



Co-chairs report to Council

Des Moines, 10 September 2015

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Group Leadership Strategy

The Research Group Co-chairs:

- **strongly support the proposals** set out in the Research Group Leadership Strategy document
- **suggest that they are adopted as guidelines** rather than as a specific policy and handled under the existing Charter; this allows for some flexibility to adapt to individual circumstances while having a clear set of guiding principles

Group Leadership Strategy cont.

- **propose creating an Agrosystem Research Group**, instead of the existing two Cross-Cutting Groups. Co-chairs for this single Group can be drawn from the two existing Groups.
 - ✓ system approach with diversity of issues requires flexibility
 - ✓ can be addressed through various networks (e.g. grassland, C & N modelling, C sequestration, farm level approach, inventory systems)
 - ✓ success relies on country engagement across disciplines & expertise, connecting in-country expertise with global networks

Current RG structure

RESEARCH GROUPS



livestock



croplands



paddy rice



Inventory & Monitoring

Soil Carbon & Nitrogen Cycling

Revised RG structure

RESEARCH GROUPS



livestock



croplands



paddy rice



AGROSYSTEMS

Cross-cutting network activity: GM modelling
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Cross-cutting network activity: grasslands

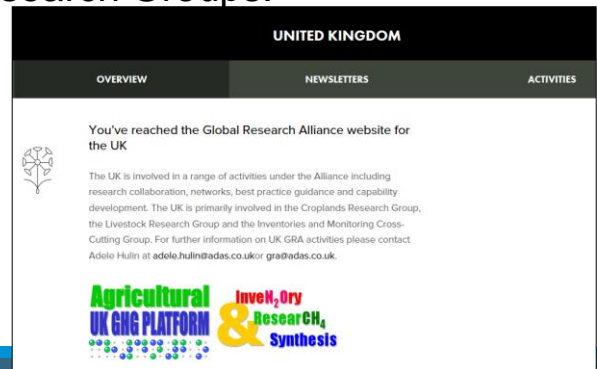
Basic requests to Council

- **More active support for GRA** – improved leadership by Council members & scientists in their own countries
- **Greater promotion of the GRA** – more active leadership by Council members and, if adopted, the enhanced profile of the GRA. The GRA has a lower profile than other international organizations that have achieved less but have actively promoted their work
- **Development of stronger links** between industry, policy and science – more active leadership by Council with GRA Partners



Basic requests to Council cont.

- To raise awareness at national and international level, countries are asked to submit an annual written **Engagement Report** outlining for example actions, interests, contributions, opportunities for engagement; which also help to guide strategic direction of GRA and its Research Groups.
- Encourage every member country to populate / update its **country profile on the GRA website**



Interconnection with GACSA

GACSA – interaction possible at three levels of engagement

Formal partnership GRA -

GACSA

Research Groups –

GACSA/KAG

CoP : individual based

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ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES

GACSA

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Research Group level interaction perhaps most important and feasible; *LRG co-chairs and GACSA Knowledge Action Group co-chairs have already discussed possible interactions in principle*

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Soil carbon and food security

French '**4 per mille**' soil carbon initiative – all Research Groups have an interest and can efficiently harness international expertise

- key issue in agriculture proposed for the Lima-Paris Action Agenda
- voluntary action plan likely to be announced by the French minister for agriculture at COP21
- to be supported by an international research program

GRA could host this research program



Resourcing



- resourcing a major issue for all Research Groups and networks
- **need for capability development at multiple levels** (PhD, Postdoc, technical training); needs greater resource commitment from member countries to support & develop young researchers



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Resourcing

- While recognizing the voluntary nature of the GRA, there are mechanisms to facilitate greater collaboration between countries
- Council could consider the setting up of **joint research calls** using the concept of a ‘virtual common pot’ where any funding goes back to the contributing country but successful research programmes are multi-country collaborations. These calls can utilise existing funding as well as accommodate new funding.

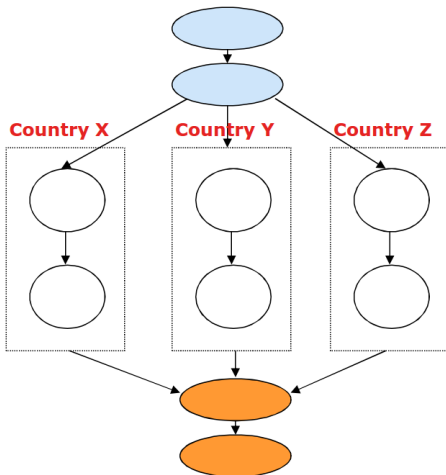


multi-partner call aligned with GRA objectives,
supporting several key projects for Research Groups

Resourcing: IRC



EC indicated a specific proposal could be developed under International Research Consortia (IRC) initiative



Identify common strategic goals

Agree to share tasks (and costs)

Countries fund research according to their funding rules
(e.g. independent evaluation, selection and funding of projects)

Funded projects work towards common goals

Results, data and standards are being shared



Achieving impact

- **Sub-groups & networks within Research Groups** are very successful, e.g. Asia and S. America Paddy Rice sub-groups actively collaborating on issues specific to their regions (AWD)
- hold a **GRA science conference in 2017** to align with the Council meeting and handover to a new chair
 - ✓ promote achievements
 - ✓ generate interactions between RGs, Council, science, industry, policy
 - ✓ potential to combine with second Ministerial meeting
 - ✓ **early decision by Council is essential**

Demonstrating impact

Paddy Rice Emissions Measurement Guidelines just published

Guidelines for Measuring CH₄ and N₂O
Emissions from Rice Paddies by a Manually
Operated Closed Chamber Method



Officially published online on 11 Aug.
Available from NIAES's webpage:
http://www.niaes.affrc.go.jp/techdoc/mirsa_guidelines.pdf

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National Institute for
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Demonstrating impact

Greenhouse gas study tour winners announced

Posted on **June 16, 2015**

Sheep and beef farmer Doug Avery and dairy farmer Zach Mounsey are the two winners of the 2015 Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) – World Farmer Organisation Study Tour in Argentina later this year.

Acknowledgments

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Livestock
Research
Group

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parability

- Generic brochures on each RG are being developed
- advertise our successes more explicitly & attribute to the GRA

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Strategic Plan Development

- RGs support the development of a strategic plan for the GRA
- Co-chairs can review the draft plan developed by the working group; not in favour of direct involvement in drafting
- RGs are strongly supportive of open access and encourage open access where feasible e.g. encourage countries to share data and set up data sharing mechanisms e.g. international databases
 - ✓ recognise constraints: multiple data sources, GRA does not own data, data release subject to multiple constraints (timing, IP, confidentiality)
 - ✓ open access is simply not an option in many circumstances

Communications policy



**It works for us and
we see no need to change it**

Thanks for
your attention

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