



C-AGG/Brazil Collaboration on Agricultural GHG Mitigation Opportunities Continued Stakeholder Meetings: Executive Summary

January 2015

Background Information

A 5-person C-AGG delegation traveled to Brazil on October 26-31, 2014, to continue pursuing collaborative activities with Brazilian partners to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) from the agricultural sector. On the trip, C-AGG signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Brazilian National Federation of Agriculture and Livestock Institute (ICNA) to work together in support of incentivizing agricultural GHG mitigation activities across the Brazilian agricultural sector. Specifically, ICNA and C-AGG will collaborate to implement projects and activities related to the adoption of low carbon emission activities and management practices in the agriculture, livestock, afforestation and reforestation sectors in Brazil. Based on our second round of meetings and discussions, it is clear that this is an opportune time for engagement with key stakeholders, as there are many pilot projects currently underway that indicated they could benefit from C-AGG's experiences and expertise in project design, development, and implementation. The trip helped the C-AGG delegation further refine priorities and collaboration opportunities with potential partners. Particular areas of continued interest and proposed collaboration identified by C-AGG prior to and during the trip included the following:

- designing and implementing low carbon agriculture pilot projects with ICNA, specifically, pasture recovery projects in the heavy cattle producing regions of Brazil;
- adapting tools and techniques used in the United States and Canada to cost-effectively measure, monitor and verify agricultural GHG emissions reductions and sequestration at an appropriate level of rigor for the chosen programmatic approach(es);
- updating relevant agriculture methodologies for the Brazilian market to start establishing projects for future carbon markets;
- developing a strong funding proposal to take to potential investors, including the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Norwegian government program focused on reforestation, and philanthropic organizations interested in promoting low carbon agriculture and reforestation in Brazil and the Amazon region; and
- assembling a value proposition for multinational corporations to buy credits to help meet aggressive supply chain GHG footprint reduction goals that they are having difficulty meeting through traditional supply chain engagement strategies.

C-AGG Brazil Delegation:

- Debbie Reed, Executive Director, C-AGG, USA
- Monica McBride, Project Manager, C-AGG, USA
- Alastair Handley, President, Carbon Credit Solutions, Canada
- John Kadyzewski, Director, Planning & Strategic Initiatives, Winrock International & the American Carbon Registry (ACR)

- Bill Salas, President, Applied Geosolutions (AGS)

Executive Summary: Trip Outcomes

During the trip, C-AGG's delegation formalized our agreement to work with ICNA by signing an MOU to collaboratively implement projects and activities related to the adoption of low carbon emission activities in the agriculture, livestock, and forestry sectors in Brazil. During discussions with additional organizations with whom we met, C-AGG gained valuable insights on the potential challenges and opportunities associated with this work. The reception we received from the organizations and individuals with whom we met continued to be overwhelmingly positive, and all stakeholders sought continued C-AGG collaboration, including in the following key areas:

- ICNA is very interested in developing appropriate demonstration projects with the agricultural sector to pilot test approaches to agricultural sector engagement in the Low Carbon Agriculture Plan (ABC Plan); to build out its web-based Agrosustenta (sustainable agriculture) Portal as a means of qualifying landowners for ABC-funded projects; to utilize the portal to capture, store, and track data for project management activities; and to demonstrate successful project development and the generation and sale of carbon and/or sustainability credits from these activities;
- Embrapa would like to continue knowledge sharing on effective measurement, monitoring and verification of GHG fluxes related to the suite of ABC Plan activities, and to link the outcomes of these activities to Brazil's national GHG inventory;
- development or adaptation of existing protocols or methodologies and decision support tools to enhance ICNA's sustainability portal (Agrosustenta) and make it an all-encompassing tool for low carbon agriculture in Brazil;
- working to engage in high-level policy discussion in Brazil and/or with Brazilian policymakers and legislators to share the value impacts of agricultural sector GHG mitigation opportunities; and
- to share US and Canadian successes, challenges, and opportunities promoting incentive-based agricultural sector GHG mitigation at a large scale.

We learned a great deal about current collaborations between NGOs and private sector actors within Brazil related to pasture recovery, reforestation, and low carbon agriculture. It was apparent during our meetings that these efforts will be valuable sources of learning as we move forward with pilot projects, and we plan to continue dialogues with the groups involved in these efforts.

Our first priority after our most recent round of meetings is the refinement and further development of a feasibility assessment for demonstration project development in partnership with ICNA. This feasibility assessment will be the framework from which we will develop funding proposals, a value proposition for potential credit buyers, and a more detailed project planning and implementation plan. A follow-up trip is planned upon completion of the feasibility assessment in spring of 2015, focused on more detailed working sessions with ICNA and other potential collaborators.