



GCSAYN Research and Scientific Committee (GRSC)

GCSAYN RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ONE PAGER

(2025-2030)

Concept Note about GCSAYN Thesis Support Program

Title: "From Research to Roots: Empowering GCSAYN Education Exchange Program (CEEP)"

Background:

Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global (GCSAYN) recognizes that 70% of academic research never reaches practical application. Our **approved Centres of Excellence** bridge this gap by transforming student theses into implementable sustainable solutions through *capacity building and strengthening*.

Objectives:

- Provide end-to-end support (proposal to implementation) for 50+ interns annually
- Ensure that all the research thesis are bankable and transferred to achievable projects.
- Establish 20+ industry-academia partnerships for scaling.

Program Components:

A) Thesis Incubation Lab:

- Matching students with experts from 15+ Centres of Excellence
- Quarterly virtual "Research-to-Field" workshops through the existing virtual academy
- Open-access knowledge repository of past projects

B) Implementation Framework:

- 6-month post-thesis incubation support
- Community adoption partnerships with FAO Country Offices
- Annual showcase at UNFCCC COP side events

Expected Outcomes:

- 80% increase in research utilization rates
- 30% reduction in project duplication
- 5+ scalable innovations annually
- Strengthened public private partnership through GCSAYN youth engagement

Sustainability Plan:

- 10% royalty sharing on commercialized projects
- Alumni network for continuous mentorship through community of practices (CoP)
- Annual impact report and success stories to the partners

2. Student Project Selection Criteria**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Currently enrolled in high school/undergrad/postgrad (proof required)
- Research aligned with GCSAYN's 5 Pillars:
 1. GHG mitigation in food systems
 2. Sustainable and resilient cropping
 3. Digital agriculture for environmental mitigation and adaptation
 4. Circular bioeconomy and environmental education
 5. Policy innovation for sustainability

Evaluation Matrix (100-point scale):

Criteria	Weight Indicators	
Innovation	25%	Novelty score (1-5), IP potential
Scalability	20%	Replication plan, cost-effectiveness analysis
Impact Potential	20%	CO ₂ eq reduction estimates, # beneficiaries
Gender Inclusion	15%	WEE (Women's Economic Empowerment) integration
Local Relevance	10%	Alignment with NDCs/NAPs
Implementation Plan	10%	12-month Gantt chart with milestones

Selection Process:

1. Preliminary screening by Centres of Excellence Leads (eliminates 40%)
2. Technical review by panel of strategic committee (scores 60-80)
3. Top 20% advance to virtual pitch session
4. Final selection by joint committee

Post-Selection Requirements:

- Monthly progress reports using GCSAYN templates
- Field validation within 6 months of funding
- Commitment to 1-year post-project mentoring

Funding Tiers:

- High School: \$2,000-5,000
- TVET & Undergrad: \$5,000-8,000
- Postgrad: \$10,000-15,000

This framework ensures research excellence while prioritizing real-world impact - creating a pipeline from academic work to climate action implementation.