

Meetings of the Livestock Research Group and Integrative Research Group

Pullman Albert Park Hotel, Melbourne, Australia

19-20 February 2016

Meeting Summary

OVERVIEW

The Government of Australia hosted the eighth meeting of the Livestock Research Group (LRG) of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) on 19-20 February 2016, immediately following the sixth Greenhouse Gas & Animal Agriculture Conference.

The meeting was co-chaired by New Zealand (Dr Harry Clark, New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre) and the Netherlands (Dr Martin Scholten, Wageningen UR) as the country Co-chairs of the LRG. It also incorporated a joint meeting with the Co-chairs of the GRA's newly formed Integrative Research Group (IRG) (Lee Nelson, Australia; Brian McConkey, Canada; Jean-Francois Soussana, France).

The meeting was attended by GRA representatives from 25 member countries, along with two observer countries and other invited guests.

The LRG meeting achieved the following outcomes:

- The LRG to explore the development of country case studies that share how to implement new technologies and practices to reduce emissions intensity.
- The Secretariat provided details on the development of the 5-year GRA Strategic Plan.
- The LRG and the Secretariat and a GRA working group of members to develop GRA funding mechanisms for international research collaboration.
- Agreement by LRG members to translate the LRG/SAI-Platform industry publication 'Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from livestock: best practice and emerging options' into other languages.

LRG Research Networks:

- Agreement to create a new Mediterranean Regional Network led by Italy.

- The Manure Management Network will review the LRG's N₂O Chamber Methodology Guidelines and update/expand as necessary.
- The network coordinators will prepare a white paper identifying knowledge gaps in promoting integrated mitigation management in livestock farming.
- The LRG's research networks will finalise their priority areas for research collaboration with a view to developing proposals for funding (either through the EU 20/20 fund ERA-GAS, or through other mechanisms). The Animal Health Network to work with CCAFS and international Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) on joint activities related to livestock health, productivity and climate change impacts.

LRG partners:

- The LRG will work with the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS) and the World Bank to help countries monitor, report and verify their livestock greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve national GHG emissions inventories.
- The LRG will work with CCAFS to compile existing capability building materials on livestock GHG research into an open access, online platform.
- The LRG Co-chairs will work with the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank and CCAFS to develop a proposal for Phase 2 of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) project on enteric fermentation.
- The LRG will work with the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative SAI-Platform to hold joint seminars in various world regions to showcase industry/science partnerships reducing the emissions intensity of livestock production.
- The LRG will support the World Bank to develop an 'Investor's Guide' to facilitate entry points for donors and industry into livestock mitigation activities.

The IRG meeting achieved the following outcomes:

- The IRG intends to centre its activities around a series of networks on different integrative issues across the GRA:
 - Grasslands network: transfers and builds on the existing LRG network
 - Soil carbon sequestration network: builds on work started across the GRA
 - Field scale modelling network: builds on work from the former SCNC Group
 - Farm scale and regional modelling network: builds on work started across the GRA
 - GHG inventories network: builds on work from the former I&M Group
- The IRG will consider how to coordinate existing databases and holding metadata so as to facilitate access to livestock GHG emissions research data held around the world.
- The IRG will explore the potential for its proposed Soil Carbon Sequestration Network to link to the French '4‰ Initiative' as an early activity for that network.

Next Meetings

The next meeting of the LRG will be held in Washington DC, USA in April 2017.

The next meeting of the IRG has not yet been announced. For more information on either the IRG and the LRG or to find out who your country representative is, please contact the GRA Secretariat (Secretariat@globalresearchalliance.org).