

GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE

ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES

Report back on the work of the
International Research Collaboration Working Group (IRCWG)



- Working Group formed at request of the 2015 Council meeting to investigate research collaboration and funding mechanisms
- Draft Terms of Reference circulated in February 2016
- First teleconference held in April to finalise ToRs and agree modalities for a physical meeting
- Physical meeting held on 13-14 June 2016 in Brussels co-hosted by the European Commission
- Report of Brussels meeting and follow-on recommendations finalised electronically in July 2016
- Template of existing Research Collaboration Opportunities circulated in August 2016 as “living document” to be added to by members

Brussels meeting, 13-14 June

(Thanks to European Commission for hosting)

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Presentations and deliberations

Day one heard presentations on:

- Belmont Forum
- FACCE-JPI
- 4/1000 Soil Carbon initiative
- International Rare Diseases Research Consortium (an IRC)
- New Zealand's Global Partnerships in Livestock Emissions Research (GPLER)
- US research collaboration mechanisms

Day two involved discussion and deliberation on:

- Which mechanisms were useful models for GRA?
- What steps does the GRA need to take to advance international research collaboration?

Key Points from discussions

- GRA research is driven bottom-up by Research Groups and networks – Council should agree a GRA strategic “Research Agenda”
- Currently no GRA forum for members’ Research Funding Agencies to meet
- Partnerships will be critical – FACCE JPI and European Commission are two obvious ones that are not currently formal GRA Partners
- Unlikely to be a “one size fits all” research collaboration mechanism – different mechanisms should be considered depending on the topic
- GRA needs to create space for the right people to be having the right sort of conversations – could be a new group under Charter
- Soil carbon sequestration is a good “first cab off the rank” practical test of GRA’s ability to engage in international research collaboration including with other organisations e.g “4/1000” and FACCE-JPI

Recommendations

- GRA needs to develop a clear Vision and Research Agenda with Research Group Co-chairs being tasked to collectively identify key research projects for consideration by Council
- There is a need to directly involve GRA members' research funding agencies in discussions on international research collaboration
- Strengthen existing partnerships and consider additional partnerships
- Consider establishment of an additional body under the GRA framework to specifically focus on international research collaboration and funding
- Consider how GRA can best support an International Research Consortium on soil carbon sequestration



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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