



## **International Agricultural Research Cooperation for Climate Change - Follow-up side event of G7 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Meeting at the COP22, UN Climate Change Conference 2016 -**

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### **Chair's Summary**

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1. "International Agricultural Research Cooperation for Climate Change - Follow-up side event of G7 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Meeting at the COP22, UN Climate Change Conference 2016 -" was convened in Marrakech, Morocco on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Government of Japan chaired the event, which followed soon after the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Representative stakeholders from G7 Countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and United States of America) and two international organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)) attended the side event, with four international initiatives; the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA), the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), the 4/1000 Initiative and the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). In addition, approximately 40 participants as observers, who were participating in the COP22, attended the event.
2. Given the importance of the activities for international agricultural research cooperation associated with climate change, the side event was convened to bring together the initiatives that share the common perspectives on climate-resilient and low-emission agriculture while ensuring food security and to explore areas of synergy by taking advantage of the commonality of membership and key researchers among the initiatives. Feeding a growing population while implementing agricultural practices that improve resilience, reduce emissions and enhance carbon sequestration is both a challenge and an opportunity. The participants shared current activities on agricultural research for climate change. The following is a brief summary of the Chair's assessment on the main thrusts of the deliberations at the side event.

#### **Research activities of GRA, GACSA, the 4/1000 Initiative and the GSP**

3. The four initiatives made presentations on their updated activities for providing the participants with the better understanding of each initiative.

4. The GRA provides a framework for voluntary action to increase cooperation and investment in research and research implementation activities. The GRA comprises 46 member countries and 14 Partner organizations and conducts its work through four Research Groups and associated Networks, that identify opportunities to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration by improving efficiency and productivity of agricultural systems through increased understanding of management practices and technologies.
5. GACSA is an inclusive, voluntary and action-oriented multi-stakeholder coalition on Climate-Smart Agriculture and its core activities are driven through three Action Groups on Knowledge, Investment and Enabling Environment. The alliance also supports and promotes the work of its members, comprised of diverse stakeholder groups including research organizations and institutions. Hence research within GACSA is embodied in the various research programs of these members and the outputs of this research that are relevant to CSA are harnessed through the Knowledge Action Group.
6. The aim of the “4/1000 Initiative: soils for food security and climate” (174 members to date) is to provide solutions to both food security and climate challenges by improving soil fertility. Building on a solid scientific expertise and a strong international cooperation program, this multi-stakeholder initiative aims to foster projects and practices that improve the levels of organic matter and carbon sequestration in soils in a sustainable manner. This voluntary initiative under the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) will develop both an action plan and an international research program, and will promote capacity building and exchanges of experiences and learnings.
7. Research under the GSP (composed of FAO member countries and more than 400 other non-state partners) aims to engage all potential actors to develop R&D strategies, invest resources and execute complementary actions towards agreed objectives to promote sustainable soil management for food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation and the provision of ecosystem services as a contribution to the 2030 agenda, bearing in mind all possible R&D dimensions (i.e. close gaps in knowledge, generate or improve technologies to solve problems, and support human development). The research action under the GSP is to promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps, priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions.

### **Coordinated activities among the initiatives and with G7 and international organizations**

8. With regard to the coordinated activities, participants introduced various types of activities, including the followings:
  - The Initiatives would reinforce existing synergies and seek new synergies for generating practical impacts in terms of food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation with other initiative(s) and/or other organization(s) and thereby enhance

knowledge towards achieving their aims and contributing to the “Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development” as well as the Paris Agreement. To achieve this, the Initiatives would benefit from sharing expertise and innovative technologies as well as research infrastructure.

- The commonality of membership among the initiatives yields mutual benefits to all the initiatives through the research conducted by the various members and their extended networks. Information exchange among the Initiatives in particular, greatly contributes to the impact of these initiatives on their various constituencies. In fact, most of GACSA members and their key researchers are also members of the GRA. GACSA, through its Knowledge Action Group (KAG), contributes to identifying the research priorities that may be of interest of the GRA. Meanwhile, the research output of the GRA also feeds into the knowledge base on which most KAG activities are built. In addition, it is expected that the 4/1000 Initiative will be supported by activities under the Integrative Research Group of the GRA, in particular the Soil Carbon Sequestration Network and the Grasslands Network, and other research activities on soils, including within GSP.
- Since the GSP is hosted by FAO, all research activities conducted under the GSP are done through, or in collaboration with, other initiatives and/or organizations with the FAO/GSP Secretariat as facilitating and/or coordinating agency through the relevant funding mechanisms. Implementation of research under the GSP is conducted through the Regional Soil Partnerships and as an FAO-based Partnership, the GSP is strongly supported at country-level. Therefore, the GSP also relies strongly on country-level implementation of research activities in collaboration with various relevant national, regional and global organizations.
- Seeking to inspire multi-disciplinary collaboration and to improve the quality and applicability of research, provide new avenues for future R&D programs, and draw attention to funding bodies. To achieve this, the initiatives need pro-active engagement with other organizations and countries to foster synergies by identifying common goals and how effective collaboration can be used to reach these common goals.

### **The Way Forward**

9. Participants expressed general support to this follow-up side event to follow the existing four initiatives, i.e. the GRA, the GACSA, the 4/1000 Initiatives and the GSP in a concerted manner, which acted as a “catalyst” for facilitating the development of these initiatives.
10. Participants recognized, with a greater interest, the importance of continuing presentation of results and exchanges of views between these initiatives.
11. Besides, the Initiatives expressed their future contribution to fostering the synergies. From this point of view, it is noted that the GRA Council Meeting to be held in Japan next year would provide a good opportunity for the collaboration among the initiatives.