



Outcomes of the 2025 Council Meeting

GRA Extraordinary Council Meeting
05 November 2025

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Council outcomes

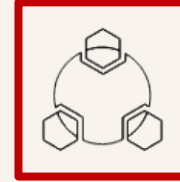
Vice-Chair	Costa Rica Confirmed. Chair in 2026 and hosting the next Council meeting
New Members	Pakistan joined the GRA and the U.S.A withdrew their membership
Strategic Plan (2026 -2030)	New Strategic Plan approved
Strategic Research Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working Group members so far: Canada, Costa Rica, Ireland, Italy, UK, AgMIP, GMH, ReNAPRI - The first meeting will take place in January 2026 - Timeline TBD
Ministerial Meeting	<p>The Secretariat is looking at opportunities to host a GRA Ministerial Meeting alongside FAO meeting.</p> <p>Timeline subject to the completion of the SRA, and implementation of restructuring.</p>
Flagships	<p>BNI Flagship Approved.</p> <p><i>Council Champions: Colombia, Ireland, NZ, Spain and UK</i></p>

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Secretariat outcomes

<p>Secretariat and Special Representative</p>	<p>New Zealand will keep hosting the Secretariat and Special Representative until 2028.</p> <p>New Zealand has nominated Peter Ettema for the role as GRA Special Representative.</p>
<p>Research Group Guidelines</p>	<p>The Secretariat will advise if changes need to be made to the Charter, in particular regarding the structure, establishment, and closure of Research Groups, Networks, and Flagships.</p>
<p>Advisory Group</p>	<p>Communication Note on Metrics & GHG. <i>Advisory Group Members: Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Ireland, New Zealand</i></p>
<p>Communication Note</p>	<p>Process for developing a GRA Communication Note reviewed and confirmed.</p>

Research Groups Restructure



- Integrative and Croplands Research Groups have closed.
- EOIs opened for members wishing to co-chair the new Crop and Land Use Research Group
- Paddy Rice Research Group to be renamed Rice Research Group and focus on system-base approach, with EOIs opened for members wishing to co-chair.
- Established a Working Group to assess the need for a separate group to address cross-cutting topics and, if needed, to recommend its optimal structure and remit within the GRA framework.
- The Indigenous and I&NDC Networks to report to Special Representative
- All Research Groups will have to develop an annual work plan.

Operational Plan

GRA Operational Plan 2025							
ACTORS		Members	Research Groups	Partners	Secretariat	Special Rep	Single Actors
Strategic Plan 2026-2030	launch the new Strategic Plan	x			x	x	
Strategic Research Agenda	Develop a Strategic Research Agenda aligned with GRA objectives	x		x	x	x	Working Group: New Zealand, Ireland, Costa Rica, Canada, Global Methane Hub
GRA Guidelines	Develop guidelines on the structure, establishment, and closure of Research Groups, Networks and Flagships	x	x		x		
PRIORITY ACTIONS							
Further Research Collaboration							
Thematic focus	Provide coordination support through the GRA Secretariat for the development of Flagship projects				x	x	
	Review GRA Flagships hosted by a primary Research Group		x		x	x	
Networks	Research Groups to develop an annual workplan to be considered by the GRA Council at its annual meeting.		x				
Foster Outreach, Knowledge Sharing and Information Exchange							
Capability building	Online webinars and training materials made available on the GRA website.		x	x	x		
	Build capability among early career scientists and PhD students (including CLIFF-GRADS) in the work of Research Groups and Networks and advertise GRA Networks to students at agricultural universities.	x	x	x			
	Supporting existing GRA scholarships and awards, e.g. CLIFF-GRADS. Identifying other existing relevant awards and scholarships offered by members and partner	x	x	x	x		
Science-policy communication	Provide coordination support through the GRA Secretariat for GRA webinars to present research results; develop GRA webinar "corporate design" and webinar calendar		x	x	x		
	Communication Notes on Metrics to be presented and endorsed by Council at the 2026 Council Meeting.	x	x		x	x	Advisory Group: Ireland, New Zealand, Argentina, Australia
Build effective Partnerships							
Start looking into the organisation of a Ministerial Meeting to raise the profile of the GRA and its membership.		x			x	x	
Leverage Financial and Other Resources							
GRA Flagship Projects to be strengthened as a mechanism to help coordinate and pool funding						x	
Systematically identify research funding schemes that allow international participation and communicate it back to GRA Council / Secretariat.		x	x			x	