



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR
CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Webinar Summary Report: Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture Through Extension - An Overview of Existing Tools and Services

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Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture through Extension - An Overview of Existing Tools and Services

Webinar Summary Report

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The views expressed in this Webinar Summary Report are those of the author and the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the GACSA, FAO, CABI, ICRAF, Universitas Indonesia.

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Acronyms

CEST	Central European Summer Time
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CSV	Climate-Smart Villages
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GACSA	Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture
GHG	Greenhouse gas
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
KAG	Knowledge Action Group
NGO	Non-governmental organization
Q&A	Questions and Answers
RAS	Rural Advisory Services
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, including the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
SFS	Science Field Shop
VNFU	Viet Nam Farmer's Union

Introduction

In the run-up to the [Annual Forum 2016](#) of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA), the GACSA Knowledge Action Group organized a series of two webinars to present selected knowledge products developed since the inception of GACSA (December 2014) to the wider GACSA network and the interested public. The objective of the webinars served both to disseminate the products and to receive feedback and gather inputs on activities and improvements for future work of the GACSA Knowledge Action Group (KAG).

The first of the two webinars – “Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture through extension: An overview of existing tools and services” – was held on 5 May 2016, 10:00-11:30 Rome time (CEST). The contents of the webinar were based on articles written by extension experts and published as part of the [GACSA Compendium on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Extension](#) “Supporting agricultural extension towards Climate-Smart Agriculture: An overview of existing tools” (2016).

The webinar was attended by 35 participants plus ten hosts/presenters. The [appendix](#) provides an overview of the geographical and organizational background and the expectations of the participants. The webinar was structured in an introduction with polls and questions to find out more about participants; four presentations, each followed by Q&A; a panel discussion with the presenters; and a chat-based feedback collection from all participants.

This report presents a summary of the presentations and evaluates the discussions and feedback from participants collected through Q&A on the presentations, the panel discussion and chat boxes dedicated to specific questions around the topic of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and the contents of the webinar.

GACSA Compendium on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Extension

In over 20 articles, the Compendium discusses different extension approaches, analyses their potential or proven contribution to promote CSA, and showcases examples of their application. The articles are grouped in three sections, with the first section focusing on extension approaches, the second on technology and innovation, and the last section on knowledge and participation.

The publication covers a wide range of topics, from participatory face-to-face methods to technology-based climate information services. A common message from all contributions is however, that for extension to successfully support CSA the processes must be tailored to the local needs and expectations, in particular those of the farmers themselves.

The Compendium is a living document and intends to integrate updates and new findings on the described approaches as well as new articles or case studies in successive editions. So far, more than 30 experts contributed, representing 17 member organizations of GACSA.

Presentations

1. CSA: what role for rural advisory services

Presented by Soniia David (FAO) [[Presentation recording](#)]

Successful transition to CSA will require changes in behavior, strategies and agricultural practices of farming households, including improved access to climate-resilient technologies, climate and market information, and associative capacities for collective action. These changes should be supported by extension providers. However, in many countries the engagement of extension providers in CSA-specific efforts is currently low, especially that of public extension/rural advisory services (RAS).

At the same time, there is trend in RAS moving from the traditional public sector-dominated model focused on technology transfer and production issues towards a more client-oriented and demand-driven approach, broader thematic focus and involvement of multiple stakeholders, including NGOs, farmers, and private sector. This re-orientation of RAS offers an opportunity to support CSA objectives, in particular in four areas:

Technology development and information dissemination: RAS avail of a wealth of approaches for developing technologies and disseminating knowledge. The challenge will be to continuously identify and adapt solutions to adjust to the changing climate. This will require collaboration at multiple scales beyond the farmer/household level.

Strengthening farmers' human and social capacity: This includes observational and experimental skills, critical thinking and problem solving abilities. This requires extension agents to move away from delivering technology “packages” and blanket recommendations; integrate skills from specialized areas, such as marketing, as well as soft skills at the individual and organizational level.

Facilitation and brokering: This includes linking farmers to research, traders, input suppliers, meteorological services, insurance companies, etc. To effectively perform this function, RAS need to strengthen their capacities in network building, brokerage, process facilitation/monitoring.

Advocacy and policy support: RAS could play an important role in advocacy for climate change action and allocation for CSA in decentralized government structures and in explaining climate change policies to rural communities.

In order to fulfil these tasks and effectively promote CSA “traditional” extension services should be reformed into rural advisory systems that:

- Integrate all relevant actors in the provision of extension and related services across all agricultural sectors;
- Are guided by appropriate extension policy;
- Operate in a demand-driven and client-oriented way;
- Mainstream CSA in all their activities, and strengthen their agents' capacities to identify and use appropriate extension methods and facilitate innovation and network building among stakeholders.

Q&A with Soniia David

Q1: If extension services were given more resources, what could be accomplished in the area of climate smart agriculture?

- The key area to invest in would be the strengthening of capacities of rural advisors on both technical and functional skills.

Q2 (Salvatore Virdis): Why have "traditional" extension service not been fully successful?

- The two main reasons for that are (i) the approach that was used, i.e. the technology transfer model where farmers, as the actual clients of the system, were not involved in developing technologies and merely acted as recipients; also the lack of integration of extension and research systems contributed to the failure of this approach; (ii) limited financial resources, i.e. many of the extension systems were not properly financed and thus could not work efficiently.

Q3: How can you use technology to reach a larger number of people?

- There is a wide range of dissemination technologies available to reach a large number of people, such as radio – a traditional approach but still very effective – mobile phones – which are wide spread in many parts of the world nowadays – and video. These need to be used selectively to ensure that the dissemination technology matches the extension message. Also gender needs to be considered when selecting the dissemination technology as women often have less access than men to technologies as for example mobile phones.

Further questions from participants that time did not allow to be discussed:

Julia Jawtusich: It seems that smallholders are the main target group of CSA. But most GHG emissions from agriculture stem from industrial agriculture (e.g. intensive animal production in northern countries)?

Regine Kopplow: Reaching out to remote areas to me is one big challenge for extension services; will RAS be a solution to it and if yes how?

Rosa Mosquera: I would like to know if you are aware of the operational groups established through the European Innovation Partnership and if you like the way they work in the EU?

Elisabeth Simelton: Why would RAS be more successful/efficient than public extension?

2. Promising innovative extension approaches for CSA - The Plantwise Example

Presented by Luca Heeb (CABI) [[Presentation recording](#)]

The presentation demonstrates how innovative extension approaches can and are already contributing to the objectives of CSA, illustrated by the example of Plantwise, a collaborative program active in 34 developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas with the aim to strengthen agricultural institutions.

An important concept applied in Plantwise is the complementarity of extension approaches, i.e. combining approaches with a great reach but small impact, such as radio or mobile services, with approaches that have a greater impact but smaller reach, such as farmer field schools. Plantwise combines – in order of

increasing impact and decreasing reach – mass extension campaigns (radio, mobile services, TV), plant health rallies, and plant clinics.

Plant clinics, usually held every two weeks and by two trained ‘plant doctors’ from public or private sector, offer local farmers the opportunity to bring disease/pest-affected crop plant materials and receive a diagnosis and recommendations for treatment. About 20 consultations are provided per day in up to 200 clinics in some countries. The plant doctors record and feed the diagnoses into a centralized system, which allows the government to monitor crop disease/pest incidences at the national level.

Plant health rallies, usually run by local extension workers, are events that inform a wider audience about one specific plant disease, often detected through the plant clinics as a major agricultural risk affecting a large number of farmers in a given area.

Mass extension campaigns can deliver targeted messages to thousands or millions of farmers and effectively raise awareness for agricultural risks affecting a whole country as identified through plant clinics, using the extension contents developed for the plant clinics and plant health rallies.

Considering the expected alterations in distribution, incidence, and intensity of plant pests and diseases and the fact that already 30% of crop production is lost to pests and diseases every year, the Plantwise model can contribute to CSA in several ways:

- Improve productivity, incomes and **food security**: The plant clinics have so far reached about 4.5 million farmers of whom 89% have applied the advice provided and 79% actually experienced yield increases
- Contribute to climate change **mitigation**: Improved production system efficiency leads to reduced direct and indirect GHG emissions.
- Improve **adaptation and resilience** to climate change: The Plantwise model enables countries to monitor plant health and quickly detect and respond to emerging problems. By applying integrated pest management practices, individual farmers reduce dependence on external inputs and price volatility.

In conclusion, Plantwise is a cost-effective extension approach to promote plant health and at the same time providing benefits for all three pillars of CSA that has been taken up and integrated by national extension services in many countries. The approach has a potential to be integrate other topics such as animal health and human nutrition.

Q&A with Luca Heeb

Q1 (Shahid): How the reach can be so high through Plant Clinics?

- Of course Plant Clinics cannot reach the same amount of farmers as a mass extension campaign. Still, with the number of single plant clinics per country, 200 to 300 in many countries, held every one or two weeks and serving about 20 farmers per session, the reach can be considerable. The reach can be further enhanced by integrating and prioritizing plant clinics in national extension systems.

Q2 (Sonii David): Have the plant clinics and rallies been taken up by national extension providers and institutionalized?

- Indeed the integration of plant clinics and health rallies is one of the objectives of Plantwise. Sri Lanka and Pakistan are successful examples, where the approach has been integrated in the national systems and CABI/Plantwise does not (Sri Lanka) or hardly (Pakistan) need to provide financial support.

Further questions/comments from participants that time did not allow to be discussed:

Elisabeth Simelton: great slide on reach and impact!

Saripalli Suryanarayana: How can we reduce the amount of water use for rice [standing water / alternate wetting / sprinkler irrigation / etc.]?

- **Kees Stigter:** Water use in rice can indeed be reduced by intermittent irrigation or a dry period mid-season. This can be recommended because it reduces methane emissions considerably.

Shahid: How to increase the efficiency?

3. Agents of change in climate-smart villages

Presented by Elisabeth Simelton (ICRAF) [[Presentation recording](#)]

CCAFS started the [Climate-Smart Villages](#) (CSV) program in 2011 in South Asia, East and West Africa and extended it to Latin America in 2014. The presentation focuses on the example of My Loi village in Central Viet Nam, where ICRAF is an implementing partner and CSV is complemented by two other project on scaling up of CSA practices and processes (IRRI) and agro-climate information systems (CARE international).

A new important aspect that CSA brought to the village is the landscape perspective, as technical staff and local planners mostly think on a field-scale. Their awareness about connectivity between human activity, infrastructure and natural environment, in particular soil-water interactions, was raised by engaging them in land use and hazard mapping and modeling.

The CSV should serve as a model for replication in the surrounding landscape and communities. The collaboration with the Viet Nam Farmer's Union (VNFU), who seconded a part-time staff to the CSV, is strategic in this regard. The VNFU can reach virtually all farmers in the country and provides services like agricultural advice, training and loans, and thus has a great potential to support the scaling up of practices demonstrated in the CSV.

Activities:

- Social mobilization: including logo design contest for school children, cooking class for men, field visits and learning exchange trips, which e.g. inspired the school vegetable gardens.
- CSA interventions: Villagers prioritized four interventions, currently practiced by 70 households and supported by community innovation funds: (i) home gardening, incl. fruit tree management; (ii) livestock practices, e.g. vermiculture to produce chicken/fish feed along with manure for soil improvement; (iii) forest enrichment; establishment of a tree nursery planned; (iv) intercropping and agroforestry. Having experienced long dry spells due to El Niño, farmers are also willing to test new, more resistant crops, e.g. quinoa, sorghum and lentils.

- Agro-climate information: Villagers are regularly provided with seasonal forecasts and compare them to measurements from the village weather station. They also develop seasonal scenario plans which they evaluate for improvements in the next season.

Lessons learned:

- Changes in markets and economics occur much faster than in climate and require response as well. Often changes offer great opportunities and should be seized.
- One CSA practice can usually not respond to all climate impacts, so we have to prioritize the impacts we want to respond to. Their introduction should occur step by step to avoid radical changes and foresee low-cost alternatives for less wealthy households.
- Ways to accredit landscape benefits in census, statistics or reports (e.g. on INDCs) need to be identified.
- Villagers are the most important agents of change. Engaging them requires at least a few visible early results even if aiming at long term results.
- Policy makers should be involved in order to obtain approval for new crops, get support for linking farmers to markets and businesses, and facilitate supportive policy recommendations.

Q&A with Elisabeth Simelton

Q1 (Soniia David): What types of new skills and knowledge do public extension agents need to support the CS villages effectively?

- From the experience in South-East Asia, one important factor in taking climate-smart technologies from the field to a wider scale is the landscape perspective beyond village boundaries, which was promoted through participatory hazard mapping and requires related skills. Secondly, extension agents need skills in ICTs in order to support their use by farmers and the interpretation of the information accessed through ICTs. A challenge in this context are local languages in which certain information is often not available or specific technical terms have no accurate translation.

Q2 (Luca Heeb): Do you measure impact (e.g. in terms of food security or climate change mitigation) of a climate smart village intervention?

- An important tool for monitoring of climate-smart interventions in CSVs are farmers' log books, where farmers document the farm activities. These log books allow to measure impacts on food security and also impacts of weather. Measurement of mitigation impacts in CSV focuses on carbon sequestration through tree planting, given that reduced emission from agriculture are difficult to monitor with the available low-tech means.

Further questions/comments from participants that time did not allow to be discussed:

Soniia David: Have you put in place any mechanisms for public extension to work with the Farmers' Union after the end of the project?

4. Adaptation to Climate Change is Climate Smart Agriculture: Training Farmers and Trainers on Java and Lombok

Presented by Kees Stigter and Yunita Winarto (Universitas Indonesia; Agromet Vision, Depok, Indonesia)

[\[Presentation recording\]](#)

Indonesian farmers are facing several “climate crises” that threaten their livelihoods and are expected to exacerbate the impacts of climate change:

- Policy insufficiency: This ‘crises’ includes the government focus on rice self-sufficiency which should give way to a crop diversification program; the neglected maintenance of irrigation infrastructure, most of which dates back to colonial times; neglect of other infrastructure, like roads, bridges, coastal defense, causing problems of coastal erosion, salt water intrusion, market underdevelopment, etc.
- Extension crisis: The extension services are generally not working well, extension agents are poorly or wrongly trained, in particular on climate change related aspects.
- Rice crisis: Increased temperatures, in particular nighttime temperatures, are already affecting rice yields. Development of better adapted rice varieties will take at least another ten years. Also the common rice field management practices are often poor, partly due to the poorly functioning extension system.

In this context and at the request of farmers, Universitas Indonesia and Agromet Vision developed the Science Field Shops (SFS) which aim to promote climate literacy among farmers. The SFS have no fixed curricula. The farmers’ needs determine the discussions and climate services. The SFS take place monthly and support farmers with the following services/development of skills:

- Measuring daily rainfall;
- Making daily agro-ecological observations;
- Making yield predictions and yield comparisons, inter-season or between farmers;
- Provision of monthly/seasonal rainfall scenarios;
- Provision of new knowledge to farmers and co-creating new knowledge with farmers based on their problems and questions;
- Establishment of farmer field experiments for comparison of management option, site-specific soil characteristics, etc.

These climate services help farmers to develop an understanding of climate, the impacts of climate change and adaptation options and thus constitute important components of CSA.

Q&A with Kees Stigter

Q1 (Luca Heeb): Are SFS run by public extension staff?

- No, they are not. Due to the insufficiency in government policy regarding public extension services, the latter are either not functioning at all or extension agents have outdated knowledge and no training on agriculture under climate change conditions. SFS is a private initiative trying to renew the extension approach in Indonesia.

Q2: What is the biggest challenge you face with rice?

- The biggest challenge with rice is to keep yields at the current levels notwithstanding the effects of climate change. This requires a major effort to strengthen the public extension system and reorganization of the training of the extension workers in a way that enables them to understand and respond to the challenge of climate change.

Panel Discussion

The presentations and Q&A were followed by a brief panel discussion with the four presenters.

Question to the panelists: Considering the interconnections between the four presentations, what is one new observation or insight that you had from listening to the other presenters on what can make extension for CSA really work?

- **Soniia David:** On the one hand, dysfunctional public extension systems should not be avoided, but rather we need to identify and provide them with the skills they need to support the adoption of CSA. On the other, the public extension system must not always be the main player, and working through farmer trainers or farmers' organizations can be very successful, as the examples in the presentations showed. The critical issue for such initiatives is longer-term sustainability, which was successfully achieved by Plantwise in a few countries through the institutionalization of its approach in the public extension system.
- **Luca Heeb:** Could Forestry projects work a lot on the accounting of mitigation through carbon sequestration in forests, e.g. for the purpose of participation in carbon compensation schemes. Does this also occur in projects on sustainable agriculture and could this kind of measurements and accounting promote the adoption of certain climate-smart practices by farmers?
- ➔ **Elisabeth Simelton:** CSV in Central Viet Nam is located in a province participating in the REDD+ program, which is looking into carbon sequestration not only in trees but also in soils. The CSV program tries to measure soil carbon sequestration and contribute to Viet Nam's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), however has not yet identified a suitable method for quantification of sequestered soil carbon.
- ➔ **Kees Stigter:** There are a lot of ongoing activities on climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture. A big challenge related to mitigation is indeed the quantification of carbon sequestration and emissions reductions. Existing tools are too complicated to apply them in a large number of (smallholder) farmers' fields.

Feedback collection

Further to the Q&A sessions after presentations, feedback from the participants was collected at the end of the webinar through chat boxes asking the following questions:

- What stands out for you from the knowledge shared today?
- What has surprised you today?
- As we look forward to planning the next year, what do we need to do more of?
- As we look forward to planning the next year, what do we need to do less of?
- Synthesising everything you learned today, what is the key message you would like to send to the GACSA Annual Forum in June?
- What other comments or questions would you like to share?

The feedback on these questions is evaluated in the subsequent section. The full list of participants' answers can be found in the [appendix](#).

Evaluation of discussion and feedback

Generally, participants received the webinar positively and appreciated the practical examples provided by the presentations. Summarized below are the most recurrent and pertinent comments and from the Q&A, panel discussion and feedback collection.

Definition of CSA and measuring the CSA impacts

Many participants expressed a need for a concise **definition of CSA**, also in terms of practices or concepts which are included or excluded. This definition is considered important for the classification of projects as CSA.

In this context, another important issue brought up by several participants is the need for indicators and tools to **measure the impacts** of interventions against the objectives of CSA. Measuring – and demonstrating – these impacts is considered essential in gaining and sustaining the interest of donors and investors in CSA.

Lastly, measurement of impacts would allow to assess the ‘climate-smartness’ of interventions and refine the definition of CSA, as many practices cannot be categorically included or excluded because their potential contribution to CSA depends on the location-specific and socio-economic context.

Capacity development and coordination between extension providers

The presentations and discussions identified considerable **gaps in the capacity of public extension providers** to support farmers with the adoption of CSA and that efforts of such support are often undertaken by non-government players in parallel to the public systems. The Plantwise example, however, demonstrated that close collaboration of non-government extension providers with the public systems can be an effective way to achieve institutionalization of successful CSA extension approaches in the public extension system and thus ensure the sustainability of an extension initiative beyond the end of a program.

In terms of concrete needs of capacity development of extension agents and systems, participants proposed several areas:

- The **landscape approach** was mentioned as an important component in extension for CSA. The implications of this approach for extension providers needs to be better understood and integrated in capacity development.
- The best **use of information systems and tools** by extension providers to assist the farmers in the identification of climate-smart solutions should be assessed and implications for extension agents and systems built into capacity development.

Synergies and coordination between extension providers

Participants noted the similarities between presented approaches and found a great **potential for synergies** but also a **need for better coordination** between different stakeholders and initiatives in the field in order to exploit these synergies.

Working across scales

With reference to the Plantwise example, one participant noted the importance of working across scales, i.e. **combining approaches with different reach and impact** in a coordinated manner and matching the targeted reach with the appropriate information and communication technologies.

Recommendations

The evaluation of the discussion and feedback from participants suggests the following recommendations:

- **Link the discussion on CSA metrics and indicators to the discussion on extension for CSA.**
The extension systems together with farmers can support data collection for the reporting measurement and monitoring of indicators. And extension practitioners can also provide valuable input to the development of metrics as regards possibilities and limitations for data collection.
- **Promote partnerships and linkages between extension providers, including public and private stakeholders, in order to improve coordination and develop synergies.**
- **Strengthen the (i) use of information systems and tools and (ii) the application of the landscape approach in extension systems.**

Appendix

Webinar participants - profile and expectations

Number, geographical and organizational background of participants

Total number of participants: 45
of whom hosts/presenters: 10



Interest and expectations of participants

a) In the context of climate-smart agriculture, what are you curious about?

Salvatore Viridis: What is the role of technology, if any, in sustainable and smart agriculture?

Shahid: ICT enabled EAS

Vakhtang Kochoradze: Technology and stakeholder engagement

Michel Midré: Agroecology!

Rosa Mosquera: adaptation and mitigation through the use of agroforestry systems

Julia Jawtusich: What does it INCLUDE; what does it EXCLUDE?

Poonam Dayani: indigenous and traditional farming role in changing times

Francesca Cofini: Effective tools and services in the context of RAS for promoting CSA

John Kazer: What are the financial consequences of CSA and outreach? Will farms get bigger and employ more or fewer people?

Regine Kopplow: Today's interest is getting an overview; in general how CSA can make smallholder farmers more resilient to climate changes

Julia Jawtusich: How exactly is CSA defined?

Wabbes 2: What is the role of CSA in resilience and in climate change adaptation to stresses and shocks and in climate mitigation?

b) What do you hope to get out of today's session?

Salvatore Viridis: To know more about GACSA, its objectives and action plans

Shahid: What are the most effective CSA tools are in operation and working well

Vakhtang Kochoradze: CSA tools

Michel Midré: Some hints about how to improve acceptance of change

Rosa Mosquera: to know more about GACSA, and as far as I read to be better integrated on it

Julia Jawtusich: Some insights

Degi Chuluunbaatar: to hear how CSA concept has been integrated in agricultural extension service delivery

Poonam Dayani: Get better understanding

Francesca Cofini: to know about innovative extension approaches in CSA

John Kazer: Some new perspectives on how outreach can support CSA

Participants' comments on specific questions asked at the end of the webinar

a) What stands out for you from the knowledge shared today?

Simone Sala: Farmers are key to advance the field - no matter what! :)

Rosa Mosquera: Collaboration between actors is essential driven by farmers and society needs

Federica: The importance to share knowledge to identify solutions at the field level

Soniia David: the importance of strengthening extension providers and systems

Dieudonne: Science back to farmers

Shahid: Sharing practices and experiences needs to happen more frequently

György Páczay: The practical importance of advisory services.

Elisabeth Simelton: despite all similarities, it is still important to differ between what is generic and what is context-specific CSA

b) What has surprised you today?

Elisabeth Simelton: despite the different countries and approaches that we have so many similarities in approaches

Elsa Silva: science field shops

Soniia David: the similarities in challenges facing extension systems globally

Cliven Njekete: the vast similarities within the approaches

Rosa Mosquera: Maybe I would like to have more information about temperate countries strategies for climate smart change that can be developed.

Dieudonne: Plant clinics and plant doctors

Luca Heeb: similarities between different approaches

Federica: How many projects and programmes are at the field level that can be helpful to be scaling up in other contexts?

György Páczay: The similarities between approaches at different places.

Shahid: Common practices but without coordination

Kees Stigter: How almost impossible integration of knowledge and experience is. But FAO has always been good at that!

c) As we look forward to planning the next year, what do we need to do more of?

Simone Sala: Get decision/policy makers on board to upscale lessons learned - as similarities are quite striking as Elisabeth Simelton noted

György Páczay: We need to incentivize more regional and local governments to assist farmers.

Luca Heeb: create synergies between different initiatives (e.g. plant clinics, CSV, SFS)

Rosa Mosquera: A real promotion of smart climate agriculture practices linked to integrated, mixed farming and agroforestry systems by policy makers including an active role to involve farmers

Luca Heeb: explore how to link CSA with carbon compensation schemes (e.g. REDD+)

Dieudonne: Less presentations but consolidated

Federica: linked more stakeholders that are working on the context of CSA especially to solve problems at the field level

Luca Heeb: measuring impact

Elisabeth Simelton: more on practical experiences, experiments, smart tricks from farmer to widely scaled approaches (basically fill in more in Luca's reach-impact graph)

Elisabeth Simelton: the need to work across spatial scales, from farmer to thousands of farmers (and institutions and technologies that are suitable for respective amount)

Astrid Agostini: Assessing how extension service providers can make better use of information systems and tools, including vulnerability assessments, to assist farmers in assessing options and target solutions and messages. Understanding what this implies in terms of strengthening the capacity of extension systems – the agents, but also the system (training, knowledge and information systems)

Shahid: Regular interaction and share experiences

Elisabeth Simelton: "measuring" what is climate-smart is going to be important for donors and others who want to invest in CSA

Astrid Agostini: What does taking a landscape approach to CSA imply for extension providers' day to day interactions with individual producers or producer groups?

Elisabeth Simelton: Also agree with someone who posted early on, how to integrate big farms and agribusiness

d) As we look forward to planning the next year, what do we need to do less of?

Rosa Mosquera: We should have results of our already known general research aspects on a local basis. For this field experiments with the involvement of farmers are essential

György Páczay: We need more on practical experiences and good examples on executable agriculture and not mere theories

Shahid: Repeat presentations with similar contents

György Páczay: more pictures or videos and less texts

e) Synthesising everything you learned today, what is the key message you would like to send to the GACSA Annual Forum in June

Elisabeth Simelton: I know there has been debates whether GACSA actually agrees on a definition what CSA is (and is not), I think synthesizing the talks we have more meat on that skeleton

Kees Stigter: Institutionalizing capacity building of extension trainers with national and international activities, how can we organize that?

Rosa Mosquera: Better knowledge of climate smart agriculture practices (integrated systems, agroforestry, mixed farming systems) and how to implement it at local level

Federica: Elisabeth, I am glad to answer your question by email or call.

Julia Jawtusich: I have a strong worry that ANYTHING can be included under the name CSA. I strongly recommend a clearer definition of CSA, which also names EXCLUDED practices

Federica: Rosa, the KG is preparing a webinar for 19 May on this topic, you are welcome to attend

Luca Heeb: Creating synergies between extension approaches and project based activities in CSA is key

Dieudonne: Need to make sure that every intervention with communities is not called CSA

Shahid: Fostering partnership and build on existing facilities

György Páczay: I couldn't agree more with other participants in the need to define CSA.

Elisabeth Simelton: excellent Federica!

f) What other comments or questions would you like to share?

Sheila Cooke: What are the overarching principles under which all CSA initiatives can operate and know they are being effective?

Rosa Mosquera: Which are the main activities that CSA can push forward and which types of institutions can be involved on which activities. Is this going to be organized?

Rosa Mosquera: What about CSA in developed countries? Can developed countries learn from activities in developing countries?

Luca Heeb: I am wondering if at a certain point someone needs to come up with some criteria which qualify a projects to be climate smart. Otherwise all projects in agricultural development can be considered as climate smart.

Simone Sala: @ Luca great point

Shahid: Interact more over email and one to one discussions can be promoted

Elisabeth Simelton: @Luca - I agree we have this issue now with donors who would like to scale out CSVs.