



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

From: Netherlands delegation
To: Council
Subject: Progress on the Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture
- *Information from the Netherlands delegation*

Delegations will find, in the Annexes, a note from the Netherlands delegation to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 19 May 2014.

Introduction

Since the *Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change* in December 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa there has been a lot of progress on the establishment of the Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture.

The Hague Consultative meeting 16-17 April 2014

The department for Agriculture of the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, hosted a 1,5 days consultative meeting, organized by the Interim Secretariat for the Alliance for CSA. The meeting focused on the proposed framework document, with governance structure and looked at specific preparations for the upcoming Abu Dhabi Ascent meeting 4-5 May, in preparation of the envisaged launch of Alliance during the UN SG's Climate Summit.

Results

- Consensus, in principle, on draft Framework Document for the Alliance for CSA with governance structure, to attract new supporters/participants to the Alliance. Further work needed in next month's on the Alliance's aspirational quantified goals;
- Partnership enlarged with new supporters to the Alliance for CSA;
- Agreement on the next steps and broad timelines for advancing the Alliance for CSA development leading up to the Sept Climate Summit;
- Communication documents will be updated along the agreed Framework document.

Abu Dhabi Ascent meeting 4-5 May 2014

In preparation of the September 23rd Climate Summit the Abu Dhabi Ascent took place on May 4th and 5th 2014. The UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for climate change, H.E. John Kufour presented on Climate and Agriculture and the Netherlands Minister Sharon Dijksma presented the proposal for an Alliance for CSA in the plenary meeting.

The second day there was a special breakout session dedicated to Climate and Agriculture. The participants in the breakout session fully endorsed the inclusion of food and agriculture in the Secretary-General's Climate Summit to enable scaled up action on two major challenges that must be addressed to secure a long-term future for humanity – nourishing a growing population and healing a warming planet.

Results

- The Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture will be launched at the Summit;
- It will catalyze partnerships and initiatives that increase yields sustainably, become more resilient and reduce emissions. At the same time, they will conserve forests, top-soil and fish stocks;
- A number of initiatives and activities were presented during the breakout session, and might be linked to the ongoing work of the Alliance for CSA.

Update 3 Action Groups

- **Investment:** IFAD and WB as co-conveners with others are working on establishing the area of work to be covered. A meeting of private sector actors is being planned for late June/early July.
- **Knowledge:** FAO and CCAFS as co-conveners have recently concluded an on line survey to allow stakeholders to highlight knowledge requirements and gaps.

- **Enabling Environment:** Governments of Vietnam, South Africa and the Netherlands will co-organize an Asian regional consultative meeting as part of the formal preparatory work for launching the Alliance for CSA.

Upcoming Events

- FAO update meeting for Permanent Representatives – May June 2014 (date tbc)
 - Action Group on Knowledge side event at the International Encounters: Family Farming and Research, Montpellier, June 1-3, 2014
 - Asian Regional Consultation, Vietnam, June 9-11, 2014
 - Global CSA Conference, The Netherlands, July 9-11, 2014
 - UN Secretary Generals Climate Summit, New York, 23 September 2014
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Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture: Framework Document

17 April 2014

I Vision

1 In today's world there is enough food for all to be well-fed but one person in eight is food insecure. The world's population is growing - in 2050 it is projected to exceed 9 billion people. Climate change already undermines agriculture and food systems in many regions, making it more difficult to achieve food security and poverty reduction. Smallholder farmers, often women, and indigenous peoples are especially vulnerable to climate change. To enable all people to achieve food security and for food producers to improve their livelihoods in coming decades, there is a need for sustainable increases in agricultural productivity; for all food systems to be resilient and able to adapt to climate change; and for agriculture to contribute to reduction and removal of greenhouse gas emissions, where appropriate.

2 This Framework Document describes the formation of an Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (ACSA). The Alliance will help governments, farmers, scientists, businesses, and civil society, as well as regional unions and international organizations, to adjust agricultural practices, food systems and social policies so that they better take account of climate change and efficient use of natural resources. Members of the Alliance will commit to support: sustainable increases in the productivity of food systems, by a sustainable use of natural resources, the adaptation of people's livelihoods that are threatened by climate change, and agricultural practices that contribute to reduced emissions and less deforestation as a result of agriculture. The Alliance will enable governments and other stakeholders to make these transformations in ways that bridge traditional sectoral, organizational and public/private boundaries. The Alliance on CSA will support other international processes, related to agriculture, food security and climate change.

II Aspirational Outcomes

3 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; and

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- iii. Reduction and/or removal of greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture (including the relationship between agriculture and ecosystems), where possible.

4 Members of the Alliance will include governments (from countries at all levels of development), businesses, civil society groups, producer organizations, research bodies and intergovernmental entities. They will each indicate their actions in support of the aspirational outcomes.

5 The Alliance will develop concrete aspirational outcomes, these outcomes might be expressed in terms of expected achievements globally, or within specific countries or regions, if possible numerically. These aspirational outcomes will be expressed as concrete achievements in terms of changes in national policies for people's food security, livelihoods and when possible as potential results on the ground. They include:

- Voluntary adoption of national strategies for the practice of Climate-Smart Agriculture, within the context of national strategies for agriculture, food security and nutrition;
- 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;
- 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.

III Approach

- 6 It is envisaged that the Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (ACSA) will be:
- A food security-focused, agriculture-driven and **action-oriented coalition of entities** committed to incorporating climate-smart approaches into agriculture.
 - An **inclusive, knowledge-sharing platform** that inspires its members, promotes far-ranging dialogue, encourages concerted advocacy, and
 - A **voluntary association** whose members support the adoption and implementation of Climate-Smart Agriculture, provide regular updates on progress toward their individual and collective aspirations.
- 7 The Alliance will broker, catalyze and help create transformational partnerships to encourage actions that reflect an integrated approach to the three pillars of Climate-Smart

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Agriculture (CSA), as well as synergies between them. The **pillars include sustainable improvements in productivity, building resilience, and reducing and removing greenhouse gases**. The partnerships will **inspire** the development and dissemination of innovative, evidence-based options for Climate-Smart Agriculture in different settings, and will involve a broad range of government and other stakeholders. The partnerships will take account of the synergies and trade-offs relating to agriculture, climate change and food security.

8 The Alliance will seek to ensure that efforts undertaken across sectors and among stakeholders are designed to yield maximum community - and country - level benefits, and are fully **integrated**. The Alliance will bring stakeholders together to develop and **implement** coordinated climate-smart agriculture and food systems policies across landscapes, at national and regional levels. The Alliance will aim to achieve significant, measurable benefits, for both food security and climate in ways that can be taken to scale.

9 One of the functions of the Alliance will be to identify priorities for action with the aim of maximizing the **impact** of the actions taken. Members will determine their actions according to their needs and priorities. Each member will inform the Alliance as a whole on actions made and qualitative or quantitative impact achieved .

IV Initial Focus

10 The work of the Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture will focus on three initial action areas: knowledge, investment and enabling environment.

10.1 Knowledge: Increasing and promoting knowledge, research and development into technologies, practices, and approaches for Climate-Smart Agriculture; practices and technology sharing and cooperation; improving communication and information sharing among participants; and outreach, extension, and technical assistance.

Objectives pertaining to knowledge may include:

- Identifying and filling knowledge gaps that hinder adoption and implementation of Climate-Smart Agriculture;
- Developing adequate metrics;
- Stimulating research and investment in Climate-Smart Agriculture and food systems, drawing on indigenous knowledge and expertise where feasible;
- Connecting research findings to the experiences of practitioners in a transparent and open way;
- Developing knowledge platforms in order to exchange data and information;

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- Scaling up south-south knowledge sharing and support;
- Strengthening extension and support tools for Climate-Smart Agriculture, reflecting the perspectives of producers, are based on their empirical knowledge and draw on their experiences (through farmer-to-farmer engagements); and
- Strengthening institutional capacity development for knowledge, practice and technology sharing relating to Climate-Smart Agriculture.

10.2 Investment: Improving the effectiveness of public and private investments that support the three pillars of Climate-Smart Agriculture.

Objectives pertaining to investment may include:

- Encouraging existing public and private investments to review their compatibility with Climate-Smart Agriculture;
- Leveraging new public and private investment into Climate-Smart Agriculture from domestic and external (multilateral and bilateral) sources;
- Developing methodologies and metrics to guide investment strategies;
- Improving climate-resilience of rural and agriculture infrastructure while reduces greenhouse gases where appropriate;
- Engaging government departments, institutions, farmer organizations, the private sector and agri-businesses (large and small) and others in multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate-smart investments in agriculture and food systems, including supply chains; and
- Increasing farmers' access to weather forecasting and risk management tools such as insurance.

10.3 Enabling environments: Integrating Climate-Smart Agriculture into policy, strategies and planning at regional, national, and local levels and across landscapes.

Objectives pertaining to enabling environments may include:

- Changing public policy frameworks, for example through linking sustainable agriculture intensification with climate adaptation, resilience and disaster risk reduction efforts, and aiming to reduce emissions – or the intensity of emissions -- as a result of agriculture and land use change;
- Incorporating Climate-Smart Agriculture practices into agriculture extension and outreach services;
- Mainstreaming Climate-Smart Agriculture practices into local, community-driven programs, national investment and food security plans and policies for development assistance;

- Establishing policies that encourage responsible practices and investment along the value chain; and
- Facilitating the adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture technology, practices and systems.

V *Structure*

11 The Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture will have a light organizational structure composed of for example a Strategic Committee and a Facilitating Team. It will meet initially after its launch as a leadership level forum to select initial focus areas for a near-term work plan, so that it evolves into a forum capable of elevating agriculture to an appropriately high-level of consideration in meeting our climate and food security challenges.

12 The Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture will take into account and, where appropriate, draw upon existing programmes and initiatives to avoid duplication or the creation of parallel organizations. The Alliance will draw on international, as well as regional and national organizations, with mandates that include coordination and facilitation: this should avoid the establishment of any additional mechanisms for these purposes. The structure of the Alliance will be sufficiently flexible to enable participants to organize additional working groups, actions and programmes.

13 All members of the Alliance will be enabled to access information, experiences, expertise, contacts and support. Initially there will be three action groups available to members of the Alliance – on knowledge sharing, access to investment and the creation of enabling environments. They will also be encouraged to engage in regional and thematic programmes.

VI Participation

14 The Alliance will be a voluntary coalition. It will be open to governments, international and regional organizations, institutions, civil society, farmers' organizations and businesses who subscribe to the Alliance's framework, including vision and objectives, as described in this document, and who commit to being actively engaged in and/or contributing to activities and impact of the Alliance.

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- There is no fee for participation in the Alliance. Members may choose to provide voluntary in-kind or financial contributions in support of the administration of the Alliance as well as of the actions defined by the Alliance.
- Entities that join the Alliance will be expected to subscribe to this document and indicate their intended actions in pursuit of the aspirational outcomes and approach described within it. They will be expected to provide periodic updates on their actions in support of these aspirational outcomes and on their qualitative or quantitative impact being achieved .

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