

Meeting of G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS-G20)

Terms of References, committed at the 2nd MACS in Russia 2013, modified at the 6th MACS 2017 in Germany 2017

The Meeting of the G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) is an initiative endorsed by G20 Leaders. G20 Agriculture Vice Ministers in 2012 supported “meetings of G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) or high-level agricultural research officials from G20 member countries, other interested countries, and International Research Organizations such as CGIAR, with the goal of identifying global research priorities and targets, facilitating collaboration between public and private sector organizations in the key areas, most likely to drive sustainable productivity gains, and tracking progress on established goals over time”.

The MACS objectives are: to inform stakeholders of existing global resources, programs and collaborative efforts for agricultural research that can help address food security challenges; to identify, strengthen and complement research priority areas for collective action in coherence with existing initiatives to sustainably intensify agricultural production, in order to meet increased and changing demand for healthy, safe and nutritious food whilst mitigating and adapting to climate change; to identify avenues to facilitate the coordination of resources and existing initiatives in support of these priorities; to establish baselines and track progress toward the priorities; and to promote new partnerships.

MACS will operate based on the following:

- a. The MACS is a voluntary initiative and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations between or among its Members or any other entities under domestic or international law.
- b. The MACS shall be responsible for governing the overall framework, procedures, and activities of the MACS.
- c. MACS meetings will take place annually or as determined by the G20 host country as part of its presidency. The MACS and its objectives should be utilized in support of the G20 working groups and/or meetings of their respective Ministers/Sherpas. The intent is to utilize MACS objectives to provide G20 policy leadership with agricultural research and development guidance from the G20 agricultural chief scientists. The G20 lead country will normally host the MACS meeting.
- d. The host country will organize the agenda in consultation with the prior and the future host countries.
- e. Membership is open to any G20 Member country and the European Commission representing the European Union, represented by its competent authority for agricultural policy and research.
- f. MACS members may agree by consensus to form and participate in committees, subcommittees, or any other entities that they may consider useful for the achievement of MACS objectives. The MACS

may by consensus decide to extend temporary MACS member status to other non-G20 States and organizations as deemed appropriate and applicable to upcoming MACS discussions.

g. MACS will work closely with existing and future collaborative mechanisms, including, but not limited to CGIAR Consortium, Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD). MACS will pursue minimizing duplication and strengthen international cooperation within such mechanisms and with international development agencies.

h. MACS members may mobilize efforts regarding the identification of Global Research Collaboration Priorities (GRCPs) to build an effective and efficient agricultural research and development capacity to provide the greatest contribution to respond to food security and nutrition challenges based on four principles:

- a) *“Positive consensus” principle*: a common thematic interest based on no objections by any attending MACS representatives;
- b) *“Research & science-based action” principle*: concise policy statements that reflect opportunities for international research collaboration and leveraging domestically-focused agricultural research;
- c) *“Voluntariness” principle*: participation in any action, resulting from MACS discussions and conclusions, is voluntary;
- d) *“Facilitation, not institutionalization” principle*: MACS itself is not an operational structure to resource and execute joint activities. MACS members may support or facilitate activities but should avoid the creation of new structures.

i. Any Member may voluntarily contribute funds, personnel, and/or other resources to support MACS activities decided by consensus, including assistance in the participation of Members with different capacities.