

Task 2.2

Facilitate individual working groups

November 2017

Deliverable 2.5
Report No.1 to SCAR
SG about facilitation



EUROPEAN UNION

Project co-funded by
H2020 Programme under
Grant Agreement n° 727486

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The overall objective of CASA, a Coordination and Support Action (CSA), is a **consolidated common agricultural and wider bioeconomy research agenda** within the European Research Area.

CASA will achieve this by bringing the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR), which has already contributed significantly to this objective in the past, to the next level of performance as a research policy think tank. CASA will efficiently strengthen the strengths and compensate for the insufficiencies of SCAR and thus help it evolve further into “SCAR plus”.

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Abbreviations

CSA	Coordination and Support Action
CWG	Collaborative Working Group
SCAR	Standing Committee on Agricultural Research
SG	Steering Group
SWG	Strategic Working Group
WP	Work Package

Summary

Work Package 2 of the CASA CSA project is entitled “*Added Value and Improved quality for greater impact*”.

Initial guidelines for proposals for support have been revised. Currently the Strategic Working Groups ARCH, AKIS and Forest are benefitting from CASA support for facilitation.

This deliverable is D2.5 (Report No.1 to SCAR SG about facilitation) of the CASA CSA project and presents a very brief report about CASA support to the working groups in terms of facilitation since the initiation of the CASA project.

Introduction

The CASA CSA project started on 1st September 2016 and is planned for a 36 month project period.

The overarching aim of CASA will be achieved through the accomplishment of the following four specific objectives:

1. Increased and broadened participation, interaction and collaboration of Member States and Associated Countries
2. Improved quality of outputs and outcomes of the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research creating added value for greater impact
3. Strengthening the production of more strategic policy advice by the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research based on the increased, deepened and broadened participation facilitated by CASA
4. Improve overall organisation, communication and dissemination of SCAR activities, outputs and outcomes for greater impact

One of the driving forces for establishing a CSA which will support SCAR is facilitation and coordination of the working groups. Work Package (WP) 2 provides added value to SCAR bodies and helps deliver results of improved quality leading to greater impact of SCAR activities.

This deliverable is D2.5 (Report Nr.1 to SCAR WG about facilitation) of the CASA CSA project and is slightly delayed in order to bring it in line with the SCAR calendar.

Support to facilitation of the working groups

Support to SCAR activities and its working groups is channelled through the four main CASA work packages. Direct support from WP2 includes:

- Facilitation of working groups (T2.2);
- External studies (T2.3) and
- Supporting coordination and linkages (T2.4).

Guidelines for proposing support to facilitation of the working groups were prepared in the first phase of the CASA project. In order to clarify some issues, a revision was made in September 2017 in close collaboration with the CASA Management Group and the SCAR Secretariat.

Despite interest from all groups during the 2016 workshop only SWG Forest, ARCH and AKIS benefit from CASA funds for facilitation under task 2.2. Whilst SWG Forest made an application for support from October 2017 until June 2019, earmarked funds are available for the duration of the CASA project for support to facilitation of SWGs ARCH and AKIS and as such these two groups had only to present plans for use of the resources available for facilitation under task 2.2.

No analysis has been made of the reason for the working groups not taking more advantage of these resources.

According to the guidelines “*A brief report must be submitted to the task manager by 31st December each year or when required.*” The three working groups Forest, ARCH and AKIS will be requested to provide this report but in addition, comment on the support facility. In addition, the CASA task 2.2 task manager will contact the chairs of all of the working groups encouraging them to make use of the facility, but also requesting comments about their needs. Should the resources not be required it may be possible to reallocate them to another CASA budget line.

