

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)

Meeting Minutes

STRATEGIC COMMITTEE (SC) Meeting

Held via Zoom

1st February 2023



1. Opening and Welcome Remarks by GACSA Co-Chairs

Mr Hans Hoogeveen (GACSA Co-Chair) welcomed GACSA Strategic Committee and GACSA members (see Annex 7), and apologized for the absence of Ms Imelda Bacudo (GACSA Co-Chair).

Mr Simon Leiva (GACSA Coordinator) mentioned the meeting was being recorded, for internal purposes only, to assist the GACSA Facilitation Unit (FU) in taking notes, capturing decision making, suggestions and recommendations.

Discussion Point: Co-Chair set the scene of the meeting, and mentioned the following:

- Highlighted magnitude of crises we are confronted with, the need to strengthen multilateralism
 and international cooperation, the need for action on the ground and need to strengthen Climate
 Smart Agriculture (CSA), nowadays particularly the key role of CSA within food system
 transformation;
- Commended GACSA for its advocacy mission and stressed the need of more actions to be relevant;
- Stressed the importance of ensuring stronger involvement and collaborations with private sector and youth,; and
- Emphasized GACSA's multi-stakeholder approach, especially in scaling up CSA.

2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

The proposed Strategic Committee Meeting Agenda was as below:

- 1. Opening and welcome remarks by GACSA Co-Chair
- 2. Adoption of the provisional agenda
- 3. Governance: Composition of the Strategic Committee
- 4. GACSA Action Plan 2023
- 5. GACSA Annual Forum 2023
- 6. Financial Update
- 7. Any Other Business
- 8. Closing Remarks

Co-Chair presented the agenda and opened the floor for any suggestions, and recommendations. The provisional agenda was approved

3. Governance: Composition of the Strategic Committee

3.1 Strategic Committee Composition

Co-Chair provided key highlights concerning the implementation of the new Strategic Committee Composition. He specifically addressed the complications, the Secretariat faced when the SC Members appointing representatives of the 6 (six) different constituencies.

Three different options of the SC composition were discussed:



- Option 1: Continue with the current broad SC (as of October 2021)
- Option 2: Continue with the proposed new approach (approved by the GASCA Annual Forum 2021); or
- Option 3: Suggest a new approach and procedures on how to implement this

For full background of the SC Composition from 2021, kindly refer to SC Meeting Minutes from Day (?), available here.

<u>Discussion Points: During the discussion several elements were discussed:</u>

- Clarification of constituencies which sent in selected representatives and other constituencies which could not propose representatives.
- An alternative proposal which would be based on the concept of a committee of the whole (formed by all GACSA members) and a strategic committee, consisting of the 2 (two) GACSA Co-Chairs, 6 (six) Action Group co-leaders, 7 (seven) Regional Alliances leaders and a FAO advisor. It would amongst others support the GASCA FU in their daily activities and assist with the organization of CSA related events. Their meetings would be open to all GACSA members, ensuring GACSA continues to be an inclusive multi-stakeholder platform.
- Another slightly different proposal consisting of the establishment of a similar composition and in addition to double the Regional Alliance leaders from 7 (seven) to 14. A call was made for applications with clear Terms of References, stating what needs to be done, how and when, should be opened.
- Members showed enthusiasm in supporting the SC as a whole and the subgroup, as a reasonable and practical alternative, to ensure that there is a way forward for GACSA, especially with the upcoming GACSA Annual Forum 2023.

Decision:

The SC agreed to recommend to the Annual Forum the following:

As the Annual Forum is functioning as a committee of the whole in which all members are represented a strategic committee will be formed existing of the 2 co-chairs, the co-leaders of the Action Groups (6), the chairs of the Regional Alliances (7) and a FAO representative on behalf of the hosting organization.

4. GACSA Flagship Activities

4.1 GACSA Action Plan 2023

The Co-Chair provided an overview of the GACSA Action Plan 2023 and members of the FU presented the 4 (four) new flagship activity proposals. The aim of these proposals is to facilitate the transition of CSA thinking, into action.

Zero drafts of the activity proposals have been developed together with the GACSA Co-Chairs during weekly meetings, as well as through separate discussions with some GACSA Members, FAO technical



divisions and Action Group co-leaders. The idea of each activity proposal was based on the results of GACSA survey conducted by Cornell in 2019 and 2020.

For the full activity proposals, kindly refer to supporting documents to the SC Meeting, available on GACSA Website (here).

The new activity proposals included:

1. GACSA Capacity Building (see Annex 1)

a. GACSA App.

The GACSA Facilitation Unit is working on developing a peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, capacity building and networking platform for (young) farmers in the form of an application for mobile phones with the aim of scaling up CSA adoption through facilitating dialogues on the ground. Through this app (young) farmers, who are interested in CSA, will be able to connect and interact with each other as well as with local researchers, policymakers and investors to foster co-learning. Furthermore, they will be able to receive tailored information regarding skills trainings, financial guidance and CSA specific information, relevant to their businesses, through the knowledge portal section in the application, addressing networking and capacity development needs.

b. GACSA E-learning Course

The "Climate Smart Agriculture E-learning course" aims at training young farmers and young adults interested in entering the agriculture field (students) on CSA approaches to address the capacity development needs identified by GACSA members in the 2019-2020 GACSA Survey. The course will be divided into specific modules, addressing CSA topics from an interdisciplinary perspective, through a set of online pre-recorded lectures, GACSA case studies and online examinations. Additionally, these online trainings will be complemented with lectures from guest speakers from GACSA's member base and beyond, introducing an intergenerational exchange between students and practitioners in the classroom. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive a GACSA future leader certificate.

<u>Discussion Points: Issues which were discussed/raised:</u>

- How the FU will ensure the GACSA app is an innovative and necessary addition to the field.
 Additionally, how to take into consideration, how this app will provide farmers with locally
 tailored data. Finally, he asked whether the initiative will be translated into different languages
 and if so, how this would be achieved.
- How to deal with languages: language translations will be available for the e-learning course.
- The importance of co-developing projects with farmers, simultaneously, stressing the difficulties of introducing new technologies in rural areas.
- The importance of addressing topics of soil fertility and sustainable productivity within the elearning course.
- Request for more information on the GACSA Action Plan for the upcoming years and suggestion to explore the "Climakers Initiatives", in regard to their plans for the near future.

2. GACSA Compass Funding Platform (see Annex 2)



The GACSA Funding platform seeks to increase investment opportunities for farmers applying CSA practices to allow them to have direct access to funding. The platform will achieve this goal, through firstly, linking farmers directly to investors, allowing them to propose their business ideas and receive funding. At the same time, investors can showcase their funding opportunities and be reached by farmers directly. Secondly, there will be a section on this platform, focusing on enhancing farmers' financial literacy and knowledge on project and proposal writing, enabling their access to possible funding opportunities. Lastly, the GACSA FU will host a high-level side event along the GACSA Annual Forum to attract potential investors and increase funding for small-scale farmers and farmers' organizations on CSA.

Discussion Points: Issues which were discussed are:

 how the funding, advertised in the Funding Portal, would be acquired, considering the existing lack of funding opportunities for CSA projects. In addition how the tool would be available in all the countries, to ensure that all small-holder farmers have an equal chance to acquire funding for their projects.

3. GACSA Shark Tank Approach (see Annex 3)

For a variety of reasons, young farmers often lack funding opportunities for starting their businesses. To incentivize the development of CSA innovations, GACSA is launching a GACSA Shark-Tank for young entrepreneurs to stimulate dialogues between potential "investors", donors and participants and accelerate innovations in agriculture. The first pilot of the Shark Tank will focus on the African continent given the urgency for African countries to ramp up climate-smart practices at scale. The GACSA Shark Tank Approach will be held online to promote global collaboration and participation. After the competition, the winner(s) will have the opportunity to showcase their proposal during the next World Food Forum 2023 (WFF) at the FAO Headquarters and at the GACSA Annual Forum 2024.

<u>Discussion Points: Issues which were discussed are:</u>

- whether the Shark Tank competition will be held online, and if so, how GACSA will reach and engage young farmers from rural areas, who might not have easy access to social media and/or internet connection.
- the importance of discussing carbon sequestration, specifically the need for a carbon credit system for farmers.

4. GACSA Website (see Annex 4)

The GACSA Facilitation Unit together with the Office of Communications and the Digitalization and Informatics Division (FAO IT Division) unit will ensure a smooth transformation from the old GACSA website to a new, modern and user friendly one. The main aim is to provide information regarding GACSA, Regional Alliances, Action Groups and GACSA Members, as well as CSA practices in general. Additionally, the platform will provide the opportunity to hold discussions between (young) farmers, to share CSA practices. The goal is to ensure fast information and knowledge sharing amongst members and external users, providing one platform in which all CSA related information is accumulated as well as a place where the latest developments regarding new CSA innovations and technology are shared.



Discussion Points: Issues which were discussed:

- Whether user statistics have been analyzed to modify the platform accordingly. In addition whether the website will be available in multiple languages.
- Whether the website will be available, as a downloadable version, in the form of an application for mobile phones.
- In the chat it was suggested to include the contact details of GACSA members on the website.

All questions were answered and taken into consideration by the GACSA FU All updated activity proposals will be uploaded to GACSA website prior to GACSA Annual Forum.

Decision:

The Strategic Committee recommended the following:

To update the proposal with the recommendations made for the 4 (four) flagship activities and recommended the Annual Forum to endorse the updated proposals

5. Preparation GACSA Annual Forum 2023

GACSA Coordinator presented the 2023 Annual Forum Concept Note which was shared with SC members prior to the SC meeting (here).

The Annual Forum will be a hybrid meeting, which means participation in-person in Rome, Italy and virtual participation via Zoom). The tentative dates proposed in the Concept Note were 4 and 5 May 2023.

The expected outcomes for the GACSA Annual Forum 2023 are to:

- Highlight the important role of CSA in sustainable food systems, investments and actions on global, regional and country level;
- Engage GACSA Members in new activity proposals;
- Promote scaling-up of climate-smart agriculture innovations and technologies; and
- Strengthen collaborations amongst Action Groups and Regional Alliances.

Discussion Point:

- Members acknowledged the efforts made by the GACSA FU with preparation of the Annual Forum program.
- Suggested was made to consider the inclusion of a session on Indigenous people.
- the Annual Forum is a great opportunity to showcase GACSA's work to its members and beyond. Furthermore, and a need to focus on fertility management and soil health in the Annual Forum program, considering the current Global Food and Fertilizer Crisis.
- WFO would like to contribute to the organization of the Annual Forum, especially on the Youth focused session.
- Request to have more detailed information regarding the Annual Forum logistic arrangements, as well as the FU team members clear roles within organization, preparation and roles of this event
- the need to deliver a presentation on successful climate related services.

Decision:

The proposed decision for the Strategic Committee members was as following:



• The SC approved the Annual Forum dates, program and design and inclusion of suggested elements.

5. Financial Update

GACSA Coordinator presented a detailed financial update to the SC members and presented GACSA's financial status and commitments (see Annex 5). He acknowledged and thanked for the financial contribution received from the 2 (two) donors, Ireland and The Netherlands.

The forecast until December 2023, for total expenditure at this moment is approximately USD 331,591. The main expenditures will be charged against Salaries for GACSA Facilitation Unit team members, General Operating Expenses (Annual Forum 2023), FAO Technical Support Services (i.e. programme support), and Support Costs for being hosted by FAO.

He also stressed and urged the importance, plus the need for additional funds, in order to make GACSA more sustainable.

The Co-Chair and the Co-Leader of Knowledge Sharing Action Group gave a Power Point presentation (see Annex 6) in which they highlighted the role of the Action Groups in achieving the aspirational outcomes and strengthening GACSA's funding base. They highlighted the need for sustainable funding for the future of GACSA and the importance of capturing private sector funding opportunities for the previously presented aspirational projects.

Discussion Points:

- Participants stressed the need to broaden and diversify GACSA's funding base through, for example the Green Climate Fund and other international networks.
- SC Members encouraged the need of and strengthening GACSA's funding base

Decision:

The decision made by the Strategic Committee:

- SC and GACSA Members welcomed the report by GACSA Coordinator on GACSA financial situation; and
- SC and GACSA Members stressed the need to broaden and diversify GACSA's funding base

6. Any Other Business (AOB)

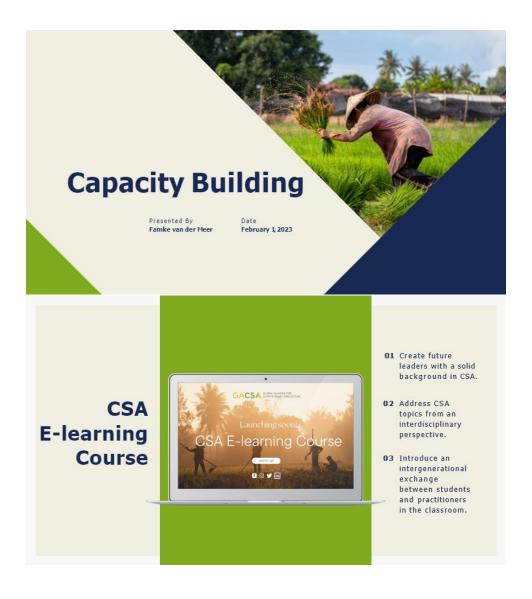
No issues were raised.

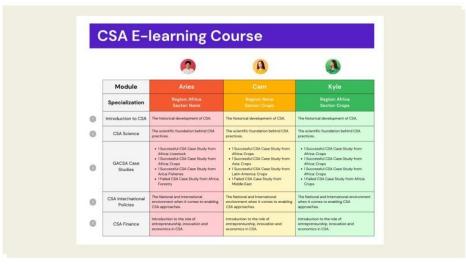
7. Closing Remarks

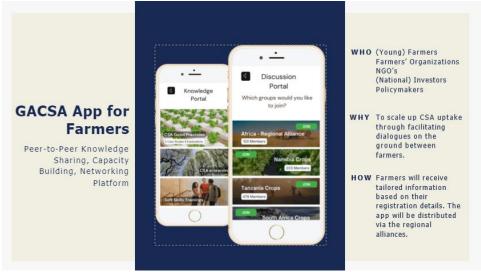
The Co-Chair closed the meeting and thanked SC and GACSA Members for their participation and their time. He highlighted the importance of working all together on the new flagship activities, in order to achieve the new aspirations for GACSA, as outlined in the 2022-2032 Strategic Plan.



Annex 1 - Capacity building proposal

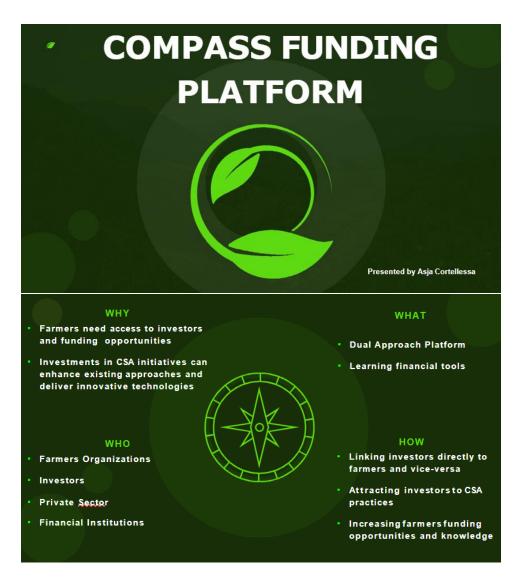






Annex 2 - Compass Funding Platform





Annex 3 – Shark Tank Approach





Annex 4 – Website proposal



Welcome to your CSA portal including a discussion platform

Website content will be co-created by GACSA Members, FAO technical divisions, Action Group coleaders and the Regional Alliances leaders.

GACSA members can share their latest CSA related news, activities, policies, practices and upcoming events (virtual and in-person).

The platform will have a dedicated space where GACSA members from all 6 constituencies can share their CSA knowledge with each other.



Website Sections







Homepage

The GACSA Homepage is the first page of the website, which will display, besides GACSA's latest social media activity, the monthly highlights of the Alliance. The aim is to display three specific monthly highlights on this first page.

About GACSA

This section is divided into 5 (five) different subsections, namely the 'About Us' page, which will appear when clicking on about GACSA, and the regional Alliances', 'Co-Chairs', and the 'Facilitation Unit'

Member Showcase

This page is dedicated to highlighting the CSA related work GACSA members are doing/involved in and their activities, user can find information about each member, including their CSA practices and focal points (including their contact details), in the subsections which are divided per constituency.

Website Sections



Discussion Forum

CSA related conversations going outside GACSA's virtual and in-person events. It is a way for the 6 (six) constituencies to directly interact with each other and exchange ideas



Displaying all CSA related information allowing users to get a better understanding of different CSA practices. CSA section is divided into 3

- subsections a. CSA in a nutshell
- b. CSA Innovations and Technologies c. CSA Capacity Building



Events and News

- a. GACSA Calendar
 a. CACSA News

 b. CACSA Shark Tank
 b. CACSA Podcast

 c. GACSA Annual
 c. GACSA Ted Talk

 Forum
 d. GACSA Newsletter

STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING

1 FEBRUARY 2023





Budget update

Years 2020, 2021 and 2022

- Contributions
- Expenditures
- Available budget for 2023





Contributions

Contributions in USD	2020		2021		2022	
Ireland	\$	99,684		-	\$	67,568
The Netherlands		5	\$	150,000		17

Expenditure and Available Budget for 2023

Budget Lines in USD	Expenses 2020		Expenses 2021		Expenses 2022	
Staff salaries (Prof & GS)	\$	0	\$	0	\$	23,722
Consultants & local labour	\$	240,318	\$	233,237	\$	224,786
Contracts	\$	58	\$	0	\$	0
Travel	\$	12,527	\$	0	\$	0
Training	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0
Procurement (Exp & Non Exp)	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0
Hospitality	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0
Technical Support Services	\$	3,600	\$	0	\$	10,446
General Operating Expenses	\$	13,388	\$	11,391	\$	1,349
5029 Support Costs (7%)	\$	18,892	\$	17,124	\$	14,045
Total Expenditures	\$	288,783	\$	261,752	\$	274,348
Available Budget	\$	811,670	\$	549,931	\$	343,150



Annex 6 - GACSA Framework

GACSA FRAMEWORK

- I. STRENGTHENING ROLE ACTION GROUPS
 - II. STRENGHTENING FUNDING BASE

I. STRENGHTENING ROLE ACTIONS GROUPS

- From foundation GACSA Actions Group are backbone for developing GACSA activities
- > 3 Action Groups:
 - knowledge;
 - investment;
 - enabling environment

- > Need to strengthen role of actions groups for aspirational outcomes
- > Stronger involvement in steering work of the Facilitation Unit
- > Part of managerial support with the co-chairs



II. Strengthening Funding Base GACSA

- > GACSA is currently only funded by public resources
- > Over last years only 5 public donors
- > Hosting arrangements with FAO won't make private funding feasible
- ➤ Missed opportunities

- > Sustainable funding absolutely needed for future of GACSA
- > Capture private sector funding opportunities for aspirational projects
- ➤ Solution co-hosting with an international network with strong ties in private and civil society community networks
- ➤ International Network/Organization/Institute



Annex 7 - List of attendees

	GACSA Member Organization	Representative	
1.	Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center	Doaa Soliman	
2.	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)	Joshua Okonya	
3.	Association pour la protection de l'environment et le dévelopment durable de Bizerte (APEDDUB)	Najoua Bouraoui	
4.	BeMORE Global Consulting	Musa Olatunji	
5.	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF)	Tony Simons	
6.	Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Studies	Aminu Zakari	
7.	Centre for Natural Resource Governance	Simiso Mlevu	
8.	Climate Smart Agriculture Multistakeholder Platform	Bernard Kimoro	
9.	Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global	Divine Ntiokam, Mahamat Saleh Moussa	
10.	Columbia Global Centers Nairobi	Murugi Ndirangu, Erik Mencos	
11.	Communaute Economique Des Etats De L'afrique De L'ouest (CEDEAO)	Koffi Emmanuel Gle	
12.	Cool Farm Alliance	Daniella Malin	
13.	Cornell University	Allison Chatrchyan	
14.	Costa Rica Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	Roberto Azofeifa	
15.	Danish Agriculture and Food Council	Tobias Gräs	
16.	Department of Agronomy, University of Agriculture Faisalabad	Hafeez Rehman	
17.	Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Marcel Van Nijnatten	
18.	Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, University of Edinburgh	Dave Reay	
19.	Emmaus International	Blessing Kuwaumwe	
20.	Federal College Of Agricultural Produce Technology, Hotoro, Kano Nigeria	Bashir Barau	
21.	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)	Francis Hale	
22.	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa	Wole Fatunbi	
23.	Fundación Ingenio	Maria Boluda	
24.	Government of Canada, Global Affairs	Luis Barnola, Maarten De Groot	
25.	Government of Chile	Javier Gorostegui	
26.	Government of Norway	Kjetil Tysdal	
27.	Hired Consult	John Aggrey	
28.	Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa (ICCASA)	Tabitha Muchaba	
29.	Initiative for Agriculture and Rural Development in Mali	Ibrahim Sidibe	
30.	Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE)	Sonali Bisht	



31.	International Agri-Food Network	Rosemary Navarrete	
32.	International Centre for Climate, Food Security & Sustainability	Wajid Nasim Jatoi	
	(ICCFS) -The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB)		
33.	Ireland Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Edwina Love	
34.	Kikandwa Rural Communities Development Organization	Robert Kibaya	
35.	Kothowain (Vulnerable Peoples Development Organization)	Gabriel Tripura	
36.	Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia	Ira Panosyan, Arman Khojoyan	
37.	National Agro Foundation	Melmangalam	
		Ramasubramaniyan	
38.	National Council for Climate Change, Sustainable Development	Kirit Shelat	
39.	and Public Leadership (NCCSD) New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)	Martin Bwalya	
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40.	NextGen Tek Consulting	Harry Hunter	
41.	Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association	Lizzy Igbine	
42.	North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance	Fred Yoder	
43.	One More Salary	Jackson Buzingo	
44.	Peermade Development Society (PDS) Organic Spices	Jacob Jose	
45.	Rainforest Alliance	Leila Yassine, Jordan Hart	
46.	Rural Women Network (formerly Rural Women Initiative)	Pauline Kariuki	
47.	Saeio Global (SGL)	Isa Elegbede	
48.	SeedWorks International Pvt Ltd	Raja Vadlamani, Jaya Sowmya	
		Sanikommu Sanikommu, Ankan	
49.	She Grows it	Bhattacharya, Joseph Jerome Jesca Muzamhindo	
50.	Signature Agri Investments	Hannah Young	
51.	Society for Human and Organizational Development in Harmony	Rajeev Pandey	
51.	(SHODH)	Rajeev Pandey	
52.	Solutions from the Land	Ernest Shea	
53.	Southern Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (SACSAA)	Justice Zvaita	
54.	Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers (SNV) Netherlands Development Organization	Vandana Thottoli	
55.	Switzerland Federal Office for Agriculture	Prisca Pfammatter	
56.	The Convergence	Daniel Cervenka	
57.	Uganda Agribusiness Alliance	Steve Hodges	
58.	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Anna Madalinska	
59.	University of Ibadan	Olawale Olayide	
60.	Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences	Euridice Leyequien Abarca	
61.	Women's Earth Alliance	Daniela Perez	
62.	Women's Union for Rural and Community Development	Pascal Amuri	
63.	World Farmers Organization (WFO)	Francesco Brusaporco	
64.	Zimbabwe Women's Bureau	Memory Chikonyani	
65.	Zr3i	Walid Nasr	



GACSA Secretariat

Hans Hoogeveen	GACSA Co-Chair
Simon Leiva	GACSA Facilitation Unit
Jana Stankova	GACSA Facilitation Unit
Valentina Vitale	GACSA Facilitation Unit
Asja Cortellessa	GACSA Facilitation Unit
Famke van der Meer	GACSA Facilitation Unit