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: *Adopt the agenda of the second meeting of the GACSA Strategic Committee with the amendments stated above.*

3. Adoption of Minutes of the first SC meeting in Abu Dhabi

Issue: Minutes of the second meeting of the Strategic Committee.

Discussion points:

- Corrections sent by email in the previous months on the name and contact details of the focal point for The Netherlands.

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: *Adopt the minutes of the first meeting of the GACSA Strategic Committee were adopted as corrected.*

4. Status of Action Points from the first SC meeting in Abu Dhabi

Issue: Status of implementation of actions from the first SC meeting (document **SC/02/04**).

Discussion points:

- Clauses on intellectual property and fund raising in the Terms of reference of the Action Groups (document **SC/02/04-Annex 1**);
- Criteria protocols and instructions on the use of the GACSA logo by members;

- Guidelines for organizing events on behalf of GACSA;
- Outcome of the request to FAO DG for an independent GACSA website.

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: Remove the clauses on **fundraising** and **intellectual property** from the ToRs of the Action groups.

Action: FU and Co-Chairs to propose guidelines on the use of the GACSA logo and for organizing events on behalf of GACSA

Action: FU to follow-up and obtain from FAO a written statement of response to the letter that was addressed to the DG on the issue of independent GACSA website

5. Overview of decisions/actions of the SC teleconference of 02 September

Issue: Update and follow up on actions and decisions of the SC teleconference of 02 September 2015 (document **SC/02/05**)

Discussion points:

- Ad-Hoc Task Team to plan and organize the second GACSA Annual Forum;
- Separation of the member engagement team from the Annual Forum Task Team;
- Timely circulation meeting minutes to enable effective inputs from members.

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: To adopt the summary report of the SC teleconference of 02 September 2015.

Decision: To retain two separate task teams for the Annual Forum and for the engagement of members.

6. Status report on implementation of GACSA Work Plan for 2015

a. Knowledge Action Group:

Issue: Summary on the activities of the KAG (document **SC/02/07**).

Discussion Points:

- Five priority action areas identified for the inception year, aiming at delivering on:
 - Seven practical briefs (2 are ready, 4 ongoing and one is planned)
 - A discussion document on planning and monitoring of CSA indicators and metrics
 - Mapping tools to support extension on Climate Change and specifically on CSA
 - Mapping knowledge platforms that can benefit GACSA
 - Index based insurance (in collaboration with the IAG)
- January – February 2016 is targeted as the probable time to deliver on these products
- No task leader to work on the relationship of CSA with other concepts such as agroecology.
- Potential for developing key messages from the products of the KAG for outreach to external stakeholders, including those critical of GACSA
- The need to reinforce synergies among Action Groups and integrate experiences of other international organizations such as ICRISAT and others.
- Learning from non-GACSA knowledge bodies whose outputs could be useful to the KAG.

Decisions/Actions:

Action: Identify other knowledge bodies whose products would be useful to the KAG and invite them to relevant meetings for knowledge sharing.

Action: Develop science-based communication messages based on products generated by the KAG.

b. Investment Action Group:

Issue: Summary on the activities of the IAG (document **SC/02/07**).

Discussion Points:

- Development of matrix for investments
- Development of a 3-year action plan through a bottom up approach with the involvement of the private sector
- The challenge of getting active engagement - need for more active engagement by the members, in particular private and public investors
- Matrix used by the World Bank and other public investment institutions for adaptation and mitigation effects of climate financing
- The challenge of access to financing by small holder farmers
- Need for adequate regulatory frameworks to encourage investment
- Access by GACSA to funding options offered by the Green Climate Fund
- Consideration and acknowledgement of that small farmers make on themselves to cope with climate change.

c. Enabling Environment AG:

Issue: Status of the Country case studies (document **SC/02/07**).

Discussion points:

- The roadmap for delivery on the case studies, suggesting that the case studies may be completed in early 2016. The final reports may not be ready for public presentation before February/March 2016.
- Consideration to conduct case studies in non-country constituencies.
- Recognition of some specific success stories that may need to be shared with the EEAG.
- Possibility to open up the case studies to inclusive and integrated inputs from different types of stakeholders - share the template on case studies so that other members may make some inputs.
- How to convey messages from the case studies to farmers – the concept of “stories to tell”.

Decisions/Actions:

Action: Share the case studies templates with all the members and encourage them to make inputs to the case studies.

7. Members engagement

Issue: Proposal on a strategy for engagement of GACSA members.

Discussion points:

- Need to tune down paragraph 21 of the framework document to attract more members or their engagement – promote what members would voluntarily do, not ask for reporting.

- Need for a Members Engagement Action Group to mobilize members towards engaging and sharing information.
- Empowering members to serve as ambassadors of the alliance
- Need for a user-friendly website to stimulate and facilitate engagement and promote easy surveys to report on specific issues.

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: To set up a member a voluntary engagement task team headed by Ernest Shae and supported by the Facilitation Unit.

8. Preparation of GACSA Annual Forum

Issue: Planning of the second GACSA Annual Forum in 2016 – update from the Annual Forum Ad-Hoc task team and the [proposed process for planning of the Annual Forum](#).

Discussion points:

- The annual forum presents an opportunity for the AGs to show-case their work, particularly the case studies.
- The KAG will organize its second international workshop on the margins of the Annual Forum.
- Timing of the annual forum should be informed by the delivery time frames on the case studies and other products of the AGs
- Need to clearly define what GACSA intends to achieve at the Annual Forum
- The content of the Annual Forum should be attractive to stakeholders – limit process issues in favour of product delivery
- Focus on implementation and concrete results, showcasing practical examples, demonstrating construction of strong and efficient partnerships, and exploring investment opportunities.
- Portray GACSA as the unique platform for open transparent exchange - the place where things are happening
- Promote visibility and relevance of the alliance through 2 – 3 key messages centered on what makes GACSA unique, how the uniqueness can be brought out to be visible to the people, and the relevance of the AGs in effectively achieving CSA scaled-up.
- Use the Annual Forum to put CSA in context, define the role of CSA in international development agendas, and address controversies
- Consider the proposal submitted by the Task Team and decide on the dates and venue of the Annual Forum

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: To organize the annual forum on the basis of a five-points structure proposed by the task team:

- i. Putting CSA in context – the role of CSA in meeting objectives of global agendas
- ii. Addressing the controversy – divergent views on CSA
- iii. Crystalizing partnerships – what have members done through the platform since September 2014?
- iv. CSA as a driver of innovation and progress – market place/dragon’s den
- v. Considerations on the way forward.

Decision: To establish small groups that would lead specific elements/tasks:

- Substantive issues (best practices, case studies, market place, ...)

- *Membership and outreach.*
- *Vision for the Annual Forum (not the vision of GACSA in general)*
- *High level commitments*
- *Communication*

9. Thematic discussions

Issue: The understanding of CSA from regional perspectives; and from the perspectives of CSOs and NGOs – based on proposal by AFA for engagement of CSOs opposed to GACSA.

Discussion points:

- Common and proper understanding of the CSA concept - environmental and social safeguards, criteria and indicators.
- Risk of exclusion through a narrow/precise definition of CSA
- Need for a paradigm shift to cope with climate change – differences in views on how to address the situation
- Approach for engagement with CSOs (and other stakeholder groups)
- Need for CSA to be correctly communicated as an approach that depends on the context, rather than a set of practices and to make the distinction between CSA and agroecology.
- Food security should remain at the centre of the CSA discourse
- Expanding the concept of CSA beyond food production, to also include empowering small scale farmers and enhancing their rights and participation
- Encouraging ownership of the alliance, especially by farmers
- Revising the framework document to clarify some vague issues –reduce it to a short information brochure.
- Clear communication in terms of what GACSA is, and what it is not.
- Profiling GACSA as the unique platform for free and open dialogue among a broad mix of stakeholder groups
- *A task team for engagement of CSOs is not necessary as this would lead to isolating them as a constituency and would defeat the goal of inclusiveness*
- *Assemble methodologies to demonstrate delivery on the three pillars of CSA, rather than attempt to define what CSA is, or what it is not*

Decisions and Actions:

Decision: *Set up a team of volunteers to develop key messages for engagement with CSOs and NGOs during the meeting planned on 15 October.*

Decision: *Develop an assessment framework for CSA to enable some level of accountability and avoid any possible risk of greenwashing*

10. Engaging the Private Sector

Issue: Discussion with leader of the International Agri-food network on possible collaboration and partnership, ahead a broader meeting between GACSA and the private sector entities. The network connects thousands of private sector enterprises and coordinates the private sector mechanism as a constituency in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Discussion Points:

- GACSA focuses on promoting the three pillars of CSA so in committing to partnership on one pillar consideration should be given to how this would affect the pillars.

- GACSA's contribution in a possible partnership could be in identifying scientific methods and techniques for promoting agriculture, particularly CSA.
- The leadership of Agri-food network is interested in meeting with stakeholders outside the business sector for dialogue and exchange for problem solving in the area of food security.
- Focus on how to work together to bring out the synergies between the different efforts, rather than dwell on what one network expects from, or can offer to the other.
- Identify what can be done now to put CSA products in the market in the future
- GACSA should be in a position to assist the private sector in articulating the co-benefits of CSA.

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: Appoint a group of volunteers to draft key messages ahead of the meeting with the private sector on 15 October, to convey the purpose of the alliance as a platform or network for open dialogue and engagement.

11. Communication

Issue: The alliance had been too silent and needs to address the communication issues urgently.

Discussion points:

- Urgently develop key messages and standard presentations and other communication materials customized to various types of audiences
- Consider the use of various social media tools for broad outreach
- Need to urgently get onboard a communication consultant to develop the communication strategy
- Video-shooting of some high-level persons stating some key messages on CSA and GACSA.
- Web-based discussion forum for the members.
- SC to vet all communication materials before they are made public.

Decisions/Actions:

Action: Urgently contract an expert to develop a communication strategy for GACSA and assist in developing key communication messages and materials.

Action: Set up a communications task team of volunteers (Tobias Baedeker, Anette Friis, Olga Trynkova, Kyle Poorman and anyone else that may wish to join) to assist the FU in the process of appointing a Communications consultant.

Action: The communication task team will support the FU in sourcing a communication consultant to develop a communications strategy and key messages customized to different constituencies.

12. Outline of GACSA Strategic Plan 2016-2018

Issue: Proposed outline for a 3-year strategic plan (**document SC/02/09**) to build into the future from the activities of the inception year.

Discussion points:

- The proposed outline is the starting of a process that will receive important insights from the preparations for the annual forum
- The strategy should be kept simple and informed by the major things that members would like to see accomplished

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: To keep the issue of a strategic plan on hold for further discussion later in the future (after the annual forum).

13. Calendar of Events

Issue: Populate an events calendar for GACSA members to know what events are coming and decide on which one to participate, and how.

Discussion points:

- Members are expected to help in populating the calendar with events that they may be organizing, or are aware of
- GACSA may organize side events or other meetings (e.g. SC meetings) on the margins of some of the events.
- The Netherlands will organize an event on “Adaptation Futures” in May 2016 on the margins of which a GACSA side event and /or SC meeting could be organized.
- A similar opportunity is presented in April 2016 in South Africa at an event organized by GFAR.

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: To establish guidelines on the selection of events to be involved in, how to get involved, what to communicate at these events, etc.

14. Any Other Business

Issue: Possible date and venue of the next physical meeting of the SC

Discussion points:

- The next SC meeting may possibly need to be held in January 2016
- Planning of the next SC meeting should be informed by the dates retained for the annual forum.

Decisions/Actions:

Decision: To tentatively plan the next SC meeting on the margins of the annual forum if the latter comes up during the first quarter of 2016; or in January 2016 if otherwise.

Annex 1. GACSA 2nd Strategic Committee Meeting: Participants List

Day 1: October 13, 2015

1. Federica Matteoli, GACSA FU
2. Kyle Poorman, GACSA FU
3. Achuo Enow, GACSA FU
4. Martin Bwalya, GACSA Co-Chair
5. Inge Rydland, GACSA Co-Chair
6. Dina Franchi, GACSA FU
7. Olga Trynkova, GACSA FU
8. Kirit Shelat, NCCSD (India)
9. Alberto Millan, CCAFS- WBG
10. Astrid Agostino, FAO, NRC
11. Theodor Lyng, US State Department
12. Elin Cecilie Ranum, UTVIKLINGS, The Development Fund, Norway
13. Mathias Ginet, Ministry of France
14. Sithembile Mwamakamba, FANRPAN
15. Janine Volken, Switzerland,
16. Filiberto Altobelli, Perm Representation, Italy
17. Ernest Shea, Noth American Alliance for CSA
18. David Howlett, DFID
19. Elisabetta Colaiacomo, Ministry of Environment, Italy
20. Rebecca Shaw, Environment Defense Fund (EDF)
21. Mark Manis, USDA
22. Harry Palmier, GFAR
23. Savis Sadeghian, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
24. Shimpei Murakami, Asian Farmers Association (AFA)
25. Katrin Glatzel, AG4Impact
26. Maria Jose Alonso Moya, Ministry of Agriculture, Spain
27. Paul McKiernan, Ministry of Agriculture, Ireland
28. Tobias Baedeker, The World Bank
29. Fraile Vasallo, EU Delegation (Rome)
30. Marc Sadler, World Bank
31. Marijke Langeveld, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
32. Sonali Bisht, INHERE – India
33. Anette Englund Friis, CCAFS – CGIAR

Note takers: Julian Schnetzer and Carlos Vaquero

Day 2: October 14, 2015

1. Federica Matteoli, GACSA FU
2. Kyle Poorman, GACSA FU
3. Achuo Enow, GACSA FU
4. Martin Bwalya, GACSA Co-Chair
5. Inge Rydland, GACSA Co-Chair
6. Dina Franchi, GACSA FU
7. Olga Trynkova, GACSA FU
8. Kirit Shelat, NCCSD (India)
9. Alberto Millan, CCAFS- WBG
10. Astrid Agostino, FAO, NRC
11. Martin Frick, FAO
12. Jeanine Volker, Switzerland
13. Filiberto Altobelli, Perm Representation, Italy
14. Ernest Shea, Noth American Alliance for CSA
15. David Howlett, DFID
16. Elisabetta Colaiacomo, Ministry of Environment, Italy
17. Rebecca Shaw, Environment Defense Fund (EDF)
18. Mark Manis, USDA
19. Harry Palmier, GFAR
20. Savis Sadeghian, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
21. Shimpei Murakami, Asian Farmers Association (AFA)
22. Maria Jose Alonso Moya, Ministry of Agriculture, Spain
23. Paul McKiernan, Ministry of Agriculture, Ireland
24. Tobias Baedeker, The World Bank
25. Fraile Vasallo, EU Delegation (Rome)
26. Marc Sadler, World Bank
27. Marijke Langeveld, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
28. Sonali Bisht, INHERE – India
29. Anette Engelund Friis, CCAFS – CGIAR
30. Halka Otto, FAO
31. Francois Pythoud, Perm Rep Switzerland
32. Alan Vidal, CGIAR
33. Margarita Astralaga, IFAD
34. Elin Cecilie Ranum, UTVIKLINGS, The Development Fund, Norway
35. Erin Fitzgerald Sexson, Global Dairy Platform

Annex 2: List of Documents for the Second GACSA Strategic Committee Meeting.

Document Number	Document Title	Agenda item
SC/02/01	Second Physical Strategic Committee Meeting: AGENDA	2
SC/02/02	Second Physical Strategic Committee Meeting: ANNOTATAED AGENDA	2
SC/02/03	Draft Summary Report: First Strategic Committee Meeting	3
SC/02/04	Status Report on Implementation of Actions from First Strategic Committee Meeting	4
SC/02/05	Summary of GACSA Teleconference of 02 September 2015	5
SC/02/06	Updates from the Facilitation Unit	6
SC/02/07	Action Groups Report on the development of products and activities	6
SC/02/08	Summary of AFTT Teleconference Discussions	8
SC/02/09	Outline of Strategic Plan for January 2016 – December 2018	12
SC/02/10	The necessity for a dialogue with CSOs who rejected Global Alliance for CSA	9
SC/02/11	List of CSA Related Events for 2016	13