



# Making the GRA work - a perspective from New Zealand as host of the GRA Secretariat

*Growing and Protecting New Zealand*



[www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)

# The Challenges

- **Agriculture is essential for many economies and is a key contributor to growth and development**
- **Increasing food production is central to food security**
- **Agriculture contributes 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Projected increases in emissions as global demand for food grows**
- **Solutions can be difficult to implement and need buy-in from millions of individuals (farmers)**



# The Opportunities

- **In many cases there is a direct correlation between increases in agricultural productivity, efficiency and resilience – all of which contribute to food security – and reducing emissions**
- **Many countries are already investing in agricultural production and climate change research – The Alliance leverages these efforts to make the best use of collective resources**
- **Opens up a wide field for research and education which then enables better connections with policy-makers**
- **Research is critical for development of viable and practical options for increasing productivity and reducing emissions intensity**

# Why Countries join the Alliance

- **Voluntary commitments**
  - Activities should align with national research and policy  
e.g. focus on adaptation benefits and increasing production if mitigation is not a priority.
  - Makes use of research that is already funded or in-kind contribution
  - Identifies new ways of jointly funding international research
- **Provides opportunities at all levels of knowledge**
  - Building capability and awareness
  - International collaborations to share expertise and knowledge
  - Regional collaborations on local farming systems, with local partners
- **Member led Research Groups**
  - Countries agree on the Research Group workplans
  - Countries support only the activities they choose

# Cooperation rather than obligation

- No joining fee or membership fee
- No mandatory reporting requirements
- No mandatory funding requirements
- Level of participation is up to each member and based on those areas of direct relevance to the member
- Only countries can join the GRA but individuals can sign up to the technical networks
- BUT – Alliance requires active engagement by members
- Greater engagement = greater benefits

# Why the Alliance works

- **Research Focus**
  - Connects scientists with government
  - Connects scientists with farmers / farmer organisations
- **Identify what can be achieved**
  - draw together similar research to form a Global picture
  - add value to bigger initiatives
  - support Partner organisations



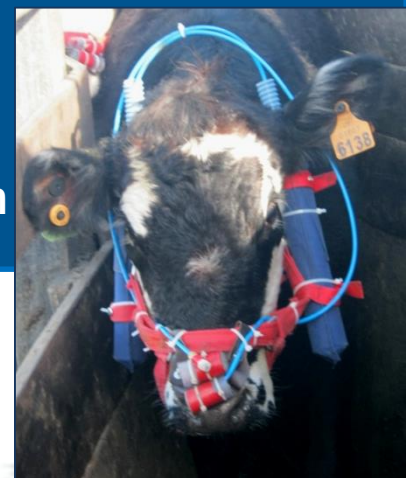
# Funding Opportunities and Capability

**The Alliance uses a range of funding mechanisms**

- **Research Funds: to support international collaboration**

- New Zealand's Global Partnerships in Livestock Emissions Research
- Australian Filling the Research Gaps fund
- FACCE-JPI multi-country research call on agricultural mitigation research

- **Awards and scholarships**
- **Regional projects**
- **Capability building workshops**
- **Technical training workshops**



# Collaborative Partnerships

- Coordination of activities and research to benefit international partner organizations and the GRA
- GRA provides scientific knowledge, and connection to experts in related fields across member countries
- Transfer of GRA knowledge and new technologies through partner connections and relationships
- Opportunities to increase partnership activities in Africa, and participation of African scientists in research networks, and African membership of GRA



# Key drivers for New Zealand involvement

- Agricultural sector is a key component of the New Zealand economy and accounts for 40% of NZ's emissions
- Science: collaboration allows research that might not otherwise be possible
- Networks: sharing experiences, enhancing capability for all participants
- Productivity: as a country dependent on agriculture, increasing productivity sustainably is essential.

# Mainstreaming the GRA with domestic research programmes and priorities

- Agricultural research in NZ has strong history of farmer-scientist partnerships
- Application to the end-user is critical for success of GRA's goals
- Strong links between Government (policy), scientists and end-users (farmers) is a key factor for NZ:
  - MPI; NZAGRC; PGGRC

# New Zealand's engagement with other GRA members

- Projects in Latin America co-funded with FONTAGRO with 12 countries
- South-East Asia pilot study on priorities with follow up underway
- LEARN – fellowships and technical training
- Collaborative funding opportunities (GPLER)
- Regional workshops
- JPI multi-country collaboration with EC
- Hosts GRA Secretariat

# How has the GRA benefitted New Zealand?

- Enhanced NZ science capacity through international collaboration
- Stronger internal linkages between policy, science and end-users
- Trigger for wider bilateral cooperation
- Part of NZ's international contribution to addressing climate change
- Strengthened multilateral influence

# Secretariat

- Communications to promote achievements and profile of GRA
  - Website update – next slide
  - Social media, Twitter: @GRA\_GHG
- Stable contacts - Council and RGs
- Member country Web-Pages
  - Promoting the activities that each member leads or contributes to



# Current GRA focus areas

- Development of a GRA Strategic Plan
- Enhancing the role of the Secretariat
- Strengthening Partnerships – both new and existing
- Collaboration with other relevant international initiatives

# THANK-YOU

**Global Research Alliance**

**<http://www.globalresearchalliance.org/>**

