

## Annual Report 2015

### Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases in the Netherlands

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**Decided at January, 25 2016 by Johan Gatsonides and Ineke Lemmen, Ministry of Economic Affairs**

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#### Results 2015 against desired impact of the activities:

##### **1. Increased collaboration and involvement in the GRA of international organisations, like Worldbank, FAO, CGIAR**

During 2015 collaboration with and involvement in the GRA of international organisations increased. We have initiated discussions with the Alliance and Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), and in particular with the GACSA's Knowledge Action Group, exploring how the Alliance structure and capacity could combine and share resources with the GACSA and FAO. Collaboration with the CGIAR has concentrated around its Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). CCAFS has appointed a permanent contact point for the collaboration with the GRA, and prepares for strategic collaboration in its second phase (2017-2022).

Discussions for collaboration with other organisations have started and during the annual LRG meeting in February 2016 a special session addresses the issue of deepening the relationships with key partners together with representatives of the Worldbank, GACSA, FAO, CCAFS and SAI. Further collaboration with the EU was initiated, especially on the issue of identifying a mechanism for collaborative research financing in the field of the GRA. The EU proposes the IRC instrument to be used for this purpose.

##### **2. Increased collaboration of Dutch and international companies in the GRA**

As a follow-up of the well-received collaborative LRG/SAI document titled: "Reducing greenhouse gases emissions for livestock: from best practices to emerging options", further possibilities for collaboration between SAI and the GRA have been discussed and identified. In 2015 the LRG participated in the SAI workshop on sustainable feed, and preparations are made for a combined global workshop on practical implementation of mitigation measures at farm level.

With the CGIAR WageningenUR identified projects on low emissions technologies in the dairy sector in Indonesia together with Friesland Campina and Nutreco/Trouw, and on fertilizer application in Africa together with the International Fertiliser Association. Both projects are financed and start in 2016.

The Research Groups Co-chairs of the GRA urged the GRA council to develop stronger links with industry and a stronger industry/policy/science interface. Greater engagement with Partners was needed at Council level.

##### **3. Increased global awareness and increased GRA membership**

Wageningen UR actively participated in engaging workshops in Turkey, Tunis and Portugal to inform potential new member countries about the work and benefits of the GRA. These activities have contributed to an increased GRA membership.

##### **4. Steer process in LRG and initiate discussions in the networks on adaptation and impact creation**

The LRG discussed with the networks the importance of creating impact during the annual meeting in June 2015. This was brought further in the separate network meetings and the joint network meeting. So far the networks focus was on knowledge sharing on GHG mitigation, but they are now challenged also to bring the work forward towards creating impact. An important component of the 8<sup>th</sup> annual LRG meeting is to facilitate discussion by LRG representatives of priority research areas identified by the LRG research networks, and to explore in-depth relationship with key partners to create more impact. Key partners present during this meeting are FAO, CCAFS, SAI Platform, the World Bank, and the European Commission.

#### **5. Options for adaptation are identified within the networks**

In many cases the issue of GHG mitigation coincides with adaptation to climate change. Till present the GRA focusses on mitigation of GHG. Discussions on broadening the scope of the GRA, from a focus on mitigation options only to including adaptation have started at different levels in the Alliance. At the level of the networks, research groups, and also on council level. During the most recent council meeting it was suggested that the Alliance consider more regional groupings of members and also that the Research Groups consider work on adaptation with co-benefits for mitigation.

#### **6. Wageningen UR holds a leading position within the different networks of the GRA**

WageningenUR holds a prominent position in the LRG as co-chair of the research group and active members and co-chairs/champions in the research Networks on Feed&Nutrition, Animal Selection Genetics and Genomics, and Animal Health.

Till now WageningenUR was also co-chair of the I&M Research Group, but after the restructuring of the GRA organisation the two cross-cutting Research Groups are combined into one Integrative Research Group. The co-chairs function of WageningenUR will now be continued at the level of Network coordination.

#### **7. The ministry of EZ and Wageningen UR establish a good network in the field of the GRA within the Dutch and international Agro-Food Sector**

Both the ministry of EZ and Wageningen UR play an active role in the GRA alliance and are actively engaged with the partners of the GRA and affiliated organisations. Together with the ministry of EZ Wageningen UR produced a document that describes the role and position of the GRA in the context of all the other networks and alliances in the field of agriculture and climate.

Technical information and the role of the GRA network to the policy makers was exchanged and discussed in a GRA policy research workshop (1/12/15) and during a masterclass meeting (18/12/15).

Details of activities of the GRA, its Research Groups and Networks are published through the general website: <http://globalresearchalliance.org/> with links to the websites of the different networks and countries.