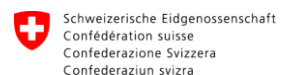




# GACSA 2030 AND BEYOND

## Draft GACSA Strategic Plan 2022-2032

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## Introduction

This “GACSA 2030 and Beyond” Strategic Plan 2022-2032 describes a vision for the future of GACSA and sets out game-changing objectives that Alliance members aim to achieve.

Scaling up the implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices is urgent as our world is changing quickly around us. Innovations spring up daily like seedlings in spring, but this expansion is not without consequence: despite our progress, more than 700 million people live in hunger, around 3 billion people could not access healthy diets in 2019<sup>1</sup>, and 1.6 billion suffer from nutrition-related diseases. The dots do not connect: 1/3 of food produced globally is wasted, but children are still hungry?

We can produce more food than ever before, but biodiversity and hectares of arable land are decreasing. COVID-19 has plunged the whole world in the biggest crisis of recent history. Notwithstanding all our technologies and innovations, viruses can derail our supply chain, severely risk our food security and leave communities vulnerable. It is clear that the shortcomings of our global food systems have been laid bare.

GACSA assembles a growing platform of members as the backbone of the next generation of actors to shape sustainable agriculture and sustainable food systems. Its strategic objectives support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 12.3 (reduce food loss and waste), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 12.2 (sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources). The Alliance confronts the multiple challenges for sustainable agriculture caused by climate change including higher average temperatures, greater differences in water availability and distribution, and increasingly fluctuating and severe weather events.

Addressing food systems challenges will likely involve increasing agricultural productivity in sustainable ways, enhancing social protection that builds productive assets, and reducing inequalities in food access, among other things. As countries are updating their Nationally Determined Contributions, this is an opportune moment to involve all key stakeholders in transforming food systems in the context of climate change. Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) can play a vital role in middle- and long-term national agricultural and climate change strategies.

GACSA, through its upcoming Strategic Plan 2022-2032, will increasingly focus its activities on the SDGs, NDCs and other relevant frameworks to leverage CSA as a tool towards achieving national policy strategies. GACSA members will identify events, capacity building opportunities and potential publications and projects related to the policy frameworks most relevant to the country/countries they work in.

Because future increases in hunger are projected to come mostly from Africa, a particular focus on Africa will be needed. Moreover, the countries that are experiencing conflict and fragility are where hunger is rising the fastest, motivating paying special attention to humanitarian contexts and fragile, conflict-affected settings. Simultaneously, a large share of the global population is not eating a healthy, balanced diet – and about 3 billion people cannot currently even afford to purchase one<sup>2</sup>. Improving access to nutritious foods and making them the preferred option will require addressing three main barriers to

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/cb5409en/cb5409en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/cb5409en/cb5409en.pdf>

access: price (i.e., how to make nutritious food cheaper and nutrient-poor foods relatively more expensive), purchasing power (i.e., increasing purchasing power via social protection, wages, etc.), and perceived affordability (i.e., changing how people value nutritious foods relative to their price).

As the sole global multi-stakeholder apolitical platform for CSA, and by using an integrated knowledge-intensive approach, GACSA seeks to catalyze collaborative action to accelerate the scaling up of CSA through its members' initiatives, engagements and programs. The CSA approach is designed to identify and operationalize sustainable agricultural development within the explicit parameters of climate change. Achieving the transformations required for CSA and meeting these multiple objectives requires an integrated approach that is responsive to specific local conditions. Coordination across agricultural sectors (e.g. crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries) as well as between sectors including energy and water is essential to capitalize on potential synergies, reduce trade-offs and optimize the use of natural resources and ecosystem services.

Since 2014, the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) has been raising awareness about the scale and impact of major agricultural challenges in the context of climate change. GACSA promotes climate-smart solutions that governments, farmers (including herders, pastoralists, fisherfolk, foresters), businesses, and civil society actors can adapt and adopt. Members of the Alliance recognize the urgent need to act at scale and to contribute towards three aspirational outcomes:

- I. Sustainable and equitable increases in agricultural productivity and incomes;
- II. Greater resilience of food systems and farming livelihoods;
- III. Reduction and/or removal of greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture (including the relationship between agriculture and ecosystems), where possible.

To achieve its goals, GACSA is launching this 2022-2032 Strategic Plan. This strategic plan proposes to focus the strategy on accelerating multi-stakeholder actions, recognizing the central role of farmers, and mobilizing resources to offer solutions at local and country level. This document illustrates guiding principles for GACSA's work, as well as strategic themes the Alliance will focus on from 2022 to 2030 and beyond, as an umbrella for reaching game-changing objectives.

## Agenda 2030 and beyond: The GACSA Strategic Plan 2022-2032

We have a roadmap to a more just and sustainable future: Agenda 2030 with a series of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Objectives that, if reached, can help us end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy good health, peace and prosperity. These detailed calls to action provide a framework and direction—but we must act quickly and boldly if the Goals are to be achieved.

GACSA's greatest strength lies in its global inter-sectoral network and partnerships of multiple actors working as one. The Alliance brings together governments, farmers, scientists, businesses, civil society, and regional and international organizations to ensure combined multi-stakeholder and multi-institutional efforts and actions. GACSA is a membership-based alliance with over 530 registered entities and strong collaborations with seven (7) regional CSA alliances.

Our current Strategic Plan 2018-2022 is arriving to its completion, and the "GACSA 2030 and Beyond" vision proposes:

- i. “A ten-year journey”: positioning GACSA to accelerate actions to implement the 2030 Agenda and beyond

The Annual Forum will direct implementation of the ten-year Strategic Plan, mandating steps through:

- ii. “Shaping the journey: a mid-term review” in order to adapt and prioritize shifting priorities, and
- iii. Adopting a year-by-year work plan for 2022-2023 to ensure we are making it happen.

### Key transformations suggested in this strategic plan

The following sections describes two guiding principles and three thematic areas for GACSA’s work. This new direction aims to catalyze GACSA’s potential to help transform food systems. Key transformations suggested in this document include:

- The central role of farmers in climate-smart agriculture as a guiding principle for GACSA’s work;
- Addressing global challenges through strategic opportunities as a guiding principle for GACSA’s work
- Thematic focus areas of: 1) sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation and mitigation in a multi-dimensional food system; 2) innovation and new technologies for climate-smart agriculture; and 3) resiliency and climate change adaptation;
- Opening a CSA knowledge portal for farmers and practitioners to exchange knowledge on CSA crops, innovations, policies etc;
- Launching a GACSA Academy aimed at training Young Farmers to address capacity development needs; and
- Supporting farmers to access finance, affordable innovations, microcredits by providing innovative and supportive matchmaking platforms to shape sustainable food systems at the global level.

### The central role of farmers in food systems as a guiding principle for GACSA’s work

Farmers (including herders, pastoralists, fisherfolk, foresters) are central to food systems and therefore central to the work of GACSA’s members. The quantity, quality and varieties of foods available to consumers – including farmers themselves - depend on farmers’ priorities and capacities and their economic and environmental opportunities. They experiment, adapt and innovate, most often as family and small-scale businesses sensitive to their own constraints, to climate change, to transformations in the market and to the evolution of demand from consumers and business. The multiple functions of agriculture are reflected in farmers as multi-faceted entrepreneurs, both reacting to challenges and profiting from new technologies and new skills to generate new products and services across value chains. They care for our landscapes and biodiversity and are at the frontline of major global issues: climate adversity, pollution, water scarcity and quality, rural poverty and health.

Agriculture is evidently dependent on the climate, as well as a major factor in influencing the climate. People in agriculture face the challenge of attaining a decent livelihood in the context of the effects of climate change. They have always needed to be “climate-smart”, yet growing uncertainty in weather conditions is adding to the challenge of farming especially for smallholders and family farmers who form the majority of producers. The pace of changes in climate, in growing populations with increasing demand

for meat, fish and dairy, and in technologies at multiple levels including monitoring of fields and even individual plants, and weather patterns and predictions, have had immense impact. As innovators, farmers worldwide have become better informed and often better educated, and are ever more connected to education and research through public and private institutions. Farmers' knowledge is paramount and farmers are invited to have participative extension and collaboration with research for exchanging advice, experience, information and techniques.

In order to make food systems more sustainable, it is vital to go beyond the predominant “take (now)-and make-waste (in haste)” model of Economy. Circular economy and bioeconomy models emphasizing environmental sustainability and economic equity have become imperative to ensure an enduring and fair share of access to, and use of, resources as well as a future for our planet and upcoming generations. This renewed vision of food systems decouples economic activities from non-renewable, non-recyclable consumption of limited resources towards:

- a) compile, design and implement innovative strategies focusing on the better use and management of resources;
- b) partnering with actors playing the central role in implementation of agricultural strategies, namely farmers, and
- c) reorienting investment to focus once again on farmers, their value chains and business environment, their potential, capacities and results.

The GACSA “2030 and Beyond” vision places small-scale farmers at the center of our food systems. It is paramount that discussions and projects related to our food systems start “with and by” farmers, as they:

I. **Contribute to local economies and livelihoods:**

Increased incomes and profits among small-scale farmers and their businesses are invested back into local economies, where they create jobs and equitable growth. This is crucial for creating opportunities for rural youth to live and thrive in their home communities.

II. **Are more environmentally sustainable:**

Small-scale farmers often have greater levels of attachment to local landscapes and ecosystems.

This kind of farming is also a rich source of traditional knowledge, offering solutions for balancing food production, livelihoods and the natural world.

III. **Sustain vulnerable communities' food security and nutrition:**

Small-scale farms are especially critical for the food security and nutrition of vulnerable groups. These farms serve predominantly domestic and local markets, including communities that modern supermarkets do not reach. They are of particular importance in developing countries: for example, they produce more than 70 per cent of the food calories in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa and South and East Asia<sup>3</sup>.

GACSA recognizes the urgency in providing farmers with access to funding opportunities, and accessible and affordable innovative technology in order to drive food systems. For this reason, GACSA as a global

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/blog/small-scale-farmers-can-help-build-resilient-food-systems-in-a-post-covid-19-world>

multi-stakeholder platform and its membership is uniquely positioned with governments, private sector, NGOs, and research institutions to facilitate transformational partnerships for farmers through delivering on core, action-oriented discussions and projects with farmers at the center of the food systems.

### Addressing global challenges through strategic opportunities as a guiding principle for GACSA's work

Fostering and facilitating transformational partnerships as described in the previous section requires realizing strategic opportunities at the global and national levels. The Paris Agreement, the UN Food Systems Summit and other global developments open doors to transformative change. GACSA, as a global alliance with a wide membership and collaborating with seven regional alliances, has a unique role to play in recognizing and engaging with relevant strategic opportunities. These may include processes related to policies such as Nationally Determined Contributions and national adaptation plans (NAPs), major global funding opportunities, and all contributions of CSA programs to the Sustainable Development Goals. GACSA's non-state members have great potential to support governments in reaching their middle- and long-term agriculture and climate change targets.

It is time for GACSA's membership to implement CSA programs in the context of major global policy dialogues, and work with partners at country-level (including the UN Rome-based agencies). In these efforts they may build on a wealth of relevant knowledge products, such as the FAO 2021 publication on CSA and the SDGs, which recognizes that: "Climate-smart agriculture actions can support the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. As such, CSA offers the possibility for helping countries to achieve the SDGs and their nationally determined contribution objectives. In addition to advancing climate, food security and income objectives, when a CSA approach is well-designed, it can also contribute to priority goals ranging from gender and social equality, to urban development, education and employment, and forest and ocean health, to name a few."<sup>4</sup> To this range of potential key contributions by the CSA approach, we can add the potential to contribute to conservation of biodiversity and restoration of ecosystems.

### Thematic Focus

For the period of the GACSA Strategic Plan 2022-2032, the Alliance, recognizing the central role of farmers in food systems, will focus its work on three interlinked strategic themes: sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation and mitigation in a multi-dimensional food system, innovation and new technologies for climate-smart agriculture, and resiliency and climate change adaptation.

This re-focusing of the alliance's work, supported by sufficient funding, ensures that GACSA remains fit-for-purpose in a context of significantly expanded membership and ongoing international debates on the SDGs and food systems.

- 1. Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in a Multi-Dimensional Food System**
- 2. Innovation and Technologies for Climate-Smart Agriculture**
- 3. Resiliency and Climate Change Adaptation**

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ca6043en/CA6043EN.pdf>

## 1. Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in a Multi-Dimensional Food System

Agriculture supports the livelihoods of more than 2.5 billion people globally. Given its inherent connection to the environment, its direct reliance on natural resources for production, and its significance for national socio-economic development, urgent and ambitious action is needed to build more sustainable food systems. In GACSA, agriculture is seen as a vital part of wider food systems, which should be transformed due to global challenges including climate change. FAO's definition of a sustainable food system is "A sustainable food system is one that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generation is not compromised. This means that it is *profitable* throughout, ensuring economic sustainability, it has broad-based *benefits for society*, securing social sustainability, and that it has a *positive or neutral impact* on the natural resource environment, safeguarding the sustainability of the environment<sup>5</sup>."

It is abundantly clear that the world needs efficient and sustainable food systems. The challenge of feeding a growing population calls for adequate food production technologies, efficient resource use, and responsible and sustainable value chains, within supportive business environments. CSA has a vital role to play in achieving sustainable food production systems in a holistic manner which will unite interests of all stakeholders. It simultaneously addresses agricultural, economic and social development including gender equality and youth involvement while sustaining environmental systems and their integrity. Practices and technologies, many of which already exist, need to be profitable and socially beneficial while reducing the impact on the environment and climate, and coping with climate trends, events and change at local and national level. Food systems should contribute to ecosystem restoration, including soil restoration, and ecosystem services delivery. We have to make tools and technologies more accessible, affordable and adaptable for all farmers worldwide.

Building on the Alliance's work since 2014, GACSA galvanizes its members and stakeholders (governments, businesses, farmers' organizations and producer organizations, civil society groups, research bodies and intergovernmental entities) to promote and strengthen multi-stakeholder and multi-institutional efforts that lead to positive change, producing more with less.

### Recommended objectives for GACSA's membership

GACSA will undertake multi-disciplinary approaches and expand its outreach efforts to engage in innovative discussions on global food systems with actors working in the range of areas closely related to agriculture. These include actors working on health and nutrition, decent rural employment, youth employment, and agricultural heritage.

In addition, GACSA aims to capture existing and new funding opportunities from different sources (international, public and private), while building on existing knowledge, technologies, and principles of sustainable agriculture. Considering the synergies and trade-offs between productivity, adaptation, and mitigation, this thematic area will re-position CSA as a champion of supporting farmers to implement sustainable food production systems.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fao.org/food-systems/en/>



Highlighted recommended objective for this focus area:

**Opening a CSA knowledge portal for Farmers and practitioners** to exchange knowledge on CSA crops, innovations, policies etc, recognizing the role of CSA in food systems:

The GACSA's Knowledge Portal helps countries to accelerate climate-smart action by providing quick and easy access to data, tools, guidance, good practice, and funding opportunities.

The Knowledge Portal draws together the most relevant resources from partners and other leading institutions.

GACSA convenes expertise to generate an operational knowledge sharing platform on innovative practices to generate the evidence to inform decision-making processes for future investment.

Recommended objectives are to:

*Evidence – GACSA will address gaps in knowledge and technology, and investments needed to support uptake and adoption of CSA practices and technologies through:*

- Providing technical support in identifying the synergies and trade-offs between sustainable food production, adaptation, and mitigation.

*Field-level work – GACSA will pilot good practices for CSA adapted to local circumstances:*

- Facilitation of bankable projects that help key actors to co-design and co-implement CSA programs related to GACSA members expertise such as soil restoration and climate services.
- Strengthening institutional capacities to drive, improve and develop local skills and foster communication so that stakeholders can make informed development choices (e.g. the GACSA Youth Academy).
- Exploring opportunities to scale up good practices in CSA through the Alliances' Membership and Regional CSA Alliances
- Global and regional CSA Alliances that contribute to the success of members and partners in developing a pipeline of bankable proposals
- Stimulating and promoting a holistic, multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder approach to ensure that traditional knowledge, modern science and technologies are integrated into research and innovation.
- Promoting mechanisms to blend and coordinate matchmaking of funding from different sources, including public, private, agricultural development, and climate financing to support climate-smart agriculture (including the GCF and Adaptation Fund).

*Outreach - GACSA will facilitate dialogues to reflect on the need for coherent and comprehensive approaches for developing sustainable food production:*

- Build a cohort of "CSA champions" and a coordinated approach to advance climate-smart solutions, taking advantage of opportunities and overcome challenges in food systems.
- In collaboration with the global and regional alliances, support global, regional, and national climate change and sustainable food production action partnerships, including the public and

private sectors, community groups, and non-governmental organizations and including in the context of NDCs and NAPs.

- Initiate and promote lesson-learning processes (establishing coherence of issues from Local to Global), to establish effective CSA responses through specific tools, in particular developing strategies and best practices.
- GACSA will significantly increase its partnerships with actors from sectors beyond agricultural production by: mobilizing professional chefs, educators and food influencers to foster novel, creative ideas for new produce and products for smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs.

### *Conclusion*

Sustainable productivity is achievable, provided locally and regionally adapted sound technologies and practices, and development of mechanisms and enabling conditions including a business environment that minimizes risks, which is one of the alternatives to reduce the negative environmental footprint of food systems.

Food systems must become climate-smart to ensure sustainability. Under these themes, GACSA will play a key role in driving the enablers of change through innovative CSA actions that mainstream the three pillars (productivity/adaptation/mitigation) effectively.

## **2. Innovation and Technologies for Climate-Smart Agriculture**

We are really lagging behind on the implementation of Agenda 2030 and, its development goals and the Paris Agreement. GACSA offers new ways achieve significant results transforming the dynamics of agriculture and climate change.

The world's growing population is increasingly dependent on vulnerable food production as changes in climate undermine longstanding agricultural practices. Innovative climate-smart technologies, practices, policies and funding mechanisms are urgently required to improve food security and drive economic growth.

With our current technologies we can only deliver 20-40% of the needed reduction in GHGs from agricultural emissions. It is crucial to raise global ambitions for transformative climate action on all levels through innovation in new technologies, policies, data-driven decision making and partnerships. In addition, as young people around the world demand climate action, innovation and new technologies provide an arena to stimulate youth expertise in food systems. Climate-smart innovations can enhance existing approaches and deliver new ways to sustainably increase agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, conserve nature and biodiversity, adapt and build resilience to climate change, and reduce GHG emissions in food systems.

GACSA will support developing and sharing innovative climate-smart agriculture practices. It will source climate-smart technologies and approaches to improve food security from members representing diverse stakeholders. GACSA will promote climate-smart agricultural innovations in order to accelerate the global scaling up of CSA through research and development as well as knowledge sharing.

### Recommended objectives for GACSA's membership

Innovation is a window of opportunity to explore adequate ways of combining knowledge, organizing events and implementing projects for GACSA members. It is an entry point for scaling up practices in agriculture through inspiring their application and adaptation. GACSA will bring new energy to the global arena on agriculture and climate change by developing and promoting innovative CSA approaches with emphasis on attracting youth.

#### Highlighted recommended objective for this focus area:

**Launching the GACSA Academy aimed at training Young Farmers** to address members' capacity development needs and build on their innovation capacity:

Young farmers will learn UN-inspired civic skills (i.e. negotiation, group and public speaking, how to advocate, interact and influence with high-level actors from government and private sector) on partnerships and processes from various stakeholders (i.e. Committee on World Food Security (CFS), UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP)). This program will be implemented in close partnership with future donors.

The GACSA Academy will be composed by a group of young farmers from GACSA member organizations worldwide. Each edition of the programme lasts for 24 months and the young farmers meet at least twice per year on the occasion of international conferences related to agriculture, so to gain an exposure to the reality of the global negotiations on agriculture. The first edition of the programme will start in Jan 2022 and ended in Oct 2024 with a graduation ceremony at the GACSA Annual Forum (FAO headquarters in Rome).

Recommended objectives include:

#### *Evidence – Strengthen partnerships with research institutions, universities, private sector and farmer organizations through:*

- Sharing knowledge on national (local), regional and international CSA practices and technology development.
- GACSA will stimulate application of a multi-functional approach to agricultural initiatives that increase members' capability in research, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- GACSA will convene diverse actors to foster new forms of innovation, where research institutions are closely connected to other stakeholder groups in innovation platforms that deliver creative solutions to CSA problems.
- Working closely together on research and development, including digital agriculture.
- Living labs on CSA.

#### *Field-level work – GACSA members will work together to:*

- Promote research and community outreach programmes on indigenous and other promising crops, livestock and fish to increase access to nutrient dense foods to reduce the burden of all forms of malnutrition.
- Improve farm-level access to climate-resilient farming practices such as drought-resistant crops.
- Upscale proven research and outreach programmes that are yielding results at community/field level.

#### *Outreach – GACSA will convene food system actors to promote CSA innovations by:*

- GACSA Talks: providing the opportunity to share and develop ideas amongst GACSA member institutions.
- GACSA will showcase a dedicated platform for “Innovation and New Technologies” members, partnering with Young Farmers, Startups and Innovative companies.

#### *Conclusion*

Innovation and the development of new technologies are major contributors towards sustainable food systems. GACSA’s global multi-stakeholder network provides a unique opportunity to share best practices for innovations, policies and funding mechanisms. It is paramount to develop climate-smart agricultural innovations, however it is equally important to provide access to these innovations for governments, private sector and farmers worldwide. GACSA, as the only global platform for scaling up CSA, can be a major catalyzer in making innovation more accessible to its members, and notably deliver solutions by and for youth. Providing support to members from research institutions, universities, farmer organizations and governments will accelerate their collaboration.

### **3. Resiliency and Climate Change Adaptation**

Smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As more than 2 billion people worldwide depend on small farms for their livelihoods, it is urgent to increase their climate resiliency. Farmers rely on their direct natural environment for their income and are hard hit by climate-induced disasters and slow-onset events. Climate change affects food security, rural poverty and displacement. Addressing climate change is therefore crucial throughout the humanitarian – development – peace nexus.

GACSA’s broad and diverse membership can stimulate large-scale projects that integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The GACSA network can play a pivotal role in understanding underlying causes of rural communities’ vulnerability and in scaling up locally appropriate resilience-building activities and plans.

GACSA is uniquely placed to promote multi-stakeholder dialogues that lead to actions that combine the strengths of all stakeholders to improve farmers’ climate resiliency. Through co-designing and co-implementing projects, public, private and civil society sectors can jointly reduce vulnerability combining legal, economic, social and environmental aspects. Working closely together, GACSA members can share and generate practical knowledge that will feed directly into projects at scale, targeting smallholder farmers.

#### **Recommended objectives for GACSA’s membership**

GACSA will take action along the three areas of evidence, field-level work and outreach, addressing gaps and capitalizing on best practices to improve resiliency of smallholder farmers.

Highlighted recommended objective for this focus area:

**Support Farmers to access finance, affordable innovations, microcredits** by providing innovative and supportive matchmaking platforms to shape sustainable food systems at the global level and increase resiliency:

The GACSA Matchmaking platform will play a strategic role as a “broker”, linking good ideas and implementers interested in investing in CSA scale-up, and ease access to finance for small farmers.

Promoting mechanisms to blend and coordinate matchmaking of funding from different sources, including public, private, agricultural development, and climate financing to support climate-smart agriculture (including the GCF and Adaptation Fund).

Recommended objectives include:

*Evidence – GACSA’s members, supported by the GACSA Academy, will bring together:*

- State-of-the art findings from projects on climate risks, climate services, and early warning for early action.
- Research findings on how adopting climate-smart practices affects the vulnerability and climate resilience of (smallholder) farmers.
- Universities leading on agriculture and climate change to share knowledge on improving farmers’ resilience with global and regional policy makers, private sector and civil society.
- Gather and disseminate for validation ongoing innovations by farmers, including smallholders, to reduce vulnerability and increase their risk resilience.

*Field-level work – GACSA will identify opportunities and facilitate significant multi-stakeholder projects through:*

- Designing a co-conceived and co-implemented approach including meaningful youth and women’s participation.
- Directly applying food and nutrition security information and early warning systems, leading to better preparedness for disaster response to improve resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods to shocks and disasters through the application of good practices, processes and technologies.
- Partnering with other relevant alliance to facilitate projects on climate-smart practices.

*Outreach – GACSA will engage members to reach new audiences with state-of-the-art resilience information:*

- GACSA, through its Bureau and other members, will facilitate high-level political dialogues on climate resiliency in food systems.
- Provide opportunities for members to reach a wide multi-stakeholder audience and get feedback from this audience.

### *Conclusion*

Improving the resiliency of food systems is at the heart of the work of GACSA’s membership. The Alliance will foster practical knowledge generation and sharing, leading to concrete multi-stakeholder action to make a significant contribution to climate resiliency at the global, regional and national level.

## Implementing the GACSA 2030 and Beyond Vision

The vision set out in this draft strategic plan responds to global challenges on local, national and international levels. Implementing this vision requires strong engagement from GACSA's membership, supported by a fit-for-purpose GACSA Facilitation Unit. It may also require additional ways of working. This section describes a potential new implementation model, as well as membership and funding needs and opportunities.

### GACSA's Implementation Model



*GACSA's governance in implementation model*

GACSA member institutions deliver on three key CSA success factors associated with GACSA's action groups (knowledge, enabling environment and investment). GACSA offers robust clearing house capacity to generate relevant information, knowledge and analytical skills for all stakeholder needs.

GACSA's Strategic Committee has highlighted the need for further resources to support delivering on these objectives, and the need to better include members at the grassroots level, for project implementation and increased understanding of local priorities and needs.

### Broadening Membership and Funding Basis

The suggested objectives in this strategic plan are based on an assumption of a significant increase in funding. Since its creation, GACSA has received financial support from a number of member governments, including Norway, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ireland, Switzerland, and the United States of America. These financial contributions to GACSA's budget, mostly through a multi-donor trust fund, have been complemented by in-kind contributions (mostly staff secondments) from France, Italy, the United States and the Netherlands. These resources have largely been depleted and need replenishment. Sufficient funding for the Facilitation Unit is a requirement to enable GACSA members to meet the suggested objectives set out in this vision.

The global challenges and opportunities, including those related to the SDGs, in the agriculture and climate change spheres are enormous. GACSA can play a significant role in a transformation if it plays a stronger role in catalyzing change through facilitation. Helping GACSA's members reach their objectives is the primary goal of GACSA's Facilitation Unit. It may convene action groups, support Board members as GACSA champions and work closely with regional alliances while implementing a global matchmaking platform, if it is sufficiently funded.

It is paramount that GACSA:

- 1) Secures high-level political and financial support of key members to unlock the human and financial resources required for effective coordination;
- 2) Is seen as a very powerful platform for contributing to the implementation of the landmark Paris Agreement. GACSA should focus on catalyzing action by all key stakeholders to help countries achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions in the agriculture sector. By scaling CSA practices, it can overcome challenges to achieve its ambitious goals. This will only be possible with stronger institutional backing and financial support from member organizations committed to its success; and
- 3) Strengthens its collaboration with Rome-based UN agencies.

### Way forward for GACSA

Sustainable food systems are achievable in the context of current and expected climatic conditions. GACSA can play a crucial role in driving change through innovative CSA actions that effectively mainstream the three pillars (productivity/adaptation/mitigation). GACSA's global multi-stakeholder network provides a unique opportunity as a way forward to share best practices for innovative practices, policies and funding mechanisms.

GACSA's growing membership calls to improve food security, nutrition, and resilience in the face of climate change by adopting a holistic, multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder approach to ensure advances in knowledge and technologies integrated into sustainable food systems. The game-changing objectives presented in this strategic plan represent what it takes to bring the potential of CSA to scale. Guided by the the central role of farmers in food systems, and seizing strategic opportunities at the global and national levels, GACSA can reach significant results in the field of sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation and mitigation in a multi-dimensional food system; innovation and new technologies for climate-smart agriculture; resiliency and climate change adaptation. Game-changers may include opening a CSA knowledge portal for farmers and practitioners, launching a GACSA Academy for youth, and supporting farmers to access finance, affordable innovations, microcredits through matchmaking platforms.

Reaching these objectives requires long-term investments by governments and other partners in CSA programmes and in a Facilitation Unit to connect, convene and communicate in order to ensure partnerships. The goal is to achieve a collective agenda for sustainable food systems: the "GACSA 2030 and Beyond" Vision.

As we enter an era of climate transformation, novelty and uncertainty, it is crucial to scale up feasible climate-smart options and innovations for agriculture and provide ready access to these innovations to governments and farmers worldwide. The Alliance ensures constructive, multi-stakeholder engagement to face the challenges of our future, together.

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