

Contemplating the Co-Benefits:
An exploration of their evidence-base to
accelerate climate action

CONVERSATION CAPTURE FROM COP26: REFLECTION SESSION

**Global Research Alliance on Agricultural
Greenhouse Gases**

10th November

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Introduction



Event agenda

Welcome

Introduction to the Global Research Alliance (GRA)

Introduction to the work of the GRA and co-benefits

Event panellists and showcase of GRA projects

Reflection exercise on co-benefits

Thanks and close

Purpose of the document

The purpose of this document is to capture a synthesised summary of the reflection session that took place at GRA's (Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases) COP26 event.

Contemplating the Co-Benefits: An exploration of their evidence-base to accelerate climate action was hosted online on 10th November 2021 at 11.30 a.m. (GMT), and participants joined online through Zoom. Participants used a digital whiteboard to reflect on the session content.

Please note that this document does not capture the conversation verbatim, rather it presents a snapshot of discussion points and activities during the reflection session.

About the event

Identifying the co-benefits of agricultural mitigation and adaptation practices can exponentially increase the impact of research and innovation activities, leading to accelerated action on climate change - improving the resilience of food systems while reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.

The GRA hosted an interactive knowledge-sharing event at COP26 to discuss the global collaborations that break down the barriers to climate action in agriculture and accelerate our ability to recognise and realise co-benefits. Participants heard from leading researchers about their innovative research activities and were empowered by these insights. They engaged in an active dialogue with fellow participants to understand the pathways to pursuing co-benefits in their own work.

This online event was hosted by Australia as Chair of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. It featured a welcome and introduction from Professor Andrew Campbell, CEO ACIAR and Chair of the GRA. Hayden Montgomery, GRA Special Representative, presented the work of the GRA as it relates to the topic of adaptation and mitigation co-benefits.

Speakers:

Natalie Doran-Browne, University of Melbourne

Viviana Becerra, INIA Chile

Cynthia Rosenzweig, Goddard Institute for Space Studies

Event panellists and their work

The following researchers presented their work at the event. A video recording of their presentations can be accessed [here](#). This page provides additional links to the project they presented at the event.



Natalie Doran-Browne

University of Melbourne

Livestock project | Fiji

More details on this project can be found [here](#)

Read the 2020 ACIAR report [“Co-benefits of GHG mitigation options for Agriculture in Fiji”](#)

If you would like to follow more of Natalie’s work, follow this [link](#).



Viviana Becerra

INIA

Sustainable management of rice cultivation | Chile

More details on this project can be found [here](#)

If you would like to follow more of Viviana’s work, follow this [link](#).



Cynthia E. Rosenzweig

Goddard Institute of Space Studies

Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP)

More details on this project can be found [here](#)

Read the report on the recent AGMIP8 workshop [here](#)

If you would like to follow more of Cynthia’s work, follow this [link](#)

How might you better address co-benefits in your work?



Participants used the Miro board to discuss how they could better address co-benefits on a project they are currently working on or that is in proposal/conceptual phases. This is a synthesized summary of their responses.

How a project/piece of work that you are currently working on might better address co-benefits?

- By building stronger linkages between agriculture and the environment, introducing soil health indicators and crop resilience under climate change scenarios. *"The NDCs do not address agriculture."*
- By working to better understand and engage with farmer needs. This could be done by designing more inclusive processes to improve farmer engagement.
- By expanding assessments to include water regulation services.
- By measuring the cost-saving potential and the environmental benefits of improving nitrogen use efficiency in rice cropping.

How might a project/piece of work currently in the proposal or conceptual phase better address co-benefits?

- By applying a stronger emphasis on human dimension aspects of co-benefits and building a deeper understanding of goals/aims of all stakeholders and users.
- By doing a basic assessment of mitigation consequences of planned adaptation actions. *"We should have co-benefit relevant indicators so smallholders and other stakeholders can have informed-decision making for the adoption of new technologies."*
- By being more explicit on productivity improvement. *"Integrating oil seeds keeps the soil covered, adds another crop for increasing income and environmental benefits including potential sequestration."*

What barriers exist to better addressing co-benefits?

Participants used the Miro board to discuss what barriers exist to better addressing co-benefits. This is a synthesized summary of their discussions.

1. Cost: The lack of medium- and long-term financial support for these activities.

- *"Specific funding conditionality, e.g., mitigation funds"*
- *"Cost for amendments applied to agricultural system to reduce GHG emissions."*

2. Lack of standardised assessment frameworks

- *"Economic assessments can be very context specific and there is a scarcity of country or system specific emissions factors in many developing countries."*
- *"Difficulties in accurately measuring / estimating agricultural GHGs."*

3. Lack of awareness of the potential of mitigation and adaptation co-benefits

- *"Lack of translating the mitigation/adaptation benefits' cost-saving potential."*
- *"There is limited understanding on the genuine net benefits of adopting new technologies."*

4. Small pockets of expertise

- *"Presence of only small groups with the expertise working on green house emission."*
- *"Need more scientists working on this to address the complete problem."*

5. Issues with collecting and maintaining the required data repositories

- *"Lack of historical data from farmers management might confuse the interpretation and limit conclusive learnings."*
- *"No robust ex-ante and ex-post impact evaluations including risk profiling and managements."*
- *"Short-term leases of the land restrict the assessment of long-term benefits and vision for sustainable farming practices."*

6. Barriers to farmer adoption

- *"10% isn't enough for a farmer to adopt a new practice. 1) increase yield 2) decrease cost or 3) decrease workload."*
- *"Perhaps there are innovative insurance schemes needed for farmers who are making radical changes that create significant risk to their livelihoods."*
- *"Understanding human dimension trade-offs associated with implementing climate smart practices."*

7. Changes in political interests: *"Politicians afraid of losing votes if you ask farmers to adopt cost increasing practices."*

8. Lack of time: *"Realizing some co-benefits may take over a decade in semiarid regions."*

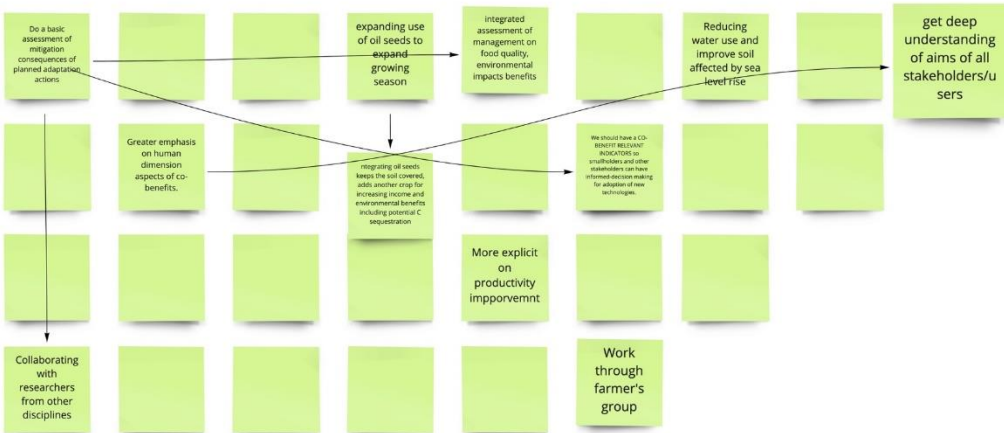
How a project/piece of work that you are currently working on might better address co-benefits?



What barriers exist to better addressing co-benefits?



How a project/piece of work that is currently in proposal or a conceptual phase might better address co-benefits?



*picture of the Miro board used for the discussion

Additional links related to this event



Campaign for increased research and development in agricultural research for climate change adaptation and mitigation |

Climate shot action agenda for innovation in agriculture (supported by UK, US AID, Gates Foundation, CCAFS and others)

Please find the link [here](#)

Recognition of the GRA as a Knowledge Partner of the US and UAE led Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C) initiative launched at COP 26 | Two GRA projects have been announced as Innovation Sprint Partners at the launch.

Please find the link [here](#)

Recording of COP 26 event organised by the Netherlands, New Zealand, Colombia and Kenya - Towards sustainable livestock systems | Co-Chair of the GRA Livestock Research Group presents GRA research activities.

Please find the link [here](#)

