

Meeting between GACSA FU and World Vision

Monday 6 July 2015 (11.30hrs Rome time)

Participants

1. Douglas R. Brown, World Vision International
2. Beris Gwynne, World Vision International
3. Emanuele Bombardi, World Vision Italia Onlus
4. Achuo Enow, coordinator FU
5. Olga Trynkova, FU
6. Federica Matteoli, FU
7. Dina Franchi, FU
8. Martina Buonincontri, FAO

Issues raised / discussed

1. Participants were updated on the status of the Letter of Agreement between FAO and World Vision International. The Director of World Vision provided an overview of World Vision International's work, including its partnership with NEPAD through the iNGO – NEPAD alliance. He highlighted the involvement of World Vision with the African Alliance for Climate Smart-Agriculture, adding that the organization is more interested in having actions on the ground. World vision, he stated, is supportive of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture but as an organization it has not yet decided whether or not to join GACSA. For the time being, it would rather sit back watch, with interest, the on-going debates and discussions about GACSA.
2. The GACSA FU coordinator provided an overview of the mission and vision of GACSA and the functions of the three Action groups. He explained that GACSA was launched on September 2014 at the UN Climate Summit. GACSA is an independent alliance, governed by its members through a Strategic Committee and its co-Chairs. FAO is hosting the Facilitation Unit of GACSA. He underlined that GACSA is a voluntary alliance of partners, dedicated to addressing the challenges facing food security and agriculture under a changing climate. In particular the alliance has the objective of up-scaling the climate smart agriculture approach.
3. The issue of concerns and criticisms of GACSA from various sources such as Farmers Organizations, NGO's and CSO's was discussed. The FU coordinator explained that the criticisms are taken positively by GACSA and in good faith and that platforms are being created for more dialogue and clarifications on the issues. He stressed the emphasis of GACSA on an all-inclusive multi-stakeholder approach to CSA. Participants were informed of the upcoming meetings that will be held between GACSA, NGOs and CSOs.

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4. GACSA provided clarification regarding governance by reiterating that all Members are provided an equal platform regardless of financial status. All the activities are decided in a collegial way with defined rules.
5. Participants were briefed on the work of the Alliance during the inception year.
6. Having understood the activities of GACSA championed by the Action Groups, the World Vision Director for Agriculture and Food Security recognized that there would be some value for World Vision to get actively involved in these activities. He would consult with the organization and consider how to participate in the work of the GACSA Action Groups.

Conclusion

It emerged from the discussions with World Vision that while membership to the Alliance is open and voluntary, there may be need to specifically approach certain organizations already working on CSA at the operational level and invite them to join GACSA.

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