

GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE PARTNER PROCESS

Background

The Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) brings countries together to increase cooperation and investment in research activities to help reduce the emissions intensity of agricultural production systems and increase their potential for soil carbon sequestration, and improve their efficiency, productivity, resilience and adaptive capacity, thereby contributing in a sustainable way to overall mitigation efforts, while still helping to meet food security objectives.

The GRA provides a framework for voluntary action to increase cooperation and investment in research activities that support the agricultural sector in meeting the growing demand for food while reducing greenhouse gas emissions intensity. Our work is focused on improving efficiency, productivity, resilience, and adaptive capacity across the agricultural sector.

Established in 2009, the GRA has over 40 member countries. We partner with farmer organisations and international organizations that share common goals with the GRA. In addition to our Members and Partners, the GRA collaborates with other non-government and government organisations and scientists from around the world.

The GRA supports the agriculture sector by increasing cooperation and investment in research activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity while increasing food supply. Our focus is on improving the efficiency and resilience of agriculture systems, identifying and capitalising on the synergies between adaptation and mitigation. Our research work can be used by Members to support national policy development and decision making in accordance with their specific circumstances, objectives and priorities.

The GRA organises its work through three research groups: **Croplands, Livestock, and Paddy Rice**. We also have two cross-cutting groups on **Soil Carbon and Nitrogen Cycling**, and **Inventories and Monitoring** both groups work on issues that are common across the three research groups.

Many countries already have research underway to better understand, measure and manage agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and soil carbon sequestration. The GRA seeks to support existing research efforts and extension activities to make faster progress. By

bringing this knowledge together, the GRA can help the agriculture sector find the most efficient and effective ways to reduce emissions intensity while meeting food security objectives.

Purpose

This document seeks to develop a process for the GRA by which new partner organisations can be identified and existing partner relationships may be improved.

GRA Partners

Regional or international organisations that share similar aims and objectives to the GRA can be invited by the Council to participate in the work of the GRA as Partners. There is no fee or ongoing cost to joining the GRA either as a Member country or a Partner organisation; the GRA and its Partner organizations will together develop activities and identify the funding required for events of mutual interest. GRA Partners do not have a vote on the Council but are expected to attend the annual meetings as their expert views are an important contribution to the discussions and the development of GRA activities.

Research Group partners and scientific collaborators

The Research and Cross-Cutting Groups of the GRA may also form partnerships with research institutes and other regional or international organizations. These organizations may be GRA Partners or only partners to one Research Group depending on the scope of their activities and organisational interests. Research Groups have been established with the ability to develop joint activities and scientific collaborations with any organisation, research institute, expert etc as agreed to by the Group.

Partner Guidelines

The GRA seeks to increase international cooperation, collaboration and investment in both public and private research activities to develop partnerships with farmers and farmer organisations, the private sector, international and regional research institutions, foundations and non-governmental organisations, to facilitate and enhance the coordination of research activities and sharing of good practices and technologies. – Global Research Alliance Charter

Each Partner is asked to nominate a lead contact person to attend the GRA Council meeting and other GRA events as well as respond to queries or participate in discussions with GRA Members, Research Groups and the Secretariat in between meetings. Ideally the GRA contact person would be involved in other discussions and fora relating to climate change and agriculture or have an understanding of the current discussions in this space.

Partners should be active participants of the GRA and suggest opportunities for collaboration with the GRA at any time as well as support planned activities of the GRA if they are relevant to the Partner's objectives and in accordance with GRA objectives.

The GRA Secretariat will develop guidelines for Partners outlining how they are able to contribute to the GRA, for example:

1. Partners are invited to attend annual Council meetings and will be provided with the meeting report.
2. Partners do not have a vote on formal decisions of the Council, but are expected to contribute actively to discussions at Council.
3. Partners will be notified of all Research Group meetings and other GRA events so they may attend if they chose.
4. Partners should invite the GRA to participate in relevant events and may notify the GRA of upcoming events and activities through the Secretariat.
5. Partner organization websites will be linked to on the GRA website and are expected to provide a link to the GRA as a partner organisation on their website.
6. Partnership activities will be listed on the GRA website and may be updated at anytime through the Secretariat.
7. Partners may suggest new joint activities at any time. These may be presented during the Partner discussion/review at the annual Council meeting or circulated to the Council between meetings through the Secretariat.
8. Approval for new collaborative activities is required if the activity is significantly different from previously approved activities and is considered a whole of GRA activity i.e. an activity of the GRA, rather than a collaboration at the Research Group level.

Developing new activities and reviewing ongoing/past activities

Partnership activities will be reported to the Council once completed and proposal for new activities will be considered (as proposed by the Partner organisation or a Council member). This may either happen at the Council meeting or during the year. Partner activities and joint achievements will be presented and discussed at the annual Council meeting as required. It is not expected that each Partner organisation/activity would present a report of their work annually.

- *Secretariat to develop a workplan template for existing Partner's e.g. current activities and expected outcomes, proposed activities etc.*

Identifying new Partners

Potential Partners of the GRA may be identified by Members, Council Chair/vice-Chair, Secretariat and Research Groups. Organisations may also contact the GRA directly and request partnership. Before presenting new Partners to the Council for consideration the template below should be completed to identify the type of partnership, the benefits of partnership for each organisation and to provide examples of potential joint activities.

Criteria for Partnership

The assessment template should be completed by the potential Partner and sponsoring GRA Member or GRA Secretariat. The template outlines the objectives and membership structures of the organisation for consideration by the Council e.g. identify the span of the organisation, regional coverage, activities, membership (including members in common or not) and if there is an existing relationship.

The assessment should also identify the specific reasons to invite a new Partner to the GRA, for example:

1. Potential Partners may meet a need that current members or Partners are unable to fill e.g a topic or a region that is not adequately covered by existing partnerships.
2. Potential Partners may be identified to meet a specific Council workplan activity.
3. Potential Partners may already work closely with one or more Research Group(s) and be able to contribute to the wider GRA.

The potential Partner and GRA sponsor should identify the key areas for developing partnership activities, showing the benefit that each organisation will receive from this partnership. The completed assessment template should include the specific initial activities that the GRA and partner will work together on (including lead member countries) and the desired outcomes and target audience for these activities.

Process for confirming a new Partner

1. The potential Partner is identified and either approached by Council members or the Secretariat. The potential Partner may also contact the Secretariat directly for more information on becoming a GRA Partner.
2. The Partner information assessment sheet is completed, with input from the potential Partner and the Sponsoring GRA Member/Secretariat, before being circulated to the Council.
3. The Council has one month to comment on this document and give provisional agreement of Partnership. If the proposal is not initially accepted the Council will provide feedback on any concerns so that these may be addressed and the Partnership reconsidered.
4. If Council agrees to the proposal the potential Partner will be invited to present at the next council meeting and a more formal discussion will occur to approve the partnership. The GRA Council, by consensus of all members, has the final say to invite an organisation as a GRA Partner.
5. Note that if the partnership request is time dependant (e.g Council needs to agree to Partnership before joint activities begin – specific workshop, side event, and research activity) and this activity takes place before the next Council meeting then this needs to be communicated to Council and an inter-sessional decision requested.
6. The Secretariat will develop a letter to approved Partners outlining the first partnership activities between the GRA and the new Partner, based on the completed assessment sheet. This will be sent to the approved organisation confirming that they have been accepted as a Partner of the GRA.

7. When the Secretariat has received an acceptance letter from the potential Partner, Partnership is formalised and this will be communicated to the Council and the website updated.

GRA Partner organisation assessment template

- *Name of Proposed Partner Organisation*

1. How was the request for partnership initiated?

- a. Request from organization
- b. Proposed by a member state
- c. Proposed by the Secretariat

2. Partner information

a. Name:

b. Address of headquarters:

Telephone:

Email :

Website address:

c. Contact person (name and contact details):

Name:

Position:

Email:

d. Type of organization (government, international institution, NGO, university, private enterprise, etc.):

e. Geographic scope (countries, region, world):

f. Target audience (farmers, private industry, academia):

g. Corporate mandate and objectives:

h. Organisational Structure and Resourcing:

3. Activities of the Organisation - Relevance of the partner's expertise to the objectives of the GRA's charter

a. Description of Partner actions:

- i. Scientific
- ii. Implementation
- iii. Financial
- iv. Knowledge sharing and dissemination
- v. Other

b. Benefits of Partnership:

Outline the benefits for both the GRA and the proposed Partner, the target audience (countries, region, science, government, farmer etc.) and specify the role for each organisation.

c. Potential Activities:

Outline the initial activities that will take place under the partnership, including the expected audience, resourcing, timeframes and contact persons for each organisation.

d. Partnership Implementation:

What are the next steps if the Council approves this proposal? e.g. approval from Partner Governing body? Information required from Member countries or Research Groups?

Outline how future joint activities will be identified and developed.

4. Other relevant information