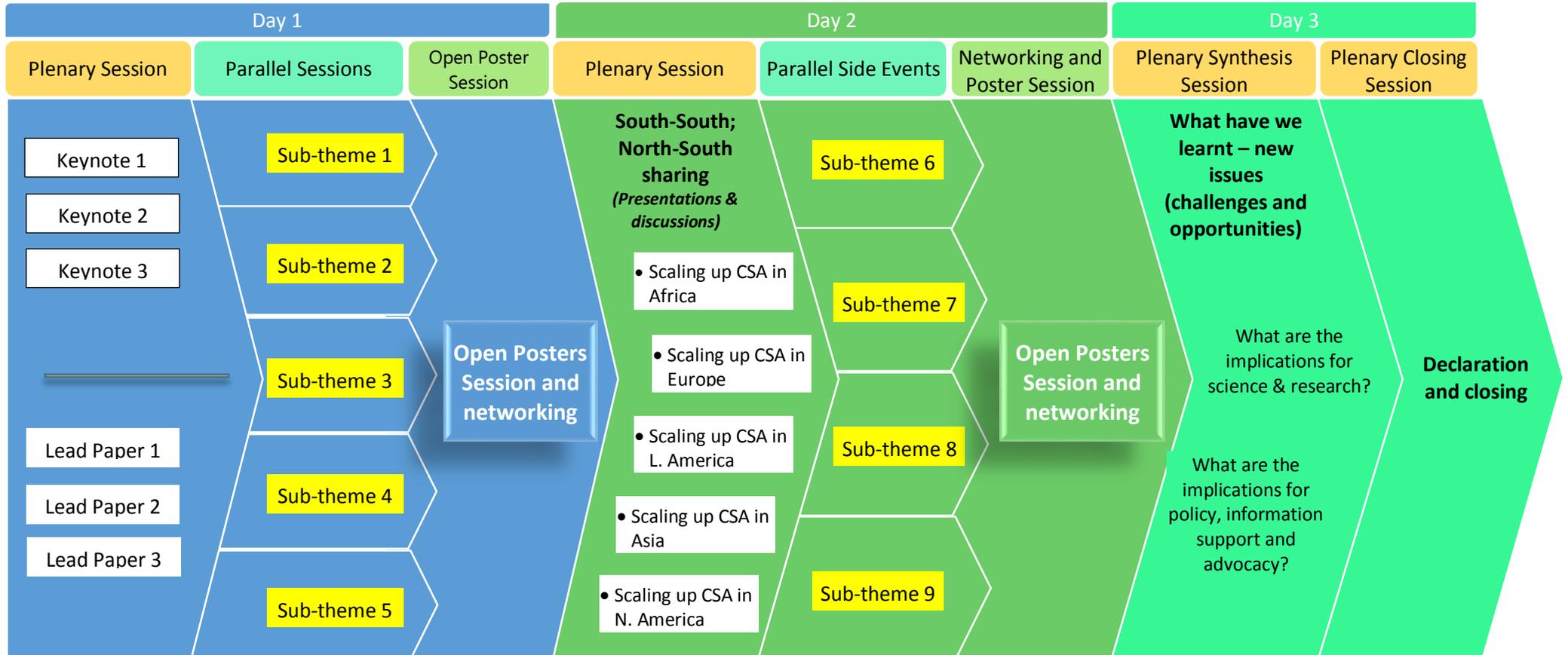


4th Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture
Johannesburg, South Africa; 28-30 November 2017

Conference structure and synopsis for the main sessions



Synopsis of the scope of the conference sessions

Session	Synopsis
PLENARY 1: OPENING SESSION	
KEY-NOTE 1: Making the Journey: Wageningen-to-Davis-to-Montpellier and now to Johannesburg: What do we know more and better	This is the 4 th global science conference on climate smart agriculture. The keynote highlights advances and trends in new/emerging knowledge, on one hand, and new/emerging challenges and opportunities, on the others, climate smart agriculture related advances
KEY NOTE 2: CSA Science-Policy Interface: Two-way connection between CSA science findings and policy practice	<p>Highlighting experiences on how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - results from CSA science and research support effective policy making? - how policy considerations and political ambitions are informing the CSA research agenda <p>What needs to be done to bring these experiences to bear on the initiatives to support and accelerate local CSA innovations and widespread up-take</p>
PLENARY 2: GLOBAL ISSUES AND TRENDS	
LEAD PAPER 1: Delivering results: What value does SDGs and COP 21 Paris Climate Agreement bring to the efforts to catalyse CSA science, innovations and uptake	<p>Now that the SDGs and COP 21 Paris Climate Agreement are in place, what does this mean for the efforts and strategies to advance CSA; show case initiatives in which CSA is featuring as key entry point towards specified SDGs and/or COP 21 Paris Climate Agreement goals and targets; what does science present on the link between CSA, GHG and soil health (i.e. rich biodiversity and enhanced land productivity)</p> <p>Science and Policy considerations making CSA an imperative in pursuit of sustainable development</p>
LEAD PAPER 2: Unpacking levers that bring science, policy and practitioners' experiences together in fostering accelerated advances and uptake of local CSA innovations	CSA is not a sector issue, neither is it a one-discipline issue; therefore success in CSA will require innovative initiatives on multi-sectorial – new forms of partnerships and alliances rallying and knitting together different specialisations and skills, different interests and different capacities to deliver the individual needs, while at the same time achieving the “greater good”. What factors will compel systemically the linkages between policy, science and on-field practices; give examples
LEAD PAPER 3: The science of CSA - what do we know; what do we need to know and does this relate to policy practice	What could we, today, say as scientifically undisputable facts on CSA; what issues and aspects on CSA remain open in terms of convincing science – especially in the minds of practitioners / farmers;
PLENARY 3: SOUTH-SOUTH; NORTH-SOUTH SHARING AND LEARNING	
<p>Regional Papers: Exposing science, policy and field CSA practices unique within the regional ecosystem and political economy</p> <p>Fostering South-South and North-South cooperation in advancing the value of science in the up-scaling of CSA</p>	<p>Based on local ecosystems and political economy circumstances, offer regional-specific state of the art, with regard to, elements in the sciences, policies and practices of CSA in the regional would you consider as uniquely regional; elaborate what is unique about them; address both biophysical issues (e.g. soils, water, crops, livestock, plant and animal genetics and health...) and socioeconomics (e.g. poverty alleviation, gender issues...) aspects of CSA</p> <p>The session will serve as a platform for regional CSA initiatives including the AU-NEPAD Agriculture Climate Change Programme, Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy for Central America and Dominican Republic, ASEAN Climate Resilience Network, and West African CSA Alliance, to showcase and share innovations in their regions. We see many of these initiatives fostering innovations and supporting the scaling up of CSA in their regions, and there is much to share. Considering that we are involved in most of these initiatives as scientific partners, we can facilitate the necessary linkages</p>

Session	Synopsis
PARALLEL SESSIONS - SUB-THEME FOCUS	
1. SUB-THEME 1: Localised CSA innovations and practices in combating land degradation and enhancing soil health	Highlighting CSA innovations under varied ecosystems and farming levels with a focus on how such practices/innovations are impacting on combating land degradation and/or improving land productivity; specify some examples/cases of how input from science has enhanced the relevancy and appropriateness of the innovations;
2. SUB-THEME 2: Climate smart agriculture and agroecology: Identifying and addressing the convergences	Beyond research and academic terminologies expose the convergences between CSA and agroecology; Can CSA and agroecology share similar objectives; What would be unique about CSA compared to agroecology; what would be useful messages to practitioners on CSA in relation to agroecology
3. SUB-THEME 3: Climate and weather data – strengthening and aligning monitoring and data use capacities, tools and skills	
4. SUB-THEME 4: CSA in pursuit of SDGs: Experiences on practical CSA innovations across Agenda 2030 goals	
5. SUB-THEME 5: Enhancing soil carbon for climate mitigation, climate adaptation and food security	
6. SUB-THEME 6: Managing GHG at country level: harnessing agriculture as part of the win-win solution	
7. SUB-THEME 7: Climate smart livestock systems – unblocking science and policy challenges and opportunities	Livestock production contributes to a large fraction of agricultural GHG emissions, to food security and is vulnerable to climate change. Presentations will discuss the potential for climate smart livestock systems.
8. SUB-THEME 8: Climate smart forestry and tree crops – scaling up what is working (best practices)	Landscapes integrate agricultural and non-agricultural (e.g. forestry) components. Carbon mitigation and climate adaptation can be developed at the landscape scale (e.g. combining reduced deforestation, agro-forestry and integrated crop-livestock systems) and have strong interactions with the management of water resources. The session will address examples of landscape and watershed management and discuss the potential of integrated systems that could deliver ecosystem services in a sustainable way
9. SUB-THEME 9: Investment opportunities and funding instruments	<p>The scaling-up of practices that potentially benefit development, food security and climate change adaptation and mitigation into sustainable agriculture development frameworks may require specific investments or changes in economic incentives, e.g. weather index based insurance systems, carbon markets, productive safety nets, debt finance loans, direct investment, grants and subsidies</p> <p>These approaches will be presented and discussed during the session, as well as methods and case studies to answer the following questions for public and private investors: Where to invest in order to obtain the best leverage? What will be the impact of a given investment on the three pillars of CSA?</p>