



Review of the Dutch (vice) presidency 2013-2015 of the Global Research Alliance on Greenhouse Gases

During the Dutch (vice) presidency of the GRA, sound results were achieved in 6 focus areas.

Broadening support for the GRA

The numerous network meetings helped considerably boost interest in the knowledge network, in many countries. Over the past few years, the membership of the GRA has grown to 46 countries – an increase of 40%.

To ensure the continuity of the GRA, a structure will be needed that delivers clear leadership. The current proposal is for a Troika model. This workable model will help guarantee continuity in leadership, consistency in decision making, strong representation for the members, checks and balances at the upper echelons of the GRA and strong support for the working group and network structure that makes up the GRA alliance.

Cooperation through network meetings and partnerships

Cooperation with researchers and policy makers in and between countries is evidence that knowledge has been developed and exchanged. Results were above all achieved by the study groups Livestock and Soil Carbon. The six-monthly reports from the study groups to the Alliance Council offer a clear summary of the advances made.

GRA has for some time been cooperating with a number of partners and businesses. The possibilities for even more intensive cooperation in the future are currently being investigated with several organisations including the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN), the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI) and the Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security research programme (CCAFS-CGIAR).

Impact of research groups

The research groups have organised a series of meetings to exchange knowledge and to compile research reports. Researchers also offer advice on preparing knowledge agendas for alliances, businesses and organisations including the European Commission, CGIAR, the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative and the FAO. Visible results have been achieved through active leadership by co-chairs, in combination with clear products and working plans. Information leaflets have been prepared to improve access to the available knowledge.

Securing knowledge in the regions

Under the Dutch presidency, two engagement workshops were organised in Poland and Tunisia. At the end of 2015, a third workshop will be organised in Turkey.

The aim of the workshops was to inform countries that are not yet members of the GRA of the activities of the GRA, and to secure activities by the GRA, at the regional level.

The focus of the 3rd workshop will be participation by countries from Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Backup material has been prepared in the form of the report 'Agricultural potential and food security in Central Asia in the light of climate change'.

Ties with government and private parties

The research groups have exchanged knowledge with policy makers and private parties to promote the building of capacity on emission reduction, when drawing up climate and agricultural agendas at an (inter)national level.

Private parties make use of this knowledge in preparing business plans and product development activities. Research results are shared and compared (inter)nationally.

Joint research between GRA and the European Commission

Two informal meetings have been held to discuss cooperation. The GRA knowledge network has been made available to the EC. Follow-up discussions are due to be held with DG Agri, DG Development Cooperation and DG Climate Action. Further cooperation in the various fields of study will be further elaborated in a European concerted GRA proposition.

More information

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