

CATIE's Mesoamerican Agroenvironmental Program (MAP) and the CGIAR's Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) took first place for presenting the most innovative idea at the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) annual forum, which was held in Rome on June 14-17th.

GACSA was launched in 2014 at the United Nations Climate Summit. CATIE has been part of the alliance since its establishment, represented by Leida Mercado, Leader of MAP and director of the Division of Research and Development; Raffaele Vignola, leader of the Climate Change and Watersheds Program; and Bastiaan Louman, researcher in the Production and Forest Conservation Program.



Local stakeholders participate in workshops to help evaluate and prioritize CSA practices



As part of the methodology used to evaluate CSA practices, one has to rate the main opportunities and barriers

As part of the 2016 GACSA annual forum, there was an open invitation to present an innovative idea related to climate-smart agriculture through a two-minute video. The video was to explain the initiative, its progress and the contribution it has made in promoting the climate-smart agriculture approach and improving food and nutritional security.

MAP and CCAFS participated with the video entitled "Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices Implemented in Two Central American Territories" (click [here](#) to see the video), which was selected among the top three to compete in the CSA Innovator's Pitch event where 3 innovators pitched their idea / innovation on CSA.

The innovation presented is related to the evaluation of 60 agricultural practices that CATIE has been promoting for the last 8 years both in Nicaragua and Trifinio (border area of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras). Such practices have been widely adopted by thousands of families linked to MAP. As a result, the families have diversified their diet (they consume food for a larger number of food groups and a larger variety of foods within such groups) and are producing a larger quantity of the food they consume, which has helped improve their savings capacity. These promising practices were evaluated from the lens of the climate-smart agriculture using the methodology "Climate-Smart Agriculture Prioritization Framework" developed by CCAFS. As a result, it was possible to demonstrate the contribution of the practices promoted by CATIE-MAP to the three pillars of CSA, namely productivity, adaptation and mitigation.



Examples of improved agricultural practices

"This achievement is a team effort in which CATIE-MAP provided the agricultural innovations with important outcomes such as improved food and nutrition security in the Trifinio and NicaCentral regions while CCAFS provided its methodology Climate-Smart Agriculture Prioritization Framework", emphasized Mercado.