

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture

(GACSA)

**Draft Minutes**

**EIGHTH STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

**FAO HQ, Rome, Italy**

**14 DECEMBER 2017**

## 1. Opening Session

Ms Mi Nguyen (GACSA co-chair), Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to Rome-based UN agriculture organizations, presented the meeting objectives and the draft agenda. For work-related emergency reasons, Mr. Martin Bwalya (GACSA co-chair) was not able to participate in the Strategic Committee meeting.

*Decision: Agenda approved*

## 2. Substantial issues

### Reports from AGs conveners and RETT facilitator

a. **Marwan Ladki (FAO), RETT facilitator**, presented on the outcomes of the second technical meeting with the CSA Regional Alliances:

- It led to a productive and open discussion on how to mobilize partners/multi-stakeholders with the region to secure funds, not just for projects/outputs or results but also for building capacity and resources.
- It allowed the ten CSA alliances, networks and processes to jointly develop and unanimously adopt a work plan 2018-2019 for the RETT, associated with a total core budget of 3 million USD over two years (based on absorptive capacities: 150 000 USD per alliance per year).
- The meeting also discussed additional ways to enhance collaboration through dedicated initiatives and projects targeted toward specific donors.

b. **Mark Manis, convener of the Enabling Environment Action Group**, presented the outcomes of the joint working session of the **three Action Groups**, followed by **Matthew Reddy, convener of the Investment Action Group**, and **Emmanuel Torquebiau, convener of the Knowledge Action Group**, who complemented with additional points :

- Three roles for GACSA emerged from the discussion: match-making, advocacy and awareness-building;
- Suggestions for collaborative activities/action are addressed to “members”, as opposed to “GACSA” as a separate entity or the Facilitation Unit. As a voluntary alliance, members take the lead to implement specific actions.
- The proposed activities are results-oriented, subject to available resources/funding. They will be consolidated into a work plan for 2018-19 with a view to also contributing to resource mobilization efforts with potential donors.
- The relevance of cross collaboration between the action groups was highlighted.
- The IAG will be leading forward the efforts for defining metrics on CSA, in collaboration with all action groups. This will also assist the 32 countries that currently mention CSA in their NDCs to implement, measure and monitor actions on the ground, in particular on the adaptation and resilience pillar.
- Bear in mind gender related issues in CSA, the three AGs are planning to collaborate on a joint contribution to the COP23 Gender Action Plan on existing work on gender-responsible climate-smart agriculture. This will be a way to continue to catch the attention on

agriculture in climate change-related discussions within the UNFCCC process, taking advantage of the momentum generated by COP23.

- Reaching out in a more systematic way to various departments and institutions by using inclusive and transparent mechanisms is needed;
- Establishing country inventories on CSA practices was proposed by Cornell university in the KAG, subject to funding;
- The KAG also proposed to promote the organization of showcase conferences and identify champions in order to make CSA well known;
- Exploring the complementarity between agroecology and CSA was identified as an added-value activity for the KAG.

### 3/4. Strategic Vision for 2018 and beyond and development of the action plan

Mi Nguyen indicated that discussions in the joint morning session of the three AGs highlighted the importance for the proposed GACSA strategic vision and work plan for 2018-19 to be demand-driven, including from the regional/local levels (building synergies with the RETT discussions), and inclusive.

#### Discussion points:

- Participants stressed the need to continue to foster knowledge on CSA across scales, including actors involved (e.g. farmers, policy makers), space and time.
- Experiences reported from the regional level are important to tease out issues that are to be further developed.
- Some pointed out that outcomes are currently missing from the Strategic Vision for 2018 and beyond, which need to be defined with reference to the three pillars. Mi Nguyen explained that the work plan for 2018-19 will seek to do this.
- Some pointed out that as currently written, the Strategic Vision needs to be revised to include a mission and to be consistent with the Strategic Overall Work plan for 2016-17 that contains a vision and a mission, as well as with proposed activities.
- In order to get more members involved, GACSA should be presented as an inspiring and dynamic platform that fosters collective movement.

#### Decision:

- i. Based on the outcomes of the AGs and RETT discussions and proposed activities, a strategic work plan for 2018-2019 will be developed for discussion and adoption during next SC meeting that will take place in March/April 2018.

## 5. Governance of GACSA

### a. Action Groups co-conveners

- It was reported that no nomination had been submitted for the co-chair position by the given deadline. In this context, Martin Bwalya has agreed not to step down until the next SC meeting to take place in March/April 2018 where a new co-chair will be identified and elected.
- It was announced that the new EEAG co-conveners starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 will be: USDA and European Agroforestry Federation.
- Regarding KAG, CIRAD will identify a new convener to replace its effort in the KAG.

#### **b. Narrative and financial reports**

- A narrative report on GACSA's activities in 2017, as well as an annual financial report will be finalized and sent to the SC meeting.
- On the financial situation, it was explained that since the last financial report shared in October, not much change has occurred given that costs for the Annual Forum have not all been incurred and registered. A consultant was hired for identifying strategic areas where to focus on in the context of regional alliances and is supposed to deliver his report by Feb 2018.
- Roughly speaking, it is estimated that the remaining funds are USD 306,000. Taking out around 100 k for the expenditures related to the AF 2017, and another 100 k planned to be spent on AF 2018 and AF 2019, approximately 100K would be available for 2018 as things are currently standing.
- For the RETT budget, it was clarified that the activities behind the approximate 150k per region per year are not costed. Budget is a just estimate.
- The need was stressed to leverage the interest of some potential funders (e.g. the Inter-American Development Bank has expressed an interest in supporting a regional workshop in Latin/Central America).

#### **c. Platform team**

- Ernie Shea, facilitator of the Platform task team, updated on its work, stressing the importance of not only looking at governments but also other players as potential funders, including the private sector.
- He reported on some preliminary information received to explore options for potential funding models (e.g. trust funds housed in FAO). Two options were preliminarily identified:
  - Option 1: Multi-donor/stakeholder trust fund housed in FAO that is open also to non-state actors.
  - Option 2: trust fund housed in a not-for-profit entity (maybe further down the road).
- The current GACSA multi-donor trust Fund, housed in FAO, follows FAO financial management procedures and accountability, where a 7% overhead fee is applied by FAO.
- Some pointed out that in the context of the Codex Alimentarius on food safety, FAO Council requested that FAO establish a blind trust fund for the Joint Scientific Programme to enable funding from non-state actors with a view to establishing more sustainable longer-term funding. Challenges are expected, and developments will be monitored to inform the efforts of the Platform team, and vice versa.
- An update on potential options will be provided at the next SC meeting taking place in March/April 2018.

#### **d. Governance adjustments**

**Mi Nguyen** acknowledged the comments made by some members regarding possible adjustments to GACSA informal governance structure, to foster greater inclusiveness, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability. Proposed adjustments will be discussed for approval at the next Strategic Committee meeting in March/April 2018. Co-chairs will advise early in 2018 on this matter.

#### **6. Any other business**

The following points were raised:

- Costa Rica announced that a Conference on Sustainable food system program will be held in January 2019 in Costa Rica, extending an open invitation to GACSA members.
- The March deadline to provide input on the COP23 decision on agriculture was recalled, noting the proposed focus of GACSA efforts on a contribution to the COP23 Gender Action Plan, but not limited to it. GACSA Action Groups will explore over the next three months how to further bring CSA on the UNFCCC agenda.