

Attendance:

- Martin Bwalya (NEPAD) – Co-Chair
- Inge Herman Rydland (Norway) – Co-Chair
- Mark Holderness (GFAR)
- Harry Palmier (GFAR)
- Emily Alpert (Agriculture for Impact)
- Alain Vidal (CGIAR Consortium)
- Ana Pinto Fernandez (TRAGSATEC)
- Martin Gallagher (Food Security and Nutrition) - Observer
- Ernie Shea (North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance)
- Richard China (Bioversity International)
- Paul McKiernan (Ireland)
- John Muldowney (Ireland)
- Marlen Schuepbach (Office of UNSG’s Special Representative for Food Security & Nutrition) - Observer
- Rebecca Shaw (EDF)
- Caitrin Martin (USDA)
- Margaret Walsh (USDA)
- Olivia C. Gilmore (U.S. Department of State)
- Sean de Cleene (YARA)
- Achuo Enow (Facilitation Unit)
- Olga Trynkova (Facilitation Unit)
- Federica Matteoli (Facilitation Unit)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Martin Bwalya, Co-Chair of GACSA, chairing the meeting, welcomed all participants and expressed the importance of the Strategic Committee for the operations of GACSA. He noted that GACSA provides an opportunity for building and promoting CSA and that the meetings of the SC constitute an important mile stone for engagement which should continue outside. He then presented the agenda for the meeting, and this was adopted after addition of one more point: update on the CFS conference. He concluded his introductory remarks by introducing the Coordinator of the Facilitation Unit who took office in the beginning of June 2015.

2. Updates from FU

The Coordinator of the Facilitation Unit updated the SC members on recent activities in which the FU has been involved. These include:

- a workshop on “Sustainable livestock and climate smart agriculture: joint action for common challenges” co-organized by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, FAO and the International Livestock Research Institute and took place at the Swiss Pavilion at Expo 2015 Milan, 25 June 2015 (full report in Annex A – see also GACSA website);
- an informal Round Table with Social movements, organized by FAO and co-funded by FAO and GACSA (full report in Annex B);
- Engagements with World Vision (see report in Annex C), UNEP and Eco-Agriculture partners, with eventual invitation of World Vision and UNEP to join GACSA;
- Current staffing situation at the FU with the related challenges.

In the interest of time the SC agreed that the status report on the implementation of the GACSA work plan (Annex D) should not be read out but it should be sent to SC members for consideration and comments.

In the comments that followed, members expressed the desire for more details on the informal Round Table with Social movements, emphasizing on the need for transparency and coordination to ensure that GACSA speaks with one voice at all levels of engagement. A concern was expressed regarding the engagement of GACSA with GRA, noting that the two Alliances do not have the same objectives and that on the contrary there may be areas where the goals of one are in contradiction to those of the other. This difference notwithstanding, the SC agreed to collaborate in areas of common interest, but with caution not be dragged into condoning with some sensitive and controversial issues.

Decisions:

SC/22/07/2.1: Members of the SC are requested to provide the FU with information on entities that may have to be approached to join GACSA.

SC/22/07/2.1: Members who had promised to provide seconded staff to the FU are reminded to make an effort to fulfil the promises.

Action:

SC/22/07/A1: Members who have not had time to express their view should submit their comments in writing to the FU within the next few days following the conference call.

3. Update on AGs

a. **Status of work plans**

A brief update on the status of implementation of the Action Group work plans was shared with SC members (Appendix E). It was observed that although Ireland had expressed interest to be included in the country case studies, it was still missing from the list of countries to be studied. This interest was re-iterated and FU was urged to follow up on it. Ireland also indicated having some queries on the case study concept note and was encouraged to submit these queries to FU and the Action Group conveners for consideration and action.

Decision:

SC/22/07/3.1: The FU and AG conveners should facilitate inclusion of Ireland in the case studies.

b. **Structure and size of AG**

The SC committee noted the fact that the three Action Groups have adopted different organizational structures and encouraged a uniform structure across all AGs. The SC further cautioned that the Groups should avoid complex multi-layer structures that would unnecessarily increase bureaucracy and slow down activities.

Decision:

SC/22/07/3.2: The Action Groups should adopt a simple active structure that inclusive and does not alienate any member.

Action:

SC/22/07/A2: The FU and Conveners should, together, work on producing a simple structure. The proposed structure will be presented at the next SC teleconference for approval.

4. Preparations for second physical Strategic Committee Meeting

The second physical meeting of the SC is planned to coincide with the conference of the Committee on Food Security in the week of 12 – 16 October 2015. The Co-chairs and FU estimate that the meeting will require half a day. Tentatively, the afternoon of Wednesday 14 October has been selected, based on the general CFS conference programme details of which are not yet available. FU has also realized that it may be difficult to find a venue at FAO to accommodate the SC. Alternative venues to be considered are WFP and IFAD in that order of preference.

Decisions:

SC/22/07/4.1: The second physical meeting of the SC will be held in Rome on Wednesday 14 October from 13:00 - 19:00 hours. The venue of the meeting is to be confirmed.

Actions:

SC/22/07/A3: SC members to submit proposed agenda items for the second physical meeting of the SC in writing to the FU before the next teleconference in September.

SC/22/07/A4: FU to source and confirm the venue of the second physical meeting of the SC and inform Committee members at the next teleconference in September.

5. **Members' Commitments**

Paragraph 21 of the GACSA Framework document requires that members voluntarily indicate what activities they would carry out towards achieving the Aspirational Outcomes of GACSA; and to report periodically on their actions and on their qualitative or quantitative impact being achieved. The first of these periodic reports should be expected at the Annual Forum. This first edition of the periodic reports should mainly be on stock-taking in terms of what CSA actions are going on and what major CSA achievements have been recorded in the jurisdiction of the members. The reports should also indicate what actions are envisaged by the member in the following year.

Decision:

SC/22/07/5.1: Each member to prepare a SCA stock-taking report within its jurisdiction and submit to the FU (deadline to be set by SC/Co-Chairs).

Action:

SC/22/07/A5: FU to draft a template for members' periodic reports and circulate among the SC members for iteration by email. The template should be finalized and sent to members before the next SC teleconference.

6. **Communication and Advocacy**

a. **Website.**

- i. The FU has been revising the website in terms of document updates and the overall structure and layout. This is work in progress and members of the SC should regularly visit the site and make suggestions on what improvements can/should be made. With regard to hosting the website the Co-Chairs had already started a discussion with senior management at FAO but there are a number of issues that need further discussion. The website should also be designed to allow members to directly write contributions on issues under discussion.
- ii. A template for members profile database (Appendix F) prepared by the FU was sent to SC members for further inputs. The purpose of the profile database is to capture the full profile of existing members, as well as for registration new members. The template will also serve for the stock-taking on members activities (see **Decision SC/22/07/5.1** and **Action SC/22/07/A5**).
- iii. The FU has been confronted with the problem of translating the website into other official languages of the UN, given the limited financial resources of GACSA and the high cost of these translations. The SC agreed that translation of the website into other languages could be useful but this may not be feasible in the present financial circumstances of GACSA. The issue will have to be discussed further.

Decisions:

SC/22/07/6.1: To create members forum on the website for direct online discussions by the members and observers.

SC/22/07/6.2: To keep the GACSA website in one language (English), and to further discuss the possibility and necessity of translation to other languages.

Actions:

SC/22/07/A6: Members of the SC to send comments and inputs on draft template for members profile database to the FU by 01 August 2015.

SC/22/07/A7: FU to create a window on the website with restricted access (to members only) for online discussions among members.

b. Development of media materials on GACSA and CSA

Recognizing the value of communication and outreach material in keeping the face GACSA visible in the public eye, FU proposed to engage a communication expert on a short term contract to develop the outreach and advocacy material on GACSA and on CSA. An intern and/or a volunteer may also be required to run with the social media for GACSA and to assist with other communication-related tasks at FU. The SC noted that the issue of communication is very important and needs immediate action but also cautioned that everything cannot be embraced at the same time, especially considering the limited human and financial resources at the FU.

Decision:

SC/22/07/6.2: To priorities the communication issues, and focus on the top priorities that would make the greatest impact.

c. Outreach to members

Some members of GACSA have not been quite active. Internal communication among the GACSA membership needs to be sharpened. Considering the current lack of capacity in FU and the urgent need to re-invigorate the members, a suggestion was made for SC to set up a sub-Committee for outreach to GACSA members. This suggestion was not fully discussed and members were invited to send their comments on this and other issues to the FU.

Action:

SC/22/07/A8: SC members to send their comments to FU on the suggestion to create a sub-committee for internal communication among GACSA members.

7. NGOs / CSOs outreach strategy.

a. NGOs and CSOs list to be approached for membership/observers.

GACSA is committed to bringing on board a significant representation of NGOs and CSOs and getting them to register as GACSA Members or Observers. A suggestion was made for SC members to contribute to establishing a list of organizations to be targeted, and to propose appropriate strategies for approaching them. Due to lack of time this matter was not discussed and members were requested to send their comments to the FU.

b. Upcoming events with SCOs participation

The SC was informed about some actions on which the FU is working as part of a strategy to reach out to CSOs. One of these is a meeting with INGOs jointly organized by GACSA and FAO. The concept note for the meeting will be ready by 01 August 2015. It would be important for at least one of the GACSA co-Chairs to attend the meeting. During CFS week GACSA will also organize an informal dialogue with CSOs and NGOs at a date to be confirmed. Also, as a follow-up on the round table with Social Movements a second meeting is envisaged on the margins of CFS. The planning of these events was not discussed and SC members were invited to send their comments to the FU.

8. Participation of GACSA in CoP 21.

The FU reported on the efforts it has been making to secure prominent featuring of GACSA during CoP21. Not being itself a member or observer of UNFCCC, GACSA cannot directly apply for a side event. Therefore the FU has been looking at options for GACSA activities could be integrated or incorporated into those of approved entities. The SC did not discuss these options due to lack of time and members were requested to send their thoughts on the matter to the FU.

9. Update on Regional CSA initiatives

The FU has been following up the developments in establishing regional CSA alliances or platforms, and has participated in some of the events relating to these initiatives. A summary on the establishment of the regional alliances/platforms (Appendix G) was sent to SC members but this was not discussed and members were invited to send their comments to the FU.

10. Preparations for the GACSA Annual Forum

The GACSA Annual Forum has been tentatively scheduled in the middle of January 2015 at FAO in Rome. It is envisaged that the forum will take 1.5 days, preceded by a half day meeting of the SC. Two sets of dates were proposed: 18 – 19 January 2016 or 21-22 January 2016. There wasn't enough time to discuss these proposals so members were asked to send their comments to FU. Various inputs will be compiled by FU for further discussion and decision at the next Teleconference in September. SC members were also requested to send proposed agenda items for the Forum to FU. The first draft of the agenda will be further discussed at the next September teleconference.

Actions:

SC/22/07/A9: SC members to send proposed agenda items for the GACSA Annual Forum to the FU before the next teleconference in September.

SC/22/07/A10: FU to follow up on Action **SC/22/07/A9** above and circulate a first draft of the agenda to SC members before the September teleconference.

11. Calendar of Events

There are some upcoming events organized by GACSA either directly or in partnership with other stakeholders. There are also other events that may be of interest for GACSA to attend. A table of these events (appendix H) was sent to SC members and they were asked to send their comments to FU on GACSA's participation in these events, and to contribute to fleshing up the GACSA calendar of events as they become aware of events that may be of interest to GACSA.

12. Closure

The Chair of the teleconference concluded the discussions with a request for members to send their comments on the agenda items that were not discussed due to time constraints, adding that some urgent decisions could be made by email iterations and do not necessarily have to wait till the next conference call.

13. Post-Conference Comments Received

a) From GFAR

- GACSA Registration template: we realise that it is difficult to have a different title than "*Membership to the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)*", but GFAR has repeatedly insisted on the need to avoid the traditional concept of "member" which does not convey the essence of the Alliance that we agreed upon – and was again strongly supported by The World Bank and Martin during the call. We trust that the FU will come with a more appropriate inclusive language and had suggested to use "Partners in the GACSA".
- Update on Regional Initiatives: 1) Asia/Pacific, GFAR was not aware of the regional workshop on CSA in Bangkok, Thailand on 18 – 20 June 2015 organized by FAO. A mention that this was a second important meeting in the Asia-Pacific region with the Dialogue co-organized by GFAR a year before (June 2014) would have been appropriate. 2) I suggest adding as a European Initiative the Desertif'Actions 2015 international conference in June in Montpellier [attended by GFAR] which adopted the Montpellier Declaration articulating a consensus among Civil Society Organizations on a Position that they will express vis a vis COP21 and GACSA. I had mentioned this during the penultimate conference of the three Action Groups. I can provide the Montpellier Declaration and draft something for the Facilitating Unit, if needed.

- Update on Action Groups: 1) regarding France, I thought we had an agreement for bringing in CIRAD, not INRA. Perhaps the FU could clarify the formulation “.....and INRA will be the GACSA focal point for France.” 2) There is the recognition that “.....some financial support will be needed by the Action Groups for the conduct of these case studies. Such funding will need to be properly structured and standardized. “This is specific but the point that GFAR has made repeatedly is that there is a need for more generic financial support to Action Groups Work plan that should be presented under the form of Work Plan(s) and Budget. The FU has tried to capture this with the sentence “.....Without making any promises, the FU has asked the Action Group leaders to submit their specific financial needs (if any) for accomplishing their work plans during the inception year. The submissions are awaited.” GFAR intends to submit a budget for “facilitating the dialogue with and ensuring CSOs and FOs involvement in GACSA” in collaboration with FAO.
- List of CSA related events: for the Round Table with NGOs scheduled September 4, 2015, GFAR should be listed as one of the co-organizers, and, if requested by the FU we could suggest a focal point, GFAR should be listed as one of the co-organizers.

b) From the Permanent Representation of Costa Rica to the UN Agencies in Rome

- *"In association with the US Department of State, Costa Rica will host two workshop event in 2015 in San José, on a date to be determined, that will help to disseminate the Alliance's efforts as well as generate inputs for the case study that our country will present at the GACSA Annual Forum in January 2016."*

Report of workshop on “Sustainable livestock and climate smart agriculture: joint action for common challenges”

Introduction

The event “Sustainable livestock and climate smart agriculture: joint action for common challenges” was co-organized by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, FAO and the International Livestock Research Institute and took place at the Swiss Pavilion at Expo 2015 Milan, 25 June 2015.

The meeting began with an opening overview of livestock sector issues given by Mr Adrian Aebi assistant director general of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, highlighting the importance of the livestock sector for the future sustainability and to address development challenges. He addressed and summarized these challenges by mentioning both potential merits and potential risks of enhanced livestock production in the decades to come.

The meeting was organized as a first conversation between three different initiatives operating at the nexus of livestock-environment-climate change-sustainability in order to explore opportunities for synergies and to build on the strengths of the different initiatives.

Presentations of three global initiatives

In a first part of the workshop the three initiatives *the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL)*, *the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)* and *the Global Research Alliance (GRA)* presented their initiatives focusing on:

- rationale, objectives, stakeholders and governance and relevance to sustainable livestock development issues
- outline of major activities and examples of recent achievements
- potential future contributions towards achieving the SDGs post 2015 and potential links and overlaps to the other agendas/alliances present in the seminar

One of the goals of the workshop was to identify synergies, potential areas of collaboration towards sustainable livestock development in view of the emerging Sustainable Development goals post 2015 (SDG's post 2015) of these three different initiatives operating at the nexus of livestock-environment-climate change-sustainability.

The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) presented by Neil Fraser, chair of the guiding group: The global agenda is a multi-stakeholder platform, voluntary and diverse membership. It covers all aspects of livestock sustainability: environment and climate change, health and equity. The agenda is inclusive and can claim the merit to have brought together a very broad array of stakeholders with a very wide range of objectives within the livestock sector.

The Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) presented by Achuo Enow, coordinator of the facilitation unit: GACSA is a similar multi-stakeholder initiative, but is broader because it covers the whole of the agricultural sector. It focuses specifically on climate related issues, and has a strong emphasis on political, enabling environment and investment dimensions.

The Global Research Alliance on agricultural greenhouse gases (GRA) presented by Martin Scholten, co-chair: Focuses in particular on research, and on practical, science-based solutions to produce more food with less emissions. Livestock is one of three focus areas next to paddy and cropland. The GRA has a strong Livestock Research Group with its own specific objectives and agenda.

Following each presentation, participants considered if there were any gaps or surprising elements that had arisen. Three things in particular were noted in this regard:

- Gender, the important roles of women in raising and managing livestock, and in relation to livelihoods

- Anti-microbial resistance: a hot topic at the moment which would fall within the remit of the 'health' dimension of the GASL, although it was not specifically mentioned
- The diversity of the livestock sector that precludes having a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to any of these pertinent issues

Discussion

How much collaboration between the presented initiatives is feasible and desirable?

Participants also considered the connections between the three initiatives in terms of whether they should really be combined into one, or remain totally separate. There were a diversity of views, with most in favour of retaining the comparative advantages of each but strengthening the interactions and ensuring there were no areas of redundancy. It is however interesting to note that the 'final beneficiaries' – in the form of farmer representation were more in favour of having a single entity – it would be simpler for them to relate to a 'one stop shop'. However:

- GRA + GACSA collaboration is important because then researchers have an exchange with a knowledge based group so that the researchers know which challenges and knowledge is required.
- GACSA primary focus is on dealing with people and the well-being of people in an environment for future generations. Need to keep the uniqueness of each organization and to use the comparative advantage can get more details of the livestock sector.
- GASL identified potential with GRA to provide solution and that GASL help to implement the knowledge because of the broad array of stakeholders. For GACSA the GASL can provide enhanced knowledge about the livestock sector.

The sustainable development of the livestock sector needs to become more efficient. Therefore, close collaboration of the three initiatives - for example as outlined above - is a must. A supporter of the individual engagement of the three pointed out the need of horizontal integration of the objectives of the initiatives. Focus on government but also research/scientific knowledge needs to be incubated. The sector needs more practical approaches so that the knowledge can be transferred to farmers. The conclusion was to keep the uniqueness of each initiative and make best use of the potential synergies towards joint efforts for sustainable livestock sector development.

The three presenters and participants then engaged in discussions to identify potential areas of synergy and next steps in that regard. In doing so, visualising the three initiatives and three overlapping circles was used with the discussions aiming to 'unpack' the areas of overlap, think about appropriate interfaces and ensure in particular there would be no duplication of efforts (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Schematic indicating potential synergies between the three initiatives

At the highest level, there was considerable consensus that the role of the livestock sector in contributing to the SDGs should be emphasised and there should be further efforts between the initiatives to develop common messages. It was also apparent that all initiatives have an emphasis on informing and/or enabling positive changes, whether in practice or policy areas.

To some extent, these initiatives could be viewed as 'experiments' which will inevitably evolve, both in their own right as well as in their relationships one with the other.

Donors present challenged the initiatives to articulate the tangible outputs they are delivering, and it was further recognised that there is sometimes a tension between such short-term delivery and the time and effort needed to build up such, often quite complicated, multi-stakeholder engagements and the underpinning processes. Specific examples were given in regard to the GASL where some partners had taken time to buy in and be part of the processes. Important for all though, and especially for the donors to be sure of value for money is that there should be no duplication of effort, hence these discussions and the way forward were seen as an important first step in this context.

Next steps

As next steps a number of initial discussions between the initiatives were planned, to enable the lead persons to tease out the key intersections and ways of working together and included:

- Ensuring appropriate communication and knowledge sharing opportunities are identified and used so that the membership of each initiative can know about the others and how they interface
- Demand for more transparency in their fields of operation. There should be further efforts in communication showing the use of potential synergies between the initiatives to develop common messages
- There is a potential to organize for a broader on line consultation amongst the wider membership and possibly on a regional basis, to facilitate such awareness and engagement
- A number of initial bilateral discussions were planned as next steps, to enable the lead persons to tease out the key intersections and ways of working together.
- In particular GACSA was tasked to arrange for a next tripartite discussion to follow up

These discussions were acknowledged as an important first step in fostering dialogue between the three initiatives, with the potential for further evolution based on the planned discussions. It will be important to share these results as they evolve and at an appropriate future time to reconvene and plan specific and potentially deeper coordination mechanisms

The final point to make though is that this is too important to miss. The delivery of the SDGs will be hampered if the livestock sector is not included, as it presents a tremendous opportunity to address these through concerted and coordination action, which it is incumbent on all of us engaged in the livestock sector, which ever initiatives we participate in, to foster.

Notes on Informal Round Table with Social Movements

Attendance

- Rodrigo Castaneda (OPCP, FAO)
- Maria Helena Semedo (DDG-N, FAO)
- Edgar Antonio Gonzalez (Agroecological Movement of Latin America, Guatemala)
- Maria Noel Salgado (Agroecological Movement of Latin America, Guatemala)
- Guy Kastler (La Via Campesina, Confédération Paysanne)
- Antonio Onorati (Secretariat, International Planning Committee for Food Security)
- Mauro Conti (Secretariat, International Planning Committee for Food Security)
- Naseegh Jaffer (Masinfundise Development Trust, South Africa)
- Kirtana Chandrasekaran (Friends of the Earth, UK)
- Jorge Stanley Icaza (International Indian Treaty Council, Kuna Youth Movement)
- Patrick Mulvany (UK Food Group)
- Andrea Ferrante (La Via Campesina, Italian Association of Organic Farmers)
- Esther Penunia (Asian Farmers Association) – via Skype
- Shimpei Murakami (Asian Farmers Association) – via Skype.
- Leslie Lipper (ESA, FAO)
- Guilherme Brady (OPCP, FAO)
- Paolo Tedeschini (OPCP, FAO)
- Achuo Enow (GACSA FU)
- Olga Trynkova (GACSA FU)
- Dina Franchi (GACSA FU)

Introduction and Opening

Chairing the informal meeting, Mr. Rodrigo Castaneda, chief of partnership unit in the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC) at FOA called for a round of self-introduction. This exercise revealed that participants at the dialogue were drawn from all the corners of the world and were spread across the various sectors of agriculture (crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry).

The session was formally opened by Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources (DDG-N) on behalf of the Director-General. In her opening remarks the DDG reminded all participants to keep in mind the shared common objective: to improve food and nutrition security to eradicate hunger within the context of climate change which is affecting the world's natural resources. Noting that the growing world population cannot be fed through "*Business as usual*" she made the case for the CSA concept launched by FAO in 2010, adding that researchers were involved in developing the CSA concept, and that farmers worldwide are the beneficiaries of the CSA approach. She further remarked that the concept has since evolved and has been adopted by many other partners and countries. This evolution is on-going and allows for modifications and adjustments. Ms Semedo admitted that there may be issues with the term "*climate-smart agriculture*" but emphasized that what matters more is the concept and the approach, and that CSA is one approach among others with the same purpose of helping the farmers. She cited Agricolology as an example of another approach to achieve the same goal. She concluded her remarks by reminding participants that the purpose of the dialogue session was to build actions upon transparency and consensus. She encouraged parties to ask questions and voice their concerns.

The Voices of some CSOs

Representing the Agroecological Movement of Latin America (MAELA), Ms Maria Noel Salgado took the floor to present the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) perspectives on Agroecology. She raised the following points:

- There is a model that is constantly being constructed, led by the people at the grassroots, that is, the producers at the basic level on the ground. Unfortunately this model is often not considered in big global initiatives. The impression is that CSA does not necessarily represent the local communities and MAELA does not believe in the CSA concept. The vision of small producers is not considered in the CSA approach. On the contrary, their (small farmers) input to agriculture has been received and appreciated.
- MAELA believes in climate change and is making efforts to combat it from the agriculture perspective. The agriculture approach involves all the sectors that contribute to human well-being, including health. MAELA believes that it is providing the real solutions
- There are initiatives that have come up in the name of promoting agriculture but have ended up depleting the soils, to the detriment of agricultural production.
- The question arises as to where knowledge is created, especially in relation to the role played by farmers in knowledge production.
- Food security is important but food sovereignty is also very important and contrary to CSA, agriculture is set to achieve food sovereignty.

Speaking on behalf of small-scale farmers Guy Kastler presented the views of the International Peasants Movement (La Vie Campesina) on CSA with particular reference to Agricultural Biodiversity:

- Farmers are the primary victims of the impact of climate change as they have been the hardest hit by climate change related diseases to the point where some of them have gone out of business.
- Supply of seeds by big organizations has proven to be a failure because these seeds are derived from selection processes that lead to loss in genetic diversity. As a result many small farmers have resorted to producing their own seeds which have proven to be more reliable. Farmer-produced seeds are better adapted to the local conditions in which they are produced and the crops are more tolerant to climatic adversities and climate-related problems such as diseases. Local production of seeds by farmers has the advantage of maintaining genetic diversity within cultivated crop varieties, as well as diversity of varieties cultivated in the same field. This diversity is more robust to climate variations and disease outbreaks. Although the yields with farmers' seeds are lower in the short-term, the long term yields are higher because they remain productive for longer periods.
- Small scale farming is not adapted to mechanization which the CSA approach is promoting. Small scale farming is labour intensive but is more sustainable than the capital intensive mechanized agriculture which leads to rapid land degradation.
- Small scale farming provides real solutions to climate change challenges through its characteristic diversity of crops cultivated, diversity of cropping systems, diversity of the seed stock used, and diversity of locally adapted techniques and technologies. Combatting the effects of climate change on agricultural production therefore requires many small farmers, rather than a single industrial farm. Small scale farming practices promote carbon storage, especially in the soil.

The FAO Perspective

Leslie Lipper spoke and presented the CSA concept from the FAO perspective and explained the integration of CSA in the FAO Strategic Framework. She noted that climate change has, and continues to affect farmers' income through unfavourable environmental conditions; and explained that the CSA approach aims at improving food production not just to address food security but also to improve farmers' incomes and reduce poverty. The CSA approach also aims to reduce the contribution of agriculture to global greenhouse gas emissions. She stressed that CSA should not be seen as an alternative paradigm to others (such as agriculture).

Response from the CSOs

In the discussions that followed the presentation the following points/views were expressed by the representatives of the CSOs:

- The CAS approach is suggesting an attempt to solve all the problems in one strategy and this is not possible because the agricultural community is facing two different paradigms namely: the industrial/business-driven model; and the climate-relevant resilience model.
- The lens through which FAO looks at addressing the problem is a corporate model rather than a people or agro-ecological model. The latter model needs to be better mainstreamed.
- An integrated approach is the way to go for sustainable production and nutrition.
- Many things have changed between the time the CSA concept emerged and now. To achieve the goal of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty a paradigm shift is required, not business as usual. Somebody needs to change his position. There are different approaches and there are other priorities besides reducing hunger.
- Peasant farmers are a key priority and currently there are 1.5 billion people engaged in food production. The sector urgently needs more farmers, pastoralists and fishers. These are the people who should manage the environment. In practice, peasant farmers are managing the environment and managing relations. A distinction should be made between commodity-producing agriculture and a model of producing food that is centered on relations among people and between man and nature.
- Funding and management of resources should bear in mind the priorities of the masses. Investments should be focused on small farmers rather than on carbon markets.
- Sloganeering any model or approach has the risk of creating room for the industrial model to green itself, and could potentially risk neglecting the key issues. It is important to ensure that all actions are in the interest of the public and not masked by slogans that cover up industrial programmes.
- Production systems need autonomy, diversity and protection.
- There are doubts about what exactly CSA is. The small farmers are trying to preserve through traditional agriculture. It should be noted that some agricultural activities are more for ecological protection than for food production. An example is the production of oil palm in Guatemala. The people do not eat the oil but the trees have an important ecological function. The small farmer needs to be protected from the modern inventions that are breaking the social and moral fabrics.
- The actions taken by FAO do not seem to be of interest to the environment and to food security. It is necessary to identify what production system is required for improving food production and food security.
- The CSA approach emphasizes on increasing productivity of labour (the farmer). This would require that the farmer cultivates more land it would result in some farmers being pushed out of their land. Increasingly small scale farmers are losing their land to the big industrial farmers.
- Some FAO documents are very abstract and lack practical relevance. For FAO to show neutrality it should promote the work on agronomy in the same way as it is promoting CSA. FAO has to recognize the crucial input of civil society for its institutional negotiations.
- Natural ecosystems are balanced and self-regulatory. Human interventions through modern agricultural approaches and techniques are breaking these natural balances and causing problems.

About GACSA

Achuo Enow, Coordinator of the GACSA facilitation Unit, explained the vision of GACSA for CSA and described the organizational and governance structures of the global alliance. He explained the operational approach of GACSA through its various structures, highlighting the emphasis on inclusiveness in the multi-stakeholder platform where every voice has a chance to be heard, and where every relevant stakeholder group has a role to play. He recognized the important role that CSOs would play in promoting CSA, adding that CSA should not be seen as opposing, but rather as complementary to agronomy. He appreciated the value of indigenous

knowledge systems which civil societies are custodian of, and encouraged the CSOs to valorise these knowledge systems through contributions to the activities of the GACSA Knowledge Action Group.

General Discussion

In response to the presentation on GACSA the civil society representatives expressed the following views/concerns:

- The differences between the various approaches are not at the level of the technologies. The technologies are the same but the crucial differences of concern are at the level of the choice of public policy – the choice between small scale farming versus industrial farming. The objectives and the ultimate goals are also the same but the approaches are different.
- Some practices promoted by GACSA, such as the use of fertilizers in agriculture, are not necessarily climate-smart.
- The tendency is always to ask small farmers to adapt whereas in deed it is the big companies that should adapt their technologies to the approach of small farmers as these are already adapted to climate change.
- There seem to be contradictions on the messages conveyed about CSA. It is not clear if this is an approach or a technique.
- At the last CFS conference there was no mention of CSA and there is no consensus about it. The concept is an idea of UN institutions whereas the right forum for the concept to seek consensus would be the CFS.
- The CSA concept is silent on human rights, self-determination of the people, and spirituality. These are values of the civil society which cannot be overlooked. The political discussions of the people, that is, the views of indigenous peoples should be respected.
- Small scale farmers do not believe that intensification is the way to go because many of them practice farming as a way of life, mainly for subsistence and not as an economic activity for income generation.
- The idea of C-trade was sold to the small farmers and they now have to deal with the problems associated with it, notably the problem of in-fighting. There is no guarantee that CSA will not produce the same result.
- While GACSA talks about a toolbox for farmers to freely choose from, the political space does not allow equal opportunities between big companies and the small farmers for using the tools.
- Too much attention is given to discussing productivity, at the risk of neglecting other challenges such as greenhouse gas emissions. Even in the productivity discourse there is no clarity in terms of what to produce, where to produce, who should produce, and for what purpose.
- Two questions that the small farmers would like to get answers on are: i) what is the position of CSA on GMOs and chemical fertilizers; and ii) How can CSA improve the productivity of peasant farmers?

In response to these views/concerns/questions, the participants were reminded that CSA is an approach and not a technique; and that it is complementary to agronomy and has potential to contribute to the much needed paradigm shift. Based on the principle of inclusiveness it would not be wise to discriminate against any category of actors in the agricultural sector. Rather, it is best to bring together all the relevant players on a transparent platform for open discussions towards achieving a sustainable increase in the production safe and healthy food. It was noted that the notion of productivity is not understood in the same way by all stakeholders. This and other expressions used in the jargon of CSA will need to be discussed further to ensure a common and correct understanding what they mean or imply in the context of CSA.

Conclusion and way forward

- It was obvious that the concept of CSA will need more clarification to ensure a common understanding.

- There are structural issues that FAO will have to address concerning production models in relation to its work. FAO will need to consider how it can improve its work with small holders. The organization is called upon to simultaneously advance the work of agronomy and the treaty on genetic resources.
- It is important to recognize that the small farmers cannot be involved in all the numerous alliances.
- The discussions were very fruitful and the level of enthusiasm and passion expressed during the meeting was quite encouraging and requires keeping up the momentum through continued dialogue. These dialogues will strengthen the relationships among the parties involved.

Summary of Meeting between GACSA FU and World Vision

Monday 6 July 2015 (11.30hrs Rome time)

Participants

1. Douglas R. Brown, World Vision International
2. Beris Gwynne, World Vision International
3. Emanuele Bombardi, World Vision Italia Onlus
4. Achuo Enow, coordinator FU
5. Olga Trynkova, FU
6. Federica Matteoli, FU
7. Dina Franchi, FU
8. Martina Buonincontri, FAO

Issues raised / discussed

1. Participants were updated on the status of the Letter of Agreement between FAO and World Vision International. The Director of World Vision provided an overview of World Vision International's work, including its partnership with NEPAD through the iNGO – NEPAD alliance. He highlighted the involvement of World Vision with the African Alliance for Climate Smart-Agriculture, adding that the organization is more interested in having actions on the ground. World vision, he stated, is supportive of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture but as an organization it has not yet decided whether or not to join GACSA. For the time being, it would rather sit back watch, with interest, the on-going debates and discussions about GACSA.
2. The GACSA FU coordinator provided an overview of the mission and vision of GACSA and the functions of the three Action groups. He explained that GACSA was launched on September 2014 at the UN Climate Summit. GACSA is an independent alliance, governed by its members through a Strategic Committee and its co-Chairs. FAO is hosting the Facilitation Unit of GACSA. He underlined that GACSA is a voluntary alliance of partners, dedicated to addressing the challenges facing food security and agriculture under a changing climate. In particular the alliance has the objective of up-scaling the climate smart agriculture approach.
3. The issue of concerns and criticisms of GACSA from various sources such as Farmers Organizations, NGO's and CSO's was discussed. The FU coordinator explained that the criticisms are taken positively by GACSA and in good faith and that platforms are being created for more dialogue and clarifications on the issues. He stressed the emphasis of GACSA on an all-inclusive multi-stakeholder approach to CSA. Participants were informed of the upcoming meetings that will be held between GACSA, NGOs and CSOs.
4. GACSA provided clarification regarding governance by reiterating that all Members are provided an equal platform regardless of financial status. All the activities are decided in a collegial way with defined rules.
5. Participants were briefed on the work of the Alliance during the inception year.
6. Having understood the activities of GACSA championed by the Action Groups, the World Vision Director for Agriculture and Food Security recognized that there would be some value for World Vision to get actively involved in these activities. He would consult with the organization and consider how to participate in the work of the GACSA Action Groups.

Conclusion

It emerged from the discussions with World Vision that while membership to the Alliance is open and voluntary, there may be need to specifically approach certain organizations already working on CSA at the operational level and invite them to join GACSA.

Status of Implementation of GACSA 2015 Work Plan

The status of implementation of the approved GACSA work plan for the inception year is broadly presented in Table 1 below. Some specific aspects of the implementation are reported in separate documents as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Actions for the implementation of the GACSA work plan

	Action Item / Deliverable	Start date	Finish date	Responsibility	Status	Comments
1.	Pledges and commitments to Global Alliance for CSA: Members make pledges and commitments, as measurable as possible, on actions which contribute to the overall aspirational outcomes of the Alliance. Members will report in 1st annual meeting in November 2015	Sept. 2014	Nov 2015	SC, supported by FU	Not started	FU has prepared on a draft template for members profile database (appendix F). This template has a section for members' commitments.
2.	Work and Action Areas: a) Liaising with the institutions/organizations currently co-leading the action groups and determine their transition, and how action areas become operational	Sept. 2014	Nov 2015; on-going thereafter	SC, supported by FU	On-going	FU is having regular teleconferences with the AG conveners
	b) Facilitate members in developing joint action areas on different CSA priorities within different geographic contexts	Sept. 2014	Nov 2015; on-going thereafter	SC, supported by FU	Not started	Initial efforts are focused on inclusive global actions lead by the Action Groups
	c) Support existing and facilitate the creation of the regional coordination and implementation mechanisms	Sept. 2014	Nov 2015; on-going thereafter	SC, supported by FU	On-going	Regional and sub-regional CSA Alliances/platforms have been launched in Africa and Asia.
	d) Compile pledges and facilitate the identification of organizations to support stakeholders on CSA uptake	Sept. 2014	Nov 2015; on-going	SC, supported by FU	On-going	Funds have been obtained from these pledges to run the FU.
	e) Facilitate the drafting of work plans for each individual platform and work programme	Sept. 2014	Nov 2015; on-going	SC, supported by FU	On-going	The AGs have published their inception year work plans

3.	Action Groups:			World Bank and IFAD	On-going	The work programme of the IAG was finalised in June 2015. Its implementation is on-going
	a) <u>Investment Action Group:</u>					
	•					
	b) <u>Enabling Environments Action Group:</u>			GFAR and FANRPAN	On-going	The EEAG work programme was finalised in June 2015. Its implementation is on-going
	•					
	c) <u>Knowledge Action Group:</u>			FAO and CCAFS	On-going	The work programme of the KAG was finalised in June 2015. Its implementation is on-going
	• Developing an infrastructure (e.g. website and database) for knowledge exchange and list of contributors;					
	• Establishing a programme to support south-south collaboration and other capacity building mechanisms requested by Alliance members					
	d) Ad- hoc Action Group on Aspirational Outcomes					FU does not have any information about this AG
4.	Establishment of the Facilitation Unit:	Sept. 2014	October 2014		Completed	
	a) Facilitation Unit ToR's and estimated yearly budget agreed with ad-hoc Strategic Committee and donors					
	b) Agreed initial FAO employed and seconded staffing structure, TORs and modalities		October 2014		On-going	Some staff have taken office and others are expected.
	c) Multi-donor project document developed and finalized with interested donors and first funds deposited.		Nov 2014		completed	
	d) Secretariat staff recruited (P5, G4 and G3) and seconded (minimum of 3) located at FAO HQ in Rome "Hubs" facilitating specific local or regional actions maybe agreed in a second phase.		Feb 2015		On-going	P5 took office in June 2015, P2 from FAO fully deployed to FU in July 2015; process for recruiting a G4 is on-going. No action yet on local and regional Hubs.
5.	Inception year governance arrangements	23 Sept.	Nov. 2015		Completed	

	a) Establish governance and operational Alliance	2014				
	b) Set up light interim governance arrangements, including TORs for the SC and modalities to participate in discussions and decision making		October 2014		Completed	
	c) Appointment if interim/ad - hoc co-Chairs		Nov. 2014		completed	
6.	Approved Governance Arrangements of the Global Alliance a) Update the Framework document where needed, on governance arrangements and modes of operation in consultation with the different groups using different communication methods and channels. (Final texts approved by the annual Alliance meeting in 2015);	Oct. 2014	Jan. 2016	Co-Chairs and FU	Not started	A draft revision of the Framework document will be proposed for discussion and adoption/approval at the Annual Forum
	b) Complete TOR's of the Strategic Committee with modalities of appointment and representation approved.		Jan 2016	Co-Chairs and FU	Not started	A first draft will be prepared for discussion at the SC meeting in October and final draft presented at Annual Forum.
	c) Continued consultation on the development of the Alliance involving all stakeholder groups			Co-Chairs and FU	On-going	Meetings have been held with some organisations. More meetings have been planned.
	d) Facilitation of regional groups/alliances and modalities in place on how these will interact between themselves and the Strategic Committee and Facilitation Unit		Nov. 2015	Co-Chairs and FU	On-going	Regional alliances/platforms are in place and the modalities for interaction will vary from one case to another.
	e) Development of modalities of country and location specific support mechanism.		Nov 2015	Co-Chairs and FU	Not started	This should depend on the activities planned by countries.
7.	1st Annual Meeting of the Alliance Hold the first annual meeting of the Alliance, possibly linked to other major events to take advantage of delegates already attending. Some of the key elements of the event may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A High Level segment with Ministers and/or senior representatives; • Plenary sessions with active participation of all Alliance members; 		Jan 2016	SC with support of the FU	On-going	Dates and venue of the Annual Forum have been identified; first draft agenda of the forum and list of potential invitees will be discussed and adopted by SC at its teleconference in September 2015.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Chair and co-chair(s); • Appointment of the Strategic Committee by the Alliance members; • Approval of second year work plan and work areas of action groups and regional groups; • Finalizing estimated budget for 2nd year and beyond. • Amendments to the Framework document (if needed) 					
8.	<p>Strategic Committee meeting Hold a first meeting of the Strategic Committee at FAO HQ in Rome to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree and finalize Program of Work for the Alliance inception year; • Agree and finalize Secretariat TORs; • Review fundamental key points of the essential resources and action areas that need to be addressed, including governance and operational fundamentals 		Nov 2014	Interim Secretariat	Completed	The first meeting of the SC was held in Abu Dhabi in March 2015 and the decisions of that meeting are the basis for the actions summaries in table 2 (below)
9.	<p>Facilitate membership and active participation Ensure and increasingly larger participation of stakeholders by undertaking the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively promote the Alliance principles and objectives; • Develop modalities of participation (to be inserted in governance document); • Provide facilitation of cross sector and member collaborations and interests; • Develop online registration system and database to facilitate monitoring progress and acting at scale, and for use and referencing; • Develop database on expertise and support members can provide; • Specific focus on Civil Society involvement 		November 2015, and on-going thereafter	Strategic Committee with the support of the Facilitation Unit	On-going	A number of entities have been approached to join GACSA. Some have accepted to join as members, others as observers.
10.	<p>Communication Development and delivery of the following communication products:</p>			Strategic Committee with the	On-going	FU is in discussion with a potential consultant to work on

	a) A communication strategy for the Alliance inception year;			support of FU		the communication strategy.
	b) Key communication products e.g. the Framework Document, Q&A, etc.			SC with the support of FU	On-going	Some communication materials have been produced
	c) Establish communication channels (list server, social media, IT, networks, etc.)			SC with the support of FU	On-going	Website and mailing lists are functional; a twitter account will be opened in September.
	d) Outreach and advocacy, incl. for broadening the Alliance membership			SC with the support of FU	On-going	A more comprehensive strategy will be developed by consultant
	e) Where appropriate support engagement of major groups and events.			SC with the support of FU	On-going	FU Joined FAO to hold informal Round Table with Social groups.
11.	Monitoring Measuring the achievements of the aspirational outcomes will be done by monitoring progress and impact and this will require:			Strategic Committee with the support of the Facilitation Unit and the "ad-hoc Action group"	Not started	Targets and indicators will have to be developed by members these are designed to be voluntary
	a) Developing targets and indicators;				Not started	The reports will be requested from members once the database template is adopted.
12.	Relevant International processes The Alliance will take into account other international processes, related to agriculture, food security and nutrition and climate change and make full synergies between them. This will specifically require:			FU	On-going	FU ha prepared and circulated a calendar of event s that may be of interest to GACSA.
	a) Developing a calendar with relevant meetings for one year (12 months)					
	b) Listing meetings organized by Alliance members			FU	Not started	Members have requested to populate the events calendar prepared by FU.

At its first meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 11 March 2015 the GACSA Strategic Committee agreed on number actions for the Global Alliance during its inception year which runs from January to December 2015. As shown in Table 2 below, some of these actions have been completed, others are on-going and yet others are still to be started. The ongoing and not yet started actions will be the focus of the work plan of the FU for the period from August – December 2015.

Table 2: Actions from First Strategic Committee Meeting

	Actions <i>Agreed by SC Members at 1st SC Meeting in Abu Dhabi, 11 March 2015</i>	Date Due	Responsibility	Status <i>(completed, on-going, delayed, etc.)</i>	Remarks
1.	Ensure that the text on intellectual property and intellectual Property and fund raising in the ToRs of the AGs is discussed before or during the next GACSA SC meeting	October 2015	FU	Not done	This will be a point on the agenda of the second physical meeting of the SC.
2.	Further define issues related to intellectual property and fund raising of AGs and circulate to GACSA members for endorsement.	tbd	FU and AG conveners	Not started	Intellectual property issues will have to be considered on case by case basis depending on the nature and scale of the activities and third party negotiations may be required. A general fundraising strategy/plan is required for all GACSA activities including AGs.
3.	Provide the criteria and develop standard protocols and instructions for the use of the GACSA logo.	2 nd SC Meeting, October 2015	Co-Chairs and FU	On-going	The FU has standardized the layout of the GACSA logo. The draft criteria and guidelines for its use will be presented to the SC for consideration and approval at its second meeting in October 2015.
4.	Develop criteria for events to be held on behalf of GACSA	2 nd SC Meeting, October 2015	FU	Not started	A draft of the criteria will be prepared for discussion at the second SC meeting.
5.	Revision of the KAG work plan to include key points listed in the report of the first SC meeting		Conveners of the KAG	Completed	The revised work plan has been approved by the co-chairs and is published on the GACAS website.

6.	Revision of AG Work programmes to include a list of thematic areas to be addressed, services rendered, products delivered, and targets for the inception year	25 March 2015	Action Group conveners	Completed	All three Action Groups submitted their revised Work Plans to FU in June 2015 and these were approved by the co-Chairs and are now being implemented.
7.	Explore the possibility of cooperation with African Alliance for CSA.	October 2015	FU	On-going	FU attended the launch of the African CSA Alliance in May 2015. ACSAA and other regional CSA alliances will be invited to the GACSA side event in October 2015, as well as to the GACSA Annual Forum in January 2016.
8.	Prepare an invitation for Mongolia, Thailand and Cambodia to join GACSA.	2015	FU	Not done	FU will not limit member targeting to these three countries but will work on a broad strategy for membership drive. Some no-state entities have already been engaged through physical meetings, and have been invited to join GACSA.
9.	Report to the SC about the recruitment process.	July 2015	FU Coordinator	Delayed	FU coordinator took office in June 2015; the APO from USA will only start in September; interviews for a full-time Administrative Assistant have been conducted but the appointment is delayed by internal FAO processes.
10.	Prepare a summary version of the communication strategy on the key areas that require inputs from GACSA members	September 2015	FU/Communication consultant	Not done	FU is in the process of engaging a communications consultant to develop a communication strategy for GACSA and design/produce communication material.
11.	Prepare a letter to The DG of FAO requesting to have an independent domain for the GACSA website.	March 2015	FU/Co-Chairs	On-going	The letter was sent to FAO in March 2015. The co-chairs raised the matter again with FOA management in June. On-going discussions for another body hosted by FAO may be applicable to GACSA.

12.	Develop Terms of Reference and facilitate the establishment of a Task Force to support GACSA communication efforts	tbd	FU	Not done	This will be part of the communication strategy to be developed by the communications consultant that FU is now engaging.
13.	Organize a GACSA side event during FAO 39th Conference in June 2015 in Rome to attract more members.	11 June	FU	Completed	A report of the side-event can be found on the GACSA website.
14.	Develop criteria for events to be organized on behalf of GACSA	October 2015	FU and Co-Chairs	Not started	A first draft will be prepared and presented to SC at its meeting in October 2015
15.	Prepare a proposal giving merits and demerits of several possible dates and venues for the Annual Forum.	July 2015	FU and Co-Chairs	Modified	The dates and venue of the Annual Forum have been identified and will be confirmed by SC in September 2015
16.	Prepare a proposal giving merits and demerits of several possible dates and venues for Second Sc Meeting.	July 2015	FU and Co-Chairs	Modified	The date and venue for the second SC meeting have been decided and communicated to SC members.
17.	GACSA visibility at CoP 21. Send the request for a side event during CoP 21	July 2015	FU	Modified	GACSA is not an official observer so it is not possible to apply for the official side-event. FU is working on possibilities of organizing the GACSA workshops in the regional pavilions during CoP21
18.	Collect the information from the GACSA members and create a calendar of events where GACSA could be presented.	September 2015	FU	On-going	The table of events has been sent to the SC members and observers on 21 July.
19.	Prepare and submit through Co-Chairs to SC a detailed budget for the Inception Year covering its needs, capacity building and support to out-reach.	Not specified	FU	Completed	FU is functioning on an approved budget for 2015.
20.	Organize dialogue with NGOs, CSOs and Social movements to ensure proper understanding of GACSA's goals/actions	On-going	FU	On-going	A meeting with was held on March 12, 2015 in Montpellier; and on 10 July at FAO, Rome. Other meetings are planned in September – October 2015.

GACSA SC Teleconference: 22 July 20, 2015

Update on Action Groups

Status

The three Action Groups have finalized the development of their work programmes for the inception year and are now moving into their implementation. In addition to the individual work programmes for each Action Group, the three groups have also agreed on a number of joint activities, the most prominent of which is the country case studies. A total of six countries across four geographic regions have been identified for the case studies, of which three (Malawi, Costa Rica, France) have already been confirmed. The other candidate countries are Tanzania, Republic of Ireland and Vietnam. The concept note for the case studies is in its final round of consultation and the studies are expected to commence before end of July 2015. The harmonized work plan of the three Action Groups is currently undergoing review and will be available on the GACSA website. The concept note for the case studies will also be available on the website as soon as it is finalized (by July 27, 2015). The three Action groups had a teleconference on July 9, 2015 and agreed on a mechanism for implementation of the country case studies.

- Within each country there will be a country focal point for the case study as well as one task leaders for each of the actions (knowledge, investment, enabling environment) ;
- GACSA will have one general coordinator (which must be a GACSA member) of the case study across all Action Groups in each country. FANRPAN will play this role for Malawi and for Tanzania (if confirmed) and Olivia Gilmore (US) will do so for Costa Rica and INRA will be the GACSA focal point for France.
- The Facilitation Unit will coordinate all the case studies. This will be done by regular communication (teleconferences) with the AG-specific country coordinators, the general country coordinators and the Action Group leaders (conveners and facilitators) to monitor progress and ensure that the study is implemented as planned.
- An expert will be contracted to produce the final report of the case studies.

Challenge

It is recognized that some financial support will be needed by the Action Groups for the conduct of these case studies. Such funding will need to be properly structured and standardized. Without making any promises, the FU has asked the Action Group leaders to submit their specific financial needs (if any) for accomplishing their work plans during the inception year. The submissions are awaited.

Appeal

The SC is hereby called upon to examine options for raising funds to support the activities of Action groups. Since the Investment Action Group is only at the beginning of implementing its work plan it would be too ambitious to expect any funding results from the group immediately. Some collective quick action is therefore required to kick-start implementation of the work plans, particularly the country case studies.

Template for GACSA members profile database and new members registration

Who can be a Member?

GACSA Membership is open to all legal entities that subscribe to the vision and objectives of the Global Alliance as spelled out in the [GACSA Framework Document \(link\)](#). These may include:

- Governments;
- Civil society member/non-government organization;
- Farmers, fishers and forester organizations;
- Intergovernmental organization (including UN entities);
- Research/extension/education organization;
- Financing institution;
- Private sector

How to Register

Interested entities are welcome to join GACSA by completing the [Online Registration Form \(link\)](#). Before you proceed to completing the registration form, please check that all of the following conditions are met.

Conditions for Membership to GACSA

To become a GACSA member you should:

- Ensure that you are representing a legal entity. Please note that membership is not open to individuals;
- Subscribe to the vision, goals, objectives, guiding principles and the operational processes of the Alliance as stated in its [Framework Document \(link\)](#) and the [Governance Structure \(link\)](#)

By subscribing to GACSA membership an entity willingly and voluntarily pledges to be actively involved in the pursuit of achieving the goals of the Alliance.

PROFILE UPDATE/REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the following form with as much detail as possible as the information will be useful for various purposes in the operational activities of GACSA.

Profile Database

1. What is your status within GACSA?

Member:

Requesting to be a **Member**: (description provided in information box)

Observer:

Requesting to be an **Observer**: (description provided in information box)

2. Name of Country/Institution/Organization in English:

Blank field for typing + drop down for country [two fields]

3. Name of Country/Institution/Organization in original language (if other than English):

Blank field for typing + drop down for country [two fields]

4. Contact details of the Focal Point and Alternate Focal Point for GACSA

Table with mandatory fields for:

a) Focal Point:

- Name:
- Title:
- Ministry/Department/Division:
- Address:
- E-mail:
- Telephone (land line): Country code + main number fields
- Mobile phone: Country code + main number fields (optional)
- Skype contact?
- Other telecommunication options (twitter, flicker, blog, Facebook, LinkedIn (please click to insert))

b) Alternate Focal Point:

- Name:
- Title:
- Ministry/Department/Division:
- Address:
- E-mail:
- Telephone (land line): Country code + main number fields
- Mobile phone: Country code + main number fields (optional)
- Skype contact?

Other telecommunication options (twitter, flicker, blog, Facebook, LinkedIn (click to insert))

5. Additional contacts: if you would like other individuals from your entity to be kept informed by GACSA please add their details:

Name:

Title:

E-mail: Create option for additional fields

6. Web site: if you have one please provide the web link to the home page of your entity.

Blank field for typing

7. Type of organization

By check box (Please tick the one box that best describes your entity. If you belong to more than one category, state the others in the box labelled "other").

- National government
- Intergovernmental body
- Research/extension/education organization
- Civil society /non-government organization
- Farmers organization (Specify: crop, livestock, fishery, forestry):
- Intergovernmental organization (including UN entities)
- Financing institution
- Private sector (specify area of activity):
- Other (please specify)

8. What is the mandate of your entity (please provide a short overview of the organization, structure and what it does, 150 words max).

9. Relevance of the mandate to Agriculture and to CSA in particular

Blank space for typing +drop down for country (two fields) with possibility to select more than one

10. Potential contribution to CSA

Blank space for typing +drop down for country (two fields)

11. What is/are the geographic area/areas of the work of your entity

Drop down lists of regions and of countries per region with possibility for selecting more than one.

12. Are there any particular countries your entity is interested in (e.g. because they are priority countries for CSA work).

Drop down country lists multiple selection is possible

13. In relation to CSA in what areas is your entity working on?

Tick boxes (you can select more than one)

- Agriculture (please specify: crops, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, livestock etc.): blank field for typing
- Landscapes:
- Biodiversity:
- Climate Change:
- Disaster Risk Management:
- Education:
- Food Security:
- Gender:
- Green Economy:
- Indigenous peoples/knowledge:
- Policy:
- Renewable Energy:
- Water:
- Other (Please fill in): blank field for typing

14. Commitment to GACSA Aspirational Outcomes (description provided in information box)

- Short term 1 – 2 yrs: blank field for typing - max 500 words
- Medium term 3-5 yrs: blank field for typing - max 500 words
- Long term 10-15yrs: blank field for typing - max 500 words

15. Please provide the web link to any material on CSA developed by your entity that you would like to share

blank field for typing a web link + blank field for the description of the resource (e.g. abstract); including an “add more” button to include resources separately

16. Are there any key institutions or organizations you feel GACSA should contact?

Please add their details:

Name:

Contact person name & title:

E-mail:

If you possible add reason why important: open typing field (not mandatory field)

Could you assist in contacting these institutions and encouraging them to become involved in GACSA tick boxes YES/NO

include an “add more” button

If you have any specific queries or requirements for any of the elements above please contact the GACSA Facilitation Unit at ACSA-facilitation-unit@fao.org

GACSA SC Teleconference: 22 July 20, 2015

Update on Regional Initiatives

Africa

The Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance (ACSAA) was launched at a workshop organized by NEPAD in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 13 – 15 May 2015. At the launch workshop emphasis was placed in focusing on gender and youth mainstreaming in agriculture; on concrete tangible impact at the level of farmers; and on a commitment to ensure that in Africa, 25 million farmers adopt CSA by the year 2025. It was also noted that there are many existing platforms; therefore caution should be taken to ensure that ACSAA is not just yet another platform. It should rather make use of existing platforms, particularly the AU/NEPAD Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

In the same spirit as for ACSAA, the West African Economic Community also championed a process of establishing a West African CSA Alliance (WACSAA) which was launched at a High Level Forum in Bamako, Mali, on 15 – 18 June, 2015. A summary report on this event is available on the GACSA website. Important to note is that this sub-regional Alliance is viewed as an important tool for implementing the regional policy on CAADP. It is therefore very strongly linked to the national governments as well as other relevant stakeholders in the region.

Asia and the Pacific

FAO organized a regional workshop on CSA in Bangkok, Thailand on 18 – 20 June 2015. GACSA was presented at the workshop by the FAO delegation from Rome. An important outcome of the event is the agreement to create a regional platform for CSA (it is not yet called Alliance, just a platform). In addition to the regional platform countries were also urged to initiate the development of national CSA platforms.

Latin America and the Caribbean

FAO had allocated funds for a regional CSA workshop in Latin America. The workshop is expected to be held in Peru, organized by the FAO office in Peru, in collaboration with the *Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo (Perú)*. There are indications that the workshop may be held in September 2014 but there is no formal communication yet to that effect. An important outcome of the workshop will be the development of a regional strategy and the creation of a Regional Alliance for CSA.

Table of Events involving, or of interest to GACSA

Date	Venue	Title of the Event	GACSA Involvement	Focal point
4 September	FAO, Rome, Italy	FAO Round Table with NGOs	Co-organizer of the round table	
25-27 September	New York, US	UNGA Launch of SDG's	No specific role identified	
October (date tbc)	Madrid, Spain	GACSA – GRA Workshop	Co-organizer of the workshop	
12-16 October	Rome, Italy	Committee on World Food Security	Side-event: “GACSA Action Groups”	
			GACSA Meeting with CSOs and NGOs “Building Bridges”	
14 October	Rome, Italy	Second GACSA SC Meeting of		
16 October	Milan, Italy	World Food Day	No specific role identified	
15-16 October	Queretaro, Mexico	International Workshop on Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies		
30 Nov. - 11 Dec.	Paris, France	UNFCCC COP 21	Workshops at regional pavilions: GACSA	
4 th Quarter 2015	US	North American Climate Smart Agriculture Summit	To be determined	
Date tbd	Dublin, Ireland	IIEA Leadership Forum on CSA		
Date tbd	Africa	Global conference on Agriculture Research for Developments (GCARD3)		