



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR  
CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Enabling Environment Action Group  
(EEAG)

UPDATE 2015

**The Enabling Environment Action Group (EEAG) works to identify the technical, policy and investment conditions needed to scale up Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) approaches, and to promote the harmonization of community-based national agriculture, climate change and food system policies.**

The EEAG is one of three action groups set up to support the work of the **Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)**. It is co-convened by South Africa and Vietnam, with financial support from the government of The Netherlands, and jointly facilitated by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and The African Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), which significantly funded EEAG initial activities.

### Key CSA challenges across countries

- Poor policy coordination and a lack of integration of climate change, food security and rural development, have led to inefficient use of resources and duplicated effort.
- There is limited capacity to scale up initiatives, as small scale farmers are unable to invest in inputs and infrastructure. (Recapitalization of livelihood assets and insurance against risk can assist to build resilience.)
- Land tenure insecurity is an issue in many countries, as farmers cannot invest in an uncertain environment.
- There is a lack of agreement with smallholders in policy design and implementation, leading to limited uptake and effectiveness.

### EEAG activities to date

The EEAG provides a platform for collaboration and information-sharing among a range of organisations and networks. The African Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), is a founding member and has been actively involved in shaping the Group's first two major activities:

1. Promoting the dialogue for scaling up CSA in Africa, aimed at establishing an African alliance on CSA, and ensuring the involvement of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and selected African pilot countries (Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia); and
2. A scoping study on policies on climate change in 15 countries in Sub Saharan Africa.

**The single regional consultation on the building of GACSA, framed with a global perspective, was held in Hanoi in June 2014. GFAR worked to enlist the wide participation of countries, regional organizations, NGOs, farmers and civil society organizations from Asia, sub Saharan Africa and Latin America.**

### OUR OBJECTIVES

*Endorsed by the EEAG*

- To strengthen and enhance public policy frameworks (e.g. through linking sustainable agriculture intensification with climate adaptation, resilience and disaster risk reduction efforts), and to reduce emissions resulting from agriculture and land use change, where possible (including through reduced intensity of emissions).
- To identify adaptation measures, taking into account the diversity of the agricultural systems, indigenous knowledge systems and the differences in scale as well as possible co-benefits.
- To identify agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity (in a sustainable manner), food security, and resilience.
- To incorporate climate-smart agriculture practices into agriculture extension and outreach services.
- To support the mainstreaming of climate-smart agriculture practices into local, community-driven programs, national investment and food security plans and policies for development assistance, including national adaptation plans of action.
- To establish policies that encourages responsible practices and investment along the value chain.

*For more information about the work of the Enabling Environment Action Group, contact Harry Palmier, Global Forum on Agricultural Research (Harry.Palmier@fao.org) or visit the website: [www.fao.org/gacsa](http://www.fao.org/gacsa)*

# GACSA ACTION AREAS

The work of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture is focused on three initial action areas: knowledge, investment and enabling environment. Activities under these action areas include:

1. Voluntary adoption of national strategies for the practice of climate-smart agriculture, within the context of national strategies for agriculture, food security and nutrition;
2. Development of systems that encourage all people to adopt climate-smart agriculture through accessing (a) expertise from other countries, (b) lessons from pilot studies and (c) resources needed to establish the necessary operating principles, extension services and farmer support schemes;
3. The engagement of businesses, foundations, development agencies and intergovernmental organizations in support of this government-led agenda - in ways that bring benefits to the people whose livelihoods are most threatened by climate change.

## Initial Work Plan: Inception year

EEAG, with support from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and funding partners, adopted these main “deliverables” for the end of 2014:

1. A consolidated and unified African position on climate change, including promotion and advocacy activities;
2. Access to adaptation funds, including national policy dialogues to influence sustainable domestic financing;
3. Strengthened capacity for national research and training institutions and research programmes, including for Regional Conservation Agriculture Technical Centres (RCATC) and National Conservation Agriculture Technical Centres (NCATCs), and the establishment of regional and national CSA technical centres.

Building on the Hanoi Regional Consultation in June 2014, and dialogue between Asian, Sub Saharan Africa, and Latin American Country representatives, GFAR worked with regional farmers’ organizations (Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development, Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del MERCOSUR, Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et Producteurs Agricoles d’Afrique de l’Ouest, Caribbean Farmers Network) on a proposal on Empowering Farmers Organizations to cope with Climate Change Through Foresight. It was included in the Joint Statement for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition at the Climate Summit in September 2014, and was one of the first initiatives to be launched with the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture. The proposal was then revised to include the use of GFAR processes to provide a neutral platform for open dialogue with, and across, civil society organizations, non government organisations and others. This in turn led to the revisiting of the current Work Plan.

## Revised Work Plan: Inception year

The Enabling Environment Action Group revised its Work Plan to focus on two main deliverables to support the inception of GACSA:

1. The completion and promotion of the report on Climate-Smart Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa: a Comparative Assessment of Challenges and Opportunities in 15 Countries. (To be published March 2015)
2. The completion and implementation of the proposal on *Empowering Farmers to Cope With Climate Change Through Foresight*.

A workshop to discuss and finetune the EEAG Work Plan against partners’ contribution and available funding will held after the Climate Smart Agriculture conference in April 2015. We anticipate the wider input of organizations such as the Commission on Agriculture and Meteorology, small-locally-owned agribusinesses (under Pan African Agribusiness and Agro Industry Consortium), private sector companies coordinated by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform and national agricultural innovation systems, through their regional and sub regional organizations.

## KEY MESSAGES

- Promoting climate-smart agriculture can generate rural development and improve food security while reducing vulnerability to climate change, but CSA needs to be context-specific.
  - CSA promotion should build on existing efforts, policies and practices. Most Southern and Eastern African countries already have relevant agricultural development strategies/policies. We need to know how to improve them.
  - Existing policy incentive structures may need to be adjusted so they work for CSA, not against it.
  - Systems need policy instruments aimed at changing perceptions of CSA, to sensitize and institutionalize the CSA concept, such as through training extension staff.
  - Policy subsidies and other incentives need to generate long-lasting results, encouraging uptake of practices, not dependence on policies.
- Gender inequality is a key factor in adaptation capacity and needs greater attention and priority
- The connections between agriculture, health and nutrition are fundamental to the sector and must be part of the discussion on climate change and agriculture.
  - Governance is the most pressing sustainable development issue. The complexities of climate change and development require “social adaptation to social consequences”, including policies and governance.