GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE
ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES

Global Research Alliance
Terms of Reference (TOR) for Enhanced Secretariat and Special Representative Position

Background

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 a paper presented by New Zealand to Members. The Council also agreed in principle to the creation of a representative role (now known as the GRA Special Representative) as part of the enhanced Secretariat on a two year pilot basis (beginning 2016). Following this meeting, New Zealand circulated a TOR for the enhanced Secretariat, including the representative position, based on the proposal agreed by Council. New Zealand also identified the proposed candidate for the representative role and Council endorsed this recommendation.

This paper responds to these commitments.

Objectives of the Special Representative Role

In consultation with the Council Chair and Vice-Chair, and in concert with other work of the enhanced Secretariat, the role of the GRA Special Representative is to:

1. Work to lift the global profile of the GRA to increase cooperation and investment in research activities and their contributions to reducing the emissions intensity of agricultural greenhouse gases;

2. Work to broaden and strengthen links with potential GRA Partners; relevant non-governmental and philanthropic organisations; and the agricultural sector broadly;

3. Work with existing GRA Partners and Members to define specific action plans for collaborative activities;

4. Engage with a broad range of existing and potential funding entities to identify and secure funding for multinational research initiatives undertaken in support of GRA objectives;

5. Where requested to do so, assist member countries to raise the profile of the GRA and the value of relevant research activities within those countries; and

6. Promote the benefits of joining the GRA to potential new member countries.

Mode of Working of the Enhanced Secretariat and Special Representative

To ensure transparency and increase the flow of information and engagement among the enhanced Secretariat, Special Representative and Member countries, they will:

- Work in close collaboration with the Chair and Vice-Chair to meet the objectives and outcomes of the Council work plan;
- Provide regular updates to Member countries of events where GRA attendance or participation is proposed;
- Provide regular updates to Member countries, including on all external engagement, and provide an annual report at Council meetings; and
- Participate in relevant meetings to achieve the objectives stated above.

Review

- The enhanced Secretariat, including the Special Representative role, will be reviewed by the Council every three years.