Scaling Up
Climate-Smart Agriculture
Together Through
GACSA

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Outline

Background
- What is CSA and why is it important?
- What is GACSA?

Survey Report
- Guiding questions
- Results

Farmers’ Barriers to Implementing CSA

GACSA Action Group
Recommendations

Limitations
What is CSA?

“Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development, profitability, and ensure food security in a changing climate” -FAO

- Aims to enhance the capacity of agricultural systems to adapt to climate change through climate-smart practices and strategies
- Considers potential to incorporate mitigation and maintain long-term sustainability
What is GACSA?

- UN FAO’s Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture - inclusive, voluntary, and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platform on CSA
  - GACSA provides the means to help stakeholders from local to national and international levels identify agricultural strategies suitable to their local conditions

- 478 members
  - Governments
  - NGOs

- Three Action Groups
  - Knowledge Action Group (KAG)
  - Enabling Environment (EE)
  - Investment Action Group (IAG)

- Regional Alliances
What challenges do farmers face from climate change?

What resources do farmers need to better implement Climate Smart Agriculture practices?

What barriers inhibit GACSA member organizations from promoting Climate Smart Agriculture practices?

What can the GACSA action groups do to help organizations overcome those barriers?
What challenges do farmers face from climate change?
Most Highly Ranked Climate Change Impacts Affecting Farms

1. Drought
2. Extreme Rainfall Events and Flooding
3. Changing Growing Seasons
4. Soil Erosion
5. Increased Weed/Insect/Disease Pressures
6. Heat Stress
Farmer Preparedness

Participants were asked to rate how well prepared the farmers in their country or organization were to adapt to, mitigate, or sustainably intensify production in response to climate change.

**Adaptation:** When asked if they were extremely, very, moderately, slightly, or not prepared to adapt to climate change, the majority cited they were slightly to moderately prepared.

**Mitigation:** Majority cited not to slightly prepared to mitigate, showing farmers are least prepared to mitigate.

**Sustainable Intensification:** Majority cited moderate preparedness to sustainably intensify
What resources do farmers need to better implement Climate Smart Agriculture practices?
Information Needs Related to Adaptation Practices

1. Soil Health
2. Agroecology
3. Efficient Irrigation
4. Organic Fertilizer
5. Drought Tolerance

Support Needs Related to Farm Management Issues

1. Climate Change (Extension Services, Knowledge Sharing, Ag Policies)
2. Farm Profitability (Knowledge of Finance Economics)
3. Extreme Weather Events (Disaster Planning and Resilience)
4. Market Uncertainty (Financial Planning)
5. Production Costs (Funding)
What barriers inhibit GACSA members from promoting Climate Smart Agriculture practices?
Barriers

Knowledge (Table 16)
- Lack of financing initiatives/opportunities
- Lack of information on longer term (year on year) benefits of change
- Not enough info on CSA practices to implement them effectively

Enabling Environment (Table 20)
- There is not enough funding
- There are not enough Extension Services
- National policies are not implemented locally

Investment (Table 22)
- Lack of access to rural financial services
- Lack of connection between lending requirements and CSA practices
- Lack of government central finance and policy support
What can the GACSA action groups do to help organizations overcome these barriers?
Knowledge

- Knowledge Dissemination and Data Sharing
  - Regional data sharing on pest, disease, weed pressure & management (building up soil organic matter)
  - Climate and weather services/tools
  - Enhance social media presence
- Promote/develop extension and advisory services, especially in remote areas
- Broaden knowledge-base and engagement in CSA (Youth and Women)
- Diversify knowledge on adaptation strategies
Enabling Environment

- Increase access to climate & weather services
- Increase Political Support
  - Use GACSA/FAO affiliation, community forums, promote ag focus in politics
- Develop case studies on CSA National Policies
- Analyse CSA in Country NDCs
- Harmonize CSA Agenda/Link Regional Alliances
Investment

- Increase financial literacy
- Facilitate public/private partnerships to fund CSA
- Foster linkages between financial institutions and GACSA members in need of funding
- Increase coherence between lending requirements and CSA practices
- Expand access to rural finance
- Expand youth access to financial resources
Limitations

- Limited number of respondents and women respondents
- Responses are not from the farmers themselves
- COVID-19
Next Steps

Publish Newsletter

Conduct Webinar

Recommendations for Action Groups
Thank you!

Cornell University

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GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE