

## Global Research Alliance Strategic Plan 2021 to 2025

**Vision Statement: The GRA will be the leading global initiative advancing scientific research aimed at the reduction of agricultural GHG emissions.**

Building on the objectives outlined in the GRA Charter, the 2021-2025 strategic vision for the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) is to be the leading global organisation coordinating and advancing scientific research aimed at reducing the intensity of greenhouse gases from agriculture, increasing carbon sequestration in agricultural systems, and improving the resilience and adaptive capacity of agriculture to climate change. The GRA provides a framework for increasing research investment through voluntary action in member countries and is a credible and authoritative platform for scientific information, knowledge and tools on greenhouse gas research in agriculture to inform farmers and agricultural industries how to measure and reduce their emissions intensity for multiple benefit, and to inform governments how to deliver real emissions reductions to meet national commitments under the Paris Agreement.

### Key Strategies 2021-2025

Further Research Collaboration	Foster Outreach, Knowledge Sharing and Information Exchange	Build Effective Partnerships	Leverage Financial and Other Resources
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	<i>Strategic Objectives</i>
<p>The GRA will achieve broad global participation in research cooperation and investments to accelerate the development of relevant practices and technologies.</p> <p>The GRA will build global expertise in relevant knowledge and technologies.</p> <p>The GRA will support and develop early-career scientists to gain expertise in agricultural greenhouse mitigation and climate change research.</p>	<p>The GRA will communicate progress in achieving its objectives of increased cooperation and investment in research activities and reduced emissions intensity of agricultural production systems.</p> <p>The GRA will encourage the development of research results that are openly accessible and available.</p> <p>The GRA will increase its influence on policy development and practices on agricultural greenhouse gas mitigation through various mediums.</p> <p>The GRA will ensure that its outputs are appropriately targeted and meaningful to governments, farmers, agricultural industries and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>The GRA will be well connected with other initiatives relevant to GRA work and objectives.</p> <p>The GRA will develop partnerships and collaborations with organisations and initiatives that provide complementary skills and expertise to identify and close research gaps, better inform policy facilitate the implementation of practices, and enable the GRA to broaden its impact and increase its geographic reach.</p> <p>The GRA will develop collaborations to identify specific areas to enhance the research capabilities of its Members.</p>	<p>The GRA will have strong and ongoing financial and other resources to support its activities and Research Groups, including through multilateral development banks and private and philanthropic organisations.</p> <p>GRA Members and Partners will voluntarily support research and capability building activities relevant to the GRA mandate, and develop effective mechanisms for resourcing and coordinating collaborative research.</p>

**Implementation through Priority Actions and the Council, Research Groups, Partners, Special Representative and Secretariat**

GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE  
**DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2021–2025**  
As approved this 23 day of March, 2021.

**2021 to 2025 Vision Statement:**

*The GRA will be the leading global initiative advancing scientific research aimed at the reduction of agricultural GHG emissions.*

Building on the objectives outlined in the GRA Charter, the 2021-2025 strategic vision for the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) is to be the leading global organisation coordinating and advancing scientific research aimed at reducing the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, increasing carbon sequestration in agricultural systems, and improving the resilience and adaptive capacity of agriculture to climate change. The GRA provides a framework for increasing research investment through voluntary action in member countries and is a credible and authoritative platform for scientific information, knowledge and tools on greenhouse gas research in agriculture to inform farmers and agricultural industries how to measure and reduce their emissions intensity for multiple benefit, and to inform governments how to deliver real emissions reductions to meet national commitments under the Paris Agreement.

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

Agriculture plays a vital role in achieving food security and nutrition, poverty reduction and sustainable development. This sector is also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and faces great challenges in meeting a significant increase in global food demand while reducing its contribution to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Globally it is estimated that agricultural emissions from crop and livestock activities within the farm gate account for 9–14% of total emissions and an additional 5–14% when including land use and land-use change, including deforestation and peatland degradation. Without intervention, these are likely to increase by about 30–40% by 2050, due to increasing demand based on population and income growth and dietary change<sup>1</sup>.

There is thus a need to increase research cooperation and investment in mitigation practices and technologies. This requires understanding and quantification of climate change mitigation actions and mitigation options that maximise the adaptation potential of production systems in order to develop more efficient and productive, sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

Research to understand GHG emissions by their source and their removal by sinks is important if agriculture is to take appropriate mitigation and adaptation action, and for governments to develop appropriate strategies and policies and to estimate and report emissions and removals from agriculture that result

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<sup>1</sup> Source : <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/chapter-5/>

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from the implementation of national climate strategies and plans including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). A greater understanding of suitable on farm mitigation and adaptation actions that countries might promote to farmers and industry is also essential to facilitate the development of low emissions food systems, and meet global targets such as the SDGs and Paris Agreement.

The GRA, established in 2011, provides a framework for voluntary action to increase cooperation and investment in research activities related to reducing GHG emissions intensity in agricultural production systems, increasing their potential for soil carbon sequestration, and improving their efficiency, productivity, resilience, and adaptive capacity, thereby contributing in a sustainable way to overall mitigation efforts while still helping meet food security objectives. The GRA's objectives are outlined in the [GRA Charter](#).

### **GRA Strategic Plan Development and Review**

The GRA Council adopts this Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 as a non-binding document that tracks the GRA's continued effectiveness and ensures progress towards the implementation of the GRA Charter.

The GRA's Strategic Plan identifies concrete Strategic Objectives and Priority Actions to advance the four Key Strategies identified by its membership:

- 1) Further research collaboration
- 2) Foster outreach, knowledge sharing and information exchange
- 3) Build effective partnerships
- 4) Leverage financial and other resourcing

Each Strategic Plan element is designed to accomplish the GRA purpose, as described in the GRA Charter and in accordance with the GRA Communication Policy.

The Strategic Plan will serve as a bridge between the day-to-day work of the GRA Council, and its Research Groups, Special Representative, Secretariat and Partners.

At its annual meetings, the GRA Council will review the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the progress made against its Key Strategies seen in the table and below and consider whether new Priority Actions should be added, or amended. The measurable claims provide traceable actions upon which to measure the GRA's progress in working toward the Strategic Objectives (*1A through 4B*). These will be tracked annually and reviewed after the completion of the coming five years.

### **Strategic Objectives 2021-2025**

**KEY STRATEGY 1: Further Research Collaboration**

**Strategic Objective 1A:** The GRA will achieve broad global participation in research cooperation and investments to accelerate the development of relevant practices and technologies.

**Strategic Objective 1B:** The GRA will continue to build global expertise in relevant knowledge and technologies.

**Strategic Objective 1C:** The GRA will support and develop early-career scientists to gain expertise in agricultural greenhouse mitigation and climate change research.

**KEY STRATEGY 2: Foster Outreach, Knowledge Sharing and Information Exchange**

**Strategic Objective 2A:** The GRA will communicate progress in achieving its objectives of increased cooperation and investment in research activities and reduced emissions intensity of agricultural production systems.

**Strategic Objective 2B:** The GRA will encourage the development of research results that are openly accessible and available.

**Strategic Objective 2C:** The GRA will increase its influence on policy development and practices on agricultural greenhouse gas mitigation through various mediums.

**Strategic Objective 2D:** The GRA will ensure that its outputs are appropriately targeted and meaningful to governments, farmers, agricultural industries and other relevant stakeholders.

**KEY STRATEGY 3: Build Effective Partnerships**

**Strategic Objective 3A:** The GRA will be well connected with other initiatives relevant to GRA work and objectives.

**Strategic Objective 3B:** The GRA will develop partnerships and collaborations with organisations and initiatives that provide complementary skills and expertise, to identify and close research gaps, better inform policy facilitate the implementation of practices, and enable the GRA to broaden its impact and increase its geographic reach.

**Strategic Objective 3C:** The GRA will develop collaborations to identify specific areas to enhance the research capabilities of its Members.

**KEY STRATEGY 4: Leverage Financial and Other Resourcing**

**Strategic Objective 4A:** The GRA will have strong and ongoing financial and other resources to support its activities and Research Groups, including through multilateral development banks and private and philanthropic organisations.

**Strategic Objective 4B:** GRA Members and Partners will voluntarily support research and capability building activities relevant to the GRA mandate, and develop effective mechanisms for resourcing and coordinating collaborative research.

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**GRA Operational plan**

**Priority actions will be written after the Strategic Plan is agreed**