



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Annual Forum Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture

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**15 June 2016, 9:00
Green Room
Opening Remarks**

Honorable Co-Chairs,
Distinguished guests,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, welcome to the Annual Forum of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture.
2. I am pleased to see so many people from different stakeholder groups – a testimony to the high interest in the climate-smart agriculture approach.
3. Since its launch in September 2014 in New York, GACSA has gone through the initial stage of development. Over the next two days, you will take stock and discuss results so far achieved, and identify the next steps for the future development of GACSA.
4. This meeting comes at a time when member countries are geared towards implementing a new global pathway framed by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the milestone Paris Climate Agreement.
5. Agriculture will play a crucial role in addressing the planet's future challenges and is key to providing important adaptation-mitigation

synergies to climate change, as well as socio-economic and environmental co-benefits.

6. With the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, countries submitted their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to guide the country-level climate action for the coming years.
7. FAO has analyzed the INDCs to assess the role of the agriculture sectors in meeting national mitigation and adaptation goals. FAO's analysis found that over 30 countries specifically refer to climate-smart agriculture.
8. This illustrates how Climate-Smart Agriculture is gaining ground.
9. Just to give a concrete example, the World Bank Group is currently scaling up climate-smart agriculture and in its climate change action plan has committed to 100 percent of agricultural operations being climate-smart by 2019.
10. With all this, we need to amplify successes.
11. We must shift gears and put into place concrete solutions to meet the dual challenge of food security and climate change. Climate-smart agriculture offers a range of options.
12. The theme of this Annual Forum – “Climate-Smart Agriculture in Action” – fits the shift from pledges to deeds.
13. GACSA's vision to scale up climate-smart agriculture across the agricultural sectors, puts the farmer at the center of all climate-smart agriculture efforts, with particular attention to the most climate-vulnerable farming communities, especially women and youth.
14. GACSA's global and broad membership – including governments, farmers, scientists, businesses, civil society and regional and international organizations – is a unique strength. This strength should be used constructively to ensure inclusiveness in a collective effort.

15. The wealth of different views, perceptions, priorities and approaches across the GACSA membership should be used to create the synergies and complementarities needed for global impact.

16. Only together can we make this happen.

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. Let me take this opportunity to thank GACSA members for their commitment – we count on you all to keep the Alliance moving forward through continued and growing support.

18. We should look to expanding and strengthening this partnership. We need more – and more diverse – members.

19. And we need to secure long-term funding so that today's efforts can be sustained tomorrow.

20. We would like to see your commitments translate to contributions.

21. And we need to transform your engagements to action on the ground to make the Alliance relevant.

Ladies and gentlemen,

22. FAO is honored to host the GACSA facilitation unit and commit to continue doing so and to playing a strong role in helping deliver GACSA's programme.

23. Finally, FAO sees a great opportunity to support countries as they prepare for COP22 in Marrakesh.

24. We need to maintain action and strengthen initiatives to keep the temperature rise below two degrees Celsius and accelerate the pathway towards 1.5 degrees Celsius.

25. This year's forum promises intense discussions and exchanges. You will be highlighting experiences, opportunities and lessons learned. You will hear from regional alliances and platforms and GACSA Action Groups.

26. We expect this to lead to better knowledge sharing and to identify knowledge gaps, from and between members, to stimulate innovative

thinking as we all seek to transform the agricultural practices in the face of climate change.

27. I wish to congratulate the Co-Chairs, the GACSA Membership and the GACSA Facilitation Unit in organizing this meeting.

28. In wishing you fruitful deliberations, I now declare this second Annual Forum of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture open.