

# GACSA 2018 Annual Report

Strategic Committee Meeting 10 | 16 JUNE 2019

## OVERVIEW

The GACSA 2018 Annual Report provides an overview of the GACSA operations from the period of January 2018 to December 2018 and outlines outcomes, outputs and related activities as per the 2017-2018 Work Plan and approved spending priorities.

During this reporting period, GACSA increased its membership from 2017 members to 236 members by the end of the year 2017.

GACSA communication activities were increased through social media, the website and newsletter during 2018. GACSA committed to publishing the newsletter on a bi-monthly basis during 2018. The GACSA twitter account increased its daily activity to engage with other GACSA member accounts through re-Tweeting, status updates and 'likes'. Maintaining a consistent, clean and updated GACSA brand across all platforms of communications has been a priority for GACSA.

The Regional CSA Alliances had lower engagement in 2018, due to the restriction of staff in the Facilitation Unit. In order to continue these activities, GACSA will hire a new consultant to increase this collaboration aligned with spending priorities.

The GACSA Annual Forum was not organized during 2018, due to the restricted capacity of staff in the Facilitation Unit and insufficient funds. However, the Strategic Committee meeting was organized in Bonn in May 2018 and at this meeting, the Netherlands announced finance support to the GACSA. For technical reasons, the funds will arrive in 2019. At the same meeting, the new co-chair was elected to replace Martin Bwalya and the Strategic Plan 2018-2022 was approved.

Although there were restrictions in the Facilitation Unit and available funds, the Co-Chairs and Facilitation Unit were able to attend several meetings to foster outreach and advocacy on behalf of GACSA; this is thanks to the support of GACSA members. Among these events, GACSA members organized an exhibition booth at the COP24 in Poland in December 2019. GACSA organized a side event at COP24,

“*Catalyzing action towards climate-smarter agriculture and food systems for improved food security and nutrition. How GACSA is driving change.*” Furthermore, a speaking slot for the GACSA was organized at the Climate Smart Agriculture Congress in Nairobi on 15-16 May 2018. GACSA organized a side event on Gender and Climate-Smart Agriculture” at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco

in September 2018. In collaboration with Cornell University, GACSA organized a side event on “Catalyzing Action towards Climate-Smart Agriculture” at the Climate Week in NY in September 2018.

At the administrative level, GACSA continued to face some critical budgetary constraints. This is constraining a number of core functions, including operational capacity of the Facilitation Unit. Sustained funding support is required to bring the staffing component of the Facilitation Unit to an optimal level.

## Progress and Achievements

### Rapidly Increasing and Diverse Membership

At the end of the reporting period, GACSA membership reached 236 members. This is an increase of 14% within the reporting period. Equally important in this regard is the expansion in the membership diversity – drawn from across the agriculture value chain, climate change interest players and stakeholders, as well as representing a wide diversity with regard to geospatial orientations. This is providing a unique and robust multi-stakeholder, multi-discipline platform with “rich” opportunities for networking and connecting complementary interests around the shared purpose of catalysing the scaling up of locally adapted CSA practices across the globe.

Through demonstrating GACSA’s clear value, the Alliance has continued commitment to expand membership in the Alliance – both in terms of numbers, but also in diversity of sectors and disciplines, as well as in representation from different geo-political circumstances, ecosystems and national/continental boundaries. It is also expected that current engagements with youth groups and Farmers’ Organisations will attract a number of farmers, practitioners, and youths. Membership development is now focusing on expanding towards specific stakeholders’ groups (e.g. youth, women, farmers), as well as specific regions (e.g. Asia, Africa and Latin America).

### Outreach and Communication and GACSA participation to events

GACSA’s ability to communicate, as well as connect members across the climate-smart world was significantly enhanced in 2018. The new network of contacts now available to GACSA and the Facilitation Unit mean that GACSA can communicate with an even larger and more diverse audience.

#### Outreach

During the review period, GACSA managed to have widespread presence at various events. This has been largely possible through several members attending these events, while representing GACSA. Members have also managed GACSA-organised side events, essentially in the margins of other larger events including the **COP24 in Katowice, Poland; the Climate Smart Agriculture Congress 15-16 May 2018 in Nairobi; the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September 2018, and**



**the Climate Week in NY in Sept 2018.** This model proved to be both efficient and effective, mobilizing a wide set of members (e.g. research institutions, countries, private sector) to represent GACSA and promote CSA at a range of strategic climate-smart agriculture related events and climate change events with different audiences.

### Communication and advocacy

GACSA leveraged collaboration by producing a GACSA newsletter to share developments on CSA work, largely produced or published by GACSA members themselves. The GACSA newsletter was published on a bi-monthly basis in 2018. The primary focus was to highlight implementation and innovations to stimulate expanded action on the ground. Additionally, the newsletters aimed to promote all GACSA members' latest CSA knowledge products, upcoming events and activities. In 2018, GACSA communications updated and printed a new Brochure based on the recent GACSA Strategic Plan 2018-2022 document, to ensure all existing, new and potential members have accurate and concise information on GACSA vision, mission, action groups and structure. Furthermore, within the review period, GACSA has:

- a) maintained a YouTube channel, and
- b) has revised the user-activity of the GACSA website and compiled plans to enhance the user-journey with potential revisions;
- c) The twitter account has grown in popularity from 580 followers to 818 followers since the last reporting period.

This growth on Twitter was due to 'live-tweeting' sessions at several GACSA side events last year. This was possible due to a dedicated GACSA Communications consultant in the Facilitation Unit. The events that provided live tweeting were the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September 2018 and the Climate Week in New York in September 2018. Furthermore, a news article about GACSA's participation at the Climate Smart Agriculture Congress in Nairobi was promoted via Twitter and through a GACSA partner's website.

The Facilitation Unit has, widely disseminated the knowledge products developed by the Action Groups, as well as other specific CSA material produced by individual GACSA members and other actors and practitioners/promoters of CSA worldwide.

### Action Groups activities

The GACSA Action Groups (Investment Action Group [IAG]; Enabling Environment Action Group [EEAG]; Knowledge Action Group [KAG]) have achieved results identified in the work plans. Their work plan for 2018 were presented during the Strategic Committee Meeting in May 2018.

In the reporting period, the three Action Groups continued working on realizing goals and targets identified in their work plans. The following highlights the achievements of 2018:

- **Knowledge Action Group:** Compendium on Climate-Smart Irrigation (FAO *et al.*); Practice briefs: Quesungual & Kuxur Rum: Ancestral agroforestry systems in the Dry Corridor of Central-America (FAO); Supplemental Irrigation: A promising climate-smart practice for dryland agriculture (ICARDA, ACET, FAO); Policy briefs: CSA and agroecology complementarity (in planning; CIRAD, EURAF, FAO) in collaboration with EEAG; Case studies: Institutionalizing Science Field Shops: Developing Response Farming to Climate Change (Universitas Indonesia, University of Free State);
- **Enabling Environment Action Group:** Policy analysis of enabling environments across countries/regions and the policy reforms needed for replication; Draft concept note for CSA best practices in LAC (and other regions) workshops; Best practices mapping for increasing carbon sequestration
- **Investment Action Group:** Continuing work on CSA Metrics

All of the Action Groups products are available on the GACSA website and have been disseminated to members.

#### **Change of the Action Group conveners:**

At the end of 2017, the three action groups also adjusted their operational and coordination arrangements as the terms for some of the convening institutions were expiring. The KAG is convened by Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP) and Cornell University, the Investment Action Group by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and the Enabling Environment Action Group by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and European Agroforestry Federation (EAF).

## Management Issues

#### Resource Mobilization and Other Donors to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund

Available funds for 2018 was essentially the contributions to the Multi Donor Trust Fund by Ireland and the Netherlands and a small amount from the United States of America. This implied the highly constrained funding situation for GACSA, which led to further cut backs on some activities including cutting down on the Facilitation Unit (FU) staff. In 2018, GACSA has continued a vigorous resource mobilisation receiving \$53,763 from Ireland.

#### FU composition

During all 2018, the FU was composed of an interim coordinator (FAO staff – with 10% of her time is dedicated to GACSA); a second FAO Staff (50% of her time funded by an FAO Italian Government supported project), a TAP and a Communication Consultant. Recruitment of a new coordinator and a consultant to follow the Regional Alliances activities have started.

#### Identification of new co-chair

The term for one of the co-chairs, (Martin Bwalya) expired at the end of 2017. As there were no confirmed nominations for a replacement, the December 2017 GACSA Annual Forum decided to postpone the election of the co-chair to the first Strategic Committee meeting of 2018 in Bonn. In this

occasion, Ms. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Vice President for Policy and Partnerships for the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) was nominated by FANRPAN and the World Bank as a candidate to succeed Martin Bwalya as the co-chair during the Strategic Committee meeting held in Bonn in May 2018. Many members that were impressed with her vast expertise and experience, as well as her strong leadership, management and advocacy skills supported her nomination.

### Task Teams

Task Teams were set up through the decision of the Strategic Committee to undertake specific and often time-bound tasks and results. GACSA members volunteer to the various Task Teams. The following Task Teams are currently running:

- (i) The 2017 GACSA Annual Forum Planning Team, convened by Mr. Marcel Van Nijnatten of The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture;
- (ii) The Member Engagement Team, convened by Mr. Ernie Shea of the North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance; and
- (iii) The Platform Team convened by Mr. Ernie Shea of the North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance. Objective of this team is to identify methods to receive funds from private sectors and foundations;
- (iv) Task team for participation to conferences convened by Mr. Marcel Van Nijnatten of The Netherlands. Regional Engagement Task Team (RETT) did not work during 2018.