



GLOBAL ALLIANCE ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Action Group on Knowledge

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BACKGROUND

Since 2010: CSA has become an increasingly accepted approach, with many governments, civil society organisations, farmers and businesses interested in implementing CSA programmes.

Needs for CSA upscaling: Policy frameworks and incentives; investment flows; participation of different stakeholder groups; development and exchange of knowledge.

September 2014: Launch of an Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture (ACSA) to provide a mechanism to coordinate and support the global adoption of CSA.

3 Action Groups: Knowledge, Investment and Enabling Environment.

ACSA's Action Group on Knowledge:

- **Co-leaders:** FAO and CGIAR/CCAFS.
- **Members:** Self-selected CSA practitioners and researchers. Email climate-knowledge@fao.org to join the conversation.
- **Objective:** To identify the major knowledge priorities, key areas of work and knowledge products needed to facilitate the successful adoption and upscaling of CSA.

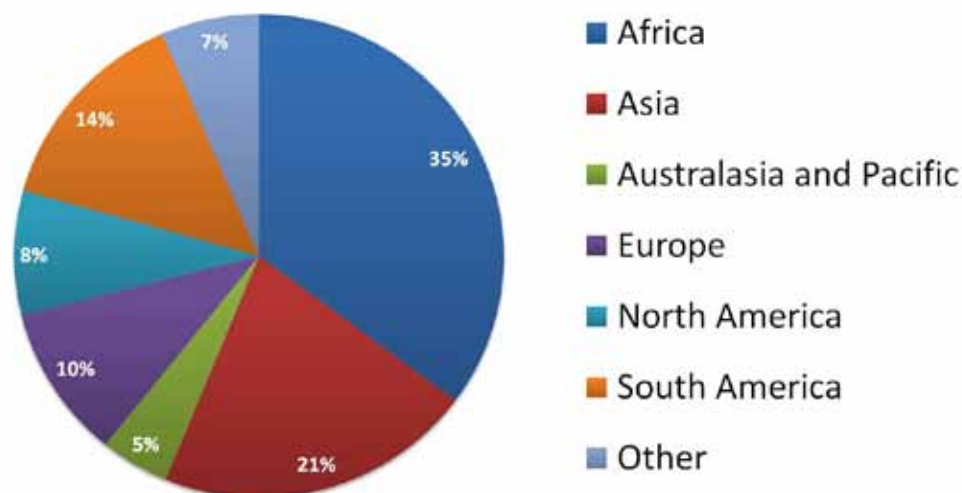
ACTIVITIES

ONLINE CONSULTATION

Held between 8-29 April 2014 to identify the major knowledge priorities and key areas of work.

- 491 respondents.
- 5 overarching knowledge priorities were ranked in the following order of importance:
 1. Technical interventions and practices in CSA
 2. Support, services and extension for CSA AND Evidence base of CSA (joint second)
 3. Inclusive knowledge systems for CSA
 4. Integrated planning and monitoring for CSA
- For a fuller breakdown of results within these overarching priority areas, please see the presentation (<http://bit.ly/1uqleFu>) or watch the full webcast (<http://bit.ly/ZiRX5x>).
- General remarks emphasized the importance of:
 - Direct collaboration with farmers and farmer-focused knowledge product development.
 - Accurate and reliable measurement and verification protocols for long-term success.
 - Capacity development specifically tailored to each stakeholder group.
 - A holistic approach to the five knowledge priority areas.
 - A rights, governance and gender approach for CSA.
 - Sharing experiences across country contexts and between different approaches to CSA.
 - The need to mobilize dedicated investment.

Regional representation:





WORKING GROUP SESSION ON CSA KNOWLEDGE

(June 2014, Consultative Meeting of the CSA Alliance, Vietnam)

The results of the online consultation were evaluated in a participatory manner and Asian perspectives on CSA were shared by participants.

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

A network of 700 CSA practitioners has been established for ongoing knowledge exchange and to coordinate contribution to knowledge products. Email climate-knowledge@fao.org to join the conversation.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

To date, the Knowledge Action Group has produced the following knowledge products:

- A CSA Questions and Answers Sheet to cover basic information about CSA.
- CSA Practice Briefs to provide implementation guidance for policymakers and investors. Briefs on Alternate Wetting and Drying and Conservation Agriculture have been completed.
- A brief on Climate-Smart Agriculture: Scientists' perspectives sharing a vision of CSA from research institutes.
- A brief on Climate-Smart Agriculture: Farmers' perspectives sharing a vision of CSA from farmers' organizations.



NEXT STEPS

SECOND ONLINE CONSULTATION

Based on the priorities from the first online consultation and the working group session in Vietnam, key CSA knowledge products have been identified for development. The second online consultation invites respondents to share their insights on the proposed structure and contents of the proposed products as well as inviting them to participate in their development. The consultation will be accessible at www.climatesmartagriculture.org in September/October 2014.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CSA KNOWLEDGE

(5-6 November 2014; FAO HQ, Rome, Italy)

CSA practitioners will be invited to develop coalitions for action under each of the knowledge priorities and products identified by both online consultations (April/May 2014 and September/October 2014). Outlines of strategies and knowledge products will be produced alongside a workplan detailing the timelines and responsibilities for their completion.

ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Based on the online and in-person consultations conducted by the CSA Knowledge Action Group, the following products and initiatives are under development:

- Detailed Q&A sheet to address key questions about CSA.
- A Country Implementation Manual to support governments in developing and implementing CSA initiatives.
- A Compilation of CSA Case Studies to share successes and challenges from the ground.
- A Private Sector Manual to provide insights on public-private partnerships.
- Guidelines on Inclusive Knowledge Systems for CSA for participatory knowledge development and exchange.
- A CSA Knowledge Portal to allow for dynamic knowledge exchange between practitioners.



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