



**GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE
INTERNET-BASED MEETING**

Eleventh Session of the Agriculture Subcommittee
Internet-Based Meeting
10 April 2012

Minutes

Summary

- 1 The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Agriculture Subcommittee conducted its eleventh session via an Internet- and telephone-based meeting on 10 April 2012.
- 2 Key agenda items included:
 - Welcome
 - Update from the Administrative Support Group (ASG)
 - Increasing subcommittee participation
 - Survey of delegates
 - Statement of purpose
 - Upcoming events
 - July in-person meeting
 - GMI Methane Expo
- 3 The subcommittee meeting agenda and a recording of the meeting are posted online on the [GMI website](#).

Welcome

- 4 Jorge Hilbert of the Argentine Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA), an Agriculture Subcommittee Co-chair, welcomed meeting participants on behalf of the Agriculture Subcommittee. He welcomed Allison Costa of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Ms. Costa is a new co-chair representing the United States. Mr. Hilbert also introduced co-chair Anil Dhussa of the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- 5 Mr. Dhussa outlined the goals of the webinar: to discuss the current work of the ASG and the Agriculture Subcommittee and to plan for the July in-person meeting and the Methane Expo 2013. He noted that the co-chairs and ASG would like to work with the Subcommittee to develop agendas for the upcoming meetings.
- 6 Mr. Hilbert invited all meeting participants to introduce themselves. The meeting participants included GMI Partner Country delegates, Project Network members, and ASG personnel. A participant list is presented in [Annex 1](#).

Country Updates

- 7 Mr. Dhussa invited country delegates to provide brief country updates.

- 8 Ray Desjardins of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provided a brief update on activities in Canada. His team developed a tool that quantifies greenhouse gas emissions at the regional scale, called the Unified Livestock Industry and Crop Emissions Estimation System (ULICEES). ULICEES is an Excel-based model that performs calculations at the provincial level and can process multiple scenarios to estimate emissions.
- 9 Mr. Dhussa provided an update on new AD projects in India, including a 1.2-megawatt (MW) manure project, two 4 MW co-digestion projects including agricultural wastes and residues, a 1.6 MW project using sugar industry solid waste, and five projects that upgrade biogas to natural-gas-quality fuel (one of which is planning to use the gas as transport fuel).
- 10 Mr. Hilbert stated that since the meeting in Krakow, Argentina has installed a swine AD system generating 1.2 MWs of power and several other AD systems are under construction. There is increasing interest in Argentina in renewable energy due to the energy situation in the country.
- 11 Dr. Basharat Bashir of Pakistan's Alternative Energy Development Board noted that Pakistan has installed an anaerobic digestion (AD) system at a large cattle farm, resulting in 3MW of power. Pakistan has 14,000 biogas plants. Pakistan also has five biomass to energy plants.

Update From the ASG

- 12 Ms. Monica Shimamura of the GMI ASG provided an update on ASG activities. She noted that GMI has been working with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which was launched in February 2012 to reduce short-lived climate pollutants including methane, black carbon, and hydrofluorocarbons. The coalition is a partnership between United Nations Environment Programme, Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States.
- 13 At the Steering Committee meeting in Poland, the Steering Committee decided that Country Action Plans are a priority and that there will be plans presented at the Methane Expo. The ASG is working with the U.S. to develop their Sector and Country Action plans; which can be used as models for other countries. The ASG will work with other countries to help develop their action plans.
- 14 Ms. Shimamura announced that the third GMI Methane Expo is planned for March 2013 in Vancouver, Canada. The format will be similar to that of previous Expos and will include subcommittee meetings, an exhibition hall, project posters, and technical sessions. The Methane Expo is being promoted through an international task force, flyers, a dedicated website, and social networking sites including Facebook and LinkedIn. Ms. Shimamura encouraged all participants to join the Facebook and LinkedIn groups to stay up to date with the latest information. She provided a brief overview of the Methane Expo schedule, which includes 11 hours of sector-specific time, including a Subcommittee meeting and technical sessions.
- 15 Speaking for the international task force, Mr. Hilbert conveyed a request that that each subcommittee identify the topics to be included in the technical sessions. Ms. Shimamura noted that anyone interested in presenting at the Methane Expo should respond to the call for papers and she encouraged participants to provide the requested input on topics for the technical sessions.

Increasing Subcommittee Participation

- 16 Mr. Dhussa noted that the Agriculture Subcommittee has the least active participation of all the GMI sectors. The Subcommittee is working with the ASG to improve participation. Over the last few weeks, Ms. Costa has contacted country delegates to discuss how the Subcommittee could increase participation.

- 17 According to the delegates Ms. Costa spoke to, face-to-face meetings are important, but funding for travel is an issue so Internet-based meetings are a good option. Also, because delegates joined the Subcommittee at different times, many do not have a clear idea of its primary focus, what sources of agricultural methane it is focusing on, or what role its individual members should play. Ms. Costa noted that she will continue to call delegates to collect more information.

Statement of Purpose

- 18 Ms. Costa explained that the Subcommittee is planning to develop a Statement of Purpose to address the concerns of the country delegates. A survey will be distributed to Subcommittee members to gather information on how the Subcommittee can provide more benefits for its members, what work the Subcommittee should focus on, and what roles the delegates would like to play. The delegates will respond to the survey, and the ASG and co-chairs will use the responses to draft the Statement of Purpose. The Statement of Purpose will be drafted before the July in-person meeting, where it will be discussed. Ms. Costa asked that all delegates respond to the survey when they receive it.

July Meeting

- 19 Ms. Costa stated that the July Agriculture Subcommittee meeting will be held in Singapore in conjunction with the [*Water Convention: Solutions for Liveable and Sustainable Cities*](#) and the GMI Landfill and Wastewater Subcommittee meetings. Ms. Costa stated that the Agriculture Subcommittee needs to identify discussion topics for the meeting. She explained that calculation tools have been mentioned in other meetings and she asked if having presenters discuss existing calculation tools would be useful for the Subcommittee or if there are other suggestions for topics. Ms. Costa stated that the meeting agenda included a list of potential topics to discuss; Mr. Dhussa noted that the list of topics included very interesting topics, any of which would make good presentations.
- 20 Mr. Hilbert suggested that the Subcommittee hold a technical session in Singapore in addition to its meeting and that it invite local presenters to discuss the technical issues in Singapore. He noted that inviting speakers to the technical sessions increases participation in the meetings and in the Subcommittee as a whole.
- 21 Dr. Desjardins explained that Canada has done a lot of work with GHG calculators, at both the farm level and regional level. He offered to present this information at the Methane Expo in Vancouver. Dr. Desjardins noted that all GHGs should be considered, not just methane. He also noted that his team has worked to quantify flare efficiency and leakage around AD systems. Ms. Costa and Mr. Hilbert noted that it would be useful to share the link to the farm level calculation tool. (The farm level tool is named “Holos” and is available for download on the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada [website](#).)
- 22 Dr. Bashir stated that AD is favorable in Pakistan because biogas provides electricity, reduces methane, and produces organic fertilizer. He has worked on many proposals to develop AD plants and he expects much AD development in the next five years in Pakistan.
- 23 Mr. Hilbert noted that there is often discussion of which technology type is most favorable. He suggested that the meeting feature a comparison of covered lagoons and more sophisticated AD systems.
- 24 Wondwossen Sintayehu of Ethiopia has been working to develop a national biogas program. The agriculture sector is one of the largest sources of methane in Ethiopia. He mentioned the importance of case studies, saying much can be learned from success stories. He also noted that Ethiopia has developed a Country Action Plan and would be happy to share it at the Methane Expo.

- 25 Ms. Costa noted that Ethiopia and Nicaragua have both recently updated their Sector Action Plans and that she is currently updating the U.S. Sector Action Plan for Agriculture.
- 26 Daniel Masse from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada suggested that ongoing research and development in AD to increase its adoption and identify future research and development needs should be included as a topic in future meetings.
- 27 Mr. Dhussa asked when the final decisions would be made for the date and length of the Agriculture Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Costa replied that the ASG has been working with their contacts in Singapore and a final decision would be reached very soon. That information will be sent out to the Subcommittee, along with other information about the water conference, including the cost (approximately 500 to 1,200 U.S. dollars). Ms. Costa stated that the Agriculture Subcommittee meeting agenda would be drafted by the end of the month.
- 28 Ms. Costa noted that the meeting in Singapore is being held in conjunction with a water conference. The ASG selected this location because the biogas meetings occurring in this time frame were in Germany. Since the last in-person Agriculture Subcommittee meeting was in Poland, they were looking for a different region to host the event in order to have some regional diversity. The conference is relevant to the Agriculture Subcommittee because it includes sessions on how to generate bioenergy from wastewater, including dairy and agro-industrial wastewaters.
- 29 Mr. Hilbert suggested that perhaps the next in-person meeting could have a telephone or Internet component in order to include participants who cannot attend the meeting in person.

Methane Expo

- 30 Ms. Costa said that the Methane Expo task force has been discussing whether the Expo should include technical posters. The co-chairs are seeking input from the Subcommittee on this subject and on specific topics that should be mentioned in the call for papers. Mr. Hilbert noted that Canada presented a very interesting topic in Krakow about low-temperature AD options; he suggested including this topic. Mr. Dhussa suggested including lessons learned, including successful financing options. He also suggested that technical topics similar to those discussed at the U.S. AgSTAR National Conference would be helpful.
- 31 Mr. Hilbert noted that the Methane Expo task force was discussing if the Expo project posters should continue to be the same as in previous years, or if perhaps each country should have one poster. He encouraged country delegates to participate actively in the Expo and to help identify projects and technical posters. Ms. Shimamura also encouraged member participation in the Expo planning process. Mr. Dhussa suggested that countries prepare information and updates ahead of time so that the ASG and co-chairs can select topics for inclusion.
- 32 William Powell of Environment Depot in Canada noted that he could present a paper on using an additive to increase decomposition of organic matter, which speeds up methane release. He has information from two dairy farms that have been using this additive, one for 9 years and one for 30 years. Mr. Powell will send his paper to Ms. Shimamura.
- 33 Ms. Shimamura said that the call for technical speakers will be released this week and the information will be available on the [website](#). There will be another call for papers about project posters later this month, when interested parties can send in potential projects.
- 34 Mr. Hilbert thanked the meeting participants and asked them to provide some final words. Dr. Bashir responded that this had been a very fruitful discussion and expressed his interest in participating in future

sessions of the Agriculture Subcommittee. Julieta Abrigana of CARATS, Inc in the Philippines stated that she was happy to have participated in the meeting and she thanked the organizers. Dr. Desjardins noted that there had been some technical difficulties with the meeting, but that it was worth working them out as it is important to support communication. Roberto Gonzalez of the Polytechnic Institute of Nicaragua noted that he looks forward to participating in future meetings. Shaliendra Jain of Shreyans Energy Private Limited said that when he first joined the Subcommittee, he had hoped to gain technical information and insight; he suggested that the Subcommittee should provide more technical information in future meetings. Mr. Powell thanked the ASG for organizing the meeting.

35 Ms. Costa, Mr. Dhussa, and Mr. Hilbert thanked the meeting participants for their time and attention.

Action Items Discussed at the Meeting

36 The ASG will:

- Send dates and meeting times of July in-person meeting
- Develop an agenda for the July meeting
- Develop a survey to send out to country delegates
- Use the survey responses to develop a Subcommittee Statement of Purpose

37 Country delegates will:

- Provide suggestions for agenda topics for future meetings
- Respond to the survey
- Update sector action plans

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