



ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES

ALLIANCE COUNCIL MEETING

IICA, San Jose, Costa Rica

Monday 6 – Tuesday 7 July 2026

OVERVIEW

The fourteenth Council meeting of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) took place on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 July 2026 in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The meeting was opened by Liliana Chavez Fallas, Executive Director of the National Institute of Innovation and Technology Transfer in Agriculture (INTA) of Costa Rica. Activities during the week also included a welcome reception hosted by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and sponsored by FONTAGRO, two side-event workshops on the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and agricultural greenhouse gas inventories and measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV), and field visits hosted by the National Technical University (UTN) on 8 July.

This report is a summary of the key discussions and outcomes from the GRA Council meeting.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was attended by 111 participants, including 36 representatives from 19 countries and other invited guests:

- **GRA Members attending:** Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.
- **Invited Partners attending:** Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), FONTAGRO, Global Methane Hub (GMH), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP), and the World Bank.
- **Observer:** Venezuela

Refer to Appendix 1 for a full list of participants.

QUORUM

With 19 member countries attending, a quorum was not achieved. The procedure for confirmation of decisions will be as follows:

- The list of key outcomes from the meeting are presented below.
- Council members should notify the GRA Secretariat of any comments or concerns regarding these outcomes by **2 October 2026**. If the Secretariat is not informed of any concerns by this date, the outcomes will be considered confirmed.

SUMMARY OF THE KEY OUTCOMES

Below is a summary of the key outcomes from the GRA Council meeting held in hybrid format on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 July 2026. The summarised outcomes below are detailed further in the meeting report and should be read in conjunction with the summary below.

The outcomes identified during the meeting will be confirmed through the development of the annual Operational Plan that sits under the GRA Strategic Plan.

Outcomes
Council
Call for expressions of interest from member countries for GRA Council Vice-Chair by end of September
Official membership update: El Salvador joined the GRA as a new member country.
The GRA Strategic Research Agenda is under development. A Council-adjacent workshop on 7 July provided valuable input to inform the SRA, and the Working Group will update the Council once the draft SRA is ready for review later in 2026.
The GRA Council endorsed the following proposed GRA Flagship Project: • HALow: Health Approaches for Lowering Livestock Emissions (Council Champions: Ireland, Kenya, New Zealand, Norway, Samoa)
The GRA Council noted the need for an executive summary and disclaimer for the Communication Note (CN) on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases and Emission Metrics. The Secretariat will work with the author to address comments and prepare the final CN for endorsement by Council via email.
The Secretariat will coordinate the identification of future Communication Note topics and communications resources and will report back to Council with recommendations on priorities and process.
The seventh round of the CLIFF-GRADS programme was announced, with remarks from the GRA Special Representative, co-funders, host institutions, and participating member countries. In this round, 40 scholarships have been awarded to PhD students from 21 developing countries.
Participants showcased regional GHG inventory and MRV initiatives, identified priority needs and opportunities for enhanced coordination, and discussed ways to strengthen future investments.
Research Groups
New Co-Chairs introduced for the Crop & Land Use, Rice, and Livestock Research Groups.
Initial scope of the new Crop & Land Use and Rice groups presented to the Council. Members interested in contributing to the Research Groups should contact the secretariat and Co-Chairs.
Special Representative will be overseeing the activities of the Circular Food Systems Network, Indigenous Research Network, and Ag GHG Inventory Network, ensuring Networks remain connected into the activities of the RGs.
Secretariat
Draft guidelines for leadership roles in the GRA will be circulated with Research Groups, Networks, Flagships, Partners, and Council members for feedback.

CONTACTS FOR COUNTRY INVOLVEMENT

Council Vice-Chair
Expressions of interest by Member countries for the role of Vice-Chair by end of September: secretariat@globalresearchalliance.org
Future Communication Note Topics & Resources
To propose topics and resources for future communication notes: secretariat@globalresearchalliance.org
Strategic Research Agenda
For any queries or input for the Working Group: secretariat@globalresearchalliance.org
Research Groups & Networks
- Members interested in becoming involved in a Research Group are invited to nominate a country focal point or contact person for their country. RG focal points will receive Research Group updates and newsletters, be informed about upcoming activities and opportunities, and be able to register for annual meetings and other relevant events. To nominate a focal point, contact the Secretariat or the relevant Research Group Co-Chairs. Secretariat: secretariat@globalresearchalliance.org Crop & Land Use Research Group Co-Chairs: Peter Grace pr.grace@qut.edu.au Thierry Caquet thierry.caquet@inrae.fr María Rosa Mosquera-Losada mrosa.mosquera.losada@usc.es Agroforestry Systems Network: María Rosa Mosquera-Losada mrosa.mosquera.losada@usc.es Soil Carbon Futures GRA Network: Suzanne Reynders Suzanne.reynders@inrae.fr Nutrient Management Network: Craig Drury craig.drury@agr.gc.ca Agricultural Systems Network: Point of contact to be confirmed. Livestock Research Group Co-Chairs: Tommy Boland tommy.boland@ucd.ie Sinead Leahy sinead.leahy@ag-emissions.nz Illias Kyriazakis I.Kyriazakis@qub.ac.uk Animal Health & GHG Emissions Intensity Network: Nick Wheelhouse n.wheelhouse@napier.ac.uk Seyda Ozkan ozkanseyda@outlook.com Animal Selection, Genetics & Genomics Network: Suzanne Rowe suzanne.rowe@agresearch.co.nz Feed & Nutrition Network: Andre Bannink andre.bannink@wur.nl David Yáñez-Ruiz david.yanez@eez.csic.es Florencia Garcia fgarcia@agro.unc.edu.ar Sanne van Gastelen sanne.vangastelen@wur.nl Manure Management Network: Sven Sommer sgs@bce.au.dk Hongmin Dong donghongmin@caas.cn

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Rice Research Group Co-Chairs:

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Flagship Projects

HALow: Health Approaches for Lowering Livestock Emissions:

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John Tauzel jtauzel@edf.org
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SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

STATEMENT FROM COSTA RICA

1. Liliana Chavez Fallas, INTA (Costa Rica), welcomed attendees and thanked the organisations that had supported the Council meeting, including the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for hosting the meeting at its headquarters, FONTAGRO for its sponsorship and logistical support, the National Technical University (UTN) for hosting the field visit, and the Livestock Development Corporation (CORFOGA) for sponsoring the field visit lunch.
2. The year 2026 marks INTA's 25th anniversary and a good opportunity to celebrate the institute's longstanding commitment to generating scientific and technical knowledge that supports productive, efficient, and sustainable agriculture. Costa Rica's involvement in the GRA is both an institutional commitment and an opportunity to collaborate internationally, share experiences, and learn from other Members.
1. Although Costa Rica represents less than 0.03% of the earth's land area, it is home to approximately 5% of global biodiversity. This has shaped the country's strong commitment to sustainable agricultural development.
2. INTA's research priorities focus on sustainable agriculture, including innovation in tropical crops, reducing production costs and chemical inputs, promoting circular economy approaches, advancing biotechnology, improving soil management, and generating scientific evidence on methane and nitrous oxide emissions in livestock and crop production systems. The dissemination of research findings through training programmes, technical publications, and knowledge-sharing platforms ensure that successful approaches can be replicated more broadly.
3. Costa Rica's Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) began with the coffee sector in 2016, followed by livestock in 2017, and more recently expanding to rice, banana, and sugarcane production systems. These initiatives incorporate monitoring, reporting, and verification systems to ensure transparency and credibility, while generating methodologies that can inform international practice.
4. Costa Rica's priorities align closely with the shared vision of the GRA, particularly strengthening agricultural productivity, contributing to food security and carbon neutrality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing carbon sequestration, and improving the resilience of production systems to climate change.

STATEMENT FROM IRELAND

5. Outgoing Chair, John Harrison from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) of Ireland, expressed its appreciation to Costa Rica, the incoming GRA Council Chair, for hosting the 2026 Council meeting and welcomed the opportunity to formally hand over the Chair role.
6. During a period of significant global uncertainty, the GRA has continued to provide stability through science-based international collaboration. Agriculture faces the dual challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while strengthening climate resilience, ensuring food security, and supporting rural livelihoods. Addressing these challenges requires collective action and that the GRA's greatest strength lies in its ability to bring together expertise, data, infrastructure, and experience from across the world.
7. Key achievements during Ireland's 18-month term include the development and endorsement of the GRA Strategic Plan (2026-2030) and the review and restructuring of the

GRA's Research Groups, Networks, and Flagships. The 2025 Council meeting in Dublin was a particular highlight, bringing together Members and Partners for Council discussions, a science and policy conference, and field visits showcasing Irish agricultural research and innovation.

8. There is a growing recognition that the GRA must continue to evolve in response to changing scientific, political, and societal expectations. Ireland welcomes the momentum generated through these discussions and confirms its continued leadership of the Strategic Research Agenda Working Group.
9. Ireland acknowledged the significant support provided by the Secretariat and thanked both the former and current Special Representatives for their leadership and guidance. John also welcomed El Salvador as the newest member of the GRA, following Pakistan's accession in 2025. Concluding his remarks, he congratulated Costa Rica on assuming the Council Chair role and expressed confidence in Costa Rica's leadership, given its strong record in sustainable agriculture and climate action.

WELCOME FROM IICA

10. Dr Muhammad Ibrahim, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), welcomed delegates on behalf of the organisation and expressed IICA's pleasure in hosting the Council meeting at the request of Costa Rica. He congratulated Costa Rica on assuming the GRA Chair role and reaffirmed IICA's commitment to supporting the work of the GRA.
11. Agriculture faces the interconnected challenges of increasing food production, improving rural livelihoods, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthening climate resilience. No country can address these challenges alone which highlights the importance of science, innovation, and international cooperation in developing sustainable solutions.
12. The GRA is an important platform for scientific collaboration, capacity building, and the generation of knowledge on agricultural greenhouse gas mitigation. As both a GRA Partner and co-administrator of FONTAGRO, IICA shares the GRA's objectives of supporting farmers, improving productivity, reducing emissions, and safeguarding food security. IICA's role is to help connect the GRA with ministries of agriculture and research institutions across the Americas and to support the implementation of the GRA's strategic priorities at the regional level.
13. IICA's work demonstrates that agrifood systems are part of the climate solution and the organisation is committed to promoting innovation, knowledge exchange, technical cooperation, and capacity development. Both public and private sector actors must be engaged in scaling up effective practices and technologies.

WELCOME FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, COSTA RICA

14. Fernando Vargas Pérez, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, welcomed delegates and Partner organisations to Costa Rica and expressed the Ministry's appreciation to IICA for hosting the meeting. He thanked Ireland for its leadership during its term as GRA Chair and acknowledged the progress achieved under Ireland's stewardship.
15. Costa Rica assumes the Chair role with a strong sense of responsibility and a commitment to supporting the continued development of the GRA. Costa Rica's long-standing focus has been combining agricultural productivity with environmental sustainability; a key example is the country's low-emissions livestock programme. Over the past decade, more than 4,000 livestock farms and 180,000 hectares have been incorporated into initiatives promoting

regenerative and climate-resilient practices, contributing to net positive carbon outcomes through enhanced carbon sequestration.

16. A new regenerative agriculture programme valued at more than USD 5 million has been launched to restore ecosystems, including wetlands, while supporting rural livelihoods. Agricultural production, environmental protection, and sustainable resource management should be viewed as complementary goals.
17. The GRA's work on enteric fermentation, methane mitigation, and other agricultural emissions research is critical for countries seeking to accelerate their transitions without compromising food security or farmer livelihoods.

REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

18. Peter Ettema, GRA Special Representative, provided an overview of his first year in the role, including updates on GRA membership, implementation of the GRA restructuring agreed in Dublin, development of the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA), progress on Flagship projects, capability-building activities, communications, and opportunities for member engagement in GRA governance and activities.
19. The role represents the interests of all GRA Members, supports engagement with international processes and organisations, and serves as a key point of contact for member countries, researchers, Networks, Research Groups, and Partners.
20. In June 2026, the GRA welcomed El Salvador as our newest member, bringing total membership to 69 countries spanning a wide range of agricultural production systems and regions.
21. The GRA has recently released the 2026 Annual Highlights Report showcasing events and achievements over the last year. The document is available [on the GRA website](#) to view and share.
22. A major focus of activity since the 2025 Council meeting has been implementing the restructuring decisions agreed by Council. This has included establishing the new Crop & Land Use Research Group, making changes to the structure of the Paddy Rice Research Group, supporting new leadership within the Livestock Research Group, and bringing the Indigenous Research Network, Agricultural GHG Inventory Network (formerly the Inventories and NDC Network), and Circular Food Systems Network under the direct oversight of the Special Representative. Peter noted that significant effort had been devoted to ensuring a smooth transition to the new structure.
23. Progress has been made in developing the GRA Strategic Research Agenda (SRA). This work is intended to help position the GRA for future scientific priorities and strengthen its long-term strategic direction.
24. Peter's key priority for his first year as Special Representative is to strengthen relationships across the GRA by attending international meetings, engaging with Members and Partners, and gaining a better understanding of the expectations and opportunities that countries and organisations see for the GRA. This engagement is intended to strengthen collaboration and ensure the GRA remains responsive to member needs.
25. Participants were encouraged to subscribe to GRA communication channels and newsletters to stay informed about GRA activities, publications, funding opportunities, and events. Peter also encouraged researchers and member organisations to share publications, workshops, and other relevant activities with the Secretariat to support broader dissemination across the GRA community.

26. Expressions of interest are being sought from member countries interested in serving as the GRA Council Vice-Chair. The role would support Costa Rica during its Chair term and subsequently assume the Council Chair position following the conclusion of Costa Rica's tenure in 2027. Members interested in exploring the opportunity were invited to discuss the role with the Special Representative or the Secretariat.

OVERVIEW OF THE NEW GRA STRUCTURE

27. Peter Ettema provided an overview of the implementation of the new GRA structure agreed by Council at the 2025 meeting in Dublin and subsequently confirmed at an Extraordinary Council meeting in November 2025. The session outlined the rationale for the changes, the current structure of the Research Groups and Networks, and the opportunities for collaboration across the GRA.
28. One of the most significant changes was the closure of the Integrative Research Group (IRG). Peter explained that several important activities previously housed within the IRG had broad relevance across all Research Groups and would be better positioned as cross-cutting Networks.
29. As part of the new structure, the **Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Inventories Network**, **Circular Food Systems Network**, and **Indigenous Research Network** now operate independently and work directly with the Special Representative rather than through a Research Group.
30. The revised structure aims to strengthen interaction between Research Groups and cross-cutting activities. Peter emphasised the importance of creating stronger links between disciplinary research, inventory development, food systems approaches, and indigenous knowledge, recognising that agricultural systems are interconnected and require a more integrated approach.

Discussion

31. The group discussed how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) could be incorporated across the GRA's research activities and whether there was scope to strengthen links with extension and advisory services to support technology transfer and adoption by farmers.
32. It was noted that strengthening the connection between research, policy, extension services, and on-farm adoption remains an important area for future development within the GRA. Effective extension systems and knowledge-sharing mechanisms are critical in ensuring that research outputs are translated into practical applications for farmers.
33. While the GRA has generated a substantial body of scientific knowledge, there is an opportunity to increase the visibility and uptake of this work beyond the research community, particularly among policymakers, advisers, and organisations working directly with farmers.
34. Members and Partners were encouraged to continue exploring ways to improve knowledge transfer and adoption pathways, recognising that effective extension services are essential for translating research outcomes into real-world impact.

RESEARCH GROUP & INDEPENDENT NETWORK REPORTS

Rice Research Group (RRG)

35. Under the new structure, the former Paddy Rice Research Group has been broadened to become the Rice Research Group. The revised scope reflects a wider focus on rice

production systems, including both paddy and upland rice, and places greater emphasis on greenhouse gas measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification across rice systems.

36. The Co-Chairs of this Research Group are Yasuhito Shirato (National Agriculture and Food Research organisation, Japan), Adriano Castro (EMBRAPA, Brazil), and Nomsa Chizhande (Crop Breeding Institute, Zimbabwe).
37. Yasuhito Shirato (Japan) provided an update on the RRG process since its establishment on behalf of the Co-Chairs.
38. The newly established Research Group aims to promote the exchange of information and experiences on rice production across various countries and regions, supporting sustainable agriculture by balancing greenhouse gas mitigation with food production.
39. Regional activities continued throughout the Research Group restructuring. For example, Japan is updating its MRV handbook, which was originally published in 2018.
40. Adriano Castro (Brazil) provided an update on Brazil's regional activities, which focus on integrating rice with other crops as part of more sustainable and integrated land-use systems. This work aims to reduce resource inputs, including water, fossil fuels, and nitrogen. Brazil has also developed methodologies for both upland and lowland rice systems, further broadening the scope of the Research Group beyond its original focus.
41. The presentation concluded with the key ambitions for the RRG. A full Research Group meeting will be held early 2027 to establish the foundations of the refreshed group and facilitate knowledge exchange. This meeting will be an important stepping stone towards identifying and documenting innovations and best practices across global rice production systems, with a focus on options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve sustainability.

Crop & Land Use Research Group (CLURG)

42. The former Croplands Research Group has been expanded and renamed the Crop & Land Use Research Group. The Group's scope now extends beyond nitrogen management to include nutrient management more broadly, as well as carbon, soils, agroforestry, and land-use related research.
43. The Co-Chairs of this Research Group are Maria Rosa Mosquera-Losada (Universidad Santiago de Compostela, Spain), Thierry Caquet (INRAE, France), and Peter Grace (Queensland University of Technology, Australia).
44. Maria Rosa Mosquera-Losada (Spain) provided updates on the CLURG process since its establishment on behalf of the Co-Chairs.
45. The newly established Research Group aims include:
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated to nitrogen fertilizers and improving carbon storage
 - Considering trade-offs and synergies different mitigation options such as nutrient management and practices to increase soil carbon storage
 - Promoting a systems approach incorporating multidimensional assessment of performances
 - Fostering dialogue and collaboration between Networks within the Research Group and with Networks from other Research Groups
46. The Co-Chairs met with the Network leads of the previous Croplands Research Group and explored the consolidation of the Network to better reflect the refresh to Crop & Land Use.

It was agreed that CLURG would be structured around four new networks including Agroforestry, Soil Carbon Futures, Nutrient Management, and Agricultural Systems.

47. The **Agroforestry Network** is led by María Rosa Mosquera-Losada, this Network analyses the role of agroforestry in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
48. The **Soil Carbon Futures Network** is a new Network established in the Research Group's restructure, led by Suzanne Reynders (France). It aims to develop practical and scalable soil carbon sequestration strategies. This Network has been supporting research, policy dialogue and international collaboration on soil carbon.
49. The **Nutrient Management Network** is a new Network established in the Research Group's restructure, led by Craig Drury (Canada). It aims to increase nitrogen use efficiency and reduce N2O emissions. The Network has been refreshed through the merger of the former Nutrient Management and Conservation Agriculture Networks, with upcoming work focused on developing a research strategy, growing membership, identifying potential activities, and taking stock of relevant national and international projects.
50. The **Agricultural Systems Network** is a new Network established in the Research Group's restructure. It aims to reduce global warming potential of agricultural systems.
51. For more information on upcoming activities for each of the above Networks, you can view the CLURG presentation for this council meeting [HERE](#).
52. The Crop & Land Use Research Group main ambitions for 2027 is to hold their first Research Group meeting and develop a research strategy with key performance indicators. The Co-Chairs will welcome input from interested GRA Members and Partners.

Livestock Research Group (LRG)

53. The Livestock Research Group (LRG) remains in place with its existing Network structure.
54. The Co-Chairs of the LRG are Sinead Leahy (AgEmissions Centre, New Zealand), Tommy Boland (University College Dublin, Ireland), Ilias Kyriazakis (Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom).
55. Sinead Leahy (New Zealand) provided updates on the LRG activities on behalf of the Co-Chairs.
56. The Livestock Research Group connects experts across disciplines, sectors, and regions to advance collective knowledge on agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, fostering collaboration, innovation, and evidence-based solutions for sustainable global agri-food systems.
57. The 15th annual meeting of the Livestock Research Group (LRG) was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 10th October 2025. There were 44 in-person attendees, representing at least 29 member countries. GRA Partners represented were International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), FAO, Environmental Defense Fund, Global Methane Hub (GMH). Key outcomes and priorities for 2026 were to:
 - Explore opportunities to recruit LRG Co-Chair from the Global Majority.
 - Identify key LRG messages for presentation to the GMH, working through Co-Chairs and Network leads e.g. physiology.
 - Strengthen integration and communication across Networks e.g. summer school capability building.

58. The LRG have five active Networks including the Animal Selection, Genetics and Genomics Network, Rumen Microbial Genomics Network, Animal Health Network, Feed and Nutrition Network, and the Manure Management Network.
59. The **Animal Selection, Genetics and Genomics Network (ASGGN)**, led by Suzanne Rowe (AgResearch, New Zealand), continues to explore the role of genetic technologies in managing livestock GHG emissions. This year's highlight was a [workshop](#) co-lead by ASGGN and the International Committee for Animal Research (ICAR) Feed and Gas working group to explore genetic selection for traits associated with greenhouse gas emissions, the latest global initiatives, measurement technology and the impact of breeding schemes on reduction of emissions from livestock, 5th October 2025, Nairobi.
60. The **Rumen Microbial Genomics Network (RMGN)** led by Milka Popova (France), Jana Seifert (Germany), and Yanfen Cheng (China). RMGN is focused on working together to advance the understanding of the pivotal role the rumen microbiome plays in livestock agriculture. This year's highlight for RMGN is a publication [Harnessing the early-life gut microbiome for sustainable ruminant production](#). RMGN will be hosting an in-person workshop in June 2027, to be held alongside the International Gut Microbiota Symposium in Aberdeen.
61. The **Animal Health Network (AHN)**, co-led by Nick Wheelhouse (UK) and Şeyda Özkan (Netherlands). AHN aims to understand how improvements in animal health can help livestock systems mitigate and adapt to climate change. This year's highlight for AHN is the publication [Livestock Health as a Climate Solution](#) in a special issue of 'Animal' arising from the International Greenhouse Gas & Animal Agriculture (GGAA) conference. A key upcoming activity for AHN is the HALow Flagship, more information on HALow in the 'Flagships' section below.
62. The **Feed and Nutrition Network (FNN)**, led by David Yanez-Ruiz (Spain), Andre Bannink (Netherlands), Florencia García (Argentina), and Sanne van Gastelen (Netherlands). FNN is focused on ruminant feed and nutrition issues in relation to greenhouse gases. This year's highlight for FNN is the completion of the flagship project [Guidelines to develop antimethanogenic feed additives](#).
63. The **Manure Management Network (MMN)** led by Sven G. Sommer (Denmark), Hongmin Dong (China), Séga Ndao (Senegal), Daniel Girma Mulat (Kenya). MMN is focused on working to develop strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from livestock manure while improving nutrient recycling and overall agricultural sustainability. This year's highlight for MMN is five webinars that contribute to its successful webinar series, some topics include 'Measuring gas emissions from farming with micrometeorological measuring techniques' and 'Methods to calculate methane emissions from stored liquid manure', you can find the recordings [HERE](#).
64. For more information about the recent and upcoming activities of the above Networks, you can view the LRG presentation for this council meeting [HERE](#).
65. The Livestock Research Group's presentation concluded with its main ambitions including:
 - Facilitating dialogue among scientists from different GRA member nations to increase membership and involvement in Networks and LRG, especially from Global Majority.
 - Co-Chairs and Network Leads facilitating and fostering the development of concepts/flagships, consortia and proposals for GRA Partner organisations.

- Organising an online annual meeting towards the end of 2026. The online meeting is planned to encourage broader representation at the meeting from our member countries.
- Increasing communication among the whole Network, facilitating more regular meetings with Network leads to have better oversight of its many activities.

Discussion:

66. The group noted an opportunity to increase South American representation and leadership within the Research Group. The Co-Chairs noted that leadership opportunities are open to all GRA Members and are voluntary in nature, providing an opportunity for interested Members to contribute to the Group's leadership.
67. The group identified strong synergies between the Livestock Research Group, Crop & Land Use Research Group and Circular Food Systems Network. Regular connections between these groups were seen as valuable for sharing knowledge, identifying areas of common interest and supporting more integrated approaches across agricultural systems.

Independent Networks

68. The **Agricultural GHG Inventory Network** is co-chaired by Dr Andrea Pickering (New Zealand), Dr Ngoni Chirinda (Morocco), Dr Natalie Doran-Browne (Australia), and Dr Mai Van Trinh (Viet Nam).
 - This group was originally the Inventory and NDCs Network. The name has changed to better demonstrate what they do and what they want to achieve as a Network. It's about how inventories related to UNFCCC reporting, about supporting NDCs, how inventories are related to on-farm tools, and how inventories feed into carbon markets etc.
 - The new aim of this refreshed Network is to improve the quality of national greenhouse gas inventories and agricultural NDC's, through effective communication of relevant information and training opportunities, and by better connecting governments and decision makers to the relevant experts.
69. The **Indigenous Research Network (IRN)** is co-chaired by Simon McDonald (New Zealand) and Angelika Tugaga (Samoa). The IRN announced that they are opening expressions of interest to be the third Co-Chair, contact the GRA Lead Shiloh Babbington at Shiloh.Babbington@globalresearchalliance.org if you are interested.
 - The IRN is a platform for connection, collaboration and knowledge exchange. It connects Indigenous communities with one another and with the wider global research community, supporting the development of scientific capability and capacity within Indigenous communities and strengthening Indigenous participation in agricultural research.
70. The **Circular Food Systems (CFS) Network** is co-chaired by Mirjam Spoelstra (Netherlands), Flavia Casu (Italy), and Rianne van Zandbrink (Netherlands).
 - CFS aims to contribute to food security while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through circularity across the entire agrifood system. It does this by bringing together, developing and disseminating knowledge on circular food systems; mobilising agricultural scientists to explore circular approaches across different agricultural systems, with a focus on reducing GHG emissions; and

providing policymakers with methodologies and system designs to support the transition towards climate-smart, circular food systems.

71. For more information about the recent and upcoming activities of the above Networks, you can view the Independent Network presentation for this council meeting [HERE](#).

Discussion

72. Council discussion highlighted several opportunities to strengthen collaboration and interaction across the GRA Networks and Research Groups:
- Create more regular opportunities for connection and knowledge sharing: Members suggested holding online meetings several times a year to provide a space for Networks and Research Groups to share current activities, exchange ideas, identify areas of common interest and maintain alignment with the GRA's broader goals.
 - Make greater use of the GRA's diverse membership: The Crop & Land Use Research Group highlighted the value of drawing on the breadth of GRA membership to better understand the needs, priorities and circumstances of different countries and regions. This could help ensure research activities are grounded in country needs and support the development of relevant approaches to reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Strengthen links between emerging researchers and GRA activities: Networks and Research Groups often generate strong ideas but may lack the capacity or people needed to lead them. Greater use could be made of CLIFF-GRADS participants and alumni to support projects that align with their research and PhD programmes, while also building the next generation of agricultural GHG researchers.
 - Strengthen the science–policy connection: Discussion also highlighted an opportunity to better leverage the GRA's unique position as a network connecting governments, research institutions and scientists. This could support stronger translation of research into policy and practical action, while continuing to use the Networks and Research Groups as a mechanism for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH AGENDA: UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

73. An outcome of the 2025 Council meeting in Dublin was the agreement to develop a GRA Strategic Research Agenda (SRA). Members agreed that the SRA should be developed at an appropriate level for the GRA as a voluntary organisation, aligning existing research efforts and resources across the GRA. The Council also agreed that the SRA should focus on broad research priorities and scope and serve as a mechanism to guide the work of Research Groups and Networks while supporting collaboration with Members, Partners, and funders.
74. John Harrison (Ireland), Chair of the Strategic Research Agenda Working Group, provided an update on progress since the Working Group was established following the Dublin Council meeting. The session outlined the rationale for the SRA, activities undertaken to date, consultation and evidence-gathering processes currently underway, and the proposed pathway toward development of a draft agenda for Council consideration. The session also introduced a dedicated workshop to be held on Day 2 of the meeting, where Members and Partners would have an opportunity to contribute directly to the development of the SRA.
75. The Strategic Research Agenda Working Group comprises representatives from Ireland, Canada, Italy, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Zambia, the Special Representative, and

representatives from Partner and research organisations including the GMH and Columbia University in the United States.

76. The development of an SRA would address a longstanding gap within the GRA by providing a dedicated research framework to sit alongside the GRA Charter and Strategic Plan.
77. The proposed Strategic Research Agenda will:
 - Align with the GRA Strategic Plan (2026-2030) and Charter
 - Provide strategic direction to Research Groups and Networks
 - Identify shared research priorities across the GRA while recognising regional differences
 - Support collaboration with Members, Partners, and funders
 - Strengthen the GRA's ability to communicate its research priorities and scientific ambitions
78. The SRA would complement existing GRA strategic documents by providing a research-focused framework that supports the overarching direction set out in the GRA Strategic Plan and Charter. The SRA process is intended to capture priorities from across the Research Groups, Networks, Members, and Partners, while recognising that priorities may vary across regions and production systems.
79. On the timeframe for the SRA, while initial discussions focused on aligning the SRA with the GRA Strategic Plan 2026-2030, consideration is now being given to a longer timeframe extending to 2035. This would provide continuity beyond the current Strategic Plan and allow the SRA to inform future planning cycles.
80. The intention is to develop a strategic and forward-looking document rather than a catalogue of projects. The SRA should be evidence-based and informed by both developments within the wider international research landscape and the expertise of the GRA's scientific community.
81. Since its establishment, the Working Group has developed its terms of reference, confirmed membership, and agreed a work programme.
82. The project is currently in the consultation and evidence-gathering phase. Activities have included a review of international research agendas, alongside consultation with Research Group Co-Chairs and Networks on future priorities, challenges, and opportunities.
83. Early feedback has highlighted the importance of identifying cross-cutting themes and opportunities for collaboration across Research Groups.
84. Members and Partners were invited to participate in a workshop on Day 2 to:
 - Validate emerging themes
 - Identify future research priorities
 - Highlight cross-cutting challenges and opportunities
 - Consider areas where the GRA can add strategic value
 - Inform the next phase of analysis and drafting
85. Following the workshop, the Working Group will analyse consultation findings and prepare a draft Strategic Research Agenda for Council review.
86. The indicative timeline of developing the SRA includes analysis and synthesis during August-September 2026, preparation of a draft SRA later in 2026, and finalisation for Council approval in early 2027.

87. Members interested in contributing to the development of the SRA were invited to engage with the Working Group and Secretariat.

Discussion

88. The group discussed the potential role of the Strategic Research Agenda in identifying opportunities for collaboration and investment. It was noted that the SRA could help connect existing research activities, identify areas where Partners and funders may be able to support GRA priorities, and strengthen collaboration between Research Groups and Networks.
89. It was also noted that the SRA could strengthen links between the GRA's science and policy activities by helping identify priority topics where research findings could be synthesised and communicated to policymakers through mechanisms such as GRA Communication Notes.
90. The group discussed the importance of ensuring the Strategic Research Agenda remains flexible and able to adapt to emerging issues and changing research priorities over time.
91. John agreed that the document should provide strategic direction without being overly prescriptive. He noted that the Working Group is seeking input from across the GRA and reviewing similar international research strategies to ensure the SRA remains relevant across different regions, production systems, and research contexts.
92. Peter emphasised that the Strategic Research Agenda should be viewed as a guiding document rather than a fixed programme of work. It should provide a common direction for the GRA while remaining sufficiently flexible for Research Groups, Networks, Members, and Partners to identify their own priorities and areas of contribution.
93. Members and Partners were encouraged to participate actively in the Day 2 workshop, noting that this would be an important opportunity to shape the future direction of the Strategic Research Agenda before drafting begins.

NEW FLAGSHIP PROPOSAL

94. Flagships are collaborative, multi-country and multi-partner initiatives focused on addressing strategic research priorities for the GRA. Flagships are a core component of the GRA's research infrastructure. Project resources, publications, webinars, and outputs are accessible through the GRA website.

Health Approaches for Lowering Livestock Emissions (HALow) Flagship, presented by Şeyda Özkan

95. Şeyda Özkan presented the proposed Flagship, which had been developed with support from champion countries Ireland, Kenya, New Zealand, Norway, and Samoa.
96. The proposed Flagship aims to create a practical route for countries to quantify and use animal health as a livestock climate solution.
97. The proposal is based on the recognition that animal health plays an important role in livestock productivity, resource-use efficiency, resilience, and greenhouse gas emissions outcomes. The Flagship seeks to strengthen the evidence base linking animal health and emissions reduction, while supporting food security and farmer livelihoods. A particular focus will be developing practical tools and guidance that enable countries to incorporate animal health interventions into climate planning, reporting, and investment decisions.
98. Initial activities will focus on developing a scientific framework and policy guidance, establishing an international platform for collaboration, applying harmonised analytical approaches, and supporting pathways for policy and reporting uptake.

99. The flagship is built around two implementation products and a set of country-facing use cases: scientific framework and policy guidelines tailored to country needs and objectives.
100. Future activities:
- Establish and operationalise a coordinated international platform
 - Apply and adapt harmonised analytical approaches
 - Support pathways for policy and reporting uptake
101. Opportunities for GRA Members to be involved in this flagship include technical collaboration, training, data improvement initiatives, and capability-building activities, including support for postgraduate and early-career researchers.
102. Following endorsement by Council, the project team will commence implementation of the Flagship work programme and expand engagement with interested Members, Partners, and researchers.
103. Members can contact Şeyda Özkan, Nick Wheelhouse, John Tauzel, and Pam Ruiter if they wish to be part of this project: ozkanseyda@outlook.com, N.Wheelhouse@napier.ac.uk, jtauzel@edf.org, pruiter@edf.org

Discussion

104. Members and Partners welcomed the proposed Flagship and expressed strong support for its objectives and potential benefits for both developed and developing countries. Switzerland and Uruguay highlighted the value of the initiative and its links with broader animal health and One Health objectives.
105. Discussion focused on the role of inventories and reporting, alignment with existing international initiatives, and the importance of ensuring practical application through policy guidance, capacity building, and engagement with producers.
106. Participants highlighted the potential value of the Flagship for climate planning and investment. The GMH noted that work with countries such as Mexico had identified animal health as a gap in current climate and methane mitigation roadmaps. Members and Partners also noted that strengthening the evidence base could help support access to climate finance and increase recognition of animal health as a mitigation opportunity.
107. The World Bank, Environmental Defense Fund and other Partners expressed support for the proposal and highlighted the importance of recognising regional differences and country-specific circumstances when developing tools and guidance.
108. Following discussion, Council endorsed the Health Approaches for Lowering Livestock Emissions (HALow) project as an official GRA Flagship.

GRA COMMUNICATION NOTES

Part One – Presentation on the Agricultural GHG Metrics Paper

Background

109. This session focused on the draft GRA Communication Note on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Metrics, including a presentation from the lead author, consideration of feedback received from Members and Partners, and discussion of next steps for finalising the pilot Communication Note.

110. At the 2025 Council meeting in Dublin, Members agreed to establish a process for the development, review, and approval of GRA Communication Notes as part of the GRA's science-to-policy activities. The Council endorsed the development of a pilot Communication Note on GHG metrics and agreed that an Advisory Group would be established to oversee its development.
111. At the Extraordinary Council meeting in November 2025, Members received an update on progress and confirmed the next steps in the review process. It was agreed that comments from an independent subject matter review would be addressed by the lead author before the draft was considered by an Advisory Group comprising representatives from Ireland, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Canada, Italy, and the United Kingdom. The Council also confirmed that Members would have an opportunity to review the paper before final approval by the GRA Chair.
112. Following this process, a draft of the GHG Metrics Communication Note was circulated to the Council members ahead of the 2026 Council meeting for review and feedback.
113. John Harrison (Ireland), on behalf of the Advisory Group, provided an overview of the process followed since the Dublin and Extraordinary Council meetings. He noted that concerns raised during earlier discussions, particularly the importance of not undermining existing international reporting frameworks, had informed the development and review of the Communication Note. The intention of the paper is to provide clarification on greenhouse gas metrics and their uses, rather than to recommend or promote a particular metric.

Presentation

114. Andy Reisinger, lead author of the GRA Communication Note on GHG metrics, presented the draft note, *Agricultural Greenhouse Gases and Emission Metrics*, and provided an overview of its objectives, structure, and key messages.
115. Andy explained that the purpose of the Communication Note is to improve understanding of greenhouse gas emission metrics, their applications, and their limitations. Consistent with IPCC assessments, the note does not recommend the use of any particular metric but seeks to explain how different metrics address different questions and policy objectives.
116. Different metrics can produce different values because they are designed to describe different aspects of climate change. While these differences are relatively small for nitrous oxide, they can be more significant for methane due to its short-lived nature in the atmosphere.
117. The Communication Note focuses primarily on the three most widely discussed metrics in science and policy: Global Warming Potential (GWP), Global Temperature Potential (GTP), and GWP*. For each metric, the paper explains its purpose, methodology, interpretation, applications, and limitations.
118. Through a series of worked examples, the note illustrates that different metrics can produce different answers for the same methane emissions because they assess different aspects of climate impacts. Andy emphasised that determining which metric is most useful depends on the policy objective or question being addressed.
119. A central conclusion of the note is that metrics are tools designed to support decision-making rather than determine policy outcomes. Different metrics may be appropriate for different purposes, and users need to understand both their strengths and limitations.

Discussion

120. Members welcomed the draft Communication Note and recognised the challenge of communicating a technically complex topic in a format accessible to policymakers and non-specialist audiences.
121. New Zealand also noted that it had funded the development of the GHG Metrics Communication Note and expressed its hope that the note would provide a useful science-to-policy resource for members, while highlighting the importance of securing resources for future Communication Notes.
122. The group emphasised the importance of clearly stating that the note should not be interpreted as questioning international reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement or as encouraging countries to move away from the use of GWP100 for national reporting and accounting.
123. Members highlighted the importance of ensuring the note clearly communicates that discussions on metrics should not distract from the need for rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including methane emissions. Participants also noted the wider environmental benefits of methane mitigation beyond climate change.
124. Members suggested that key messages could be strengthened to provide greater clarity for policy audiences, including the addition of an executive summary to improve accessibility for non-technical readers.

Actions

125. The Secretariat will work with the lead author to revise the draft note, considering comments received from Members, Partners, and the Advisory Group.
126. An executive summary will be prepared to accompany the Communication Note and key messages and improve its accessibility for policy audiences.
127. The revised draft will be circulated to Members for final review and endorsement via email.
128. The Council agreed that the Communication Note would not be formally endorsed during the meeting. Final endorsement will be sought electronically following completion of revisions and review by Members.

Part Two – Discussion on Future Communication Notes

129. This session focused on identifying opportunities to continue and strengthen the GRA Communication Notes initiative, including potential future topics and areas where Members and Partners could contribute technical expertise, authorship, review support, and financial resources.
130. Members discussed the potential for Communication Notes to build on the outputs of GRA Flagships, Research Groups, and Networks, helping to translate research findings into accessible science-to-policy resources.
131. Suggested topics included lifecycle assessment (LCA) methodologies, emissions intensity and efficiency metrics, methane mitigation technologies, feed additives, co-benefits of mitigation measures, animal health, agroforestry, and the links between agricultural production, nutrition, and climate outcomes.
132. Several members highlighted the value of Communication Notes in communicating complex and, at times, contested topics in a balanced and accessible format for policymakers and other stakeholders.

133. The group also discussed opportunities to increase the policy relevance and visibility of GRA Flagship projects by developing complementary Communication Notes that synthesise project findings and their implications.
134. Peter Ettema (Special Representative) noted that, as a voluntary organisation, the continued development of Communication Notes would depend on leadership, expertise, and resources being provided by Members and Partners.
135. The group discussed the intended audience and purpose of GRA Communication Notes. It was noted that these notes are intended as science-to-policy resources that help explain complex issues to policymakers and stakeholders, rather than provide formal GRA policy positions or recommendations.
136. Members also noted the potential value of future Communication Notes on other science-to-policy topics, including methane mitigation and the opportunities associated with reducing short-lived climate pollutants.

Actions

137. Members and Partners were invited to continue identifying potential topics for future Communication Notes and to indicate where they may be willing to contribute expertise, authorship, review support, or financial resources.
138. The Secretariat will focus on finalising the GHG Metrics Communication Note before considering priorities and next steps for future Communication Notes.

CAPABILITY UPDATES

CLIFF-GRADS Announcement

139. Peter Ettema, GRA Special Representative, announced the outcome of Round 7 of the CLIFF-GRADS scholarship programme.
140. The CLIFF-GRADS fellowship programme has now operated for nearly a decade, supporting PhD students from developing countries to undertake research placements, advance their research, and build international scientific networks. The programme's alumni community includes more than 200 scholars, many of whom have progressed into leadership positions within research and policy organisations. The Government of New Zealand, the Global Methane Hub (GMH), and CGIAR were acknowledged for their continued support of the programme.
141. Round 7 will support 40 scholars from 21 countries, who will undertake research placements at 33 host institutions across 20 countries. The full list of scholars and placements is available on the GRA website: <https://globalresearchalliance.org/library/cliff-grads-round-7-announcement/>
142. Stephanie Preston, Director, Programmes and Planning at the Ministry for Primary Industries NZ, expressed New Zealand's continued commitment to supporting CLIFF-GRADS through the GRA. She noted that this latest round has been highly competitive, attracting more than 400 applications. Stephanie acknowledged the contribution of host institutions, many of which were represented at the meeting, and emphasised the importance of maintaining strong international connections through the programme.
143. Hayden Montgomery, Global Methane Hub, congratulated the successful scholars and highlighted the programme's value in connecting early-career scientists with leading research initiatives. He noted that scholars would have opportunities to contribute to

cutting-edge research being undertaken through the Enteric Fermentation R&D Accelerator, including work on rumen microbiology, immunology, genetics, and measurement technologies. Hayden also highlighted the launch of a new GMH accelerator focused on rice methane, noting that research planning was underway and would create future opportunities for early-career researchers to engage in this emerging area of work.

144. Representatives of host institutions were invited to share their experiences with the programme. Carlos Gomez, from La Molina National Agrarian University in Peru, noted that their organisation had previously hosted three CLIFF-GRADS scholars and are looking forward to welcoming another scholar under Round 7. Scholars participate in both laboratory and field-based research, in some cases through partnerships with the National Institute for Agricultural Innovation (INIA) and its regional networks across Peru. The representative commented on the breadth of expertise supported through the programme and praised the competitiveness and quality of the selection process. It was noted that the benefits extend beyond the scholars themselves, as host institutions also gain from the technical expertise, international perspectives, and scientific collaboration that scholars bring. The representative highlighted the value of internationalisation for scientific research and expressed enthusiasm about hosting a scholar from Ethiopia in the current round.
145. Eugenia Saini, FONTAGRO, welcomed greater opportunities for universities across Latin America and the Caribbean to engage with national agricultural research institutes through the programme. She emphasised the importance of strengthening connections between universities, host institutions, and national research organisations across the region, particularly given the growing number of collaborative projects involving the GRA.
146. Santiago Farina, Global Methane Hub, provided an example from a previous CLIFF-GRADS round, highlighting research conducted at INIA Uruguay by scholars from Ethiopia. These placements supported collaboration between Haramaya University in Ethiopia and INIA Uruguay and demonstrated the programme's ability to foster long-term international research partnerships.
147. Claudia Heidecke of the Thünen Institute, Germany, welcomed the opportunity to host another CLIFF-GRADS scholar. She noted that the incoming scholar from Ethiopia would contribute to the AgriDENZ and EmiFa flagship projects, including research on barriers to the adoption of climate change mitigation practices in Southern Africa. This work would include benchmarking activities and economic analyses of mitigation options. Claudia noted that this would be among several CLIFF-GRADS scholars hosted by the Thünen Institute and thanked the programme organisers, describing CLIFF-GRADS as a highly valuable and productive exchange mechanism.
148. Francisco Salazar, INIA Chile, also acknowledged the value of the programme. He noted that INIA Chile had hosted several CLIFF-GRADS scholars and had consistently experienced strong collaboration with both students and their home universities.
149. In closing, Peter acknowledged the contributions of the GRA Secretariat team in delivering the programme, including the coordination required behind the scenes to support the application, selection, and placement processes. He thanked all those involved in making CLIFF-GRADS a continued success and encouraged Members and Partners interested in supporting future CLIFF-GRADS rounds to contact the Secretariat.

Panel Discussion - MRV & Agricultural GHG Inventory Improvement

150. This session focused on capacity building for agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and inventory improvement in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through a series of presentations, speakers highlighted regional initiatives, lessons learned, and opportunities to strengthen inventory systems,

mitigation planning, and access to climate finance. The session also served as an introduction to a more in-depth workshop held on Day 2 of the meeting.

Using Evidence to Guide MRV Investments in Latin America, Presented by Augusto Castro Nuñez

151. Augusto Castro (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT) presented work supported by New Zealand through the GRA to assess inventory capacities across 33 Latin American countries. The programme found that many inventory challenges stemmed not from technical limitations, but from governance, institutional coordination, financial sustainability, and political priorities.

152. The project:

- Assessed inventory systems, policy frameworks, governance arrangements, and data availability across the region.
- Selected priority countries, including Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, for targeted support.
- Delivered workshops, technical assistance, and inventory improvement roadmaps.
- Supported Mexico's transition toward Tier 2 methodologies in agricultural sectors and Colombia's improvements in land-use and land-cover inventory systems.
- Developed regional tools, including an inventory assessment dashboard and a tailored self-learning platform to build long-term inventory capacity across Latin America.

153. A key message was that successful inventory improvement requires understanding countries' specific institutional and political contexts, not just technical needs.

Uruguay-Germany Cooperation Model, Presented by Dagmar Wittine

154. Dagmar Wittine presented the Uruguay-Germany Dialogue on Agriculture as a model for capability building through bilateral cooperation. Unlike traditional development programmes, the initiative operates as a partnership of equals between government agencies, researchers, and industry stakeholders.

155. Key activities included:

- Facilitating collaboration between Uruguay's Ministry of Agriculture, research institutes, and German counterparts.
- Supporting development of a soil carbon accounting model to inform Uruguay's national soil management framework.
- Assisting the design and implementation of Uruguay's National Bioinputs Plan, drawing on European and German experience.
- Using study tours, expert exchanges, workshops, and technical studies to connect science, policy, and industry.

156. The presentation highlighted the value of long-term relationships and policy-science engagement in creating practical, durable institutional change.

Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean, Presented by Nicolas Costa

157. Nicolas Costa presented results from New Zealand's Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative, which has supported agricultural inventory and mitigation capability development across Latin America and the Caribbean over the past three years.

158. The programme aimed to address barriers to climate action by:

- Improving agricultural GHG inventories.
- Supporting Tier 2 methodology development.
- Building technical and institutional capacity.
- Establishing regional networks and communities of practice.
- Connecting inventory systems to climate policy, mitigation planning, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

159. Achievements included:

- Assessment of 33 countries' inventory systems.
- Development of 16 inventory improvement plans.
- Support for 11 countries transitioning key categories from Tier 1 to Tier 2 methodologies.
- Creation of regional technical networks, repositories, and decision-support tools.

160. A major lesson learned was that inventory capacity development is a long-term process. Mentoring, national ownership, institutional coordination, and regional peer learning were found to be more effective than one-off training events. Stronger inventories can unlock access to climate finance by improving countries' ability to track and demonstrate progress against NDC commitments.

Southern Cone Livestock Mitigation Analysis, Presented by Ignacio Beltrán

161. Ignacio Beltrán (INIA Chile) presented results from a regional Southern Cone project involving Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The project used Marginal Abatement Cost (MAC) curves to identify cost-effective livestock mitigation strategies.

162. Key findings included:

- Livestock accounts for more than half of agricultural emissions in the participating countries.
- Beef cattle systems were identified as the most representative sector for analysis.
- Breeding stages contribute the largest share of livestock emissions, followed by growing and finishing stages.
- Some mitigation technologies, such as anti-methanogenic additives, can significantly reduce emissions but remain costly.
- Other interventions, including improved grazing management, showed stronger cost-effectiveness.

163. The project developed a common regional methodology and an online repository of mitigation options. Future work will focus on validating results at farm level, incorporating carbon sequestration into assessments, and linking mitigation outcomes more directly to national GHG inventories.

REGIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FROM LATIN AMERICA

NAMAS experience in Costa Rica, Presented by Sergio Abarca Monge (INTA)

164. Costa Rica has developed a comprehensive agricultural mitigation approach since launching its first livestock Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) in 2012. The approach

has since expanded across livestock, coffee, banana, sugarcane and rice, with the livestock NAMA the most advanced. The initiative demonstrates an integrated approach to improving agricultural productivity while reducing emissions intensity. Approximately 3,800–4,000 livestock farms are participating, with around 879 farms regularly monitored through the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system.

165. The livestock NAMA combines productivity improvements with environmental outcomes through practices including rational grazing, conservation of natural areas, improved nutrition and genetics, live fencing and wastewater management. Costa Rica reported increased livestock productivity, milk and meat production and forest cover, alongside reduced agricultural land use and deforestation. Farm-level carbon balances are used to monitor emissions and removals, with increasingly digital data systems supporting the MRV process. Soil carbon sequestration, particularly through rational grazing, has also emerged as an important mitigation benefit. World Bank analysis cited during the presentation indicated income increases of approximately 18–25% among producers implementing NAMA strategies.
166. The discussion highlighted the importance of aligning climate mitigation with tangible economic benefits for producers, as well as establishing long-term financial incentives to support the continued adoption of sustainable practices. Costa Rica's experience provides a useful example of how agricultural mitigation can be integrated with productivity, land management and producer livelihoods, supported by robust farm-level MRV.

Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes, Presented by Fernando Vargas Pérez (Ministry of Agriculture)

167. Costa Rica presented its new Sustainable Agricultural Landscapes Initiative, jointly led by the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment. The initiative takes a landscape-level approach to sustainable agriculture, with priorities including zero deforestation, reduced and responsible agrochemical use, increased biodiversity and carbon neutrality. Costa Rica highlighted its recovery in forest cover, which now accounts for approximately 60% of the country's land area. A national agricultural land-use map is also being developed and updated to strengthen planning, monitoring and the certification of deforestation-free agricultural products.
168. The initiative combines regulatory and monitoring approaches with practical support for producers. Costa Rica highlighted three certification and recognition mechanisms, alongside a growing network of community-based biofactories producing biofertilisers and biopesticides. Payments for environmental services are also being expanded to recognise soil carbon and re-carbonisation, broadening the range of environmental outcomes that can generate value for producers.
169. A key theme was the need to monetise environmental performance so that sustainable agricultural practices remain economically attractive and viable over the long term. A US\$10 million seed fund was highlighted to support the scaling of NAMAs and sustainable production practices. Together, these measures demonstrate Costa Rica's focus on linking environmental outcomes with financial incentives, markets and producer livelihoods.

Central American Dry Corridor, Presented by Andrea Padilla (FAO)

170. FAO presented a regional initiative, funded by the Green Climate Fund, to strengthen climate resilience across the Central American Dry Corridor. The programme takes an ecosystem-based adaptation approach, moving beyond responses focused primarily on infrastructure or emergency measures. Activities include landscape restoration, integrated water management, water harvesting and infiltration, agroforestry, resilient production systems, biological corridors, capacity building and improved access to finance. In Costa

Rica, the programme is focused on the Tempisque River Basin, an agriculturally important watershed that is particularly vulnerable to climate change.

171. A key principle of the initiative is the integration of agricultural production and environmental conservation, recognising that resilient production systems and ecosystem protection can be mutually reinforcing. The programme also places a strong emphasis on social inclusion, particularly addressing barriers faced by women and young people in accessing finance, technology and technical assistance. By combining landscape restoration, sustainable agricultural practices and improved access to resources, the initiative aims to strengthen resilience while supporting rural livelihoods.
172. The programme is designed to develop scalable and replicable approaches that can be applied across the wider Central American region. The focus on integrated landscapes, water resilience, inclusive finance and nature-based approaches provides a framework for addressing climate risks while maintaining agricultural productivity.

MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Germany

173. Announced its support for a circular food systems workshop in Samoa in September 2026 as part of the AgriDENZ programme. Germany also highlighted ongoing work on farm-level GHG accounting and the forthcoming conclusion of the EMiFa flagship.

Ireland

174. Announced the launch of the second phase of the NZ–Ireland bilateral research partnership. Ireland also highlighted an upcoming workshop on ruminants and climate change alongside the Global Bioeconomy Summit in October 2026.

United Kingdom

175. Announced a new Dairy Carbon Network covering 50 commercial dairy farms, a farmer-led adoption fund, expanded emissions/MRV work, and a £47m peatland restoration fund.

New Zealand

176. Announced the NZ–Ireland research call being open. New Zealand acknowledged its cooperation with Germany on farm-level emissions methodologies. New Zealand highlighted its Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative that concluded on 30 June 2026, having worked with 20 GRA countries.

FONTAGRO

177. Emphasised its role in financing collaborative agricultural research and its partnership with the GRA, including work on livestock, crops, bio inputs and emerging technologies.

AgMIP

178. Announced a new initiative being developed with support from the Global Methane Hub and part of the Flagship Project on Ensuring Long-Term Mitigation and Adaptation Co-Benefits. The new initiative is bringing together Greenhouse Gas Flux Measurement experts and Biophysical (Rice) and Socioeconomic Modelling experts.

APPENDIX 1 – PARTICIPANTS LIST

Members	
Australia (Online)	Leann Palmer, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) - <i>Online</i> Adara Harrington, DAFF - <i>Online</i>
Canada	Jay Parsons, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
Chile	Ignacio Beltran, The National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA)
Colombia	Miguel Serrano López, Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria (Agrosavia)
Costa Rica	Fernando Vargas-Perez, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) Liliana Chaves Fallas, National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) Gabriela Mora-Mora, INTA Laura Ramiez Cartin, INTA Jonny Montenegro, INTA Sergio Abarca Monge, INTA Gabriel Flores, INTA Costa Rica
Denmark (Online)	Bjarne Thomsen, Danish Agricultural Agency - <i>Online</i>
Dominican Republic	Eladio Santana Arnaud, IDIAF REP
El Salvador (Online)	Juana Perez, Centro Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria y Forestal (CENTA) - <i>Online</i>
Germany (Online)	Claudia Heidecke, Thunen Institute - <i>Online</i>
Ireland	John Harrison, Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine
Japan	Koki Maeda, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Science Ayano Tanabe, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - <i>Online</i>
New Zealand	Stephanie Preston, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) David Pacheco, AgEmissions Centre (AgEC) Nilusha Ubeynarayana, MPI – <i>Online</i> Matthew Johnson, MPI - <i>Online</i>
South Africa	George Shole, Department of Agriculture (DOA) Sibongsieni Ndimande, DOA Migiel Scholtz, Agricultural Research Council Animal Production - <i>Online</i>
Spain	Marisa Tello-Mariscal, INIA-CSIC Jose Luis Alonso Prados, INIA-CSIC - <i>Online</i>
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United Kingdom	Sal Burgess, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Evalyn Davies, DEFRA
Uruguay	Alvaro Roel, The National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) Nube Szephegyi, MGAP Climate Change Unit - <i>Online</i>
Vietnam (Online)	Tuat Nguyen Van, Vietnam Plant Protection Associations (VNPPA) - <i>Online</i>

Zimbabwe (Online)	Dumisani Kutywayo, Ministry for Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development - <i>Online</i>
Observer	
Venezuela	Oscar De La Rosa, INIA
Partners	
Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP)	Eric Mencos Contreras
Environmental Defense Fund	John Tauzel - <i>Online</i> Pamela Ruiter - <i>Online</i>
Global Methane Hub	Santiago Farina Hayden Montgomery - <i>Online</i>
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	Muhammad Ibrahim Lloyd Day Priscila Zúñiga Yury Sancho Curt Delice Kenneth Solano
FAO	Andrea Padilla
FONTAGRO	Eugenia Saini Joshua Taylor Martin Oesterheld
World Bank	Alexander Lotsch
Invited Experts	
	Andy Reisinger - <i>online</i> Augusto Castro Nuñez, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) Ivon Morika Cadillos Martinez, CIAT Dagmar Wittine, Uruguayan German Dialogue on Agriculture
Other Participants	
	Ignacio Hisse, University of Florida Alejandro Radrizzani, National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) Germán Aguado, INTA Juan Mauricio Álvarez, INTA Marcelo Javier Beltran, INTA Martin Durante, INTA Sebastian Villagra, INTA Natalia Aguilar, INTA Romina Romaniuk, INTA Jorge Jeuzin, INIA Peru Pablo Mamani, Proinpa Fundación Santiago [surname illegible], Fundación Agrosavia Javier Pitti Caballero, The Institute of Agricultural Innovation of Panama (IDIAP) Maika Barría, IDIAP Victor Sánchez, National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP) Francisco Salazar Sperberg, INIA Ivonne Ximena Ceron Salazar, University of Tolima

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Research Group and Network Co-Chairs	
	Yasuhito Shirato, RRG Co-Chair (Japan) Maria Rosa Mosquera-Iosada, CLURG Co-Chair (Spain) Sinead Leahy, LRG Co-Chair (New Zealand) - <i>Online</i> Adriano Castro, RRG Co-Chair (Brazil) - <i>Online</i> Illias Kyriazakis, LRG Co-Chair (United Kingdom) - <i>Online</i> Seyda Ozkan, Animal Health Network - <i>Online</i> Flavia Casu, Circular Food Systems Network Andrea Pickering, Agricultural GHG Inventory Network – <i>Online</i>
GRA Secretariat	
	Peter Ettema, Special Representative Nicolas Costa, Uruguay Deborah Knox, New Zealand - <i>Online</i> Chista Keramati, New Zealand - <i>Online</i> Shiloh Babbington, New Zealand - <i>Online</i>

APPENDIX 2 – WORKSHOP REPORT: STRATEGIC RESEARCH AGENDA (SRA) CONSULTATION OF THE GRA COUNCIL

San José, Costa Rica - Tuesday 7th July 2026

Facilitators: John Harrison (Ireland, Working Group Chair), Evalyn Davies (UK, Working Group Member), Peter Ettema (GRA SR, Working Group Member), Nicolas Costa (GRA secretariat, Working Group Member)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide the Global Research Alliance (GRA) Members and Partners with a structured report on the operation of the workshop at Council that was held on Tuesday 7th July 2026 and summarise the main themes and messages that emerged from the discussion.

2. INTRODUCTION AND WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The Council Workshop on the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) was held in person in San José, Costa Rica, in July 2026 as part of the GRA Council meeting. The workshop formed part of the development of a new SRA to define priority research areas to 2035 to guide collaboration across GRA Research Groups and Networks, support policy-relevant, science-based mitigation and resilience, and align global efforts to maximise outcomes and impact. This work reflects the GRA Strategy for 2026–2030, which emphasises advancing scientific research, strengthening capacity and knowledge sharing, building effective collaboration and partnerships, and leveraging financial and other resources.

The purpose of the workshop was to gather structured input to inform the GRA SRA to 2035, while supporting a consultative and inclusive approach across GRA Members and Partners. The workshop specifically sought to:

- Identify strategic priority research themes and knowledge/research gaps
- Define the GRA's unique added value
- Highlight collaboration and partnership opportunities
- Identify data, MRV and capacity-building needs
- Build consensus on the direction of the SRA

The workshop generated 120 individual inputs from 30 participants that were facilitated by four members of the SRA Working Group. The inputs covered scientific research, measurement and data, policy and finance, farmer adoption, capacity building, collaboration and implementation.

The workshop outputs will form an important input to the next stages of development of the SRA and will be considered alongside other consultation activities being undertaken by the SRA Working Group.

3. WORKSHOP STRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY

The session comprised opening and framing, breakout discussions, report back, followed by further synthesis, prioritisation and compilation of the outputs.

The workshop included participants from across the GRA community, representing different geographical regions, research disciplines and areas of agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation and adaptation expertise. Participants were divided into two breakout groups and discussions were structured around common themes covering strategic priorities, GRA value-add, research gaps, technology and innovation, data/MRV, policy relevance and uptake, partnerships and networks.

Additional themes included capacity building and knowledge exchange, guidance and tools, and coordination and funding.

The breakout methodology comprised six sequential steps:

1. Individual reflection - Participants independently identified their top three strategic priorities, top three research priorities, most critical research gap and most important enabling action.
2. Round-robin sharing - Each participant briefly shared one priority, one key gap and one enabling action. There was no debate at this stage, ensuring that all participants had an opportunity to contribute.
3. Clustering and consolidation - Facilitators worked with each group to combine similar or overlapping ideas into broader strategic themes, moving from individual suggestions to a consolidated set of priorities.
4. Prioritisation - Participants each received three votes for research priorities. Silent voting was used to identify the highest-ranked priorities to be taken forward as group recommendations.
5. Strategic discussion - For the top 3 priorities, groups considered the associated strategic and research gaps, technologies and innovations, data/MRV requirements, capacity-building needs, strategic partnerships and the GRA's unique value-add.
6. Report back and synthesis - Both groups reported their top 3 strategic priorities and one "big idea" for global impact by 2035.

The outputs were designed to feed into a common synthesis matrix covering strategic gaps, research gaps, technologies and innovation, data/MRV, capacity building, partnerships and GRA added value, enabling comparison and consolidation across the two breakout groups and forming the basis of the post-Workshop analysis along with the individual inputs.

4. MAIN OUTPUTS

4.1 TEN THEMATIC CLUSTERS

The 120 inputs were consolidated into ten themes, with the largest being:

- Mitigation solutions, adoption and scaling – 24 inputs (20%)
- MRV, data, metrics, modelling and LCA – 19 (15.8%)
- Integrated systems, adaptation and resilience – 16 (13.3%)
- Policy, incentives, finance, markets and private sector – 13 (10.8%)
- Collaboration, coordination and GRA architecture – 11 (9.2%)

Other clusters covered:

- Capacity building and stakeholder engagement – 10 (8.3%)
- Land, soil, water and nutrients – 8 (6.7%)
- Vulnerable regions and smallholders – 8 (6.7%)
- Livestock methane, rumen science and genetic solutions – 6 (5.0%)
- Living Labs and demonstration – 5 (4.2%)

The distribution of results from the cluster analysis suggests that participants were concerned not only with developing mitigation solutions, but with measuring, validating, adopting and scaling them, as well as with the policy, economic and institutional conditions needed to achieve impact.

4.2 KEY MESSAGES FROM THE WORKSHOP

Four particularly strong messages emerge from the analysis.

1. The SRA should be about more than mitigation technologies. Participants emphasised a complete pathway from developing solutions through measurement, validation, adoption, enabling conditions and scaling.
2. Trusted evidence and MRV are foundational. Common metrics, measurement, modelling, Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) and data systems emerged as a major area of interest and potentially an important GRA-wide capability.
3. Mitigation should be addressed within whole agricultural systems. Participants repeatedly linked GHG mitigation with productivity, adaptation, biodiversity, water, soil, animal health and welfare and socio-economic considerations.
4. Adoption, scaling, policy and international collaboration are central. The workshop highlighted farmer uptake, Living Labs, technology transfer, incentives, finance, markets and private-sector engagement, alongside a potential role for the GRA in connecting international research and avoiding duplication.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

The Costa Rica workshop provides a good foundation of the Members and Partners views and for progressing to the next stage of SRA development. Its principal contribution is the indication that participants are seeking an SRA that connects research with implementation and impact, rather than one that simply identifies additional areas of scientific research.

The next stage should therefore focus on triangulating the workshop findings with the wider evidence being assembled by the SRA Working Group. In particular, the workshop analysis should be combined with:

- the survey and analysis of GRA Research Groups and Networks
- assessment of other relevant strategic research agendas
- existing knowledge and research-gap assessments
- the global research landscape, including existing GRA and external research activity
- consideration of geographical and production-system differences; and
- subsequent validation with GRA Members, Partners, Research Groups and Networks.

The proposed overall sequence following the workshop and the analysis of outputs and recommendations is to combine it with other analyses, and to look at conducting a global research/gap analysis before bringing the combined results and draft SRA proposal to the GRA Members and Partners for validation. Once agreed, the final SRA mission, objectives, priorities and implementation framework can be agreed.

The emphasis in the next phase should therefore be on testing and refining the emerging priorities against evidence, rather than generating further long lists of possible research topics. The critical questions should be: What is important? What is already being done? Where are the gaps? Where is the GRA best placed to add value through international collaboration?

Overall, the workshop outputs point towards an SRA centred on a connected research-to-impact system: developing solutions, measuring them credibly, demonstrating them in real farming systems, enabling adoption and scaling successful approaches internationally. This provides a strong basis for integrating the workshop results into the broader SRA analysis and consultation process.

A more detailed analysis of the workshop outputs has been undertaken separately by the Strategic Research Agenda Working Group and will inform preparation of the draft Strategic Research Agenda for further consultation with Members and Partners.

APPENDIX 3 – WORKSHOP REPORT: LATIN AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL GHG MRV FUNDERS FORUM

San José, Costa Rica - Tuesday 7th July 2026

Chair: Augusto Castro-Núñez (Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide GRA Members and Partners with a brief summary of the Latin American Agricultural GHG MRV Funders Forum, a Council side event held on Day 2 of the Council meeting, covering the presenters, the session format and the key takeaways.

2. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Forum built on the Day 1 Council capability session, in which Alliance Bioversity-CIAT (GIC-LAC project), the Uruguayan-German Dialogue on Agriculture, the New Zealand Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative and INIA Chile (GANASUR project) presented current GRA-linked capability activities in Latin America.

The Forum aimed to strengthen the effectiveness, targeting and coherence of future agricultural GHG inventory and MRV investments across the region, spanning livestock, cropping and rice systems. Much of the work to date has been delivered through discrete projects and programmes that could benefit from a more coordinated approach.

The session brought together representatives of Latin American and Caribbean governments, national research institutions and funding partners to:

- Take stock of current initiatives
- Identify priority needs
- Identify where coordination and co-investment could lead to better outcomes

3. SESSION FORMAT

The 90-minute session (15:30–17:00) combined short presentations with interactive, workshop-style discussion. Presentations were delivered in English. A one-page note with the discussion questions was shared beforehand so that participants could prepare.

- **Part 1 – Current initiatives:** three short talks (5–7 minutes each) giving a view of priority needs and initiatives in the region, followed by questions and answers.
- **Part 2 – The pipeline of investment:** two presentations from funding partners, followed by discussions in two groups, using boards and post-it notes, around three questions:
 - a. Looking at the full picture of initiatives and investment pipelines, where could coordination and co-investment accelerate or expand delivery towards priorities?

- b. Which opportunities could deliver short-term benefits ("low-hanging fruit" or no-regret investments), and which key gaps need funding?
 - c. Which initiatives in one country resonate with priorities across the region and could scale from national to regional benefits?
- **Conclusion:** the Chair summarised the discussion, highlighting the main areas for investment and collaboration.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Part 1 – Current initiatives

- **Augusto Castro-Núñez (Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT), Chair:** introduced the purpose and format of the session, summarised the Day 1 talks and shared the regional assessment of MRV systems and needs.
- **Nicolás Costa (GRA Secretariat):** presented lessons from the New Zealand Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative. Despite working in different regions, its projects identified similar challenges: data systems, institutional capacity, continuous improvement, regional cooperation and sustained investment. Emerging opportunities include scaling successful regional approaches, connecting mitigation with transparency and moving from inventories to mitigation implementation.
- **María José Alegrette (OPYPA, Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Uruguay; Technical Group 4, Southern Agricultural Council):** presented a collaborative regional process in the Southern Cone, combining a regional roadmap with a national improvement plan for Uruguay. All five participating countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) agreed on the priority of upgrading measurement frameworks for bovine enteric fermentation and soil carbon. Uruguay's Tier 2 methodology for sheep enteric fermentation was presented as an example of translating regional consensus into national implementation.

Part 2 – The pipeline of investment

- **Santiago Fariña (Global Methane Hub):** outlined GMH investments in livestock MRV capacity in Latin America, including pilot farms in the Gran Chaco region and projects on measurement, manure methane and Tier 2 uncertainty. He identified three remaining gaps: on-farm MRV systems for finance mechanisms that remain cost-effective and sustainable after pilot projects; tools and frameworks for more comprehensive mitigation roadmaps; and improvements to mainstream private tools so that they better represent grazing and mixed systems.
- **Alexander Lotsch (World Bank):** presented the World Bank Group's climate-smart agriculture work and investment approach, including AgriConnect, the Scaling Next Generation Rice Impact Program (with its planned focus on MRV topics) and the Global Methane Reduction Platform for Development (CH4D).

The presentation slides are available on the GRA website [HERE](#).

5. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Participants split into three groups to discuss the three questions. The main points from each group are summarised below.

- Regional collaboration to develop baseline models, built on harmonised on-site protocols and adaptable to the needs of different countries.
- Funding to support capacity building and training, data generation, and the preservation of systems that already work well, for example rotations that keep carbon in the soil.
- Long-term sustainability beyond the life of individual projects, including closer links between science and inventory teams so that projects have an impact on MRV systems and inventories.
- Alignment between the organisations that generate data and those that maintain the national inventory.
- Communities of practice for inventory compilers and data experts, both regional (to reflect similarities in soils and climate) and global (to share best practice). The group asked whether GRA Networks could be used to start these, noting that they would need to be task-focused to go beyond knowledge sharing.
- Verification of models and input data, seen as essential to support green finance and to help existing data flow into inventories. On-farm carbon audit tools were considered useful for baselining ahead of action and for other incentives, although participants queried whether IPCC rules would allow such data to be used in inventories. Trust in the data, and in the governance of data held centrally, was also discussed.
- How to pull mitigation measures through to inventories, including whether on-farm carbon calculators or productivity assessments could provide activity data and primary input data.
- Common needs across the region: testing assumptions and mitigation measures on farm before intervention and before inclusion in inventory reporting; sharing project data that is relevant to inventories; understanding how adaptation and mitigation actions interact; and developing national parameters and disaggregated information.

6. KEY TAKEAWAYS

Five main messages emerged from the presentations, the two group discussions and the Chair's synthesis of the Forum.

- **Lasting MRV capacity is institutional as well as technical.** Technical support (emission factors, activity data, Tier 2 methodologies) needs to be paired with institutional arrangements, inter-agency coordination, retention of national inventory teams, and funding that outlasts individual projects, such as national budget lines, results-based climate finance, or blended finance.
- **Support should be targeted and coordinated.** Capacity gaps differ between countries and across institutional and technical domains, so one-size-fits-all support is unlikely to work. Evidence tools such as the GIC-LAC country dashboard and self-learning tool can help direct support and strengthen national ownership. Mapping funders' pipelines against country priorities can reveal co-investment opportunities, funding gaps and near-term quick wins.
- **Regional collaboration can deliver shared baselines adapted to national needs.** Regional baseline models built on harmonised on-site protocols can be adapted by each country to its

own circumstances. The Southern Cone experience shows that a common technical vision can be combined with differentiated national implementation. Funding should support training, data generation and the preservation of systems that already perform well.

- **Data generators and inventory compilers need to work more closely together.** Research and project teams should produce data and outputs that feed MRV systems and national inventories, including by sharing data that projects collect as a secondary benefit. Communities of practice for inventory compilers and data experts, at regional and global level, were proposed; to go beyond knowledge sharing they would need to be task-focused, and existing GRA Networks were suggested as a possible starting point. Other common needs included testing mitigation on farm before its inclusion in inventory reporting, understanding how adaptation and mitigation interact, and developing national parameters.
- **Trust in data and models underpins both inventories and finance.** Verification of models and input data is essential to support green finance and to help existing data flow into inventories. On-farm carbon calculators were seen as useful for baselining and for financial incentives, although participants questioned whether their data could be used in inventories under IPCC rules. This links to the gap identified by the Global Methane Hub: on-farm MRV systems for finance mechanisms need to be cost-effective, reliable and sustainable after pilot projects.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

The Forum showed strong convergence on the need to move from individual projects towards more coordinated, sustained investment in agricultural GHG inventories and MRV in Latin America. Participants expressed interest in continuing the dialogue towards a coordinated regional pipeline of MRV investment.

Proposed next steps:

- **Short term:** continue the conversation while momentum is high, set up a network or working group of inventory compilers and data experts, and define its tasks.
- **Long term:** carry out research and development ground-truthing to verify parts of national inventory models and identify gaps, and pool or align investment from different schemes to accelerate impact at scale.