



GCSAYN First Annual Forum (GAF-I) 2026

Date: August 11-12, 2026

Venue: Kenya National Library- Maktaba Kuu, Nairobi, Kenya

Organized by: Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global (GCSAYN)

Introduction

Climate-smart Agriculture (CSA) is an integral approach to managing landscapes-cropland, livestock, forests and fisheries that addresses the interlinked global challenges of food and nutrition insecurity, climate change and poverty reduction. Young people will be disproportionately negatively impacted by these challenges throughout their lifetimes and have critical roles to play in combatting them now and into the future. Women are also key contributors to sustainable agriculture and nutrition but often have less access to and control over resources such as land and finance.

Today, the global agrifood system emits one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Global food demand is further estimated to increase to feed a projected global population of 9.7 billion people by 2050. Populations will increase most rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa, where agrifood systems will also continue to play a key role in generating better employment opportunities for youth for decades to come.

Increased agricultural productivity can help increase incomes and lower food prices, helping to improve livelihoods, reduce poverty and improve nutrition. Achieving these objectives through agricultural land expansion and the unsustainable use of land and resources, however, creates a vicious circle that leads to an increase in GHG emissions, destruction of biodiversity, land degradation and more than undermine livelihoods and human well-being.

Food systems are the leading source of methane emissions and biodiversity loss, and they use around 70 percent of fresh water. If food waste were a country, it would be the third highest emitter in the world. Emissions from agriculture are increasing in developing countries, and these countries have common but differentiated challenges in climate adaptation and mitigation while pursuing unique economic and social objectives.

Without significant climate mitigation and adaptation progress in the agrifood sector that engages youth and women as key climate actors, the Paris Agreement goals cannot be reached, including to expand green jobs for youth and others and achieve food and nutrition security.





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Overview:

In this context **GCSAYN**, in collaboration with the **Republic of Kenya**, and **Kenya National Library Service (KNLS)**, are joining efforts with the **African Union Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (AU-WGYD)** and the **African Development Bank (AfDB)** along with other global partners in convening the **First Annual Forum (GAF-I), August 11-12, 2026 at KNLS - Maktaba Kuu in Nairobi, Kenya**. The forum envisions advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) through youth leadership to contribute to feeding and nourishing the world, strengthen environmental sustainability, mitigation and adaptation, to leverage better livelihood opportunities for young people, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and other stakeholders within the green economy.

Objectives:

The forum aims **to localize and domesticate CSA** by strengthening international youth cooperation, accelerating climate-resilient food and nutrition systems, and promoting inclusive participation nationally, regionally and globally by mobilising volunteers across the 98 approved Centers of Excellence (primary and secondary schools, universities and TVETs).

The forum will provide an enabling environment for sharing knowledge, co-creating innovative solutions, and strengthening engagement between young farmers, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and other stakeholders. The meaningful participation of active GCSAYN Centers of Excellence will add value and a multilateral perspective, reinforcing the importance of youth engagement in global agrifood system transformation.

Key themes of 2026 GAF-I:

1. Sustainability through efficient use of resources and climate-smart practices and technologies.
2. Digital tools and literacy: work for creating access and capacity as foundational for smallholder farmers, women and youth in CSA action.
3. Innovative approaches to increase youth and women's employment in food systems with green practices and outcomes.

Program:

- **Panel Discussion - Scaling youth-led innovation for the future of agriculture**

This panel will highlight agricultural solutions driven by young women and men, sharing lessons from farmers, youth and women, & discussing policy and investment needs to scale CSA.



- **Roundtable Discussion - Harnessing digital tools for inclusive CSA**

This session will explore how mobile advisory services, precision farming tools and digital market platforms support farmers, particularly youth, women and smallholders to improve productivity, strengthen resilience and access markets.

- **Workshop - Building CSA skills and access to resources for farmers and rural youth and women**

This breakout session will focus on strengthening digital literacy, improving connectivity, networking and promoting farmer-centered CSA development.

Expected Outcomes:

By the end of the forum, participants will have increased knowledge about Climate Smart Agriculture and digital tools, skills and capacities to fast-track climate mitigation and adaptation actions that drive measurable impacts in improving resilient food systems, nutrition and youth and women's employment.

Strategic Partners for the Forum (GAF-I):

- Africa Projects Development Centre (APDC), Nigeria
- Africa Union Commission (AUC)
- African Academy of Science (AAS)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- British Society of Soil Science (BSSS), UK
- Children of the Earth, USA
- City of Mercy Christian Academy, Nigeria
- Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), UK
- Earth4All, Switzerland
- EyeforNature, The Netherlands
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Food and Land Use (FOLU) Coalition Kenya
- Food Systems for the Future Institute, USA
- Global Flagship Initiative on Food Security (GFIFS), Germany



Strategic Partners for the Forum (GAF-I):

- Growth Further, USA
- Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), Kenya
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana
- Mevick Academy Complex, Cameroon
- Next Generation Global Collaboratory (NGGC), USA
- Rift Valley National Polytechnic (RVNP), Kenya
- STEMIens Network, Kenya
- The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Volunteer (UNV)
- University of Kabianga, Kenya
- University of Namibia (UNAM)
- University of Pretoria, South Africa
- University of Zambia (UZA)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

