

# ALLIANCE COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon, Canada

Tuesday 5 June – Thursday 7 June 2012

## Meeting Report

### OVERVIEW

The second Alliance Council meeting took place from Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 June 2012 in Saskatoon, Canada. New Zealand (Paul Stocks, Deputy Director General, New Zealand Minister for Primary Industries), as outgoing Chair, opened the meeting and then handed the Chair over to Canada (Jamshed Merchant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Agri-Environment Services Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada). Secretariat support was provided by Hayden Montgomery and Andrea Pickering.

This report is a summary of the key discussions and outcomes from the meeting.

### PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended by 38 Alliance representatives from 21 Member countries and other invited guests:

- **Alliance Members attending:** Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UK, USA, Uruguay
- **Alliance Members unable to attend:** Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Malaysia, Norway, Peru, Spain, Vietnam
- **Observer countries attending:** Mongolia, Ukraine
- **Observer countries unable to attend:** Pakistan, Russia, South Africa
- **Invited Partners attending:** Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), World Bank.
- **Invited Partners unable to attend:** Africa Development Bank (AfDB), Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE), UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), European Commission (EC), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Refer to Appendix 1 for a full participants' list.

## KEY OUTCOMES OF MEETING AND ACTIONS POINTS

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By when</b>
<b>Council</b>		
New Zealand handed over Council Chairing responsibilities to Canada	None	
Uruguay confirmed as vice-chair of Alliance Council	None	
Brazil confirmed as co-chair of Croplands Research Group	None	
New Zealand confirmed to continue as Alliance Secretariat	None	
Alliance Communication Policy finalised by Council and adopted	None	
Council to engage further work to decide how partners may participate in the Alliance, in order to inform paragraph 39 of the Charter	Council, Secretariat	June 2013
<b>Research and Cross-cutting Groups</b>		
Co-Chairs to communicate between co-chair meetings by teleconference with Chair and secretariat	Co-Chairs, Alliance Chair, Secretariat	Every 3 months
Action plans of research Groups and cross cutting groups made available to Council	Research and Cross-cutting groups to forward to Secretariat	As soon as finalised for each Group
Reports to Alliance Council to be presented on a standard template and presented to Council annually - this template is based on the six elements of work described to the Council and being undertaken by Research and cross-cutting Groups.	Secretariat, Research and Cross-cutting groups	Annually prior to Council meeting
Six monthly reports to Council by the Research Groups and cross-cutting Groups in a standard format.	Research Groups and Cross-cutting groups	First report due December/January 2012-13
Invite CGIAR to Croplands Group meeting	Croplands Group co-Chairs	Prior to the meeting of the Group following the meeting already arranged for July 2012
<b>Members</b>		
Highlight Alliance in other related activities for example G20, APEC, etc	Member countries	When opportunity presents itself
Make use of regional meetings to promote Alliance in African nations	Member countries	When opportunity presents itself
Integrate the Alliance into national agricultural research programs	Member countries	When opportunity presents itself
Individual member countries to report back to the Secretariat if they want a link to their own country webpage from the Alliance website or the	Member countries	1 August 2012

construction of a separate webpage on the Alliance website		
<b>Secretariat</b>		
Liaise with existing Alliance Partners to identify and agree those mutually beneficial activities to be pursued and set out expectations for each Partner's relationship with the Alliance and report back to Council before its finalisation. Finalisation to be by letter or email.	Alliance Secretariat	Ongoing
Analysis of potential new partners in terms of what they bring to the table for consideration by Council. These analyses will clarify and help achieve a balanced portfolio of Partners	Alliance Secretariat, Chair, vice-Chair, UK, France, Ireland, USA, Brazil and Argentina	June 2013
Secretariat to participate on Stakeholder Advisory Board of FACCE-JPI	Alliance Secretariat (Hayden Montgomery)	As required
Develop work plan for Council based on discussions at Council meeting	Alliance Secretariat with Chair and vice-Chair of Council	To send out to Council Members for consideration by 13 July 2012
Include action items in Alliance Council report	Alliance Secretariat	Draft circulated July 2012

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

**TUESDAY 5 JUNE 2012**

### OPENING REMARKS

1. New Zealand, as outgoing Chair, welcomed Alliance Members to the second Council meeting since the Alliance Charter was signed by Ministers in Rome in June 2011. Members were reminded that food security is an important issue for all countries and Agricultural Ministers are increasingly engaged in discussions on it, e.g. G20 and APEC, and that the Alliance is a collaboration of countries using research to help produce food more efficiently without at the same time increasing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. New Zealand has been the Chair of the Alliance for the last 12 months and has been very engaged in work in support of Alliance objectives. The Chair tabled a letter from New Zealand Ministers (see Appendix 2) that highlights some important achievements and aspirations that New Zealand has for the Alliance, including finding new opportunities of funding and collaboration, the need for members to increase the profile of the Alliance - domestically and internationally, to strive to ensure that scientific work carried out in support of the Alliance is actually taken up by farmers, and by ensuring that this work is aligned closely with core research on agricultural productivity and to broader food security objectives.

3. New Zealand then handed over the role of Alliance Chair to Jamshed Merchant, Assistant Deputy Minister at Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada who had been acting as the Council's Vice Chair for the previous 12 months.

## **CHAIR WELCOME**

4. Canada, as the new Council Chair, welcomed the Council Members to Saskatoon and reinforced that the Alliance objectives are about growing food more efficiently and effectively. The Chair wanted the Council to keep this in mind over the course of the meeting. The Chair also reminded the Council that the Alliance is voluntary and is about sharing information. The Council was reminded that it is important to discuss how to move forward, and not to hesitate to ask questions and get involved in discussion. Members were encouraged to talk during the breaks to facilitate consensus views and develop collaborations.

5. The Chair welcomed Ghana and Thailand to the Alliance as they had both confirmed their Membership since the last Council meeting. Two observer countries were also welcomed to the meeting, Mongolia and Ukraine. The Chair also welcomed the invited Partners that were able to attend (World Bank, CGIAR, IADB, IICA). It was acknowledged that there were some invited Partners that were not able to attend (AFDB, CATIE, FAO, EC, IFAD).

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

6. The meeting minutes from the first Council meeting in Rome, 2012 were reviewed and adopted without amendment.

## **CO-CHAIR OF CROPLANDS RESEARCH GROUP**

7. Brazil confirmed that it would be a co-Chair of the Croplands Research Group along with the USA.

## **CONFIRMATION OF VICE-CHAIR**

8. Following the email sent by the Alliance Secretariat on 11 May 2012 requesting nominations for the new Council vice-Chair, Uruguay expressed an interest in this role. The Council confirmed Uruguay as the new vice-Chair and host of the next Council meeting (2013) where it will assume Chairing responsibilities.

## **CONFIRMATION OF THE MEMBER HOSTING THE SECRETARIAT**

9. The Council confirmed that New Zealand will continue as the host country of the Alliance Secretariat, noting the intent in the Charter that this hosting responsibility be periodically reviewed.

## **MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

10. During member announcements Japan announced the start of a new project in collaboration with IRRI this year. The project aims to reduce emissions from rice production and will support the objectives of Alliance and facilitate discussion at Paddy Rice Research Groups meetings.

11. Korea also announced that the Korean Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries had just announced their policy for 2011 –2020 and highlighted its linkages between food security and mitigation.

## **RESEARCH GROUP ACTIVITY UPDATE**

12. The Research and Cross-Cutting Group co-Chairs were invited to present to the Council an update of their activities over the last 12 months. Note that the Soil Carbon and Nitrogen Cycling Cross-cutting Research Group co-Chairs were unable to attend the Council meeting.

13. The co-Chairs presented a coordinated power point presentation (available in the member's area of Alliance website [www.globalresearchalliance.org](http://www.globalresearchalliance.org)). Martin Scholten, co-Chair of the Livestock Research Group, began the presentation with an overview of the Groups. He discussed their collective vision, presented a model of how the work of the Groups is organised, providing examples of how the Groups have been contributing to the goals of the Alliance through activity areas including: stocktake of activities, research networks and databases, capability building activities, collaborative projects, technical information, and policy support and links to international activities. He also reminded Members of the various meetings of Groups held since June 2011.

14. Co-Chairs of each Group then provided a summary of its work plan and specific examples of what has been accomplished under each of the activity areas that were identified in the overview. As the Soil Carbon and Nitrogen cycling Cross-cutting Research Group co-Chair was unable to attend, Harry Clark, co-chair of the Livestock Research Group, presented the slides for this Group.

15. Martin Scholten finished the presentation by summarising the future meetings that are planned by the Groups and the challenges they see ahead. These challenges included ensuring a coordinated effort across the Groups, widening their reach and effectiveness, ensuring effective communication, and ensuring an inclusive approach that benefits all. He finished by presenting some requests that the Group co-Chairs wanted the Council to think about over the next few days of the meeting. These were:

- How can we best interact with Partners?
- How to access funding to instigate collaboration amongst Alliance members?
- How can we adjoin other countries e.g. from Africa and South West Asia?
- Please enable open communication about our activities.

## **DISCUSSION OF GROUPS' PRESENTATION**

16. The Council reflected that the Groups had made good progress over the last 12 months but would like to see the achievements of the Groups presented in a way that relates achievements back to their work plans.

17. The co-Chairs informed the Council that they have agreed to have teleconferences with the Council Chair and vice-Chair, and the Secretariat every three months to ensure good communication between all of the Groups and the Council. A written report to update the Council on what the Groups are doing will be distributed in between Council meetings with verbal updates and a written

report at each Council meeting. The Council welcomed the planned extra meetings and report, and suggested that the model presented in the overview showing the Groups' various activity areas would be a good framework to report achievements against.

18. The co-Chairs confirmed that the model presented in the presentation was not linear but was iterative in nature with each area feeding into the next. Specifically, they noted that not all areas of the model will be active at any one time with, for example, activities like the general research stocktake only likely to take place every 4-5 years for most Groups.

19. In response to some queries from Council members the co-Chairs also confirmed there was no hierarchy between the Group chairs, all were equal, with the Chair of the Alliance Council having overall responsibility for their effective coordination.

20. It was pointed out that most of the effort to date in the Groups has been on laying their foundations, developing networks and building capability. Developing new research collaboration will take time and the co-Chairs suggested that to encourage this to happen, the Alliance should become an integral part of each Alliance Member's national research programme. This would encourage the allocation of funds into areas important to the work of the Alliance.

21. Technology transfer was seen as an important part of what the Alliance wants to achieve, but it was also pointed out that the term 'technology transfer' is too narrow and needs to be made clear that it should also include, information, knowledge, techniques and practices.

22. It was widely acknowledged that there is a need to encourage countries from Africa and South West Asia to join the Alliance and **ALL** Alliance Members should use their existing food security cooperation contacts that they have within these countries. It was pointed out that possible barriers to African countries joining the Alliance are that it cuts across multiple ministries. Therefore it is important to get all of these ministries in each country on board when communicating Alliance issues.

23. It was noted that many developing countries do not see mitigation as a priority and they would prefer to concentrate on adaptation. However, increasing productivity, while not increasing greenhouse gas emissions, is an objective of the Alliance and also contributes to mitigation. It is therefore important that this is communicated to these countries clearly. Also, holding meetings in Africa, such as the planned Inventories and Measurement Cross-cutting Group meeting in Ghana, will aid in the communication of the Alliance objectives.

24. Others suggested that referencing the Alliance in policy documents, such as G20, APEC, will help bring the attention of the Alliance and its objectives to a wider group of countries. The dissemination of the activities and results from the Groups was also seen as an important means of highlighting what the Alliance objectives and achievements are and would help encourage other countries to join. Dissemination of these activities and results will also aid in the transfer of information and technology to farmers. Side events in the margins of other conferences and meetings were also suggested as other ways to spread the Alliance message.

25. It was pointed out that Alliance Partners can be an important route by which to disseminate results, publicise the Alliance, hold events and meetings and attract new Member countries.

Members were reminded that the Alliance Groups already have the mandate to attract and include relevant organisations in their work and some have already done this.

26. Communication is vital to all areas of the Alliance, from attracting new Members and Partners to ensuring farmer uptake of information and technology. Therefore it is vital that members, groups and scientists are not restricted in communicating their work that contributes to the Alliance. Developing a communication policy that achieves this is therefore important to the success of the Alliance. The Research and cross-cutting Groups emphasised that for their work to be effective they need to be able to openly communicate both internally and externally.

## **ALLIANCE PARTNERS**

27. Four Alliance Partners attended the Council meeting and each presented to the Council (presentations available in the member's area of Alliance website [www.globalresearchalliance.org](http://www.globalresearchalliance.org)). After each presentation there was an opportunity for the Council to discuss with each Partner how they may work with the Alliance.

### ***World Bank – Ademola Braimoh.***

28. Ademola Braimoh began by giving a brief overview of the World Bank's objectives and efforts in greenhouse gas footprinting of agricultural projects. He then provided an overview and examples on a tool developed by the FAO to assess the carbon footprint of changes in farming systems and land use – EX-ACT (Ex-ante Carbon Balance Appraisal Tool). He finished by providing some information on future activities and upcoming meetings.

29. During the discussion Ademola Braimoh noted that it was clear that a lot is being done in the Alliance that is highly relevant to the World Bank's objectives in food security. He suggested that the Alliance could add a lot of value by synthesising research findings for policy makers in a user friendly manner, successfully integrating the three imperatives of increased productivity, adapting ecosystems to changing climate and mitigating greenhouse gases (GHG). If the Alliance was able to add this value to the World Bank's objectives the Alliance may be able to access emerging funding sources.

30. He noted that there has been an unfortunate separation of adaptation and mitigation in agricultural policy and if they were better integrated both would have greater access to funding. He thought that developing countries believed that mitigation is for developed countries and that it comes at the detriment of food security. He noted that most countries have underutilised the funding available for adaptation. Therefore there is a need to promote climate smart agriculture and the meeting in Vietnam in September 2012 is an opportunity to do this.

31. He considered that the Alliance and the World Bank need to look at projects that they are already doing and if overlaps are found then there is a high probability that the World Bank would be able to collaborate with the Alliance. However, funds are country driven so the Alliance can't access them directly, but the World Bank can work with the country clients that are Alliance Members.

32. There are two types of loans: 1) development policy loans (DPLs) given over 3 – 5 years that provide rapidly-disbursing financing to help a borrower address actual or anticipated development

financing requirements. The Bank's use of DPL in a country is determined in the context of the [Country Assistance Strategy \(CAS\)](#). 2) The investment loans/lendings (ILs) are of a longer duration, and are used to finance goods, works, and services in support of specific economic and social development objectives in a broad range of sectors, including sustainable land management, infrastructure, and environment. Grants are sometimes available for financing high-priority development needs e.g. food security.

#### ***CGIAR – Henry Neufeldt***

33. CGIAR has a regional focus of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The gaps in the Alliance membership tend to be the regions of primary focus of the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) research programme of the CGIAR. Henry Neufeldt presented to the Alliance on this program and covered its objectives, existing and possible future collaborations. These consist of the development of a low-cost protocol for measuring mitigation, the Climate, Food and Farming Network (CLIFF) for capacity building of developing country scientists, and a low emission agricultural tool.

34. CGIAR links to local research centres in developing countries could be an area for the Alliance to work with. It was noted that CGIAR works to a large extent with and through local partners, including research organisations, but also government bodies, NGOs and others in the development community. Members noted that there were many areas in which the Alliance could collaborate with the CGIAR and CCAFS, including:

- CGIAR attendance at the next Croplands Research Group meeting and meetings of the other Research Groups.
- Technologies for measurements of GHGs could be areas of collaboration between CCAFS and the Alliance.

#### ***Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) – David Williams***

35. David Williams from IICA provided an overview of IICA's mandate, network, objectives and expertise. IICA works directly with the Ministries of Agriculture in its 34 Member Countries and other national and regional research and development organizations throughout the Americas. He was impressed with the progress already made by the Research Groups and noted that there are numerous opportunities where synergies could occur between the Alliance and IICA that would expedite the achievement of our common objectives.

36. Areas identified where IICA could collaborate with the Alliance were:

- Promoting new membership in the Alliance across the Americas. This could begin as soon as there was agreement that IICA could approach countries that are not yet members of the Alliance, such as in Central America.
- Research products generated by the Alliance could be disseminated by IICA to appropriate member countries. This could begin immediately, through IICA's various online information portals as well as directly in the context of ongoing technical cooperation activities.



- IICA offers direct access to government decision makers who make decisions on policy (e.g. Rio+20, FORAGRO, GCARD), and could help integrate the Alliance into national and regional research and policy-making activities.
- IICA has a great deal of capacity building experience and in-house expertise, and can provide help with online and in-person training events and the development of training materials.
- Information communication and dissemination, via IICA's webpage, newsletters, technical platforms and networks, where hundreds of people already look to find this type of information.
- Translation of research products (e.g., tools, methodologies, best practices) into the IICA languages (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish). IICA also has in-house publication capacity.

37. The Council endorsed the Secretariat to work with IICA to identify proposals for collaboration.

*Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) - Hector Malarin*

38. Hector Malarin gave an overview of the IADB noting that funding for agriculture innovation and technology adoption totalled \$676 million in the LAC region. This is one of the main areas for beginning a process of partnering with the Alliance.

39. FONTAGRO is a fund hosted by the IDB and is an excellent starting point for IADB to engage with the Alliance. CGIAR, CIAT, IPC, CYMMT, Korea, Spain and NZ are all collaborating with FONTAGRO. FONTAGRO is therefore the logical starting point for the Alliance towards a broader engagement with IADB.

40. Longer term collaborations can occur through execution of loans for agriculture innovation and technology adoption related to Latin American and Caribbean country involvement in Alliance activities.

## **Council discussion with Partners**

41. After the individual Partner presentations the Council had a general discussion with all Partners. Some key points from this discussion included:

- Partners and the Council need to ensure that individuals within organisations have the institutional support they need to be able to work with the Research Groups.
- There is a need to clearly identify what the benefits are of Partners and the Alliance working together. These could include access to data, experts being available to Partners to help them deliver their activities, Partners are also able to provide support to Members to participate in Alliance activities. Existing networks and mechanisms that Partners have may also be able to be utilised.
- There are many organisations in the world that the Alliance could collaborate with. It is important that the Alliance determines which organisations it should partner with so that Partners align with the Alliance's objectives and cover all regions of the globe.
- An analysis of all potential organisations needs to be carried out to identify potential Partners. Umbrella organisations at the international level maybe the more efficient means

to working with Partners at the Council level. Agreement on collaboration between individual Partners and the Alliance needs to be administratively light and not be too formal.

- Identification of Partners needs to occur at Council and Group level in parallel.

42. Partners suggested that other potential Partners might include the private sector – those that contribute to the food security agenda. Some members think that engaging in the private sector would be of immense value and might include international associations such as International Dairy Federation (IDF), International Meat Secretariat (IMS), International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA), etc.

43. In summary, there are a lot of opportunities but the Council needs to select organisations that will provide the greatest and most efficient coverage of regional areas and align closely with Alliance objectives. The Council also needs to go beyond the types of organisations that have already agreed to be Partners, developing partnerships with for example farmer organisations.

### **Council discussion about Partners**

44. Discussions then continued on how the Alliance can engage with Partners. It should be noted that Partners were not invited to either the second or third day of the meeting and therefore were not present during these discussions.

45. It was clarified that Partners at the Council level are different to collaborations at the Research Group level and that Research Groups continue to have a degree of flexibility to develop partnerships and scientific collaborations as detailed under Paragraph 24(d) of the Charter.

46. There are now six formal Partners of the Alliance agreed to by Council. It is important to now determine how to interact with these Partners. Further work is needed for the Council to decide how Partners may participate in the Alliance, in order to inform paragraph 39 of the Charter. For future Partners it was suggested that the discussion on common ground and the interaction between the Alliance and Partners should occur before finalising partnership. The acceptance of partnership by existing Partners should be followed up with specific Council suggestions to Partners on how they can best work together. This will include simple guidance to Partners on what is expected from them. There is however a need to keep the relationship administratively light and formalising of the relationship could occur via an exchange of emails or letters. The Secretariat with Chair and vice Chair will follow up the original exchange of letters with clear expectations of the relationship and the mutually beneficial activities to be pursued and will report to Council on this for endorsement as per paragraph 16 of the Charter.

47. As more exchanges with Partners occur, common themes may be identified and simple guidelines for new Partners may be able to be developed to help them determine if they are suitable as Partners of the Alliance. There is already guidance in the Charter to help inform prospective Partners but more generic ideas include: clear relationship to objectives of the Alliance, participate in specific activities, status of Partner to extend to duration of activity, endorse Alliance Charter, Alliance website to have activities of Partners, invited to Research Group meetings, decisions only taken by Members, participation of Partners in Council meetings by invitation only.

48. There are a large number of potential Partners. After much discussion on different ways in which information on potential Partners could be related back to the Council it was agreed that the

Secretariat would undertake some analysis of potential new Partners for consideration by Council. A template assessing the different types of Partners would help clarify and achieve some balance in the regional distribution of, and different types of Partners, and aid in Council decisions. France, Ireland, USA, Brazil and Argentina volunteered to help the Secretariat with the analysis of new Partners.

49. It was reiterated that Partner/Alliance relationships should be for mutual benefit. Partners can bring funding, in-kind support, outreach for new Members, translation and publication of guidelines and information and they provide greater exposure for results of the Alliance groups. The Alliance can provide information for use by Partners in their activities.

## **General Discussion**

50. Following on from the discussion on Partners the Council briefly discussed some final points on expectations of the Council, the Research Groups and the Secretariat.

51. It was clarified that the role of Council was to support the work of the Research Groups, work within their own countries' jurisdictions as well as outside their jurisdictions to promote the objectives of the Alliance and encourage new membership, mobilise and encourage allocation of resources in support of Alliance objectives and research activities.

52. It was reiterated that reports from the Research Groups to the Council should be done in a standard format and distributed prior to the Council meeting to promote a better discussion. The Secretariat will aid the Research Groups in doing this and also produce an annual report for the Council. A six monthly update report to the Council should also be distributed providing updates on the Research Groups.

53. Action points from the Council meeting need to be summarised in the Council Meeting Report.

## **COMMUNICATION MATTERS**

### **Communication Policy**

54. In opening the discussion on the Communication Policy the Secretariat provided an overview of the draft and the process to date.

55. There was general support for the fourth draft of the Communication Policy – it captured the intent of the Council and it was more concise than previous drafts. It was noted that the disclaimer was useful to have.

56. A few changes to the text were requested to ensure clarity around the meaning of some paragraphs. Most of the discussion on changes to the text centred on paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the draft Communication Policy. Paragraph 11, on media relations was deemed to be not necessary as it was already covered in the rest of the Communications Policy and was therefore removed.

57. The Communication Policy was adopted by the Council. The final Communication Policy is attached in Appendix 3.

## **Alliance Website update**

58. The Secretariat provided an update on the work recently completed on the Alliance website (presentation available in the member's area of Alliance website [www.globalresearchalliance.org](http://www.globalresearchalliance.org)).

59. Main improvements involve separate pages for Research Groups, clearer page layout, multiple pages, ability to search for documents, breadcrumbs at the top of web pages to aid in movement around the website and the ability to have a side bar on pages to include specific links or reports related to a page.

60. The Secretariat also asked Members if they would prefer to have a webpage on the Alliance website that the Secretariat would manage in consultation with Members, or if they would prefer a link on the Alliance website to their own countries' website.

61. Most Members requested a link to their own websites, but all Members are asked to confirm with the Secretariat via email what their preference is.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Joint Programming Initiative Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI)**

62. A letter from FACCE-JPI was presented to the Council for consideration inviting the Alliance to join the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (attached in Appendix 4).

63. The Council felt that the best course of action would be to accept the invitation as an observer only, and nominated the Alliance Secretariat (Hayden Montgomery) to be the Alliance's representative. Hayden will attend meetings of the SAB and report back to the Council on matters related to the Alliance.

## **EXPECTATIONS FOR 2012 -2013**

64. A summary table was presented to Members to recap the discussions, outcomes and action points determined over the previous two days. Following on from this the Chair asked Members what they felt were the key objectives of the Alliance over the next 12 months.

65. Members had a wide range of objectives they felt were important to the Alliance. These were able to be summarised into five main areas:

- 1) Achieve and communicate tangible results for farmers
  - a) Shift focus from governance to results
  - b) Communicate results to maintain support and momentum
    - i) Disseminate good practice guidelines, e.g. Work with IICA to disseminate and translate guidelines (in the next year)
      - ii) Increase focus on support for transfer of information, knowledge, techniques, practices, and technologies transfer

- iii) Increase focus on research in direct GHG emissions from the agricultural sector in the context of food security
- 2) Expand country membership and ensure high level of engagement to increase output and encourage broad adoption of mitigation tools
  - a) Increase number of Member countries through outreach (bilateral and multilateral)
    - i) Side events in other key international/regional forums e.g. UNFCCC meeting in Doha, Climate Smart Agriculture conference in Vietnam
    - ii) Regional workshops, RG/CCG meetings e.g. Ghana to host next I&M meeting
    - iii) Uruguay workshop prior to next Council meeting – on adaptive capacity
  - b) Encourage quality engagement and greater investment by Members
  - c) Increase international recognition in key global Fora e.g. G20 and APEC documents
- 3) Engaging key global institutions (e.g. CGIAR, FAO, World Bank, etc.) as Partners in order to leverage additional resources and act as delivery agents (especially in developing countries)
  - a) Recognize key institutions as formal Partners at 2012 GRA Council Meeting
  - b) Maintain dialogue during year to identify / implement collaborative opportunities
  - c) Extend invitation to appropriate farmer organisations as identified by Partner analysis
- 4) Research Groups
  - a) Links increasingly into private sector, civil society organisations, farmer organisations, etc
  - b) Members need to budget resources to improve coordination and facilitation between members and research groups etc
  - c) Standardisation of reporting
  - d) Coordination and facilitation of communication between Groups
  - e) Record collaborations between researchers resulting from GRA work
- 5) Miscellaneous
  - a) Start developing objectives and themes for the 2013 Council meeting
  - b) Chair/Vice Chair and secretariat to meet on a 2/3 monthly interval to review progress on actions
  - c) Country fellowship programmes - opportunity to explore synergies between different ones.
  - d) Respond to JPI

66. The Secretariat was asked to produce a work plan for the Council based on the summary of the key objectives. This would be split into two areas - operational and strategic direction. It would be formatted in a similar way as the summary table on the previous two days that was presented that morning i.e. there would be three areas 1) action to be taken, 2) by who and 3) by when.

67. It was proposed that at the next Council meeting the principles/criteria for engagement with Partners, in order to inform Paragraph 39 of the charter, should be discussed in more detail.

## **CLOSE OF MEETING**

## APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANTS LIST

Country	Attendees
<b>Alliance Member Countries</b>	
Argentina	Jose Domingo Molina: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries ( <a href="mailto:jdm Molina@gmail.com">jdm Molina@gmail.com</a> )
Australia	<i>Unable to attend</i>
Brazil	Renato Rodrigues: Embrapa, Brazil ( <a href="mailto:renato.rodrigues@embrapa.br">renato.rodrigues@embrapa.br</a> )
Canada	Jamshed Merchant: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ( <a href="mailto:Jamshed.merchant@agr.gc.ca">Jamshed.merchant@agr.gc.ca</a> ) Robert Patzer: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ( <a href="mailto:robert.patzer@agr.gc.ca">robert.patzer@agr.gc.ca</a> ) Richard Butts: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ( <a href="mailto:richard.butts@agr.gc.ca">richard.butts@agr.gc.ca</a> ) Brian McConkey: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ( <a href="mailto:Brian.McConkey@agr.gc.ca">Brian.McConkey@agr.gc.ca</a> ) Alexandra Conliffe: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ( <a href="mailto:Alexandra.Conliffe@agr.gc.ca">Alexandra.Conliffe@agr.gc.ca</a> ) Marie Boehm: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada ( <a href="mailto:Marie.Boehm@agr.gc.ca">Marie.Boehm@agr.gc.ca</a> )
Chile	<i>Unable to attend</i>
China	Yihua Wei: Department of Climate change, National Development and Reform Commission ( <a href="mailto:weiyihua@hotmail.com">weiyihua@hotmail.com</a> ) Yu'e Li: Chinese academy of agricultural sciences ( <a href="mailto:yueli@ami.ac.cn">yueli@ami.ac.cn</a> )
Colombia	Juan Fernando Gallego Beltrán : Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development ( <a href="mailto:juan.gallego@minagricultura.gov.co">juan.gallego@minagricultura.gov.co</a> )
Costa Rica	<i>Unable to attend</i>
Denmark	<i>Unable to attend</i>
Finland	<i>Unable to attend</i>
France	Ludovic Larbodiére: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries ( <a href="mailto:ludovic.larbodiére@agriculture.gouv.fr">ludovic.larbodiére@agriculture.gouv.fr</a> )
Germany	<i>Unable to attend</i>
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## **APPENDIX 2: LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND MINISTERS**

Please see separate document

## **APPENDIX 3: COMMUNICATION POLICY**

**Final June 2012**

1. Communication will play an important role in supporting the goals and objectives of the Alliance by facilitating the exchange of information, encouraging collaboration, raising awareness and increasing understanding of the role and work of the Alliance, among Research and Cross-cutting Groups, the Secretariat, the Council, Members, Partners, and third parties. Members are encouraged to raise awareness about the Alliance.
2. This Communication Policy is to facilitate communication of information about and resulting from activities of the Alliance, e.g. research, extension, meetings, in an appropriate and timely manner.
3. It is important that the communication of information resulting from activities of the Alliance does not pose a risk to Members and Partners due to the potential sensitivity of some data and information. This Policy is designed to avoid these risks by providing guidance to Members on how information is communicated.
4. This communication policy will be reviewed by the Council at the 2013 Council meeting and may be modified by subsequent decision of the Council.

### **External communication made on behalf of the Alliance**

5. External communication made on behalf of the Alliance that is intended to represent the consensus view of the whole Alliance membership will be approved by the Council.

### **External communication made on behalf of a Research Group or Cross-cutting Group**

6. External communication made on behalf of a Research Group or Cross-cutting Group, of information about its activities i.e. meeting reports, research projects and newsletters, will be approved by the Group by consensus of Members' nominated contact points

7. To facilitate efficient external communication by Research or Cross-cutting Groups, each Group may decide by consensus of Members nominated contact points to authorise its Chair(s) to communicate information identified in paragraph 6 above on its behalf.

## **External communication by Members**

8. In accordance with paragraph 40 of the Charter, each Member participating in activities of Research Groups and Cross-cutting Groups wishing to raise awareness of its activities by communicating research results, strategies, technologies and other information through new and existing networks, and on the Alliance website, will use the following disclaimer:

*This [enter here the description of work, e.g. report, workshop, etc.] was undertaken by [enter here the participating members/entities] to support the objectives of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. The information contained within should not be taken to represent the views of the Alliance as a whole or its Partners.*

9. Members are encouraged to make full use of the Alliance website, including by participating in forum discussions, communicating with other Members and Groups, providing news articles and other information on relevant activities for uploading, and linking to the Alliance website from their own website.

## **Alliance Secretariat**

10. In consultation with the Alliance Council and Research Groups and Cross-cutting Groups, the Alliance Secretariat will:

- Maintain and update the public area of the Alliance website with external communications in accordance with the Communication Policy and also other relevant information supplied by individual Members or Partners (e.g. links to relevant activities occurring outside of the Alliance).
- Maintain and update the Members area of the Alliance website with news and events of interest to the Alliance membership, including news and events provided to it by any Member, Partner or third party;
- Maintain and develop templates for Alliance communications as required.

## **APPENDIX 4: FACCE-JPI INVITATION LETTER**

Please see separate document