

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture

(GACSA)

Draft Minutes

NINTH STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING

**Marriott Hotel, Bonn, Germany
Villa Hammerschmidt Room**

9 MAY 2018

1. Opening Session

Ms Mi Nguyen (GACSA co-chair), Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to Rome-based UN agriculture organizations, and Mr. Martin Bwalya, Head of the Programme Development Division in the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), outlined the objectives for this important Strategic Committee meeting, following up on the outcomes of the 8th Strategic Committee meeting that took place on 14 December 2017 in Rome, namely: 1) to present GACSA 2017 annual report and financial report; 2) to develop a Strategic Plan for GACSA for 2018 and beyond; 3) to review a proposed vision statement for GACSA; 4) to make adjustments to the existing GACSA governance structure; and 5) to identify candidates for a new co-chair to succeed Martin Bwalya. The draft agenda was structured to enable substantive discussions on the next strategic direction of the Alliance, with a view to consolidating its achievements and accelerating implementation of national commitments on sustainable development and climate action.

A webinar to participate remotely in the GACSA SC Meeting was set up by Cornell University.

Decision: Agenda of 9th Strategic Committee Meeting and Minutes of 8th Strategic Committee Meeting approved

2. GACSA Strategic Plan for 2018-2022

Federica Matteoli and Rima AlAzar from the Facilitation Unit presented the GACSA 2017 Annual Report which outlined the results achieved on key priorities identified for 2017: diversification and increase in membership; communications, including advocacy in global and regional events; regional engagement; and holding the 3rd Annual Forum as a multi-stakeholder platform and in collaboration with regional CSA alliances and partners.

Discussion points on GACSA Annual Report:

- Participants stressed the need to be clear on what GACSA is and what the results are. Communication activities play a key role in this regard.
- Proposals on how to engage members in a more active and productive manner were expressed, such as through the Annual Forum, a communication strategy that involve all stakeholders, participation to conferences on CSA and climate change to explain what GACSA is and what is doing. It is also important to understand what stakeholders need and what GACSA can offer to them.

The Co-chairs presented GACSA Strategic Plan 2018-2022, including the vision, the strategic objectives, a revitalized governance structure and a notional budget, explaining that these proposals were building on the Co-chairs consultations with members, the outcomes of the GACSA Annual Forums, as well as the report and proposal prepared by the consultant who was recruited to explore investment opportunities for GACSA at the regional level (those documents were also circulated as an input to the discussions) .

Discussion points on GACSA Strategic Plan, including the Vision and Mission:

- Participants appreciated the efforts made by a small group of members to draft a new vision for GACSA, and stressed the need to keep it concise and not duplicate the more detailed mission statement. It was agreed to further reflect the elements of nutrition and sustainability, and to give more prominence to the key aspect of securing livelihoods.
- While all recognized the importance of paying attention to the needs of small holders, it was agreed not to highlight this group in particular, keeping with the inclusive nature of the Alliance as one that seeks to empower the wide range of producers and farmers. Putting farmers at the center is stated in the mission statement.
- The importance of considering various systems and practices and building synergies amongst them, including agroforestry, was raised.
- Given the landmark COP23 decision on agriculture and the positive outcomes of the SBSTA 48th session, the next 18 months offered a window of opportunity for GACSA to play a role in integrating a climate-smart agriculture approach in the implementation or revision of the NDCs at larger scale. It was agreed to make the focus on NDC implementation more prominent in the Strategic Plan.
- All emphasized the importance of GACSA's engagement at the regional level and agreed that the proposal from the consultant identifying several investment opportunities could serve as a good starting point to explore with the regional CSA alliances concrete initiatives.

Discussion points on the proposed revitalized governance structure

- While many agreed with the added-value of high-level engagement as an enabler to open doors, leverage resources and provide oversight, it was agreed that the name "High-level Board (HLB)" should be replaced by a name that would more clearly align with the role of the Strategic Committee as the main decision-making body and with the spirit of the Alliance as an inclusive platform that is not top down. Several options were explored, including "GACSA Ambassadors" although it was pointed out that this could be confused with the diplomatic "ambassadorial" title and that others outside the group can serve as ambassadors for GACSA as well. It was also agreed to reverse the order and put the Strategic Committee first.
- The composition and the frequency of meetings of such a group were discussed, including the participation of FAO as the host organization and the balance between member states and non-state actors.
- It was explained how changes to the composition and number in the membership of the Strategic Committee were proposed in order to strengthen accountability, ownership and engagement from members.
- It was also recognized that adjustments will need to be made as the revitalized governance structure is being rolled out and that greater resources are mobilized, staff capacity is increased and partnerships and bankable project proposals are brokered and facilitated, in a context where GACSA is not an implementing body and that the main monitoring and evaluation activities for projects brokered will be undertaken by the concerned GACSA members.

- While the initial proposal for the composition of the Facilitation Unit was to consider a team of 3 to 5 people, depending on available resources, it was agreed that a team of 5 people would be required to effectively implement the Strategic Plan given the capacity needed to undertake effective communications, brokerage, knowledge management and regional engagement.

Decisions:

- The Strategic Plan was adopted in principle, and a revised Strategic Plan will be circulated afterwards for endorsement, based on the discussions.
- The Regional Engagement Task Team will engage with the various regional CSA alliances to discuss the consultant's final report and proposals and explore concrete initiatives.
- The Netherlands announced that it would pledge at least 500,000 euros to support GACSA, the modalities of which are to be clarified shortly.

3. Action Groups (AGs) and Regional Engagement Task Team (RETT) work plans

AGs conveners presented the work plans of the Knowledge Action Group, the Enabling Environment Action Group and the Investment Action Group.

Discussion points:

- It is understood that the work plans are living documents that can be updated as members express interest in undertaking new activities.
- Participants stressed the desirability of having documents in French and Spanish at least, and some options were identified in this regard.
- A number of activities were identified for collaboration amongst the various Action Groups, namely the paper on linkages between CSA and agroecology, CSA metrics, and innovation.
- Some pointed out the pro-WEAI (women empowerment in agriculture index) tool to measure women's empowerment should be included in the work being done on CSA metrics.

Decision:

- A revised version of the AGs work plans will be shared based on the discussions.

4. Financial situation and report

The Co-chairs presented the GACSA 2017 Financial report, which showed that out of a budget of USD 208,000, approximately USD 123,000 were spent by GACSA, mainly on consultancies, travel and contracts for events. They explained that the main reason for the difference in planned and real expenses was the ability to leverage in-kind contributions for the GACSA Annual Forum from members such as the African Development Bank, Canada, Italy, and the WBCSD.

The Co-chairs also outlined the financial situation as of 20 April 2018 with roughly USD 340,000 remaining funds, including some USD 215,000 available funds. Adding the new pledge of 500,000

euros made by the Netherlands, the co-chairs proposed notional spending priorities based on the notional budget contained in the Strategic Plan.

Discussion points:

- Given that the modalities of the new pledge by the Netherlands were not yet known, it was agreed that a revised budget with proposed spending priorities would be prepared, taking into account the strategic objective and the notional budget contained in the Strategic Plan.
- Given GACSA's business model, it was recognized that there were various ways to make contributions: 1) to the GACSA multi-donor trust fund; 2) to specific initiatives that are facilitated by GACSA at the global (e.g. events) and regional (e.g. workshop, forum) levels; and 3) in-kind contributions (e.g. secondment, hospitality, etc.).
- It was also pointed out that in order to more effectively mobilize resources, it would be useful to quantify the value of the various in-kind contributions made by the members to the Facilitation Unit and the Action Groups, which are not accounted for in the financial updates of GACSA as requested by some members.

Decisions:

- A revised budget and spending priorities outline will be circulated once details are clarified.

5. Election of new co-chair

Martin Bwalya announced that Ms. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Vice President for Policy and Partnerships for the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) had been nominated by FANRPAN and the World Bank as a candidate to succeed him as co-chair. Ms. Sibanda spoke in compelling words about her passion and commitment to climate-smart agriculture, inspired by her multiple experiences as smallholder, researcher, advocate and leader on these issues, including in the context of GACSA. Her nomination was supported by many members present impressed by her vast expertise and experience, as well as her strong leadership, management and advocacy skills.

Decision:

- Ms. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda was elected as new co-chair.

6. GACSA at key events, including COP24

A proposal for GACSA participation in key events throughout 2018 was presented, outlining the strategic objectives of such participation.

Discussion points:

- Given the current time, financial and human resources constraints, it was agreed that efforts should prioritize key global strategic events: Global Climate Action Summit (September 12-14, 2018, S. Francisco);
- Climate Week NYC 2018 (September 24-30 2018, New York);
- COP24 UNFCCC (December 3-14 2018, Katowice)
- In addition, the Regional Engagement Task Team may identify opportunities for regional events that could be facilitated by GACSA with the support of interested members;
- A task team should discuss the feasible options for holding the next Annual Forum (date and venue) with recommendations for the Strategic Committee.

Decision:

- GACSA draft respective programmes for the Global Climate Summit in San Francisco, Climate Week in NY and COP24 will be prepared in consultation with the Action Groups and circulated for input.
- An Annual Forum Task Team was established again, to be convened by Marcel van Nijnatten from the Netherlands with interested members, including Ernie Shea, Maria Rosa Mosquera Losada, Rima AlAzar, Federica Matteoli and Francis Hale.

ANNEX 1

**GACSA STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING
9 MAY 2018, BONN
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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