

Global Research Alliance
Terms of Reference for Enhanced Secretariat and Representative Position

Outcomes from GRA 5th Council Meeting, Des Moines

The GRA Council at its 5th meeting in Des Moines (8-11 September 2015) agreed to enhance the role and function of the Secretariat as outlined in the New Zealand paper presented to Members. The Council also agreed in principle to the creation of a representative role as part of the enhanced Secretariat on a two year pilot basis (beginning 2016). New Zealand agreed to: circulate terms of reference for the enhanced Secretariat, including the representative position, based on the proposal agreed by Council; and to advise the name and CV of the person New Zealand proposes for the representative role for Council endorsement prior to them taking up the role.

This paper responds to the first of these points.

Objectives of Role of Representative

In consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council, and in concert with other work of the enhanced Secretariat, the role of the representative would:

- 1 Work to lift the profile of the GRA to increase cooperation and investment in research activities and its contribution to reducing the emissions intensity of agricultural greenhouse gases at relevant international meetings;
- 2 Work to broaden links with NGOs, potential Partners, the agricultural sector broadly and philanthropics;
- 3 Work with existing Partners to define specific action plans for collaborative activities;
- 4 Engage with a broad range of existing and potential funding institutions to identify and secure funding for research projects undertaken by the Research Groups of the GRA;
- 5 Where requested to do so, assist existing member countries to raise the profile of the GRA and the value of research activities within those countries; and
- 6 Promote the benefits of joining the GRA to potential new member countries.

Mode of Working

In order to ensure transparency and increase the flow of information and engagement with and between Member countries:

- The Representative will work in close collaboration with the Chair and Vice-chair to meet the objectives and outcomes of the Council workplan.
- The Representative/Secretariat will provide regular updates to Member countries of events where GRA attendance or participation is proposed.
- The Secretariat will provide regular updates to Member countries, including on all external engagement, and will provide an annual report at Council meetings.

Review

- The enhanced Secretariat, including the representative role, will be trialled on a two-year pilot basis, and will be reviewed at the Council meeting in 2018. The review will include

consideration of options for the future operation of the enhanced Secretariat and the role of the representative.