GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE
ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES

GRA Flagship Projects Process – 2022 Council Meeting

The process for approval of a GRA Flagship is outlined below. This document provides some additional clarification on the role of Council Champions and the Flagship session that will take place at the 2022 Council meeting

1. GRA Flagship Project template to be completed by the lead.
2. The GRA Flagship Project must identify at least five Council Champions, Members and Partners, consisting of at least three GRA Member countries.
3. Council representatives to assess proposed Flagship projects using the criteria (above), 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.

Council Champions

A Council Champion may be the GRA Council representative from a Member country or Partner organisation. A Council Champion may be involved in the project by providing funding or other resources, although it is not a requirement.

Ahead of the Council meeting, Project leads must contact the GRA Council representative for each of the five members / partners that they have identified as Council Champions. Contact the Secretariat if you need contact information for Council representatives.

Council Champions are requested to assess the project proposal against each of the GRA Flagship criteria (Page 2 of the Flagship template document which follows) ensuring these criteria are meet before confirming that they will endorse the project proposal. This pre-approval means that projects should be confirmed before the Council meeting – rather than asking for approval of all Members during the Council meeting.

Flagship Session

The completed templates of the GRA Flagship Proposals will be circulated to Council representatives ahead of the Council meeting for review.

A short presentation of approved GRA Flagships, those that are supported by 5 Council Champions, will be shown at the Council meeting for Members and Partners to clarify activities and identify how they may participate.

Flagship projects that have not identified 5 Council Champions ahead of the Council meeting may still have the opportunity to present during this session – noting that they are seeking further approval.

GRA Flagship Project Template

Title:

Leader:

GRA Council Champions: *list the names of at least 5 GRA Members and Partners (including at least 3 Member countries)*

1. *1.*
2. *2.*
3. *3.*
4. *4.*
5. *5.*

Countries involved:

Start date and project length:

Brief description of project:

Key partners and existing resources:

Benefits and outcome from Flagship project:

Further Resourcing needs:

Resourcing mechanisms:

Linkages:

Flagship Criteria

Project Scope

1. Project timeline (defined end date) specified.
2. Project outcome defined.
3. Globally applicable.

Project Participation

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

Research

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

Resourcing

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

Flagship Approval Process

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Example GRA Activity relevant as Flagship Project

Some examples of projects that would meet the GRA Flagship criteria follow.

Global Rumen Census

The GRC is the most extensive exploration of rumen microbial communities to date, representing 742 samples from 32 animal species from 35 countries, and supported by 140 scientists from 73 research institutions worldwide. A key finding of the GRC was that similar bacteria and archaea dominated in nearly all samples, and that diet is a key driver of microbial-community structure. The GRC was a collaboration among members of the Rumen Microbial Genomics Network (www.rmgnetwork.org).

Hungate1000

Building on the results of the GRC, the Hungate1000 project used the culture resources of multiple rumen microbiology laboratories around the world (57 researchers, from 14 research organisations in nine countries) to develop a reference set of 501 rumen-microbial genome sequences and cultures. The Hungate1000 has captured almost all cultured rumen bacterial and archaeal species that have been taxonomically characterized and several as yet uncharacterized strains belonging to novel species and genera. It represents the single largest effort to provide a catalogued and curated culture and genome resource for rumen microbes. The Hungate1000 was a collaboration among members of the Rumen Microbial Genomics Network (www.rmgnetwork.org).

MAGGnet

In 2012, a GHG research network referred to as MAGGnet (Managing Agricultural Greenhouse Gases Network) was established within the Croplands Research Group of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA). With involvement from 46 alliance member countries, MAGGnet seeks to provide a platform for the inventory and analysis of agricultural GHG mitigation research throughout the world. To date, metadata from 315 experimental studies in 20 countries have been compiled using a standardized spreadsheet.

MAGGnet has served to leverage limited resource investments within individual countries to produce an inclusive, shared meta-database for use by all GRA-member countries. MAGGnet occupies a unique niche among GHG networks given its geographical domain (global) and intended focus. With time and continued effort, MAGGnet can serve to further GHG mitigation science through new collaborations among contributing members.
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17583004.2016.1180586

CEDERS

Known as 'CEDERS', this new project aims to: develop databases to evaluate dietary mitigation strategies (including digestion and excretion) and GHG emissions and undertake experiments to fill high-priority knowledge gaps on dietary effects on ruminant manure emissions. It will evaluate consequences of dietary mitigation measures on emissions on selected farm cases with a modelling platform, improve farm accounting and national inventory methodologies to capture effects of dietary mitigation measures and disseminate the implications of findings to end-users of GHG accounting and inventory.

CEDERS initially involved scientists from 10 countries and is being expanded to include Post-Docs in Latin America and South East Asia to increase its global relevance. This additional work will help identify region-specific feeds that could feasibly offer the most significant emissions reductions and develop Ym values for specific feeds suitable for inclusion in advanced national GHG inventories to help better quantify enteric methane emissions and, specifically, capture the impact of local diets and changes in diets on emissions.