

# **Informative Session on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (Regional Climate-Smart Solutions)**

Mexico City, 14 April 2015

The process of the Global Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) initiative was presented during the "Informative Session on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change" held in Mexico City.

Also addressed: the effects and impacts of climate change in agriculture, regional cooperation initiatives to address climate change in agriculture, livestock and fisheries, financing schemes to promote the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices and the process towards COP 21 in Paris

Representatives from Agricultural and Trade Offices at the Embassies accredited in Mexico, Specialists from international organizations, private sector participants and officials from various Mexican agencies involved in climate-smart agriculture activities gathered to exchange experiences and outcomes in the "Informative Session on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change", organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of Mexico

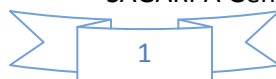
Raul Urteaga, General Coordinator for International Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture of Mexico, welcomed participants to the one-day event session, stressing the numerous steps that Mexico is taking to tackle climate change in its own food production systems, and what is doing to support the region to strengthen resilience.

The session was addressed by a California farmer, AG Kawamura, representing the newly-formed North American Climate-Smart Alliance, who provided the audience with information of the current drought impacts in California. Also at the session, Bram Govaerts a representative of the International Center of Research in Maize and Wheat (CIMMYT for the acronym in Spanish) a part of the CGIAR network, indicated that Mexico represents a perfect example of a country with a great agro-diversity, allowing the development of new techniques and enabling technologies for various regions, which are deployed to farmers through the MASAGRO Program. Bram Govaerts stressed the importance of the adoption of agricultural conservation practices to build resilient agricultural ecosystems and guarantee food security in the region.

In addition, USDA's Senior Policy Advisor, Mark Manis, provided the audience with a description and update in the progress of the GACSA and the importance of the involvement and participation in this initiative through both a global scope and a regional approach, for which the involvement and exchange of government agencies, but also research and education institutions, farmers groups and cooperatives, is fundamental. In addition, Jose Luis Meza, an executive from the agribusiness division at Scotiabank, described the role of financing sustainable and climate resilience projects, while Leticia Deschamps from IICA presented the diversity of joint programs with Mexico, and a diagnose on the requirements for capacity building in climate smart agriculture policies for experts from Central America and the Caribbean, and the proposal of a Master's Degree on Food Security

Luis Martinez from SAGARPA's Office at the Embassy of Mexico in Washington and Miguel Narvaez from SAGARPA's Office at the Mission of Mexico to the EU in Brussels elaborated on the participation of the Mexican Government at International Negotiations during the launching process

SAGARPA General Coordination of International Affairs.



of the GACSA, including the sessions of the UNCCC in New York in September 2014 and the FAO in Rome in December 2014 and reiterated the interest of the Government of Mexico in supporting their neighbors to join the GACSA and to help leading a regional initiative to promote the regional dialogue and strengthening of capacities for the adoption of climate smart policies and practices in agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

It was suggested to take advantage of the several international meetings related to agriculture, to promote the dialogue and encourage the participation of governments in Central America and the Caribbean, to create a regional effort to cope with the challenges that climate change present to agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as for food security in the region.

In this sense, Mexico will host the 2015 WEF Latin America in Riviera Maya, where a topic to be addressed will be public - private partnerships to promote sustainable productivity in agriculture; also, will also host the IICA's Ministerial Meeting in October, where it was proposed to present for consideration of Ministers to incorporate CSA as a topic for discussion in the agenda of the meeting. Finally, Mexico's Ministry of Agriculture informed it will organize an international seminar on climate smart technologies in agriculture, and invited representatives from embassies and experts from international development agencies to present submissions and suggest speakers from their countries and organizations to be incorporated in the program for the event, which will be held in Queretaro de Arteaga, Queretaro.

As a wrap up, quoting the co-chairs of the GACSA, Mexican Ministry of Agriculture senior official Juan Bernardo Orozco, pointed out the importance of additional efforts to put CSA and the GACSA high on the agendas of regional policy-makers.