

## **Knowledge Action Group for Climate-Smart Agriculture**

### **Work Plan KAG inception year – February 2015-December 2015**

#### **Introduction**

The Action Groups (AGs) of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) are groups with a specific and defined purpose. They can consist of members of the Alliance and other interested stakeholders. There are a number of processes to facilitate the creation of the Alliance. Action groups have been created to support the identification of the objectives, key priority areas of work and early action of the Alliance. They will also be encouraged to engage in regional and thematic programmes. The structure of the Alliance will be sufficiently flexible to enable participants to organize additional working groups, actions and programmes objectives. An AG shall support the implementation of the Programme of work (PoW) of the Alliance. Its tasks will be defined by the thematic priorities adopted by the Strategic Committee (SC).

#### **I. Results expected during the first year of the KAG**

##### **Knowledge Action Group**

The Knowledge Action Group (KAG) was established during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, in Johannesburg in December 2013, based on the proposition made by several institutions, organizations and governments.

In December 2014 GACSA members signed the Framework document, where it was confirmed that the work of the Alliance will focus on three initial action areas: knowledge, investment and enabling environment.

Functions of the AGs are:

- Support the work of GACSA members in their efforts to contribute to the agreed vision and goals.
- Act as the focal point to the Alliance on their respective thematic areas.

Knowledge Action Group  
Work Plan – Inception Year  
Zero Draft

The focus of this work plan in the KAG Inception year will be on concrete actions to help deliver the Alliance's overall aim to enhance the resilience of 500 million people in agriculture by 2030, through their use of climate smart agriculture approaches. The KAG will endeavor to identify and address the knowledge needs to achieve this aim.

This is the general work plan for 2015; the KAG activities for 2015 will be defined in the GACSA programme of work. A more specific work plan will be sent to SC after the International Workshop of the Knowledge Action Group, 15 March 2015, Montpellier, where inputs from GACSA members and others will be secured.

*Actions on climate smart agriculture*

Before and at the launch of the Alliance, members set out a number of actions and initiatives they plan to take under the AGs. These will be at the heart of the Alliance and will determine its success. As the Alliance is open and voluntary members are not accountable to the Alliance, they will come together on these actions and the intention is they share what they have done under the AGs.

*Governance, organizational structure*

The KAG is facilitated by two co-conveners selected by the Strategic Committee after an online application. KAG will report regularly to the SC and take actions in priority areas as requested by the SC. The KAG develops individual work plans under the guidance of the SC.

*Functions of KAG are:*

**The objective of KAG is:** Increasing and promoting knowledge, research and development into technologies, practices, and policy approaches for climate-smart agriculture; practices and technology sharing and cooperation; improving communication and information sharing among participants; and outreach, extension, and technical assistance.

The specific functions are:

- 1) Identifying and filling knowledge gaps that hinder decision making/policy setting, adoption and implementation of climate-smart agriculture;

Knowledge Action Group  
Work Plan – Inception Year  
Zero Draft

- 2) Developing or identifying metrics that can be useful for measuring progress in climate-smart agriculture;
- 3) Stimulating research and investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems, drawing on indigenous knowledge systems and expertise where feasible;
- 4) Brokering relationships between partners and programmes for increased and improved research and learning on the critical role of gender in climate-smart agriculture;
- 5) Linking research to implementation to improve approaches;
- 6) Connecting research findings to the experiences of practitioners and to farmers' empirical and traditional knowledge in a transparent and open way, to share knowledge;
- 7) Developing knowledge platforms in order to exchange data and information;
- 8) Scaling up both south-south and north-south knowledge sharing and support;
- 9) Strengthening extension and support tools for climate-smart agriculture, reflecting the perspectives knowledge and experience of producers;
- 10) Strengthening institutional capacity development for knowledge, practice and technology sharing relating to climate-smart agriculture; and
- 11) Assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local levels.

Knowledge Action Group  
Work Plan – Inception Year  
Zero Draft

**Table of activities**

	<b>Action item/deliverable</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>Finish date</b>	<b>Responsible focal point.</b>
1.	<p><b>Identifying and filling knowledge gaps that hinder decision making/policy setting, adoption and implementation of climate-smart agriculture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Continue consultations with different stakeholders to assess the status of knowledge on climate-smart agriculture and identify knowledge gaps</li> <li>b) Publication of identified knowledge gaps and prioritization of research questions or working groups for filling gaps</li> <li>c) Draw recommendations from members on how to fill knowledge gaps</li> <li>d) Develop working groups for filling knowledge gaps, through production of documents, organizing activities etc. and for developing products already identified</li> </ul>			
2.	<p><b>Developing or identifying metrics that can be useful for measuring progress in climate-smart agriculture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Identify tested or effective methodologies for monitoring indicators of climate resilience</li> <li>b) Identify entities working/available to work on metrics to measure progress in CSA implementation</li> <li>c) Work with identified entities to provide guidance on metrics to GACSA members</li> <li>d) Prioritization of development of metrics or resolution of data gaps or uncertainty around certain metrics.</li> </ul>			
3.	<p><b>Stimulating research and investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems, drawing on indigenous knowledge systems and expertise where feasible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Organisation of a global science conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture and identifying elements for a global research agenda</li> <li>b) Presentation of the conclusions from the global conference at the conference “Our common future under climate change”</li> </ul>	16 <sup>th</sup> March July 2015	18 <sup>th</sup> March	CIRAD
4.	<b>Brokering relationships between partners and programmes for increased and improved</b>			

Knowledge Action Group  
Work Plan – Inception Year  
Zero Draft

	<p><b>research and learning on the critical role of gender and indigenous knowledge systems and expertise in climate-smart agriculture</b> Deliverables 3a and 3b contribute to this activity as well.</p>			
5.	<p><b>Linking research to implementation to improve approaches</b> a) Identify ongoing efforts that mainstream CSA practices and link research to implementation b) Build on lessons learned and assess viability for scaling up</p>			
6.	<p><b>Connecting research findings to the experiences of practitioners and to farmers’ empirical and traditional knowledge in a transparent and open way, to share knowledge</b></p>			
7.	<p><b>Developing knowledge platforms in order to exchange data and information</b> a) Identify existing knowledge platforms that can be built up on and/or further developed</p>			
8.	<p><b>Scaling up both south-south and north-south knowledge sharing and support</b></p>			
9.	<p><b>Strengthening extension and support tools for climate-smart agriculture, reflecting the perspectives, knowledge and experience of producers</b> a) Scan landscape for relevant existing extension and support tools</p>			
10.	<p><b>Strengthening institutional capacity development for knowledge, practice and technology sharing relating to climate-smart agriculture</b></p>			
11.	<p><b>Assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local levels</b> a) Develop a database of existing risk and vulnerability assessments for agricultural systems b) Develop a common understanding of methodology of inclusive risk and vulnerability assessment</p>			
12.	<p><b>Inception year governance arrangements for the KAG</b> To ensure that the required objectives are achieved in the inception year, the following actions will be undertaken: a) Support the FU in establishing governance and operations of the KAG b) Support the setting up of light interim governance arrangements, including TORs for the KAG and modalities to participate in discussions and decision making</p>			

Knowledge Action Group  
Work Plan – Inception Year  
Zero Draft

13.	<p><b>KAG meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A first international workshop of the KAG will be held in Montpellier to: secure inputs from participants in order to organize the work on knowledge priorities for CSA and partnerships to make these priorities possible. The activities identified at the workshop will form inputs into the development of the KAG’s specific work plan.</li> <li>b) Participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Committee of GACSA in Abu Dhabi to present the preliminary work plan for inception year.</li> <li>c) Participate in the 1st Annual Meeting of the Alliance in Rome</li> </ul>	<p>March 2015</p> <p>March 2015</p> <p>Oct 2015</p>		
14.	<p><b>Facilitate membership and active participation</b></p> <p>To ensure and increase participation of stakeholders the following tasks will be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Actively promote the Alliance principles and objectives</li> <li>b) Develop modalities of participation in the KAG, and ensure continued consultation among all stakeholders on the development of the KAG</li> <li>c) Provide facilitation of cross sector and member collaborations and interests</li> <li>d) Develop online registration system and database to facilitate monitoring progress and acting at scale, and for use and referencing</li> <li>e) Develop database on expertise and support members can provide</li> <li>f) Specific focus on involvement with Civil Society and farmers/producers organizations</li> <li>g) Facilitation of regional groups/alliances and modalities in place on how these will interact between themselves and the AGs</li> <li>h) Development of conferences and workshops at the regional and local level to involve entities and to develop products identified</li> </ul>			
15.	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>The KAG will develop and deliver the following communication products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A communication strategy for the KAG</li> <li>b) Key communication products</li> <li>c) Establish communication channels (list server, social media, IT, networks, etc.)</li> <li>d) Outreach and advocacy, incl. for broadening the Alliance membership, in close consultation with the Strategic Committee</li> <li>e) Where appropriate support engagement of major groups and events</li> </ul>			

Knowledge Action Group  
Work Plan – Inception Year  
Zero Draft

16.	<p><b>Monitoring</b></p> <p>The KAG will develop its own Work plan that shall be submitted to the SC for approval either by e-mail, in conference calls and/or meetings of the SC.</p> <p>The KAG reports to the SC through annual progress reports, which contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Work plan and budget for the next year</li> <li>b) Description of the implemented activities, results achieved and budget; and</li> <li>c) Identification of problems and constraints encountered and recommendations for corrective measures.</li> <li>d) Way forward</li> </ul> <p>The KAG will report also to the Annual Forum during the annual meeting.</p>			
17.	<p><b>Relevant international processes</b></p> <p>The KAG will take into account other international processes, related to agriculture, food security and nutrition and climate change and achieve synergies between them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Develop calendar with relevant meetings for next 12 months</li> <li>b) List meetings of interest for the KAG, organized by GACSA members</li> </ul>			