

Knowledge Action Group (KAG) of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture Inception Year Work Plan – January 2015-December 2015

Introduction

The Action Groups (AGs) of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), Knowledge, Enabling Environment and Investment, are formed by members of the Alliance and other interested stakeholders and have the purpose to facilitate implementation and achievement of the objectives of the Alliance. In particular support members in the realization of 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).

Knowledge Action Group

The Knowledge Action Group (KAG) was established during the 3rd 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.

Functions of KAG

In September 2014, GACSA was launched at the Climate Summit in New York, hosted by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to engage leaders and advance climate action and ambition. The Climate Summit was about action and solutions that are focused on accelerating progress in areas that can significantly contribute to reducing emissions and strengthening resilience – such as agriculture, cities, energy, financing, forests, pollutants, resilience and transportation.

In this context, the GACSA was launched and 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.

GACSA members have identified in the Framework document that the objectives of the KAG should be: 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 objectives include:

- a) Identifying and filling knowledge gaps that hinder decision making/policy setting, adoption and implementation of climate-smart agriculture;
- b) Developing or identifying metrics that can be useful for measuring progress in climate-smart agriculture;
- c) Stimulating research and investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems, drawing on indigenous knowledge systems and expertise where feasible;
- d) Brokering relationships between partners and programmes for increased and improved research and learning on the critical role of gender in climate-smart agriculture;
- e) Linking research to implementation to improve approaches;
- f) Connecting research findings to the experiences of practitioners and to farmers' empirical and traditional knowledge in a transparent and open way, to share knowledge;
- g) Developing knowledge platforms in order to exchange data and information;
- h) Scaling up both south-south and north-south knowledge sharing and support;
- i) Strengthening extension and support tools for climate-smart agriculture, reflecting the perspectives knowledge and experience of producers;
- j) Strengthening institutional capacity development for knowledge, practice and technology sharing relating to climate-smart agriculture; and
- k) Assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local levels.

Governance and organizational structure

In the inception year, the KAG is facilitated by a group of 10 facilitators, The Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP), Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), CGIAR research program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), Colorado State University, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA), Food and Agriculture Organization

of the United Nations (FAO), Government of Nigeria, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), UK-China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN), co-convened by, FAO and CCAFS. The 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.

Results expected during the first year of the KAG (2015)

Process of establishing priority areas and outputs

This plan has been developed based on extensive online consultations in 2014, involving over 900 responses. Furthermore, the KAG held a consultation meeting in Hanoi in June 2014 involving over 100 participants and a workshop in Montpellier in March 2015 with over 100 participants. Inputs have been secured from GACSA members and other stakeholders including farmer organizations, civil society organizations, private sector, research organizations, country governments, and international organizations. The GACSA SC and conveners of the Action Groups on Investment and Enabling Environment have also provided inputs to ensure coherence with other GACSA efforts.

The priority work areas for the KAG identified in consultations are:

- Technical interventions and practices in CSA
- Evidence base of CSA
- Support, services and extension for CSA
- Inclusive knowledge systems for CSA
- Integrated planning and monitoring for CSA

Process of delivering outputs

Under each priority area, KAG members have identified outputs, listed in the table below. Individual GACSA members and stakeholders have indicated key deliverables which they are willing to produce in the inception year. A sub-group coordinated by one or more facilitators will develop a roadmap of activities and outputs and coordinate its delivery. This ensures strategic coherence while ensuring maximum participation.

Workplan Deliverables

	Action item/deliverable	Start date	Finish date	Responsible focal point ¹
1.	<p>Technical interventions and practices in CSA KAG members have committed to produce CSA practice briefs on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Soil health, soil nutrient management, fertilizer efficiency ii. Livestock (e.g. manure management) iii. Climate information services iv. Agro-forestry v. Decision-support tools and stakeholder process at global, national, and local levels vi. Gender and CSA vii. Coffee banana intercropping <p><i>(related to objective a) set out in the framework document)</i></p>	May May May May May May May	Dec Dec Dec Dec Dec Dec Dec	CCAFS CCAFS CCAFS/ACPC CCAFS AGMIP FAO CCAFS
2.	<p>Integrated planning and monitoring for CSA Outputs envisaged in the inception year are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A plan for an inclusive process on metrics development, based on multi-donor process on indicators, and report back to GACSA ii. Data and models: Propose an action plan for two-way benefits, to improve data quality, quantity, demand driven models, and integrated models iii. Compendium of farm level practices iv. Online community of practice that builds on existing MICCA and AgLinks communities <p><i>(related to objective b) set out in the framework document)</i></p>	May May Apr Apr	Dec Dec Dec Dec	USAID AGMIP CCAFS/FAO FAO
3.	<p>Inclusive knowledge systems for CSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Elements for designing relevant research agenda based on the CSA Science conference in Montpellier. ii. Support for the next Science Conference organized by NEPAD. <p><i>(related to objective c) set out in the framework document)</i></p>	May May	Dec Date of the Conference	Cirad Cirad
4.	<p>Evidence base of CSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Template for CSA case studies 	May	Sept	FAO with other AGs

¹ A full list contributing organizations has also been developed and is available upon request.

	ii. Case studies on knowledge systems for dealing with extreme climate events	May	Dec	ACPC (merged with case studies effort) USDA in collaboration with KAG and IAG FAO
	iii. Set of case studies (jointly with other AGs) (Malawi, Tanzania, Vietnam, Costa Rica, Ireland, France)	May	Apr 2016	
	iv. Identify existing examples of successful index-based insurance for scaling up <i>(related to objective g) set out in the framework document)</i>	May	Dec	
5.	Support, services and extension for CSA			
	i. Map existing extension, support and adaptation tools as well as knowledge media to support extension services, and consult among users to identify farmer-centred needs for new knowledge products	May	Dec	FAO
	ii. Identify existing knowledge platforms that can be built up on and/or further developed <i>(related to objective i) set out in the framework document)</i>	May	Dec	FAO

Key events and outreach

In the inception year, the KAG will participate in/organize key global events to further the Alliance's objectives around knowledge. These include:

- i. Participate in the 1st Strategic Committee of GACSA on 11th March 2015 in Abu Dhabi to present the preliminary work plan for the inception year.
- ii. A first international workshop of the KAG held on 15th March 2015 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. The workshop was organized by FAO, CCAFS and CIRAD
- iii. Participate in the Investment Action Group meeting on 5th May 2015 in London.
- iv. Participate in the 2nd Strategic Committee of GACSA on 13-14 October 2015 in Rome to present the progress of the work plan for the inception year.

- v. Participate in the side event of GACSA at the Committee on World Food Security, 15 October 2015 in Rome
- vi. Participate in the Annual Forum Meeting of the Alliance in Rome, early 2016.

KAG Planning

FAO, CCAFS and CIRAD have agreed to design a vision and a strategy for the group to go beyond the inception year and the short term, to be presented at the GACSA annual forum. Inputs will be secured from other KAG facilitators and GACSA membership in this process.

Collaboration with other GACSA Action Groups

The KAG will collaborate with the Investment Action Group (IAG) and Enabling Environment Action Group (EEAG) in the development of case studies/examples of GACSA member countries with components of knowledge, enabling environment, and investment. This will demonstrate how the work of the action groups will be complimentary in practice. The case studies can look at: country level policies/enabling environment for CSA; the investment climate including the flow of public and private investments; extension services; metrics and methodologies which integrate climate, gender, and nutrition; foresight and priority setting etc. Collaboration will also focus on the development of a common system for review of outputs with inputs from different action groups.

Comments can be send to the Facilitation Unit email ACSA-Facilitation-Unit@fao.org including suggestions for additional activities.

Annex 1: List of Outputs

Below is the list of outputs identified at the Montpellier workshop, which are not being pursued in the inception year. This is because coordinating organizations were not identified for these outputs, and these may be delivered in subsequent years when coordination capacity exists. During the inception year the KAG received inputs to deliver other outputs during next year; these outputs are included in the table.

Knowledge priority area	Type of output	Description	Interested organisations	Coordinating organisation
Technical interventions and practices in CSA	Practice brief	Water management, water use efficiency	FAO, ICAR, RA	None
	Practice brief	Post-harvest loss reduction management	Cirad, ICAR	None
	Practice brief	Crop diversification (including inter-cropping and crop rotation)	Cirad, ICAR	None
	Practice brief	Systemic approaches (e.g.crop-livestock interactions)	Cirad, ICAR	None
	Practice brief	Land use, landscape scale, land restoration	WRI, YARA, Cirad, FAO, ICAR, RA	None
	Practice brief	Finance instruments to support CSA (credit, insurance, etc.)	RA	None
	Practice brief	Participatory approach (private sector, civil society, farmers' organizations)	FAO, Cirad, CSIRO	None
	Practice brief	Stability of systems (reduced variability and downside risk)	Cirad	None
	Practice brief	Formal and informal institutions (including examples from Ghana, Pakistan)	IFPRI, CCAFS, Cirad, CSIR-Ghana	None
	Practice brief	Conditions for policy and regulatory coherence	FAO, LEAD, Cirad	None
	Practice brief	Information to underpin CSA financing	FAO, IFPRI, GACSA Investment Action Group	None
	Practice brief	Research collaboration	FACCE-JPI, Wageningen, AGMIP,	None

			Cirad, CSIRO, Kansas State University	
		Conceptual framing of Climate-Smart Agriculture	AFA, CSU	None
		i. Genetic improvement of crops for climate adaptation POC: Dr. Pat Byrne ii. Farmer livelihoods and other sociological variables that speak to a broader grasp of "sustainability" POC: Dr. Michael Carolan iii. Identifying knowledge gaps and developing metrics related to soil health, soil nutrient management, and fertilizer efficiency POC: Dr. Matt Wallenstein. iv. Water management and water use efficiency POC: Dr. Allan Andales	Colorado University	2016
		viii. Flexi Biogas systems ix. Participatory planning and community-based approaches for climate change adaptation	IFAD	2016
Integrated planning and monitoring for CSA	Compendium	Compendium of institutional practices	ICAR, CIRAD, FAO	None
	Case studies	Set of case studies within template	USDA, FAO, CTA, CCAFS, Climate KIC, SNV, Cirad, ICAR, ACPC, RA	None
	Online knowledge platform	Portal for sharing the case studies with a map for existing and new case studies	GACSA FU	None
Inclusive knowledge systems for	Online knowledge platform	Portal for direct sharing of experience by farmers (in their own words)	Agriculture for Impact, FAO, RA	None

CSA	Guidelines	Guidelines for inclusive knowledge systems based on examples, for farmers and private sector in supply chain	Bioversity, RA	None
	Compendium	Compendium of decision tools	AGMIP, GRA, Cirad	None