



ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES

EXTRAORDINARY GRA COUNCIL MEETING

6 pm - 8 pm (UTC), 5 November 2025 | Virtual

OVERVIEW

The Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) Extraordinary Council meeting was held online using ZOOM, 5 November 2025, Chaired by Ireland.

This report is a summary of the key discussions and outcomes from the meeting. Other documents related to this meeting can be found on the GRA website [HERE](#). Full recordings of the meeting sessions are available to view below:

- [2025 Extraordinary Council Meeting Part 1](#)
- [2025 Extraordinary Council Meeting Part 2](#)

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended by 42 representatives from 20 countries and other invited guests:

- **GRA Member Countries:** Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.
- **GRA Partners:** Environmental Defense Fund

Refer to Appendix 1 for a full participants list.

KEY OUTCOMES OF MEETING

Below is a summary of the key outcomes from the Extraordinary Council meeting.

Outcomes
Special Representative
Peter Ettema has been endorsed as the GRA Special Representative until 2028.
Dr Harry Clark will keep working with the GRA Secretariat and Peter until the end of 2025 to help with the handover.
New Research Group Co-Chairs
New Co-Chairs supported by Australia, France and Spain confirmed for the Crop and Land Use Research Group.
New Co-Chairs for the Rice Research Group supported by Japan and Zimbabwe confirmed. The Expression of Interest for further Co-Chair(s) will remain open until the end of November 2025.
Cross-Cutting Topics Working Group
The recommendations of the WorkingGroup were approved by the members.
Following the recommendation of the Working Group, there will be no Cross-Cutting Research Group.
The need for a Cross-Cutting Research Group will be reevaluated in one year's time (end of 2026).
Cross-cutting activities will be considered within each Research Group, and collaboration between Groups supported by the Council.
Co-Chairs of the Livestock and Crop & Land Use Research Groups to meet regularly, especially during the establishment phase of the Crop and Land Use Research Group, and at the 2026 Council meeting to discuss potential cross-cutting activities.
Research Group Restructure
New Research Group Co-Chairs meet online to develop the scope of their research group, including Networks, develop work plans, and identify the first meeting of the group for 2026.
Crop and Land Use Co-Chairs to meet with the leads of existing Networks before finalising group scope and structure. Co-Chairs will work with the Secretariat to finalise Research Group and Network Structures.

Rice Research Group Co-Chairs will look at establishing system based networks, and will work with partners such as GMH and IRRRI to develop their networks and work plan.

The Research Groups will provide updates to the members on their progress and their work plans during the 2026 Council Meeting.

Co-Chairs to meet at least twice a year to identify possible areas for collaboration between Research Groups and Networks.

GRA Communication Note on GHG Metrics

The communication note is being reviewed by a subject matter expert, comments from the subject matter expert will be addressed by the lead author.

The communication note will be sent to the Advisory Group once the comments have been addressed.

Advisory Group members: Ireland, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Canada, Italy, the U.K

Council members will have the opportunity to review the paper before it is finalised and approved by the GRA Chair.

2026 Council Meeting

The 2026 Council Meeting will be held in July hosted by Costa Rica as the next Council Chair.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

WELCOME FROM IRELAND

1. GRA Council Chair, Karl Walsh, Head of Research and Bioeconomy, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, Ireland welcomed the participants of the 2025 Extraordinary Council Meeting, and clarified the objectives of the meeting:
 - Endorsement of the new GRA Special Representative
 - Introduction and endorsement of the new Co-Chairs for the Crop and Land Use Research Group and Rice Research Group
 - Finalise the restructure

GRA SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION

2. Stephanie Preston, Ministry for Primary Industries (New Zealand), provided an update on the Special Representative endorsement process.
3. New Zealand has supported the GRA Secretariat since the GRA was established and the Special Representative since 2015. At the Dublin Council Meeting it was agreed that New Zealand would continue to host these roles until 2028.
4. Dr. Harry Clark was recognised and thanked for outstanding service as both GRA Special Representative and previously as Co-Chair of the Livestock Research Group.
5. New Zealand sent a letter to Council Members and Partners in September, to nominate Peter Ettema as the next Special Representative. Peter brings over a decade of experience across the New Zealand Government, and international development across East Africa and the Pacific. More recently, Peter was leading the FAO Livestock Environmental Assessment Performance (LEAP) Partnership.
6. Peter has extensive experience in the agricultural sector, both in New Zealand and internationally. His international experience includes roles at the OECD, APEC, and more recently as Chair of the FAO LEAP. His knowledge of both domestic and international agriculture issues will be an asset for the members.
7. The Council endorsed Peter as the new GRA Special Representative for a three-year term. Karl congratulated Peter and noted it was a good moment for Peter to join given the ongoing developments related to the updated GRA Strategy and the restructuring of the Research Groups and Networks.

REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE 2025 COUNCIL MEETING

8. Jo Monjol, GRA Secretariat, provided an update on the outcomes of the 2025 Council Meeting ([see also accompanying slides](#)):
 - The Council Meeting hosted by Ireland as Chair of the GRA, was attended by 55 participants from 17 countries.
 - Costa-Rica, Vice-Chair, will host the 2026 Council Meeting and further information will be shared with members in the new year.
 - GRA membership is still at 68 member countries with Pakistan joining and the U.S.A. withdrawing.
 - The Strategic Plan was updated and will keep on focusing on these 4 priorities: advancing scientific research, strengthening capability and knowledge sharing, building effective partnerships, and leveraging financial resources.
 - The GRA will develop a Strategic Research Agenda to strengthen its role in advancing science. A working group has been set up including: Ireland, Costa Rica, Canada, New Zealand, Italy, the UK and GRA partners.
 - The Biological N inhibitor Flagship, led by Cecile De Klein (New Zealand), has been endorsed by the Council.
 - The Secretariat is looking at opportunities to host a GRA Ministerial Meeting alongside a FAO meeting.
9. Jo also provided an update on progress since the Council meeting
 - The Secretariat will advise members if changes need to be made to the Charter, in particular regarding the structure, establishment, and closure of Research Groups, Networks, and Flagships.
 - Guidelines will be developed for the opening and closing of Networks and Flagships.
 - Guidelines for the production of Communication Notes have been approved, including an additional period for Council Members to review.

NEW RESEARCH GROUP CO-CHAIRS

10. The Chair presented on the process to select the new Co-Chairs for the Crop and Land Use Research Group (CLURG) and the Rice Research Group (RRG).
11. The Secretariat sent an email to members seeking Expressions of Interest for Research Group Chairs. Expressions of Interest were received from Australia, France, and Spain for the CLURG, and from Zimbabwe and Japan for the RRG. The call for RRG Chairs will remain open until the end of November.
12. The nominations and the biographies of the nominees were shared with the GRA members ahead of the meeting for endorsement.
13. The new Co-Chairs, along with the GRA country representative for Zimbabwe, provided brief introductions.

Crop and Land Use Research Group Nominees:

- **Australia:** Peter Grace, School of Biology and Environmental Science, Queensland University of Technology
- **France:** Thierry Caquet, French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment
- **Spain:** Rosa Mosquera Losada, University Santiago de Compostela

Rice Research Group Nominees:

- **Japan:** Yasuhito Shirato, National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences
- **Zimbabwe:** Nomusa Chizhande, Crop Breeding Institute.

14. All EOIs were endorsed by the Council Members.

15. Co-Chairs' biographies are available [HERE](#).

RESULTS FROM THE CROSS-CUTTING WORKING GROUP

16. The Chair provided the background from the Dublin Council meeting, which established the Working Group, information and presented the recommendations of the Working Group on cross-cutting activities and how these topics should be managed between GRA Research Groups ([see accompanying slide](#)).

Background:

17. Following the Dublin Council meeting and the decision to close the Integrative Research Group, a Cross-Cutting Topics Working Group was established to:

- evaluate whether there is a need for a separate research group to cover cross-cutting topics within the GRA.
- If such a need is identified, to determine the optimal structure for this group within the GRA framework and its possible areas of remit.

18. The report of the Working Group, outlined that the Integrative Research Group was struggling with the different focus of the networks it supported, which meant the Integrative Research Group itself lacked a clear scope, and found it difficult to identify relevant international meetings which the group could hold an annual meeting alongside.

19. The Working Group recommended the following:

- Allow time for the new Crop & Land Use Research Group (RG) and Networks to establish. Review the need for a separate cross-cutting group in 1-2 years.
- New Co-Chairs to develop a RG work plan and identify any research gaps aligned with the GRA Mission & Strategy (2026–2030).
- Where gaps are identified, Council to review proposals that address this (e.g. project, Flagship, Network)
- To enhance collaboration, the (Co-Chairs?) of the Livestock RG and Crop & Land Use RG should meet regularly. The Council should support cross-cutting collaboration between RGs.

Council Decision:

20. The recommendations were approved by the Council.

RESTRUCTURING NEXT STEPS

21. Karl explained the new proposed structure of the GRA with a supporting diagram ([see also accompanying slides](#)).

22. Changes to the GRA Research Groups summarised below:

- The Livestock Research Group (LRG) will remain the same and act as an example to support the successful development of the new research groups.
- The Croplands Research Group (CRG) will be re-established as the Crop and Land Use Research Group (CLURG).
- The Paddy Rice Research Group (PRRG) will be re-established as the Rice Research Group (RRG). The Rice group will review its activities and consider networks based on rice production systems.

- The Integrative Research Group (IRG) will be disestablished and its networks will be adjusted in line with the changes agreed at the annual council meeting (also described hereunder).

23. Changes to the GRA Networks summarised below:

- All LRG networks will remain the same including Animal Health, Animal Genetics, Feed & Nutrition, Manure Management, and Rumen Microbial Network.
- Activities in the Conservation Agriculture Network will be integrated into the newly established Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Fertiliser Network. This network will be placed under the newly established Crop and Land Use Research Group.
- Merge the Peatlands and the Soil Carbon Sequestration Network to create the newly established 'Soil & Peat Carbon Network.' This network will be placed under the newly established Crop and Land use Research Group.
- The Farm to Regional Network and the Landscape Management Network will be combined and re-established as the Farm Systems Network. New Network leads will be identified (Germany shared their interest in this role).
- The four remaining networks from the IRG will report directly to the Special Representative including the Inventories & NDC Network, Indigenous Research Network, Circular Food Systems Network, and the Farm Systems Network.
- The Inventories & NDC Network leads will consider a change of name to better reflect them. The suggestion provided by the council was the MRV Knowledge Network.

24. During the 2025 Council meeting, a proposal to establish an implementation group that would establish the new Structure. . To avoid setting another Group, the following proposal was agreed during this meeting.:

- Crop and Land Use Co-Chairs to meet with their network leads, and finalise the scope of the Research Group. CLURG to develop a work plan and prepare for their first annual meeting, with updates to be provided during the 2026 Council meeting.
- Rice Research Group to finalise scope and prepare a work plan in collaboration with Africa Rice, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and Global Methane Hub (GMH). They will update the members on their progress during the 2026 Council Meeting.

- LRG and CLURG to meet during CLURG's establishment phase, with a dedicated session at the 2026 Council meeting, to look at possible cross-cutting activities.
- Review the new Research Group structure in a year, to assess the efficiency of the Groups and Networks, and identify any gaps that need to be consolidated.

GRA COMMUNICATION NOTES - METRICS PAPER

25. Harry Clark provided an update on the production of the GHG Metrics Communication Note ([see accompanying slides](#)).
26. Germany indicated that the paper must not question international agreements or undermine the existing basis on which the metrics are used/calculated. Harry Clark confirmed the paper is a clarification piece.

Background:

27. The Science to Policy Communication Working Group identified ways to enhance science findings to GRA members such as developing communication notes on selected topics.
28. The first agreed topic was on GHG Metrics, and Dr Andy Reisiger was engaged to write the Communication Note on Metrics. Andy was selected due to his extensive experience with the IPCC (co-lead author on metrics), and he also has experience in government policy.
29. The guidelines for the production of the Communication Notes were agreed upon during the 2025 Council Meeting.

Update:

30. The first draft has been produced following the process established in the guidelines, and is now peer reviewed. The feedback from the review should be completed during the week following the Extraordinary Council meeting.
31. The paper will then be reviewed by the Advisory Group who will comment on the paper and ensure the process has been followed as indicated in the guidelines.
32. Other members will have the opportunity to comment on the paper before it is approved by the Council Chair.

33. Harry highlighted the difficulty to summarise a complex subject like metrics to a short communication note. The Communication note does not provide policy recommendations, but explains the pros and cons of each metric in a policy context.
34. If this is successful, the GRA is hoping to develop more Communication Notes.

2026 COUNCIL MEETING

35. Alejandro Urena Sanchez (Costa Rica), on behalf of GRA Vice-chair Roberto Camencho, provided information regarding the next Council Meeting.
36. The 2026 GRA Council Meeting will be held in Costa Rica during the first two weeks of July 2026 (exact dates TBC). alongside the FONTAGRO's technical conference in partnership with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) who will be hosting the GRA meeting.
37. The Secretariat will inform the members as soon as a date has been agreed upon.
38. Costa Rica aims at engaging with countries and other international organisations in the region.

APPENDIX 1: Participants list

Members	
Argentina	Andres Said - Ministry of Agroindustry
Australia	Heather McGilvray - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Canada	Bob Turnock - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Priyanka Vanaik - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Colombia	Olga Lucia Mayorga - The Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research (CORPOICA)
Costa Rica	Roberto Camacho - the National Institute of Agricultural Innovation, Transfer and Technology (INTA) Alejandro Urena Sanchez - the National Institute of Agricultural Innovation, Transfer and Technology (INTA)
Denmark	Bjarne Thomsen - Ministry of Environment and Food
France	Thierry Caquet - National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment (INRAE)*
Germany	Dorothea Schildt - The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH) Claudia Heidecke - Thunen Institute
Ireland	Karl Walsh, Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine, Ireland John Harrison - Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Aidan Holohan - Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Japan	Tanabe Ayano - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Haruna Yukari - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Lithuania	Zivile Sukyte - Ministry of Agriculture Simona Bieliauskaite - Ministry of Agriculture
New Zealand	Stephanie Preston - Ministry for Primary Industries Nilusha Ubeynarayana - Ministry for Primary Industries Matthew Johnson - Ministry for Primary Industries

Norway	Anine Norgren-Jahnsen - Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Senegal	Omar Ndaw Faye - Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (ISRA)
South Africa	George Shole, Department of Agriculture Michiel Scholtz - Agricultural Research Council
Spain	Marisa Tello - National Institute of Aerospace Technology, Spanish National Research Council (INTA-CSIS)
Switzerland	Laura Sommer - Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG)
United Kingdom	Rick Bruintjes - The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
Viet Nam	Van Tuat Nguyen - Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (VAAS, MARD)
Zimbabwe	Dumisani Kutuywayo - Ministry for Agriculture
Partners	
Environmental Defense Fund	John Tauzel - Senior Director, Global Agriculture Methane
Research Group Co-Chairs	
Richard Dewhurst, Livestock Research Group (United Kingdom) Sinead Leahy - Livestock Research Group (New Zealand) Peter Grace - Crop & Land Use Research Group (Australia) Rosa Mosquera-Losada Crop & Land Use Research Group (Spain) *Thierry Caquet - Crop & Land Use Research Group (France, also listed under country representatives) Yasuhito Shirato - Rice Research Group (Japan)	
GRA Secretariat	
Deborah Knox, Harry Clark, Peter Ettema, Joanne Monjol, Chista Keramati, Shiloh Babbington,	