

C-AGG Guiding Principles Updated September 2017

The nine [C-AGG Guiding Principles](#) developed in 2009 have guided our work in designing and informing policies, programs, and tools to enable the agricultural sector to participate effectively in efforts to mitigate climate change. At the C-AGG July 2017 meeting in Chicago, we undertook a regular review of the Guiding Principles to ensure they continue to appropriately reflect and inform the work of our multi-stakeholder coalition. C-AGG participants recommended updates that are summarized below and reflected in [Version 2 of the Guiding Principles](#).

Changes to the Guiding Principles incorporated into Version 2 include:

- The title of each Principle has been revised to ensure a parallel structure.
- Principle 2, *Quantifiable, Verifiable, and Results-based Approaches*, was updated to include the observation that while direct measurements of GHG may offer greater precision, they are often costly, particularly at scale. §2.6 was added to recognize that new technologies can aid in making verification approaches more cost-effective and scalable.
- Principle 3, *Mechanisms to Embrace Innovation*, was updated to include an additional §3.2 on the need for pathways to aid in adopting innovative practices.
- Principle 4, *Recognition of Additionality*, was expanded to note that while ‘business as usual’ actions should not be rewarded in carbon offset markets, early actors and good behavior should specifically be rewarded in other incentive-based programs.
- Principle 5, *Approaches to Distinguish Permanence*, was expanded to: distinguish between permanence of the carbon molecule versus permanence of activities; to recognize inherent temporal limitations associated with land use and agriculture; to state that effective short-term solutions should be supported and achieved even as long-term solutions are pursued; and to highlight that for unintentional reversals, a focus on continual rather than continuous improvement is warranted.
- Principle 6, *Comprehensive GHG and Ecosystem Service Accounting*, was expanded from “GHG Accounting” to “GHG and Ecosystem Service Accounting” to reflect C-AGG’s expanded focus.
- Principle 8 title was changed from *Bundling Environmental Benefits* to *Recognition of Multiple Environmental Benefits* for clarity.