

Concept Note
Round Table
Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture: Open Dialogue

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

15 October 2015

Room: King Faisal

An open dialogue Round Table will be organized at FAO HQ in Rome, Italy during the week of the world Committee on Food Security (CFS) annual conference. The Round table will be held on 15 October 2015 from 14:00 to 17:00hrs.

Background

In today's world there is enough food for all to be well-fed but one person in eight is suffering from chronic hunger. The world's population is growing - in 2050 it is projected to exceed 9 billion people. Climate change already undermines agriculture and food systems in many regions, making it more difficult to achieve food security and nutrition goals and reduce poverty. To enable all people to achieve food security, there is a need for sustainable increases in agricultural productivity.

With this goal in mind, the Global Alliance for CSA was formed to help governments, farmers, scientists, businesses, and civil society, as well as regional unions and international organizations, to adjust agricultural practices, food systems and social policies so that they take account of climate change and efficient use of natural resources.

The Global Alliance for CSA (GACSA), launched on 23 September 2014 at the UN Climate Summit by the President of Niger and the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, aims to improve people's food security and nutrition in the face of climate change.

Members of the Alliance recognize the urgent need to act at scale and to contribute towards three aspirational outcomes:

- Sustainable and equitable increases in agricultural productivity and incomes;
- Greater resilience of food systems and farming livelihoods; and
- Reduction and/or removal of greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture (including the relationship between agriculture and ecosystems), where possible.

During the year of Inception, the Alliance has created an operational structure comprised of:

- The Annual Forum (AF) which is the supreme instance of the Alliance.

- The Strategic Committee (SC) which is responsible for strategic guidance of the activities and actions of the alliance, under the leadership of two elected co-Chairs (currently, Martin Bwalya, NEPAD and Inge Rydland, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- The Facilitation Unit (FU) which coordinates the activities of the alliance and facilitates linkages among the members and the organizational structures of the alliance. The FU is hosted in FAO and is headed by the Coordinator (Dr. Achuo Enow).
- The Action Groups (AGs) which are responsible for developing operational actions on the ground to promote CSA. Currently there are three AGs (knowledge, Investment, Enabling Environment) and they have each developed and are now implementing their work plans. One common activity being carried out by the three AGs is the country case studies involving 6 countries namely: Costa Rica, Ireland, France, Malawi, Tanzania and Viet Nam.

The GACSA website is developed and functioning.

At the moment there are 100 members of the Alliance, including 22 countries. One of the main targets of the Global Alliance is to broaden its membership, involving all stakeholder groups from different regions as well as strengthening linkages with, and participation of civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and private businesses.

This round table is seen as a continuation of a dialogue between GACSA and CSOs and NGOs that took place on 17 March 2015, Montpellier, France. During the Global scientific conference on climate smart agriculture (Montpellier, 16-18, March 2015), several CSOs (national and international NGOs as well as CSOs networks and one farmers organization) requested Martin Bwalya, Co-Chair of the GACSA Strategic Committee, to organize an exchange of views regarding the GACSA. This meeting also involved several country representatives and international organizations also present at the Conference (Attachment 1: Exchange of views with civil society organizations (CSOs) on the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)).

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The timing of the Round table during the CFS Week is intended to invite the representatives of the Civil Society Organizations who are actively involved in the work of the CFS. This timing will give GACSA an excellent opportunity for genuine dialogue and exchange.

The overall objective of this round table is to contribute to enhanced awareness about GACSA - setting a clear understanding of its mission, vision and the aspirational outcomes, hence rallying growing global movement for action to support the scaling up of CSA. The meeting will establish a platform for dialogue among the participants and foster consultations on a regular basis about the issues of concern including the developments of the Alliance.

The Alliance recognizes the skepticism, critics, and concerns expressed by some countries, NGOs and CSOs about GACSA. The Alliance in this regard continues to arrange and facilitate platforms and forums for open discussions and dialogue in the interest of building common understanding and rally for ACTION in scaling up the CSA that is consistent with economic growth, inclusive development while ensuring environmental resilience.

This Round Table is therefore organized as part of the continued follow-up in providing platforms and mechanisms for the voices of CSOs, NGOs, Social movements and the general public to be expressed in sharing and exchanging views, perspectives and experiences on CSA and on GACSA.

Proposed Outline of the Event

The side event will be organized as a round table. **Co-Chairs of the SC, GACSA** Inge Rydland /Martin Bwalya will moderate the dialogue.

The event is open to GACSA members and observers.

List of invitees attached.

Tentative Programme (14:00 – 17:00)

14:00 – 14:30 Opening Remarks and Presentation of CSOs/ NGOS participants

14:30 – 15:30 Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture: Structure, Governance, way forward (co-Chair of GACSA, tbc).

Interactive session – Q & A

15:30 – 15:45 Tea Break (*Light refreshments will be served outside the Meeting Room*)

15:45 – 16:55 Actions on the Ground: Presentation of the Case Studies of the Action Groups (co-convener of AGs, tbc).

Interactive session – Q & A

16:55 – 17:00 Closing remarks