



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture

28-30 November 2017

Johannesburg, South Africa  
– hosted in Africa for the 1st time



## Conference Concept Note

"The 4<sup>th</sup> Global Science Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture (The 4<sup>th</sup> GSC-CSA)" takes forward the initiative on research and science started in October 2010 with the aim to bring science to bear on practical advances in scaling up climate smart agriculture. Three scientific conferences have been held so far (*University of Wageningen in 2011; University of California, Davis in 2013 and in Montpellier in 2015*). Africa, under the custodianship of NEPAD Agency, is hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> GSC-CSA from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

**Conference rationale and purpose:** There is growing attention to “climate-agriculture nexus” issues. At global level, the SDGs and Paris Climate Agreement have explicitly highlighted climate-agriculture and food systems nexus issues as key success factors in advancing sustainable economic growth and development. The 4<sup>th</sup> Global SC-CSA brings together key constituencies to share, learn, network and build alliances – with the aim to bring science and innovations to bear on policy, institutional and technological efforts in building agricultural and food systems that are climate smart.

**Conference Theme and Objectives:** The 4<sup>th</sup> GSC-CSA will focus on IMPLEMENTATION, RESULTS and IMPACT under the theme “*Catalysing local innovations and actions to accelerate scaling up of CSA*”.

Specifically, five conference objectives are identified:

- i. Highlight emerging science and innovations on Climate-Agriculture nexus, focusing on agricultural landscapes and food systems
- ii. Showcase experiences and lessons in science-policy interactions fostering accelerated up-take of CSA
- iii. Examine circumstance-specific conditions for success for CSA within SDGs & Paris Climate Agreement
- iv. Networking and opening or consolidation opportunities for collaboration and alliances on CSA
- v. Stimulate dialogue between scientists and practitioners (policy makers, business, civil society, farmers, etc...)

The Conference focus on implementation is intended to compel circumstance-specific examination of implementation capacity related factors including multi-sectoriality, multi-disciplinary and trans-boundary collaboration, partnerships and alliances. The key message is that climate smart agriculture is not a sector issue, nor can it be pursued successfully under one discipline. Individual country successes are also not sustainable. With science as the primary entry point, the Conference will also give attention to policies, human and institutional capacity and financing – in context of how all these elements play together to expand implementation capacity.

**Conference Participants:** The Conference is open to all interest constituencies including policy makers, development champions and practitioners, private sector and scientists from across the world.

**Conference structure:** Guided by the principle “everyone has something to share”, Conference structure is designed to encourage formal and informal discussions and networking with expert interventions to inform discussions. This include plenary and parallel thematic sessions and information kiosk to showcase work mainly through posters and video documentaries. Break and lunch times are arranged to optimise formal and informal networking.

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#### **Scientific Committee Lead Team**

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