



G20 GERMANY 2017

MACS-G20

Potsdam, November 12 – 15 2017

Principles for Global Research Collaboration Platforms (GRCP)



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

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Outline

- Initially drafted principles for GRCP
- Feedback: agreements, critical replies and concerns
- Need for mutual agreement by
 - common understanding - what is a GRCP (and what not)
 - corresponding modification of principles for GRCP
- Recording in communiqué of 6th MACS meeting

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- Initially drafted principles for GRCP
- Feedback: agreements, critical replies and concerns
- Need for mutual agreement by
 - common understanding (what and what not)
 - corresponding modified principles for GRCP
- Recording in communiqué of 6th MACS meeting

Pre-meeting on November 12th

Initially drafted principles for GRCPs

1. “Multinational approach” principle
2. “Research & science-based action” principle
3. “Active participation” principle
4. “Facilitation, not an institutionalization” principle
5. “Voluntariness” principle

Important critical replies and concerns

1. MACS - no operational structure with management function
2. MACS should maintain the status of policy advisors to Ag Ministers and avoid becoming another platform to coordinate ongoing activities
3. GRCPs based on advocacy of only a few G20 members might open the door for misuse of the “G20 branding”
4. GRCPs shouldn't create collective funding structures
5. Cooperation among G20 members + third partners evolving from MACS discussions and conclusions are welcome but shouldn't be considered as a MACS or G20 initiative.

Common understanding – what is a GRCP (and what not)?

full agreement on the merits:

1. GRCP = endorsement / encouragement / recommendation / stimulation based on a common interest.
2. MACS must be able to endorse and recommend priority areas of research independently from the capacity to bring it into being or to resource it.

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1. GRCP = endorsement / encouragement / recommendation / stimulation based on a common interest.
2. MACS must be able to endorse and recommend priority areas of research independently from the capacity to bring it into being or to resource it.

➡ A recommendation of MACS regarding a research priority of utmost relevance may not depend on third parties!

Common understanding – what is a GRCP (and what not)?

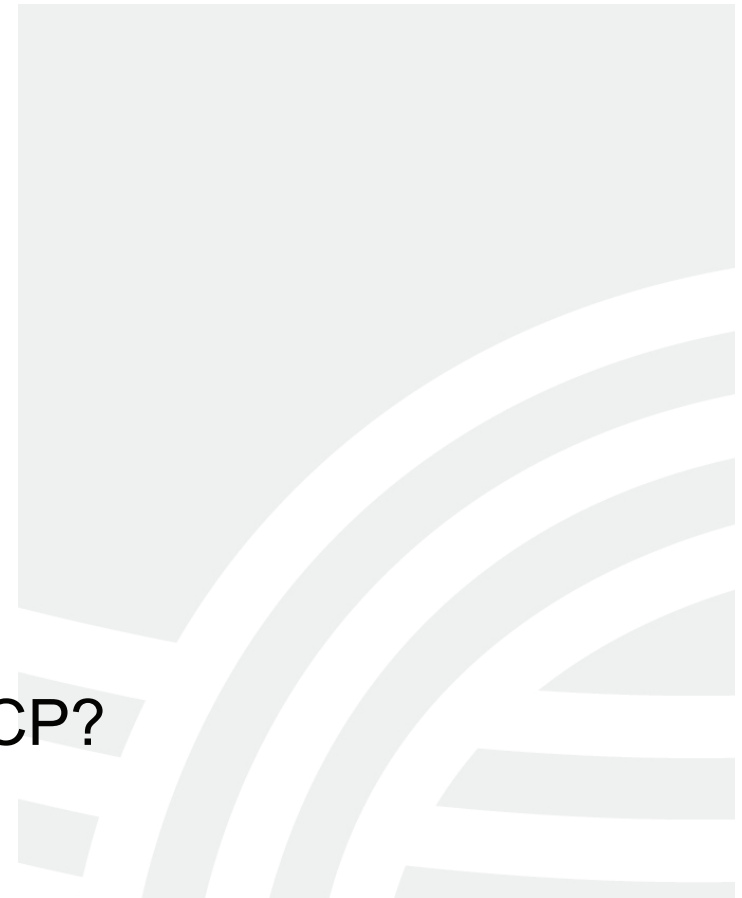
Against this background:

Wheat Initiative – a GRCP?

GODAN – a GRCP?

STAR-IDAIZ – a GRCP?

Food Losses & Waste initiative – a GRCP?



Common understanding – what is a GRCP (and what not)?

Against this background:

Wheat Initiative – a GRCP **No**
GODAN – a GRCP **No**
STAR-IDAZ – a GRCP **No**
Food Losses & Waste Initiative – a GRCP **No**

Such activities = **successful outcomes** of MACS conclusions but relying on support/funding/participation of third parties.

That's why MACS members appreciate the formation of such activities but won't call it "MACS-G20 activities".

Corresponding modification of principles for GRCP

- 1. “Consensus” principle:** a common thematic interest of all G20 members attending MACS meeting, based on a unanimous vote
- 2. “Research & science-based action” principle:** Concise statement of priority areas of agricultural research & science based collaboration
- 3. “Voluntariness” principle:** Any action resulting from MACS discussions and conclusions is a voluntary one.
- 4. “Facilitation, not an MACS-institutionalization” principle:** MACS itself isn't an operational structure in order to resource and execute joint activities. So MACS members may support or facilitate activities but should avoid to create new structures resp. act as such a new structure.

Finally: The confusing term “Platform” ...

To date we call a priority which all G20 can agree on and which should impact national efforts to contribute to global research collaboration a “Global Research Collaboration **Platform**”.

Platform – confusing term responsible for misunderstandings and irritations so far.

Suggestion:

Redraft into “**Advice for Global Research Collaboration**” (AGRC) and change item h. of the MACS-Terms of Reference accordingly

Thank you for attention.

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