

# United States Efforts to Promote International Agricultural Research Cooperation for Climate Change



**Follow-up COP-22 Side Event of G7 Niigata  
Agriculture Ministers' Meeting**

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# Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA)

- The US served as GRA Council Chair through October, 2016, will serve on the GRA-Troika in 2017.
- In 2016 the GRA, led by the United States, helped develop a Strategic Plan for 2016-2020.
- The Strategic Plan identified four key strategies:
  - Further research collaboration
  - Foster outreach, knowledge sharing and information exchange
  - Build effective partnerships
  - Leverage financial and other resourcing
- The Strategic Plan will serve as a bridge between the day-to-day work of the GRA's Council Research Groups, Special Representative, Secretariat and Partners.
- The US Co-chairs the Cropland Research Group with Brazil and is hosting a meeting of that working group in Phoenix, AZ on Nov 10-11
- Hosting the Livestock Research Group meeting in Washington, DC in April, 2017.
- USDA is aligning efforts and identifying mechanisms to engage on newly identified GRA Flagship Research Projects

## Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)

- The US is an active member of GACSA and is committed to integrating the concepts of climate smart agricultural systems into domestic and international programs.
- The US appointed an Associate Professional Officer to assist the GACSA Facilitation Unit
- Supports participation by developing country members in GACSA activities.
- The US is active in the group that is formulating the GACSA Mission and Vision statements.
- We are looking forward to being active participants in the 2017 Annual Forum.

# FAO Global Soils Partnership

## USDA priorities for North America:

- Harmonized description of soil profiles, soil classification and soil maps;
- Soil sampling and analysis;
- Interoperability - Exchange of digital soil information;
- Interpretation and evaluation
- Nine scientists from the U.S. worked with scientists from Canada to develop the “Regional Assessment of Soil Changes in North America” for the “Status of the World’s Soil Resources” report, Dec 2015.
- Participation in working groups tasked to address the main priorities for action identified in the report:
  - Sustainable soil management,
  - Global management of soil organic matter,
  - Nutrient management aiming to stabilize or reduce global nitrogen (N) and phosphorous (P) fertilizer use, while simultaneously increasing fertilizer use in regions of nutrient deficiency, and
  - Improve soil data and information systems.
- Participated in developing a set of “Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management” planned for release in Dec 2016.

## 4/1000 Soil Health

- The United States has not formally joined the 4/1000 Soil Health Initiative, but USDA is in regular communication with the Initiative Leads and we are committed to “aligning” our domestic and international soil health efforts with the Initiative.
- USDA has been participating in meetings of the Initiative as an observer.
- USDA has established a domestic Soil Health Initiative (Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service) and has highlighted soil health as the first of ten Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry.
- We have extensive resources and technical materials to help farmers manage soil health. We are very interested in opportunities to share our experiences and insights to farmers around the world.
- USDA supports efforts to ensure coordination and cooperation between the GRA and GACSA and the 4/1000 Initiative.