



C-AGG Workgroups/Workshops: Status Updates

The following three C-AGG workgroups were formed as a result of the C-AGG November 2-3, 2011 meeting held in Washington, DC. This document provides an update of progress and activities of each workgroup, to date. If you would like additional information (including webinar summaries or other documents) from any of the workgroups, please contact Debbie Reed (C-AGG).

WORKGROUP ONE. *Identifying Core Data Needs for Agricultural GHG Measurement*

Workgroup Goal: The original goal was to scan the data inputs used in various models, tools and initiatives that seek to measure agricultural GHG emissions and emissions reductions, to identify the landscape of data requirements, and whether and where common data are being sought or collected. By developing data point overlays for the various models and tools, including sensitivity analyses conducted by some of the programs to identify their top or most critical data inputs, it may be possible to begin to narrow or at least better identify common data point needs across the various models, calculators, and initiatives. The results can perhaps lead to better harmonization across programs and initiatives, tools, and models to help reduce ‘audit fatigue’ among producers, and as a result, may increase the accuracy of data collected.

In the course of the discussions, additional needs assessments and desired outcomes have been identified by workgroup participants, which are summarized in the update document, listed below (dated 2-17-2012). A database development approach has been proposed by the group, for discussion at the C-AGG 29 February-1 March, 2012 meeting in Sacramento, CA.

Status of ‘Core Data Needs’ Work Group Process and Activities:

- **Webinar:** Wed., Dec. 14, 2011 -- 3:00-5:00 pm EST (summary available)
- **Webinar:** Fri., Jan. 6, 2012 – 11:00am-12:15 pm EST (summary available)
- **Proposal for Discussion at Sacramento 2012 Meeting:** “C-AGG Core Data Needs Status Update 2-17-2012”

WORKGROUP TWO. *Strategies for Agricultural Additionality and Nutrient/Credit Stacking*

Workgroup Goal(s):

Additionality - The goal is to review the various approaches to additionality in regards to agricultural protocol development, and seek agreement on approaches that deal with the unique circumstances of agriculture while encouraging the adoption of innovative practices without increasing transaction costs or creating other barriers to producer

participation. The result would be a common set of principles and approaches to additionality for use in agricultural protocols. The CIG GHG projects will be utilized as case studies to test the principles and approaches discussed.

- **Nutrient/Credit Stacking** – (Note: Nutrient Credit Stacking issue to be addressed by this same workgroup, sequentially after Additionality.) The goal is to review the concept and goals of credit stacking approaches in ecosystem services markets (including carbon markets), and to identify approaches and opportunities to encourage nutrient/credit stacking as a means of incentivizing beneficial management practices and outcomes within the sector. Will include recommendations for how to avoid double-payments for the same activity or result, or to tease out appropriate stacking. The result will be a common set of principles and approaches to nutrient/credit stacking for use in agricultural protocols. The CIG GHG projects will be utilized as case studies during the process to test the principles and approaches discussed. Case study for discussion will include forestry protocols/projects that relied upon CRP payments in the early stages of project development.

Status of 'Additionality' Work Group Activities:

- **C-AGG White Paper** (Janzen et al) as starting point for Additionality discussions; draft White Paper presented and discussed at C-AGG meeting in November, 2011 (Washington, DC). Revised white paper circulated Friday, January 20, 2011.
- **Webinar:** Monday, Dec. 12, 2011, 3:00-4:15 pm EST (summary available)
- **Webinar:** Mon. Jan. 23, 2012, 2:00-3:00 pm EST (summary available)
- **Executive Summary for Discussion at Sacramento 2012 Meeting:** "C-AGG Additionality Executive Summary 2-15-2012 Discussion Draft"

WORKGROUP THREE. *Uncertainty in the use of Empirical and Process-Based Models for Agricultural Offsets*

Workgroup Goal: The goal is to review the concepts presented in the White Paper (i.e., sources of uncertainty in the use of empirical and biogeochemical process models for agricultural projects and protocols, and how to reduce the uncertainty); the additional concepts as identified at the November C-AGG meeting (identified above); as well as the issue of uncertainty-based discounts for awarding credits in offsets programs, and whether they create barriers to producer and investor participation in protocol development and projects, since the uncertainty discount is not known until the project is completed. The result will be a common set of principles and approaches to capturing and using uncertainty in agricultural protocols that utilize empirical and biogeochemical process models.

Status of 'Uncertainty' Work Group Activities:

- **C-AGG White Paper** (Salas et al) as starting point; drafts presented and discussed at C-AGG meetings in November, 2011 (Washington, DC); and July, 2011 (Chicago)
- **Workshop:** Monday, Jan. 30, 2012 in San Francisco (summary available)
- **Executive Summary for Discussion at Sacramento 2012 Meeting:** "C-AGG Uncertainty Executive Summary 2-13-2012 Discussion Draft"