



GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE

ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES

Livestock Research Group meeting

9-10 August 2019



Rethinking Flagships

GRA RESEARCH GROUPS, NETWORKS AND FLAGSHIPS

- At the 8th GRA Council meeting held in Berlin, Germany from 10-11 September 2018, members discussed the need for greater clarity on the distinction between the GRA's Research Groups, Flagships and Networks in order to help improve the overall effectiveness of the GRA.
- Secretariat undertook a review of this and has worked with Research Group Co-Chairs to propose an improved way forward for Flagship projects.

Research Groups

- Paragraphs 20 through 28 of the GRA Charter establish the rules and procedures relating to the GRA's Research Groups.

Networks

- Paragraph 24 a), b) and c) of the GRA Charter refer to sub-groups, expert networks and regional networks. Research Groups are given explicit freedom to establish and promote such sub-groups and networks as they see fit.

GRA FLAGSHIPS – EXISTING REQUIREMENTS

- Addresses a critical research and/or capability building of the Alliance.
- Provides unique value-added contributions by:
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions while supporting food security;
 - Advancing global knowledge through collaboration; and
 - Supporting countries to develop and implement greenhouse gas mitigation solutions.
 - Facilitates engagement by a broad range of Alliance Members and Partners.
 - Has indicative resources identified (in-kind or cash).
 - Clearly identifies milestones and deliverables.

RE-FRAMING FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

- GRA should have a portfolio of well-resourced Flagship projects being implemented at any one time. As projects are nearing completion new ones should be beginning.
- Flagship projects should be distinct from the general activities of Research Groups.
- It is proposed that Flagship projects:
 - Be specific time-bound projects that are relevant to multiple GRA Member countries, rather than general research areas/topics;
 - Benefit from GRA-wide collaboration, i.e. be more effective with more contributors, e.g. large datasets;
 - Provide opportunity for multi-country participation at low individual cost;
 - Lend themselves to being developed and implemented through Networks / Research Groups;
 - Develop new knowledge, high scientific impact, validate approaches, methods or hypotheses;
 - Flagship project leaders should be clearly identified and resourced to complete the project within the specified time-frame;
 - Research Group Co-Chairs should not bear the responsibility of leading Flagship projects, except presenting updates at the annual Council meeting, if required;
 - Should have global relevance, if not global participation in their delivery.

GRA FLAGSHIP PROJECT PROCESS

Proposed Process

1. GRA Flagship Project template to be completed by the lead(s).
2. The GRA Flagship Project must identify at least five Council Champions (Members and Partners) and consisting of at least three GRA Member countries.
3. Council representatives to assess proposed Flagship projects using the criteria (below), and agree on the GRA Flagship projects to endorse.
4. GRA Flagship Projects will be profiled on the GRA website, and once complete final outcomes will be presented to the Council.

FLAGSHIP PROJECT CRITERIA

Project Scope

- Project timeline (defined end date) specified.
- Project outcome defined.
- Globally applicable.

Project Participation

- Benefits from GRA wide collaboration.
- Provides a range of collaboration opportunities – including low cost e.g. data, sample or knowledge sharing.

Research

- Will the project generate new knowledge, high scientific impact.
- Identified community of experts within the GRA Membership (i.e. proposed by a RG or Network – or key coordinators identified if cross-cutting).

Resourcing

- Flagship project lead identified.
- Funding confirmed for Flagship project lead and core project activities (Minimum 30%, cash or in kind contributions of total project costs).
- Proposed funding mechanisms for additional activities and contributions identified (i.e. fellowship fund, workshop funding, or research call).

- New approach to be circulated to Council members
- Agreement to new approach to be sought at the GRA Council meeting in Bali, Indonesia
- Existing Flagships to make necessary adjustments
- Flagships currently being developed to have in mind this new approach