

**REPORT 2023**

# **CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE**

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**FIRST GLOBAL PRODUCERS'  
CONSULTATION**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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For more information contact:

[info@wfo-oma.org](mailto:info@wfo-oma.org)

[lorenzo.marelli@wfo-oma.org](mailto:lorenzo.marelli@wfo-oma.org)



WORLD FARMERS'  
ORGANISATION



FOUNDATION FOR  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH

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# FOREWORD

Climate-smart agriculture is an evolving concept that has emerged in recent years as scientists, governments, supply chains and others work to address the dual challenge of an agricultural system that can contribute powerful climate solutions but, at the same time, is vulnerable to observed and anticipated changes in climate. Rarely, however, have agricultural producers themselves been involved in shaping the collective understanding of what climate-smart agriculture should be. This report on the first producer-led global consultation on climate-smart agriculture is a key step to elevating the farmers' voices and perspectives into the global conversation that will inform research and action.

This consultation was supported by AgMission, a unique partnership between researchers, farmer organisations and the supply chain led by the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR). Our partners in AgMission are united by a common goal to enhance collaboration between producers and researchers, produce practical science-based solutions, and empower faster and more widespread adoption of climate-smart agriculture. We recognize that no two farms or ranches are alike, and climate resilient practices therefore must be both diverse and scalable to meet producers' needs. The results from this Global Producers Consultation will help to shape the future AgMission research agenda, ensuring our efforts are responsive to practical needs and emerging evidence from direct observations of producers. The insights from this approach and report are critical for all stakeholders to understand. Only by directly engaging with producer communities in the earliest stages of research can we co-create solutions that will scale rapidly enough to address the climate change challenge.

**Allison Thomson**

*AgMission Program Director*

*Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research*

# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CSA</b>	Climate-Smart Agriculture
<b>FCM</b>	Farmers' Consultation Methodology
<b>FFAR</b>	Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research
<b>GLD</b>	Global Live Dialogue
<b>GPC</b>	Global Producers' Consultation
<b>KCP</b>	Key Consensus Point
<b>NFO</b>	National Farmers' Organisation
<b>RFO</b>	Regional Farmers' Organisation
<b>TAC</b>	Technical Advisory Committee
<b>WFO</b>	World Farmers' Organisation

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the **main outcomes of farmers' priorities in implementing the climate-smart agriculture approach.**

The Global Producers' Consultation goal was to **establish a Farmers' Consultation Methodology** which entailed:

- A **discovery phase** that employed the creation of a focus group and informed the subsequent steps with qualitative outputs.
- The **Global Live Dialogue**, which took part in May 2023 in South Africa and involved 67 National and Regional Farmers' Organisations from 48 countries.
- One **digital consultation** as a follow-up to the first Global Live Dialogue, in order to include National Farmers' Organisations that were not able to join the Global Live Dialogue, get the farmers' validation on the Global Live Dialogue findings, and be able to develop metrics and measurable data. The digital survey collected responses from 26 National Farmers' Organisations in 24 countries.

One of the participants' main concerns regarding climate-smart agriculture revolved around food production. In many regions, farmers try to cope with climate change by implementing formal and/or informal adaptation strategies. This statement was reinforced by the participants in the digital survey. **69%** of them consider **adaptation practices to be business as usual in their countries**, **85%** already **deploy diversification** in their farming routines, and **65%** **practice agro-forestry**.

Yet, the participants said **long-term financial schemes are needed to create viable and sustainable agricultural business models**. Implementing climate change mitigation practices was described as challenging by the Global Live Dialogue participants because they do not ensure short-term returns. The survey confirmed this trend as **77% of the National Farmers' Organisations affirmed how they find it currently challenging to enact mitigation strategies**.

**More than 20% of the Global Live Dialogue participants reported that inadequate land tenure and financial resources were the primary constraints farmers face in transitioning to climate-smart agriculture, with particular emphasis on the lack of land tenure for women and youth.** These data were confirmed via the digital follow-up. **92% of the participants stated that the lack of financial resources is their members' (National Farmers Organisations' members) primary concern to adopt climate-smart agriculture.**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Both the GLD and the digital survey highlighted the need for financial resources to ease the burden of adopting mitigation practices. The farmers expressed concerns about the tight economic margins in agriculture. CSA practices will be adopted if they make sense economically.



The Global Live Dialogue highlighted how the development of climate-smart frameworks and guidelines does not usually involve the farmers. **Numerous participants mentioned a lack of recognition for the climate-smart practices and techniques that farmers have already adopted but are not acknowledged in formal climate-smart agriculture guidelines.** In addition, they said that farmers often consider **climate-smart agriculture guidelines to be inaccessible and/or unfair, with inadequate steps named for farmers to make to transition to climate-smart agriculture.** The digital survey supported both these theses. **92% of the respondents backed up the statement above and 73% of the participants declared that most of the the farmers they are representing already adhere to climate-smart agriculture principles.**

Lastly, the participants stated clearly that **greater multi-stakeholder collaboration** — including farmers as well as other actors in the food systems— in the development of climate-smart agriculture frameworks and guidelines **would help ensure a transition to climate-smart agriculture** that is socially, environmentally, and economically viable. All the respondents from the digital follow-up agreed with the statement. Furthermore, **81%** of them **asked for long-term partnerships**, namely more than 4 years of financial commitment, and **27% for at least 10 years long financial commitment** to allow a sustainable full transition to climate-smart agriculture.

# KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

## ADOPTION

73%

Digital survey participants declared that most of the **farmers they are representing already adhere to Climate-Smart Agriculture principles.**

>20%

Global Live Dialogue participants reported that **inadequate land tenure and financial resources were the primary constraints farmers face in transitioning to climate-smart agriculture**, with particular emphasis on the **lack of land tenure for women and youth.**

77%

National Farmers Organisations in the digital survey affirmed how they find it **currently challenging to enact mitigation strategies.**

## FINANCE

27%

Digital survey participants asked for **long-term partnerships**, namely at least 10 years long financial commitment to allow a **sustainable full transition to Climate-Smart Agriculture**

92%

Digital survey participants stated that the **lack of financial resources** is their members' primary concern in **adopting climate-smart agriculture.**

## PRACTICES<sup>2</sup>

69%

Consider **adaptation practices business as usual** in their countries.

85%

Already **employ diversification** in their farming routines

65%

Engage **agro-forestry.**

## RECOGNITION

23%

National Farmers' Organisations in the digital follow-up survey stated that **no entity currently recognises the efforts** that they implemented/are willing to implement to tackle climate change.

<sup>2</sup> From the digital survey.

<sup>3</sup> Participants chose between the following actors: Governments, Inputs suppliers, Processors, Distributors, Consumers, and Research and Academia.

# INTRODUCTION

Representatives of National Farmers' Organisations (NFOs) within the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), meet annually with other farmers' organisations at national and regional levels as well as other food systems actors, including those in government, private-sector companies, research centres and academia, international organisations, and financial institutions. Together, they look for **synergistic ways to support and leverage farmer solutions to food security, climate change, and other global challenges**. The **2023 Annual WFO Meeting** was held in Sun City, South Africa, from the 21st to the 24th of May. It was attended by representatives of **more than 75 farmer organisations**, including **45 WFO members**, **30 non-WFO members**, and **more than 10 official partner organisations**. This year's theme was: "Investing in Farmers' Solutions for Resilient Food Systems with a Positive Impact on Nature".

As part of the official agenda of the **WFO Annual Meeting**, a **Global Live Dialogue** was held on the first day of the conference.

Both WFO member organisations and non-members representing National and Regional Farmers' Organisations participated in this one-day consultation. **A novel way to gather authoritative data directly from the farmers was launched and employed for the first time**. With the support of **AgMission**, a collaborative collective coordinated by the **Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR)** and the **WFO**, the **Farmers' Consultation Methodology (FCM)** could be established. In the spirit of farmer centricity and co-creation, this project will provide feedback to the AgMission Research Agenda and support the ultimate AgMission goal to better connect producers and researchers. To activate agriculture's true potential, it is necessary to invest in expanding the use of proven climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and accelerate the adoption and scale-up of CSA practices. **The innovative idea this initiative is advancing is to mobilise farmers and ranchers to co-create a research agenda with scientists**. The results of the Global Producers' Consultation (GPC) will not only inform the AgMission Research Agenda but also inspire agricultural research more broadly. The longer-term impact will be a more conducive environment for farmers to contribute through their experience and knowledge to effectively implement and retain climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. A focus group<sup>4</sup> and interviews helped in co-creating the methodology around its three pillars: **representativity**, **inclusivity**, and **modularity**. The latter emphasises the idea of **establishing a farmer-driven database** where the data collected from the consultations will be aggregated, compared, and ultimately disseminated.

Before the start of the in-person consultation, the GPC applied qualitative methods in the form of focus group discussions and interviews to shape and refine the research questions

<sup>4</sup> For more information on the focus group, see Annex 1.

together with the farmer participants. At the same time, a technical advisory committee (TAC) composed of independent researchers, a representative from FFAR, members of the WFO Scientific Council, and representatives from the WFO Secretariat peer-reviewed the consultation's report. A follow-up survey was conducted both to collect inputs from farmers who were not able to participate in the Global Live Dialogue (GLD) and to determine if the outcome of the in-person consultations resonated with their experiences. This follow-up survey served also to extrapolate measurable data and secondary analysis.

**The GLD and follow-up digital consultation goal is to close the farmer-researcher gaps while exploring ways to accelerate CSA adoption by boosting its global implementation.** These consultations ask farmers **what to them is “climate-smart”, what limitations are preventing them from taking up or enabling CSA practices, and if the theory behind CSA<sup>5</sup> resonates with their field experiences.** The farmers' contributions at the GLD were collected on sticky notes, clustered, and analysed. This report sorts their inputs according to themes. The follow-up survey's outcomes, which were sent by mail to NFOs, WFO members, and non-members, were included to validate and complement the GLD's statements.

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<sup>5</sup> According to FAO, CSA pillars are: sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes, adapt and build resilience of people and food systems to climate change, and reduce and/or remove greenhouse gas emissions, where possible. Hereby summed up as Food Production, Adaptation, and Mitigation.



**CHAPTER 1**

**NUMBERS FROM THE  
GLOBAL PRODUCERS'  
CONSULTATION**

# 1.1 GLOBAL LIVE DIALOGUE

## PARTICIPANTS INSIGHTS



~150

Farmers participated in the consultation.



38%

Women farmers involved in the consultation.



48

Countries represented from all WFO constituencies

## FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS INSIGHTS

67

National and regional farmers' organisations

45

WFO Members

8

Farmers' organisations strictly representing young farmers

3

Farmers' organisations strictly representing rural women

## OUTPUT INSIGHTS

134

Key consensus points (KCP) from the participants were produced throughout the consultation.

## PARTICIPANTS DIVIDED BY CONSTITUENCY



### AFRICA

- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Chad
- Eswatini
- Ghana
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Seychelles
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



### ASIA

- Cambodia
- India
- Japan
- Jordan
- Nepal
- Vietnam



### NORTH AMERICA

- Canada
- United States of America



## EUROPE

- 🇦🇹 Austria   🇧🇪 Belgium   🇩🇰 Denmark
- 🇫🇮 Finland   🇫🇷 France   🇩🇪 Germany
- 🇭🇺 Hungary   🇮🇪 Ireland   🇮🇹 Italy
- 🇳🇴 Norway   🇪🇸 Spain   🇸🇪 Sweden
- 🇨🇭 Switzerland   🇬🇧 United Kingdom



## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- 🇨🇷 Costa Rica   🇯🇲 Jamaica



## OCEANIA

- 🇦🇺 Australia   🇳🇿 New Zealand



## 1.2 FOLLOW-UP DIGITAL SURVEY

### PARTICIPANTS INSIGHTS



**33%**

Respondents from NFOs mainly represent **young farmers** (under 40 years old)



**32%**

Respondents from NFOs mainly represent **rural women**



**46**

**Average farmers' age** among the members of the respondents from NFOs



**24**

**Countries** represented from all **WFO constituencies**

### FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS INSIGHTS

**26**

**National farmers' organisations<sup>6</sup>**

**1**

**Farmers' organisation representing rural women**

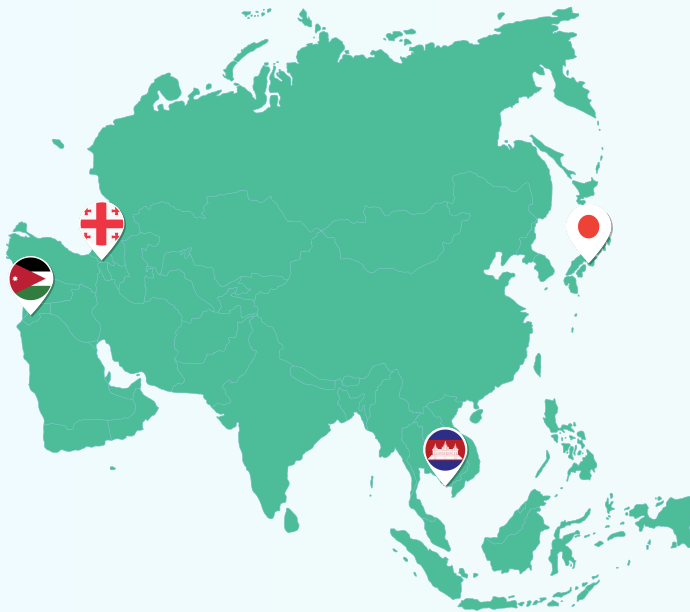
<sup>6</sup> 1 NFO could not provide inputs due to the lack of connectivity.

## PARTICIPANTS DIVIDED BY CONSTITUENCY



### AFRICA

- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Chad
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Mauritius
- South Africa
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe



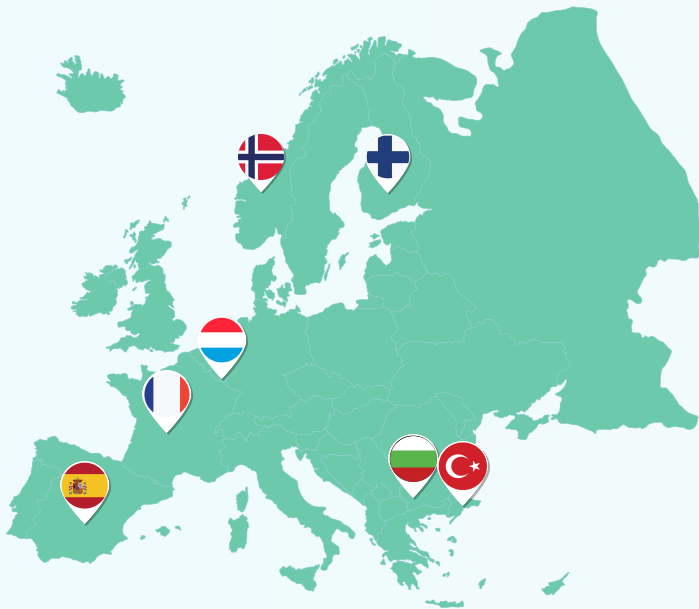
### ASIA

- Cambodia
- Georgia
- Japan
- Jordan



### NORTH AMERICA

- Canada




## EUROPE

-  Bulgaria  Finland  France
-  Luxembourg  Norway  Spain
-  Turkey




## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

-  Panama



## OCEANIA

-  New Zealand

A large, stylized green leaf graphic is positioned on the right side of the page, extending from the top to the bottom. It consists of a thick, curved line forming the outline of a leaf, with several smaller, curved lines inside representing veins. The color is a light, muted green.

## **CHAPTER 2**

# **FARMERS' CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY**

## 2.1 GLOBAL LIVE DIALOGUE<sup>7</sup>

Farmers were divided into **8 tables**. A **ninth table dedicated to French native speakers was set to provide a more inclusive process**. Farmers from francophone countries had a proficient French-speaker facilitator which allowed for exchanges in their native language. Every **30 minutes the participants switched tables** to ensure informal breaks while exploiting the most out of **the 3 hours' time**. The **participants were involved in active discussions; the facilitator's guidance** set the pace and stimulated the discussion. The tables each focused on a **different aspect of CSA agriculture**. Facilitators were provided with a detailed guide that enclosed the context, guiding questions, relevant statistics, and specific objectives per every table. Although heterogeneity by gender, nationality, and farming systems was not entirely achieved at each table, supervisors guaranteed that at least one of those demographic criteria was taken into consideration with diverse representation while setting up the consultations' scene.

**Each table summarised its conclusions on sticky notes. Those were considered as the table's Key Consensus Points (KCPs)**. The GLD exploited sticky notes to collect primary data to further pursue modularity. KCPs allow for discreet insights that can be clustered in an organic way, more fluidly compared with linear notetaking. Nevertheless, notes from the facilitators were a valuable output to double-check and fully understand the tables' outcomes. **They provided insights that gave a deeper outlook on the process that led farmers to the agreement on KCPs.**

**Four participants had been appointed as rapporteurs**; their role was to identify and state the main outcomes at the end of the consultation. This section was pivotal in providing a valuable and practical overview to the farmers. In this way, the farmers felt heard, and it was possible to initiate a path of long-term trust and interest in future consultations. Providing a farmer-driven closure moment was part of the "give-back process". It allowed the participants to reflect on CSA agriculture and implement the most suitable findings for their business.

**Data analysis involved both the Key Consensus Points and notes from the facilitators**. Furthermore, every facilitator was interviewed to gather informal data on the methodology and process. **KCPs were qualitatively clustered by topics and subtopics for each round, then compared with the facilitator's notes to unfold the processes that led to those outcomes**. The data reported below were skimmed to represent the outcomes that had wide consensus and are common priorities within a great majority of the participants.

**KCPs clusterisation was carried out by members of the WFO International Secretariat**. KCPs were sorted, by table, and after the consultation, brought to the WFO headquarters in Rome. The KCPs were visually categorised on posters according to the facilitator's notes and the researchers' expertise.

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<sup>7</sup> Held in Sun City (South Africa) on the 21st May, 2023.

## THEMES DISCUSSED

### TABLE 1

#### Food Production, Mitigation, and Adaptation (1/2)

- *Focus on pillars*
- *Objectives a & b*

### TABLE 5

#### Women and CSA

### TABLE 2

#### Innovation & Technologies (1/2)

- *Focus on assessment*
- *Objectives a & b*

### TABLE 6

#### Innovation & Technologies (2/2)

- *Focus on regional comparisons*
- *Objectives b & c*

### TABLE 3

#### Local Knowledge & Globalization (1/2)

- *Focus on local knowledge*
- *Objectives a & b*

### TABLE 7

#### Local Knowledge & Globalization (2/2)

- *Focus on globalization*
- *Objectives b & c*

### TABLE 8

#### Youth and CSA

### TABLE 4

#### Food Production, Mitigation, and Adaptation (2/2)

- *Focus on actions*
- *Objectives b & c*

### TABLE F

#### The 6 main themes rotated instead of the people

## 2.2 FOLLOW-UP DIGITAL SURVEY<sup>8</sup>

The follow-up survey was structured to reach several goals. Firstly, the **qualitative outputs** coming from the key consensus points clusterisation **required validation or complementation to further ensure farmer-centricity in the process**. Secondly, the **survey was shared with NFOs who had not been able to participate in the GLD** to reach an even larger audience and get a more comprehensive global outlook on CSA. Thirdly, **a demographic section was fundamental to gather data** that will enable WFO to make secondary analysis and create a regional focus for this and future consultations. Lastly, it was possible to share the preliminary report with WFO members and ask for direct feedback via the survey. The digital follow-up was sent both in English and French to maintain linguistic inclusivity.

To achieve these objectives, the survey was structured as follows:

**Demographic section:** NFOs shared data about **farmers' age, gender, scale of farming, agricultural focus, and interests** between their members.

**Thematic sections:** the main outcomes from the GLD were summarised. The participants could **agree or disagree and suggest a different statement**. Every section comprised several follow-up questions to explore the reasoning behind the GLD outcomes. The sections were classified as follows:

- Profitability
- Rational and Practical
- Shared Accountability
- Access to Finance
- Lack of an efficient multi-stakeholder approach
- Short-term unpredictability

**General Inquiry section:** the participants could **provide feedback, inputs, and ideas on the preliminary report** that was shared with WFO members only.

The survey was open from 15th September 2023 to 10th October 2023, the link was shared via email with the WFO members and NFOs in the WFO network. The survey was also circulated among WFO members through the monthly newsletter. Reminders were sent on 22nd September 2023 and 2nd October 2023. Originally, the survey was supposed to be closed on 6th October 2023, but some NFOs asked for extra time to fill it properly. Unfortunately, at least one NFO could not access the survey due to poor connectivity, as they explained in an email. This occurrence emphasises the importance of funded live opportunities for farmers to express their necessities.

The French version of the survey was sent to French native speaker NFOs on 5th September 2023 and a reminder was sent on 2nd October 2023.

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<sup>8</sup> Held Online.

The survey was translated after a request from an NFO who was interested in replying yet not able to do it in English. WFO considered keeping the French version open for more time than the English version. However, due to the necessity to start analysing raw data together, the French version was closed at the same time as the English version. Moreover, it has to be noted that **before, 25 September 2023 only 2 answers were collected on the English version. 89.2% of the answers to the survey came after the last reminder on 2nd October 2023 which was sent both for the English and French versions.** The survey collected a **total of 28 answers, 3 of them on the French version.** It has to be noted that French native speakers NFOs already received the English survey and some of them had decided to answer there. **2 participants did not qualify for data analysis**, 1 of them filled the survey with random and unintelligible answers while the other was not representing an NFO. This was evident after background checks were made for all the WFO non-member respondents.

The data were analysed and processed with Microsoft Excel.





**CHAPTER 3**

**MAIN OUTCOMES**

Findings were thematically sorted based on the tables and **objectives explored throughout the Global Live Dialogue**. The reporting answers to the table's objectives. The follow-up digital survey provided numbers and statistics to support and complement the GLD findings.

The **FCM bottom-up approach** encouraged the farmers to expand, elaborate, and even shift the specific objectives to ensure **farmer-centricity**. Nevertheless, the main objective of the consultation, namely "How to promote an effective, and quick adoption of CSA agriculture", was the focus.

## **OBJECTIVES EXPLORED THROUGHOUT THE GLOBAL LIVE DIALOGUE**



**PILLARS - FOOD PRODUCTION,  
ADAPTATION, AND MITIGATION**

**INNOVATION AND  
TECHNOLOGIES**

**LOCAL KNOWLEDGE  
AND GLOBALISATION**

**WOMEN AND CSA**

**YOUTH AND CSA**

# 3.1 PILLARS - FOOD PRODUCTION, ADAPTATION, AND MITIGATION



## OBJECTIVES

- A** Validate, if possible, the importance of the 3 CSA pillars through farmer-driven discussion.
- B** Update the CSA pillars with new material coming from the farmers.
- C** Explore which main actions are required by these pillars and who are the stakeholders involved to implement them.



## QUOTES FROM THE FARMERS

*“Adaptation is necessary for long-term sustainability.”*

*Mitigation is best driven by a carrot, not a stick, like involve new tools/knowledge. Profitability is key.”*

*“CSA is a long-term benefit, can be difficult for smallholder farmers focused on short-term needs.”*

*Production and adaptation seem the same to be productive in the future we will need to adapt.”*



## OUTCOMES

### FOOD PRODUCTION


Food production has been considered by many farmers as the driving force and main challenge of CSA through out the GLD. Food production is a necessary requirement to reach social, economic, and environmental sustainability. In terms of sustainability, according to our participants, stable and healthy food production is needed to gain the agency to quickly transition to CSA agriculture. Food production already entails a strong component of adaptation. Business as usual in many regions already requires those kinds of practices. Long-term financial and productive sustainability must take adaptation into account. On the other hand, mitigation is seen as a challenge both in terms of productivity and financial sustainability by the farmers. Most of them seem to witness mitigation practices as incompatible with short-term sustainability.

### PROFITABILITY

Profitability is a critical pre-requirement to ensure CSA's fast and smooth adoption as it allows farmers to grant agency over their agricultural practices and strategies. Farmers need financial independence and proper land tenure to feel empowered and manage business on their terms. Furthermore, the consultation highlighted the sacrifices that farmers are already enacting to cope with climate change and globalisation. Hence, to ensure the adoption of CSA practices their short-term economic advantage must be evident.




## DIVERSIFICATION




Diversification was mentioned both in the focus group and at the consultation.<sup>9</sup> Particularly, both the focus group and live consultation participants highlighted the manifold potential of diversification. In fact, according to the interviewees, diversification entails the concept of adaptation and mitigation. In other words, diversifying food production means being able to build resilient food systems less vulnerable to climate unpredictability and economic instability. Interestingly, farmers also asked for financial schemes to help them in investing on renewable energy, which is a very specific application of diversification.

## RESOURCE REDISTRIBUTION



Resource redistribution was a recurrent finding throughout the consultation. Farmers expressed how the current food chain is financially unbalanced and individualised redistribution through investments and support in the markets as an action to ensure profitability and speed up the CSA implementation process.

## CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS



Capacity-building programs to both spread and teach adaptation techniques resulted as a possible path to lead to quicker adoption of CSA. Interestingly, some farmers asked for financial stimuli to help them in producing renewable energy.

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<sup>9</sup> For more information on the focus group see Annex. 1.



# DIGITAL SURVEY OUTPUTS

OUTCOME	PARTICIPANTS' INPUTS	
FOOD PRODUCTION	69%	Confirmed that business as usual in their country already entails adaptation.
	77%	Find it challenging to enact mitigation strategies. When asked why participants gave a very wide range of answers. <b>Financial and knowledge gaps</b> were the most elected reasons.
DIVERSIFICATION	85%	Confirmed that business as usual in their country already entails <b>diversification</b> .
RESOURCE REDISTRIBUTION	73%	Do not have access to the <b>international market</b> . This number goes up to <b>100%</b> of the participants when filtering for <b>African and Asian respondents</b> .
CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS	<b>Capacity-building programs and Extension services</b> <sup>10</sup> were ranked as the most effective enablers of partnership to transition to CSA Agriculture in the digital follow-up survey.	

<sup>10</sup> Rankings were analysed by giving respectively 100 pts. to the 1st position, 50 pts. to the 2nd, 25 pts. to the 3rd, 10 pts. to the 4th, 2 pts. to the 5th. The participants ranked the following categories: Capacity-building (1206 pts.), Financial Commitment only (800pts.), Logistical and Infrastructural (730 pts.), Gatekeeping with market and trade (969 pts.), and Extension services (1157 pts.).

# 3.2 INNOVATION<sup>11</sup> AND TECHNOLOGIES



## OBJECTIVES

- A** Assess in which crisis phase (prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery) technology is an essential tool.<sup>12</sup>
- B** Define the major barriers to the adoption of technological CSA practices.
- C** Collect and compare different experiences with tech CSA projects to better identify pros and cons.



## OUTCOMES

### TECH

Tech was recognised as a fundamental tool to scale up CSA adoption in agriculture. According to participants, the value of tech is multi-faceted. Firstly, it helps farmers make educated guesses while managing their business. Interviewees stressed the value of innovation to improve decision-making and create more efficient day-by-day choices.

## QUOTES FROM THE FARMERS



### MEASURABILITY

Measurability was singled out multiple times as an essential feature to build a common vision with quantitative impacts. Particularly, farmers expressed the necessity that research aligns their frameworks with a farmer-centric scope. Hence, farmers who are already employing CSA informally would be recognised and farmers who want to apply CSA techniques will know how to correctly test the effectiveness of those practices.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Farmers highlighted the necessity to get continuous financial support either from the government or the private sector. The concept of long-term financial support was stressed by the farmers who reported how often transitioning projects do not commit enough time to allow farmers to implement CSA practices, hence guaranteeing stability in the long run.



“Tech developed by large capacity countries are very expensive and unlikely to be adopted.”

“There is lot of tech on the market, it is difficult to know what is the best to invest in.”

“Open access data (eg. Climate data) provided to farmers helps with decision-making.”

<sup>11</sup> A definition of innovation and technologies was not provided on purpose. This approach allowed the farmers to share their experiences without any constraints such as precision agriculture or smart agriculture. It resulted in organic conversations where farmers explored several sub-topics from irrigation to the production of renewable energy and the use of big data.

<sup>12</sup> The farmers' assessment exposed a flow in the formulation of the objective. The crisis intervention model was too technical for the interviewees. Facilitators were instructed to follow the conversations' flow instead of imposing a top-down technical approach. As a result, it was possible to gather valuable cross-cutting insights regarding the inherent meaning of technology for the farmers.



## TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Training and education were mentioned as crucial issues. Currently, farmers do not feel included in processes of capacity-building and knowledge sharing regarding innovation and technologies. This barrier entails another notion mentioned by the interviewees: the market is currently saturated by tech and farmers do not always have the resources to choose the one that fits their needs.

## BLOCKERS



Farmers were very much aligned on the barriers and opportunities that tech and innovation provide to farming concerning CSA. Nevertheless, European farmers tended to be more focused on how to choose the right tools and how to best exploit them. On the other hand, developing countries expressed financial access as their main concern. African farmers recommended leasing tech as a form of incentive to adopt CSA. It was highlighted that often technologies are developed in different contexts and developing countries with low capacity and resources are even less attracted to adopt technologies that are very expensive and could not fit their needs.

## TOOLS



Throughout the discussion, the farmers mentioned which tools are a priority for them. Data-driven technologies were the most mentioned. Particularly, data that can help improve inputs' efficiency and weather predictability. Participants were also interested in alternative energy sources as a form of accessory income.



# DIGITAL SURVEY OUTPUTS

OUTCOME	PARTICIPANTS' INPUTS
<b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT</b>	<p><b>27%</b> Asked for <b>long-term partnerships</b>, namely at <b>least 10 years long financial commitment</b> to allow for a sustainable full transition to CSA.</p> <p><b>54%</b> Asked for <b>commitments of at least 5 years</b>.</p> <p><b>19%</b> Marked a <b>shorter timeframe</b></p> <p>NFOs from the digital survey ranked <b>governments</b> as the <b>most influential actor</b> for their organisation in the food value chain.</p>
<b>TECH MEASURABILITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TRAINING AND EDUCATION BLOCKERS TOOLS</b>	<p>Throughout the digital survey participants who declared that the <b>business agricultural model of most of their members has not changed to preserve profitability throughout climate change</b> were asked to comment on the reasoning behind this choice.</p> <p><b>43%</b> Mentioned <b>lack of access to technology providers</b> as one of the main reasons.</p>

<sup>13</sup> Rankings were analysed by giving respectively 100 pts. to the 1st position, 50 pts. to the 2nd, 25 pts. to the 3rd, 10 pts. to the 4th, 2 pts. to the 5th, and 1 pt. to the 6th. The participants ranked the following categories: Governments (1703 pts.), Inputs suppliers (816 pts.), Processors (470 pts.), Distributors (592 pts.), Consumers (761 pts.), Research and Academia (546 pts).





# 3.3 LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND GLOBALISATION

## OBJECTIVES

- A** Compare national and regional similarities in the adoption of local CSA practices.
- B** Define the best approaches to allow accessibility to CSA Agriculture to farmers from every country.
- C** Assess the negative and positive aspects of multilateralism and international exchanges to CSA practices adoption.

## OUTCOMES

### CONTEXT

The consultation highlighted how farmers are currently lacking places to exchange best practices and learn strategies, which have proved to be helpful in a certain environment. Lack of investments was identified as the main blocker to establishing new knowledge-sharing places. In addition, public policies are not currently considering action plans to provide interchange areas. Connected to the point above, one of the major outcomes related to local knowledge and globalisation was to enhance farmer visibility at international events. An Expo of farming was suggested as a huge opportunity for dialogue and exchange. Other suggestions comprehended messaging applications to develop a farmer-driven peer-review network. This action would help producers connect globally in a quick and safe environment.

## QUOTES FROM THE FARMERS



*“We need internal collective structures that enable knowledge exchange, such as cooperatives.”*

*Climate change consequences have forced these adaptations on to farmers. There is political pressure to adapt.”*

*“We need to address the income disparities within countries.”*

*Need for public policies and financial mechanisms. Too much pressure on farmers from different social dimensions.”*



## EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING

Evidence-based policymaking was singled out as a central goal to allow CSA access, yet it must be farmer-driven to reach effective adoption. As previously highlighted scientific frameworks need to be coherent with the farmers' methods to ensure that they can effectively measure the outcomes. Often, frameworks and guidelines are developed either with a top-down approach or without keeping into account local know-how and needs. Research priorities must be co-developed between farmers and scientists to ensure that the research responds to farmers' needs and that the research is filled in by the farmers' experience. The current separation between stakeholders has been reported by some of the participants as a consequence of multilateralism. Farmers emphasised the political pressure that they are currently experiencing. Research should be working on the farmers' needs while often the current approach, which is supported by governments and political bodies, is the other way around.





## DIGITAL SURVEY OUTPUTS

OUTCOME	PARTICIPANTS' INPUTS
CONTEXT	<b>100%</b> Highlighted the <b>lack of an efficient multi-stakeholder approach</b> as one of the biggest barriers to ensuring CSA adoption and retention.
EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING	<b>23%</b> Stated that <b>no entity currently recognises</b> the efforts that they implemented/are willing to implement to tackle climate change. <b>92%</b> Perceive guidelines as either <b>unfair, unrealistic, inaccessible, or disorganised</b> and ask for a <b>strong, and defined framework</b> that will also consider the transformative steps necessary to transition to climate-smart food systems.

# 3.4 WOMEN AND CSA



## OBJECTIVES

- A** Explore the role of women in creating and adopting CSA practices.
- B** Define the unique needs and priorities of women to adopt CSA practices.
- C** Gather women-oriented ideas to improve CSA approaches globally.

## OUTCOMES

### MENTORING

Women were unanimously recognised as key actors in CSA. Farmers highlighted how they should get a mentoring status regarding CSA adoption. Women usually have a long-term generational vision, employ adaptation strategies to guarantee food security, and widen their perspectives through the help of strong communities.



## QUOTES FROM THE FARMERS

*“Women are good in adapting to climate change and could become mentoring partners.”*

*Women have always been focused on Climate-Smart Agriculture. They are thinking more in long terms, closer to the next generation, and more occupied with food security.”*



*“Access to land tenure and ownership produce benefit for her, empowerment, instrument to fight inequality, decision-making.”*

### SOCIAL SECURITY

The multifunctionality of women, namely being both farmers and caregivers, is the result of the lack of social security in many countries. On the one hand, rural women developed alternative solutions like informal supporting communities. On the other hand, they are dedicating time and resources to collateral tasks. In this framework, women are often missing those opportunities that would allow them to scale up Climate-Smart Agriculture adoption. Particularly, training programs and financing opportunities do not take these needs into account; as a result women are systematically penalised. Training and financing opportunities should focus on guaranteeing equal representation to ensure a smoother transition to climate-smart agriculture.



## LAND TENURE



Land tenure has been pinpointed as another critical issue that prevents, generally, farmers and especially rural women, from managing their farms autonomously and transitioning to CSA agriculture. Often women do not have decision power on the land even when they are the main workforce. Even when rural women have decision power land is either leased or in someone else's name. It is then problematic for women to commit to long-term transition strategies.

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



Knowledge exchange was one of the main concepts expressed by farmers about Women and CSA agriculture. Exchange entailed many insights. Firstly, as mentioned above, the connections and informal social structures that women built are valuable to developing communities that are aware and prompt to transition to CSA practices. At the same time, women lack access to public fora to spread practices and approaches that they already adopted and could work on a larger scale. Lastly, rural women are aware of the informality of their networks and asked for a stronger policymaking effort on the creation of networks to spread information that allows for climate predictability.



## DIGITAL SURVEY OUTPUTS

OUTCOME	PARTICIPANTS' INPUTS
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	<b>100%</b> Participants (3 NFOs) who marked rural women as their core advocacy topic expressed a <b>lack of financial resources</b> as their main concern related to CSA adoption.
<b>LAND TENURE</b>	<b>46%</b> Experience a <b>lack of land tenure</b> . Moreover, land tenure was ranked 2nd among the most problematic obstacles for the farmers. <sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Rankings were analysed by giving respectively 100 pts. to the 1st position, 50 pts. to the 2nd, 25 pts. to the 3rd, 10 pts. to the 4th. The participants ranked the following categories: lack of land tenure (1000 pts.), lack of access to the market (950 pts.), lack of infrastructures (750 pts.), and lack of financial resources (2110 pts.).

# 3.5 YOUTH AND CSA

## OBJECTIVES

## OUTCOMES

**A** Understand and discover the unique contributions of rural youth to CSA agriculture.

**B** Define the unique needs and priorities of rural youth to adopt CSA practices

**C** Gather youth-oriented ideas to improve CSA approaches globally.



### APPROACH

The role of young farmers in CSA adoption has been identified in their open-minded approach which often involves technologies and innovation in their business as usual. Young farmers usually have a more tech-friendly approach on the farm and CSA could be the opportunity to both empower them and get them recognised as an authoritative stakeholder.

## QUOTES FROM THE FARMERS

“*Younger generation of farmers educating older ones on CSA and sustainable practices.*”

*Exposure through education so CSA becomes part of children and youth background and mindset.*”

“*Financing models must be directed towards underprivileged youth who is applying CSA.*”

*Recognise youth as agents of change.*”



### REBRANDING

Young farmers were very vocal about the necessity to make agriculture more youth-friendly. Farming must be rebranded and recognised as a profession. Young farmers have to be involved throughout the whole policymaking process. CSA agriculture has been recognised as an entry point to speed up this process thanks to the feature described above. For this reason, youth integration in decision-making processes must be prioritised to hasten CSA adoption.

### CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS

Another priority acknowledged by the participants is the need for specific capacity-building programs focused also on the business side of CSA.



## ACCESS TO LAND

Access to land was highlighted as a primary challenge for young farmers, hampering the effectiveness of CSA programs.

## PROMOTION

Participants recommended promoting CSA teaching programs already in schools and universities to engage farmers from the beginning of their careers.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy on the farm was another topic discussed as a tool to economically empower young farmers and allow for a more flexible adoption of CSA practices.





## DIGITAL SURVEY OUTPUTS

OUTCOME	PARTICIPANTS' INPUTS
<p>APPROACH</p> <p>REBRANDING</p> <p>CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS</p> <p>ACCESS TO LAND</p> <p>PROMOTION</p> <p>RENEWABLE ENERGY</p>	<p>33%</p> <p>Participants (2 out of 6 NFOs) who marked rural youth as their core advocacy topic expressed their concerns about implementing CSA. They are worried about the <b>lack of external support</b> to sustain the transition, particularly for smallholder farmers.</p>

A large, stylized green leaf graphic is positioned on the right side of the page, extending from the top to the bottom. It consists of a thick, curved stem and a large, rounded leaf blade with a central vein and smaller veins branching off. The leaf is rendered in a light green color.

## CHAPTER 4

# AGMISSION RESEARCH AGENDA PRIORITIES<sup>15</sup> – INTERCROSSING FINDINGS

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<sup>15</sup> For further information on the AgMission ResearchAgenda consult Annex. 2.

Below are the major **points of contact between the live consultations' outcomes and AgMission research agenda** priorities:



The consultation collected many inputs on the characteristics that an effective knowledge-sharing tool should possess to both engage farmers and plan a **sustainable transition to resilient agricultural systems** that will endure in the long term. These data are valuable not only to build a knowledge base but also to fully employ the knowledge that farmers already have and redirect those pieces of information to create an accessible and collective database.



**Diversification was identified as such a priority for the farmers** that it should be included as the **4th CSA pillar** to achieve a **farmer-driven framework**. Participants emphasised how they are looking forward to diversifying to cope with weather unpredictability, climate change, and economic fluctuations. Future consultations could specifically tackle this topic to gather knowledge on how farmers are diversifying their production and which main limitations they have to further adopt this approach.



**Agro-forestry** was mentioned by several **farmers as one of the practices that they have already implemented in their 'business as usual'**. Particularly, African farmers seem to be experienced in managing agroforestry food systems. Future consultations could further investigate their know-how and reasoning to spread this practice elsewhere.



**CHAPTER 5**

**LESSON LEARNT**

# 1

## DEMOGRAPHICS & REGISTRATION

The registration process which allowed us to **gather the participants' number, gender ratio, country represented, etc.** will be further improved to allow for more insightful secondary analysis. Particularly, organisations' information like the area they come from (urban/rural), the climate zone of provenience, income level (high/medium/low), education level, kind of farming system represented, the size of the farmer organisation, median farmers' age, more gender-disaggregated data, and an overview of the organisation's topics of interest would have been helpful.

# 2

## DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

**Sticky notes** as a tool were successful, they **allowed participants to feel listened to and actively provide inputs.** Nonetheless, notetakers should have been provided with a more extensive briefing on how to support the KCP compilation. It was difficult to organise KCPs quantitatively as some enclosed one word and other multiple sentences/concepts.

# 3

## PRELIMINARY HEADS-UP FOR PARTICIPANTS

Planning the consultation longer in advance would have allowed better plans for **preliminary engagements with farmers to socialise AgMission** before the consultation itself. The aim would have been to engage their constituents, and to brief them about AgMission's vision, objectives, and needs to facilitate the consultation process.

# 4

## ADAPTING THE TERMINOLOGY

Language is a powerful tool to ensure farmer organisations' ownership of the process and ultimately AgMission's accountability to farmers. **Identifying areas where terminology or questions can be further nuanced to reflect the farmer audience better will make it easier for farmers to translate their knowledge, experiences, and lessons learnt, as well as to engage in the process** and proactively collaborate with other stakeholders to find common solutions.

# 5

## LIVE RESTITUTION

**Live restitution** has been a key part of the process. Namely, giving some farmers the role of reporters and providing a space to summarise the key insights after the consultation. **This system made the audience feel heard and involved.** It also built the trust necessary to ensure future collaboration and even greater attendance at the next consultations.

# 6

## ADAPTING THE TERMINOLOGY

The digital survey exhibited the **importance of translations to achieve inclusion and overcome linguistic barriers.** On the other hand, the infrastructural digital barrier will need a specific strategy to be tackled. The inherent GLD value, namely, to involve NFOs and Regional Farmers' Organisations (RFOs) that do not usually have opportunities to participate is already coping with this externality. Nevertheless, for future consultations, an ad hoc digital engagement plan will be shaped.



**CHAPTER 6**

**FINAL REFLECTIONS**

This consultative process was indeed unique as the participants had a multifunctional role. On the one hand, they are farmers with their own experiences at the farm level, their needs, and their expertise. On the other hand, being high representatives of National Farmers' Organisations, they are key experts and leaders in their country's agricultural state of the art. **Around 150 farmers were contributing to the Global Live Dialogue, yet hundreds of millions of farmers from 48 countries were represented.** The same could be said for the Digital Follow-up Survey which reinforced the main GLD's outcomes.

This feature must be remarked on as it opens the doors to a **new stream of farmer-centric data** that can inform impactful policymaking and clarity. The blockers, and critical transitions described in this report need to be actively addressed to ensure farmers' adoption and retention of climate-smart agriculture. Moreover, the highly interactive and qualitative methods, namely focus groups and dialogues, enabled the gathering of powerful insights on behalf of hundreds of millions of people. At the same time, measurable follow-up allows for further inclusivity and validation. In other words, **the invaluable feature of the Global Producers' Consultations process is its participants: farmers' representatives who are also farmers.** At the same time, the follow-up survey ensures measurable and regional insights keeping in mind the global overview built throughout the GLD. Throughout the consultation farmers expressed necessities, critical issues, and possible solutions regarding CSA agriculture.

**It is crucial for the farmers to establish these spaces as their priority as well is to be involved more effectively in CSA Agriculture.** The urgency for such an effort is entailed by the need to create farmer-driven solutions that are also deeply anchored in science. This spirit fosters **win-win collaboration** between producers and the business, to co-create initiatives delivering value in the longer run, through proper integration of farmers' and businesses' needs. The current decision-making processes focus on the supply chain while this report wants to **shift the conversation towards the value chain. In other words, to accelerate farmers' adoption of CSA Agriculture it is necessary to consult the farmers from the beginning reinforcing trust in fair and authentic partnerships where the farmers' accountability goes along with the farmers' welfare.**

**Food production has been considered by many farmers as the driving force and main challenge of climate change. In many regions business as usual already entails an adaptive and climate-smart component to agriculture.** This theme would require further exploration to understand **why the farmers' efforts are not recognised on a global scale.** Long-term financial and productive sustainability must take adaptation into account. **Mitigation is seen as a challenge both in terms of productivity and financial sustainability by the farmers.** Most of them seem to witness mitigation practices as incompatible with short-term sustainability. Transitioning to a different and new agricultural pattern is uncertain due to unstable climate patterns and unreliable resource availability. **Many of the farmers agreed that to build resilient food systems there is a need for a business model which can ensure short-term profits even in such an unpredictable environment.**<sup>16</sup> **Current business models are not often co-designed with farmers** and the result is a lack of engagement as farmers do not have any added value to buy in those

<sup>16</sup> This statement has been backed up by 96% of the respondents to the follow-up digital survey.

models which are not financially sustainable.

On the one hand, farmers stressed the need for **financial independence and proper land tenure** to feel empowered and manage business on their terms. On the other hand, the consultation made evident **the sacrifices that farmers are already enacting to cope with climate change** and globalisation, climate-smart practices should comprehend the economic dimension of agriculture to ensure long-term efficiency, stability, and farmers' welfare.<sup>17</sup> It was pivotal to gather such a strong and cohesive global insight from the consultation. It highlights the precariousness in which farmers live. Multiple actors – namely governments, the private sector, and consumers – are demanding overturning actions from the farmers without involving them.

More than 20% of the participants mentioned a **lack of financial resources as their primary concern to adopt climate-smart agriculture**. Nevertheless, interviewees highlighted different related nuances: **land tenure, lack of access to the market, lack of infrastructures**, etc.<sup>18</sup>

The consultation highlighted how **farmers are willing to transition to climate-smart practices or have already adopted them in their routines**. Yet, a strong majority perceive guidelines and definitions as either unfair, unrealistic, inaccessible, or disorganised. One of the main outcomes of the consultation is the **need for a strong, and defined framework** that will also consider the transformative steps necessary to transition to climate-smart food systems.<sup>19</sup>

The **distribution of power and resources in the value chain** was a key point of discussion throughout the consultation. Farmers are ready to embrace their own responsibilities and actions towards climate-smart food systems. Yet, they expect the other actors to do the same in terms of fairer distribution of costs and value of their transition to climate-smart practices.<sup>20</sup>

Lastly, farmers mentioned how they are not currently supported enough by other actors in the food chain. This piece of information was both explicit and implicit. Some of the participants marked lack of vision and lack of purpose as their biggest barriers to CSA adoption. Multi-stakeholder collaboration has been pinpointed multiple times as a necessary step to allow for a smoother transition. Particularly, farmers need reliable partners that not only provide economic support, yet a stable environment (social, infrastructures, skills, etc.) to adopt CSA practices.<sup>21</sup>

Already, from the first consultation we were able to gather powerful data from practical recommendations as a messaging farmer-driven application to high-level policymaking suggestions. Both these dimensions are important to prioritise impactful strategies and understand **how other stakeholders can productively interact with the farmers on a**

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<sup>17</sup> This statement has been backed up by 96% of the respondents to the follow-up digital survey.

<sup>18</sup> 92% of the participants in the digital follow-up stated that the lack of financial resources is our members' primary concern in adopting climate-smart agriculture.

<sup>19</sup> This statement has been backed up by 92% of the respondents to the follow-up digital survey.

<sup>20</sup> This statement has been backed up by 92% of the respondents to the follow-up digital survey.

<sup>21</sup> This statement has been backed up by 100% of the respondents to the follow-up digital survey.



**peer-to-peer agreement.** Farmers showed awareness regarding their knowledge as experts in the field, soil, and economic aspects of farming. Nevertheless, they were conscious of the invaluable work of research. The consultations could be the nexus that makes these realities better cooperate to ensure smooth and effective CSA adoption.

The GPC was effective in identifying macro-areas where work is needed to translate recommendations into practices. **Thanks to the 1st GPC we can now deep-dive on a regional level asking the right questions and being aware of the cross-cutting blockers that farmers from all around the world are experiencing.** Throughout this report, we expressed data that will **enable stakeholders to better understand the main divergencies and disruptive touchpoints that are preventing farmers from adopting climate-smart agriculture.** The next step will be to engage farmers on a regional scale to explore their needs further and find common ground to provide agency and enablers to support a smoother transition.

# ANNEX. 1

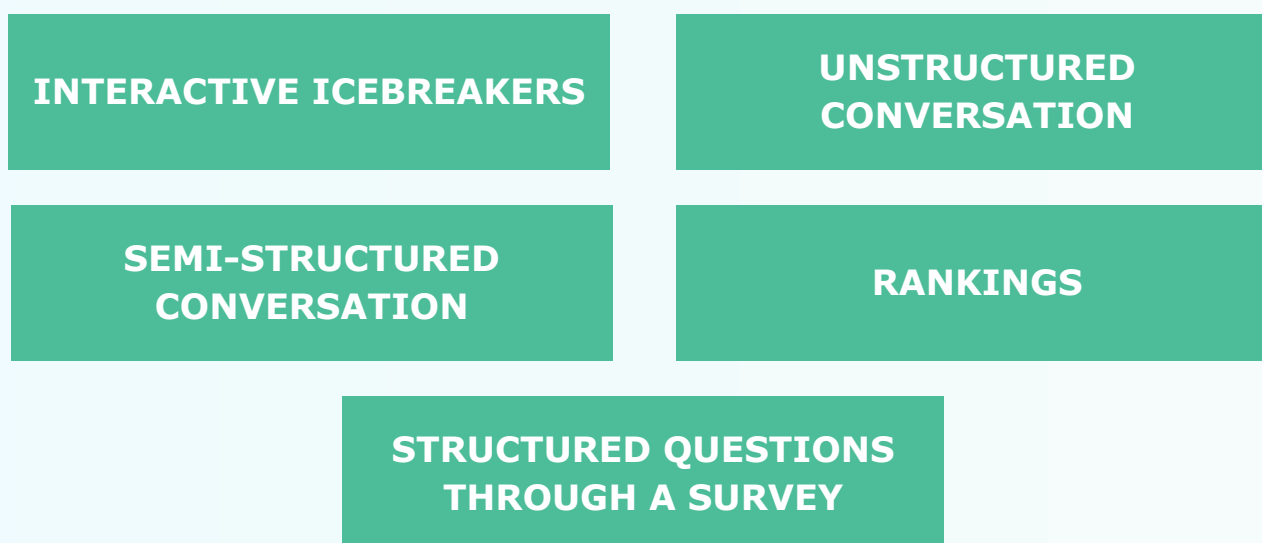
## REPORT ON THE 1ST FOCUS GROUP ON CSA AGRICULTURE<sup>22</sup>

### A. SAMPLE

3 national farmers' organisation representatives	3 different continents represented (Asia, Europe, and Oceania)
100% male sample	Expertise with CSA as a topic fluctuated from "not that confident" to "very confident"

### B. STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

Participants virtually discussed Climate-Smart Agriculture through guided activities. In terms of content, the goal was to **understand which areas regarding CSA agriculture are the most controversial and investigate which are the major research biases**. The methodological goal was to **understand the methods that work most effectively with the farmers when discussing CSA**. For this reason, different methods were used to have a better overview of the advantages and disadvantages that each method brings with it. Particularly, participants were stimulated with:



<sup>22</sup> The focus group was virtually held on the 28th April, 2023.

## QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

**Diversification in crops and cultivation methods** came out as a key concept to accomplish more resilient food systems.

**Education and training** seem to be requirements to incentivise the adoption of tech CSA practices by farmers.

**Weather unpredictability** is quickly shaping new farming patterns.

**Young people** are more prone to innovative CSA approaches. Yet, there is a need for incentives to retain rural youth in agriculture as it is not appealing right now.

**Agriculture** can have **positive impacts on climate and biodiversity**, through reduction of GHG emissions, storage of GHG, and contributing to the production of renewable energies.

## D. QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS

### QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS

**100%** of the respondents ranked **droughts as the most critical climate change** issue from an agricultural point of view from a multiple-choice survey. **Loss of biodiversity was second**, and **floods third**.

## ***E. OUTCOMES AND REFLECTIONS***

**The sample was diverse in terms of food systems represented, geography, expertise with CSA practices, and age.** Nevertheless, representativity was not ensured in terms of gender. For the future, a call for interest that explicitly mentions the necessity to have women representatives could help in having a more diverse group of people.

A participant did not show up to the call; this phenomenon reiterated the importance of having a **flexible approach and methods that work with a variable number of participants.**

The most interesting findings came from the semi-structured discussion and questions. Nevertheless, it was not possible to explore all the topics on the agenda as there was not enough time to cover them all. As a lesson learnt for the future, it will be important to have a more workable schedule and keep up the pace throughout the live consultation.

Another challenge experienced through the focus group was the **digital barrier**. When a participant experienced a connectivity problem it was difficult to interact for a while. For future sessions, it could be helpful to gather the resources to hold in-person focus groups.

# ANNEX. 2

## AGMISSION RESEARCH AGENDA PRIORITIES<sup>23</sup>

### 1.1 HIGH INTEREST

#### INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

This overarching topic is mission-critical: **How can we develop the knowledge base for a resilient agricultural system that can cope with climate impacts?** Targeted research on diversification of production systems as a solution to climate change for both economic and physical resilience.

#### AGROFORESTRY AS A CLIMATE SOLUTION

**Identify practical agroforestry solutions**, the corresponding economic value to farmers and benefits for emissions /sequestration/resilience, and what it would take to scale these solutions.

#### PASTURE AND GRAZING LANDS

Look for **key questions of interest for both mitigation and adaptation**, as well as co-benefits for biodiversity.

#### SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

The barrier to **supply chain action in farmer recruitment**. Can evaluation of existing/past programs help inform new program design?

### 1.2 LESS INTEREST

#### INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE AND PEST MANAGEMENT

**How will climate impacts influence pests, diseases, and weeds and what management practices make crops more resilient to these threats?** This also contributes to mitigation by limiting production losses (and Land Use Change). The intersection of GHG emissions, air quality (surface ozone), and agricultural production: This is a specific gap related to understanding more localised impacts of emissions on air quality and production. These are even less well understood than the impacts of global climate change. This is likely most important for specialty crop systems. Data opportunities: Specifically, lack of interoperability of observation datasets and a lack of standard benchmarking datasets to train models/remote sensing to real-world farms and farm outcomes.

<sup>23</sup> As reported and prioritised by the AgMission Executive Committee.

# ANNEX. 3

## FOLLOW-UP SURVEY QUESTIONS (ENGLISH VERSION)

### SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHICS

- Organization Name
- Country
- Number of farmers represented
- Average farmers' age among your members
- Percentage of women farmers within the organisation
- Percentage of young farmers (under 40 years old) within the organization
- Average farm size within your members (please specify the unit of measure as either hectares or acres)
- Your organization main agricultural focus (max. 2 answers): [Horticulture] [Arable Farming] [Livestock] [Forestry / Agroforestry] [Fisheries] [Aquaculture] [Other]
- Scale of farmers majorly represented within your organization
- Average farmers' access to the market within your organisation members
- Which are the current top priorities for the farmers of your organisation (max. 3 answers): [Food Security] [Trade] [Climate change] [Innovation] [Value chain relationships] [Livestock] [Cooperatives development] [Women participation and leadership] [Youth empowerment and engagement] [Biodiversity and nature]

### SECTION 2: FOLLOW UP ON CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Below you will find the main qualitative findings collected at the AgMission Global Producers' Consultation on Climate-Smart Agriculture, to ensure farmer-centricity and representativeness we will ask you to validate them and further comment on related topics.

#### PROFITABILITY

On the one hand, farmers need financial independence and proper land tenure to feel empowered and manage business on their terms. On the other hand, the consultation made evident the sacrifices that farmers are already enacting to cope with climate change and globalisation, climate-smart practices should comprehend the economic dimension of agriculture to ensure long-term efficiency, stability, and farmers' welfare.

#### 1. Do you find your organisation represented from the above statement?

[Yes] [No]

#### 2. If you answered no to the question above or think a key message, regarding profitability in climate-smart agriculture is missing please complement below:

[Write your answer]

**3. Has the business agricultural model of the majority of your members changed to preserve profitability throughout climate change?**

*[Yes] [No]*

**4. If you replied yes, how?**

*[Write your answer]*

**5. If you replied no, why?**

*[Lack of financial resources] [Lack of knowledge] [Lack of access to technology providers]  
[Lack of support from the institutions] [No financial need to adopt] [Other]*

**6. Who does currently recognize the efforts that you implemented/are willing to implement to tackle climate change?**

*[No entity] [Research and academia] [Local governments] [National governments]  
[International institutions] [Other]*

## RATIONAL AND PRACTICAL

The consultation highlighted how farmers are willing to transition to climate-smart practices or have already adopted them in their routines. Yet, a strong majority perceive guidelines and definitions as either unfair, unrealistic, inaccessible, or disorganised. One of the main outcomes of the consultation is the need for a strong, and defined framework that will also consider the transformative steps necessary to transition to climate-smart food systems.

**1. Do you find your organisation represented by the above statement?**

*[Yes] [No]*

**2. If you answered no to the question above or think a key message, regarding rationality and practicality in climate-smart agriculture is missing please complement below:**

*[Write your answer]*

**3. Which expectations do you have from Climate-Smart Agriculture?**

*[Write your answer]*

**4. Is the majority of your members adhering to Climate-Smart Agriculture?**

*[Yes] [No]*

## SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

This concept entails the distribution of power and resources in the value chain. Farmers are ready to take their own responsibilities and actions towards climate-smart food systems. Yet, they expect the other actors to do the same in terms of fairer distribution of costs and value

of their transition to climate-smart practices.

**1. Do you find your organisation represented by the above statement?**

*[Yes] [No]*

**2. If you answered no to the question above or think a key message, regarding shared accountability in climate-smart agriculture is missing please complement below:**

*[Write your answer]*

**3. Which stakeholders do farmers in your country dialogue with:**

*[Governments] [Inputs suppliers] [Processers] [Distributors] [Consumers] [Research and academia]*

**4. Rank these stakeholders from most influential to least influential for your organisation in the food value chain (from 1 to 6):**

*[Governments] [Inputs suppliers] [Processers] [Distributors] [Consumers] [Research and academia]*

## ACCESS TO FINANCE

More than 20% of the participants mentioned lack of financial resources as their primary concern to adopt climate-smart practices. Nevertheless, interviewees highlighted different related nuances: land tenure, lack of access to the market, lack of infrastructures, etc.

**1. “The lack of financial resources is our members’ primary concern to adopt climate-smart agriculture” Do you agree with this statement?**

*[Yes] [No]*

**2. If you answered no to the question above, please comment below highlighting your members’ primary concern in climate-smart agriculture adoption:**

*[Write your answer]*

**3. Which of these financial obstacles do the farmers from your organisation experience?**

*[Lack of land tenure] [Lack of access to the market] [Lack of infrastructure] [Lack of financial resources]*

**4. Rank these obstacles from most problematic to least problematic within your members (from 1 to 4):**

*[Lack of land tenure] [Lack of access to the market] [Lack of infrastructure] [Lack of financial resources]*



## LACK OF AN EFFICIENT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH

According to the farmers, they are not supported by other actors in the food chain. This piece of information was both explicit and implicit. In fact, some of the participants marked lack of vision and lack of purpose as their biggest barriers to CSA adoption. Multi-stakeholder collaboration has been pinpointed multiple times as a necessary step to allow for a smoother transition. Particularly, farmers need reliable partners that not only provide economic support yet a stable environment (social, infrastructures, skills, etc.) to adopt CSA practices.

### 1. Do you find your organisation represented by the above statement?

[Yes] [No]

### 2. If you answered no to the question above or think a key message, regarding multi-stakeholder approach's efficiency in climate-smart agriculture is missing please complement below:

[Write your answer]

### 3. Which of these partnerships do the farmers from your organization are engaged in?

[Capacity building] [Financial commitment only] [Logistical and infrastructural] [Gatekeeping with market and trade] [Extension services]

### 4. Rank these kinds of partnerships from the most effective enablers to least:

[Capacity building] [Financial commitment only] [Logistical and infrastructural] [Gatekeeping with market and trade] [Extension services]

### 5. How long should a financial commitment from external stakeholders be in place to allow for a sustainable full transition to climate-smart agriculture?

[1 year] [2 years] [3 years] [5 years] [10 years] [Other]

## SHORT-TERM UNPREDICTABILITY

Food production has been considered by many farmers as the driving force and main challenge of climate change. In many regions business as usual already entails an adaptive and climate-smart component to agriculture. Long-term financial and productive sustainability must take adaptation into account. Mitigation is seen as a challenge both in terms of productivity and financial sustainability by the farmers. Most of them seem to witness mitigation practices as incompatible with short-term sustainability. Transitioning to a different and new agricultural pattern is uncertain due to unstable climate patterns and unreliable resource availability.

Many of the farmers agreed that to build resilient food systems there is a need for a business model which can ensure short-term profits even in such an unpredictable environment.

**1. Do you find your organisation represented by the above statement?**

*[Yes] [No]*

**2. If you answered no to the question above or think a key message, regarding short-term unpredictability in Climate-Smart Agriculture is missing please complement below:**

*[Write your answer]*

**3. Does business as usual in your country already entail adaptation?**

*[Yes] [No]*

**4. If you replied no, please elaborate below:**

*[Write your answer]*

**5. Does business as usual in your country already entail diversification?**

*[Yes] [No]*

**6. If you replied no, please elaborate below:**

*[Write your answer]*

**7. Does business as usual in your country entail agro-forestry?**

*[Yes] [No]*

**8. If you replied no, please elaborate below:**

*[Write your answer]*

**9. Do farmers in your country find it challenging to enact mitigating strategies?**

*[Yes] [No]*

**10. If you replied yes, please elaborate below:**

*[Write your answer]*

## GENERAL INQUIRY<sup>24</sup>

Attached to the mail you will find the Global Producers' Consultation Preliminary Report. Is there a key message, that was not highlighted in the report or the survey, that you would like to be present in WFO's positioning on climate-smart agriculture?

*[Write your answer]*

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<sup>24</sup> This section was available only to WFO Members as it included unpublished sensible data.







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