

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture

(GACSA)

Final Minutes

**9th STRATEGIC COMMITTEE Meeting
(Follow-up Meeting)**

Held via Zoom

14th October 2021

4. GACSA's Future: "GACSA 2030 and beyond" (Hans Hoogeveen)

H.E. Hans Hoogeveen (GACSA co-Chair), welcomed attendees of Day 2 of the Strategic Committee (SC) Meeting (for list of attendees please see Annex 1).

Background:

As the GACSA 2018-22 Strategic Plan comes to an end, The Facilitation Unit developed a discussion paper "GACSA 2030 and Beyond", which describes a vision for the future of GACSA and sets out game-changing objectives that Alliance members aim to achieve, assisted by the GACSA Facilitation Unit. The paper aims to support the upcoming GACSA Strategic Plan 2022-2032 and the Annual Forum 2021 concept note.

During Day 1 of the SC Meeting on 7 October 2021, Simon Leiva provided an update on the development of the discussion paper and the Strategic Committee members were invited by the co-Chair, to provide comments and feedback. Three comments were received in writing after Day 1 meeting and were incorporated in an updated version of the discussion paper, which was circulated to the SC members on Tuesday 12 October 2021. Please refer to meeting minutes from Day 1 for further details.

The Chair opened floor for comments and discussion on the revised "GACSA 2030 and Beyond" discussion paper.

Discussion Points:

- The revised document captured the feedback received with regards to the SDGs and framing CSA as an approach that envisions a central role for farmers
- Federica Matteoli (FAO) proposed to develop a roadmap including activities, on how this strategy will be implemented
- Bruce Campbell (CAAFS) suggested that the definition of the term 'farmers' is clarified at the beginning of the document or use the terms "agricultural producers"
- Imelda Bacudo (ASEAN CRN) mentioned that there is a need to integrate a focus on CSA as a tool for helping countries to formulate their NDCs and other relevant current and upcoming strategies.
- Tabi Joda (Green Aid) suggested that terminologies used in the paper, could be simplified to make the concept of CSA more accessible to a wider audience

Decision:

- *The Strategic Committee took note of the draft "GACSA 2030 and beyond" discussion paper and encouraged finalization of this paper, taking into account the considerations raised by the SC during both meetings on 7 and 14 October 2021, as well as any additional feedback the SC may provide in writing by **20 October 2021 COB.***
- *The Facilitation Unit will provide the final draft to Strategic Committee members by 25 October 2021, so that this version will be presented during the 2021 Annual Forum for consideration.*

5.1. Composition of the Strategic Committee (SC)

Background:

For full background of Composition of the Strategic Committee, kindly refer to Meeting Minutes from Day 1 of The SC meeting (7 October 2021)

During Day 1 of SC meeting, three (3) proposals were discussed by SC members on how to structure the SC:

- **Proposal 1)**
The SC structure remains the same. The SC is open to anyone who shows interest and attend the SC meetings
- **Proposal 2) Recommendation from Strategic Plan 2018-2022**
SC membership up to a 24 member committee: co-Chairs (2), co-conveners of the three Action Groups (6), up to two (2) representatives of each of the six constituencies (i.e. governments, businesses, farmers' organizations, civil society groups, research bodies and intergovernmental entities) (12). Other GACSA members can participate as observers on issues of interest, upon invitation or request.
- **Proposal 3)**
SC is represented by GACSA's Regional CSA Alliances (two representatives from each Regional Alliance; currently there are seven (7) Regional Alliances), the co-Chairs (2), co-conveners of the three Action Groups (6). Other GACSA members can participate as observers on issues of interest, upon invitation or request.

Discussion Points:

Building on the discussions from Day 1 of SC meeting and the recommendations, SC members who took the floor voiced general support for the revised proposals and the following points were raised:

- Mandate of the SC is clearly defined in [GACSA Governance Document](#)
- Participants made a suggestion and it was taken into consideration to add a few seats for co-opting members into the SC, at the discretion of the SC. This could contribute to a balance of representation outside the defined groupings
- Prof. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda recommended to include a FAO representative within the Strategic Committee
- SC members recommended to merge **Proposal 2** (SC membership up to a 24 member committee: (i) co-Chairs (2); (ii) co-conveners of the three Action Groups (6); and (iii) up to two (2) representatives of each of the six constituencies (i.e. governments, businesses, farmers' and producers' organizations, civil society groups, research bodies and intergovernmental entities) (12). Other GACSA members could participate as observers on issues of interest, upon invitation/request, and amend **Proposal 3** to include only one representative instead of two from GACSA's (7)Regional CSA Alliances .

Decision:

It was decided and agreed to merge proposal 2 and some elements of proposal 3, therefore GACSA SC members to consist of up to a 31 members committee:

- *co-Chairs (2)*
 - *co-conveners of the three Action Groups (6)*
 - *up to two (2) representatives of each of the six constituencies (i.e. governments, businesses, farmers' and producers' organizations, civil society groups, research bodies and intergovernmental entities) (12)*
 - *chairs of the GACSA's Regional CSA Alliances (one from each alliance of currently seven) (7)*
 - *FAO as a hosting organization of GACSA FU (1)*
 - *(possibility to have 3 co-opted members if necessary (3))*
 - *Other GACSA members can participate as observers on issues of interest, upon invitation or request*
- Chair invited Strategic Committee members to nominate two names for the constituency they are part of, by 01 November 2021, submitting the names of constitution to GACSA FU in writing.

5.3. Co-Chair election

Background:

The governance structure of GACSA provides for two co-Chairs. The terms of the two co-Chairs are staggered to ensure continuity and contingent upon availability and the timing of the Strategic Committee meeting. One of the GACSA co-Chair position, currently held by Prof. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, was open for election.

The upcoming co-Chair position being filled, must be a candidate from a member institution of GACSA, from a developing country and have the interest and availability to contribute positively to the Alliance.

Prof. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda has served since 2018 (extended due to COVID pandemic), representing the developing country constituency. As per the governance structures, she will be stepping down, and a new co-Chair shall be selected.

GACSA co-Chairs and the Facilitation Unit circulated a Call for Nominations on 4 June 2021. The Strategic Committee was involved to express their interest or propose a suitable candidate for the GACSA co-Chair position, and to disseminate the Call through their networks for submissions. The due date for submissions was 18h00 CET, 24 June 2021.

To date, the co-Chairs received only one submission from Ms Imelda Bacudo from ASEAN CRN.

Prof. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda voiced her support for the Alliance as outgoing co-chair. She highlighted the importance of incorporating biodiversity in CSA and reaffirmed her recommendation made in item 5.1 to include in the SC a dedicated delegate from FAO. She advised, to explore formalizing GACSA's relationship with FAO to clarify the modus operandi. She declared to remain available to guide and consult GACSA in the future.

H.E. Hans Hoogeveen thanked Prof. Sibanda for being the face of GACSA, sharing her leadership and wisdom, as a farmer and a strong voice, ensuring GACSA getting closer, to where it needs to be in implementing the CSA concept. He highlighted Prof. Sibanda's role in transforming GACSA Facilitation Unit into an organized manner with clearer tasks.

Discussion Point:

- GACSA Co-Chair H.E. Hans Hoogeveen placed the motion of the nomination of Imelda Bacudo candidature as the new co-Chair
- SC members welcomed the nomination of Imelda Bacudo, as new chair and agreed to be presented as the new GACSA co-chair to the upcoming Annual Forum
- Ms Imelda Bacudo provided brief remarks on her nomination and looked forward to working with the FU, the regional alliances and GACSA Members
- It was noted that both co-Chairs were extended their term for an additional year due to COVID pandemic

Decision:

Following approval and endorsement by the SC members of Ms. Imelda Bacudo nomination, as the incoming co-Chair to replace Prof. LM Sibanda, Ms. Imelda Bacudo will be officially announced as the new co-Chair during the 2021 GACSA Annual Forum (18 and 19 November 2021).

6. GACSA Annual Forum

Background:

The 2021 Annual Forum concept note was shared with SC members prior to the meeting (Tuesday, 12 October 2021). The tentative dates proposed in the Concept Note were 15 and 16 November, and due to a calendar conflict with WFP Executive Board meeting (15-18 November 2021), the proposed dates were suggested to be revised to 18 and 19 November 2021.

The Annual Forum will focus on a new agenda and strategy for GACSA and the expected outputs are:

- Highlight the role of CSA in sustainable food systems, investments and actions
- Facilitate learning and partnerships amongst members
- Promote scaling-up of climate-smart agriculture innovations and technologies
- Assess the ways GACSA members currently support food systems and identify options for strengthening the Alliance as a platform for qualified leading opinions, high-level policy dialogues and advocacy processes

The outcomes from the Annual Forum sessions will be taken forward to finalize a "GACSA 2030 and beyond Strategy". This Strategy will focus on accelerating GACSA's multi-stakeholder actions, create new tools and mobilize resources for a new GACSA.

Discussion Points:

- Bruce Campbell (CAAFS) recommended to include in the AF inspirational speakers that can provide new directions new thinking about climate smart agriculture, and how will GACSA contribute to this?
- SC members recommended to discuss a new way of thinking around CSA, for example on how could the discussion on CSA and the SDGs be better organized?
- H. E. Hans Hoogeveen recommended to adapt the agenda to the outcomes of UNFSS (progress on all 17 of the SDGs through a food systems approach, leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems to global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty and inequality)
- It was agreed for the Annual Forum to take place

Decisions:

- *SC members took note of the programming and made recommendations*
- *FU to liaise with interested members to work together on the agenda and to deliver a successful Annual Forum*
- *The 2021 GACSA Annual Forum will take place on 18 and 19 November 2021 instead of 15 and 16 November 2021*

7. Any Other Business and Closing

Prof. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda closed the meeting and thanked SC meeting participants for their time, highlighting the Save the Date for the Annual Forum to be distribute on Friday, 15 October 2021.

Annex 1 – Attendees of Day 2 of GACSA Strategic Committee Meeting (alphabetical order)

	Institution	Representative
1	ASEAN-CRN	Imelda Bacudo
2	Canada	Nikita Eriksen-Hamel
3	CCAFS/ CGIAR	Wiebe Smit, Bruce Campbell, Dhanush Dinesh, Romano De Vivo
4	ECOWAS	Pierre Haas
5	FANRPAN	Francis Hale, Thembi Mwamakamba
6	FAO	Federica Matteoli
7	Farm Africa	Anastasia Mbatia
8	Femme et Enfant	Nala Mueller
9	Green Aid	Tabi Joda
10	INHERE India	Sonali Bisht
11	Ireland	Dale Crammond
12	Mexico	Juan Bernardo Orozco
13	National Council for Climate Change Sustainable Development and Public Leadership (NCCSD)	Nisha Shah
14	Peermade Development Society (PDS)	B. Thomas
15	SACSAA	Justice Zvaita
16	Sidona Media	Sharon Idahosa
17	Sociedade Rural Brasileira	Marcelo Vieira
18	Solution from the Land	Ernie Shea
19	SPC-Pacific	Fuatino Fatiaki
20	Syngenta	Sarah Dudgeon
21	Thailand	Margret Yoovatana Th Doa
22	The Kitchen Connection	Earlene Cruz
23	The Nature Conservancy	Robert Tansey
24	The Netherlands	Marcel van Nijnatten
25	The Platform for Climate Action in Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLACA)	Alvarado Abigail
26	Universidad de Santiago de Compostela EURAF/USC	Maria Rosa Mosquera Losado
27	University of Agriculture Pakistan	Rehman Ur Hafeez
28	USDA	Hope Bigda-Peyton

GACSA co-Chairs:

H.E. Hans Hoogeveen	GACSA Co-Chair
Prof Lindiwe Majele Sibanda	GACSA Co-Chair

GACSA Secretariat:

Kessl Christiane	GACSA Facilitation Unit
Leiva Simon	GACSA Facilitation Unit
Mwamakamba Lufingo	GACSA Facilitation Unit

Stankova Jana	GACSA Facilitation Unit
van Dijk Nadine	GACSA Facilitation Unit