

Biogas Subcommittee
17 March 2021
Virtual Meeting

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Biogas Subcommittee meeting was held virtually on 17 March 2021. Participants included GMI Partner Country delegates and Secretariat staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss global opportunities for the biogas sector to help countries meet the Paris Climate Agreement, review biogas resources, and describe the upcoming effort to collect feedback from Partner country delegates about the future priorities of the Biogas Subcommittee to aid development of the Subcommittee Action Plan. Participants engaged in open discussions and interactive feedback exercises to provide feedback. The presentation for the meeting and recording are available on the [GMI website](#).

Annex I contains the list of participants. A copy of the final agenda is included as Annex II to these minutes.

Introductions and Welcoming Remarks

GMI Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chair, Mr. Nick Elger, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (United States), opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda and introducing the other Biogas Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Mr. Matthew Hamilton, Environment & Climate Change Canada (Canada) and Mr. Jorge Hilbert, National Agricultural Technology Institute (Argentina).

Update on GMI Activities

Ms. Monica Shimamura, Director, GMI Secretariat, provided an overview of GMI and reviewed notable GMI accomplishments since 2004.

Paris Climate Agreement and Global Biogas Opportunity

Mr. Elger discussed the importance of methane mitigation and emphasized the role that biogas plays in helping countries meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. He reviewed key aspects of the Paris Climate Agreement and provided details about Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Mr. Elger discussed the potential impact of taking early action on short-lived climate pollutants and described the critical role that GMI can play in creating an effective mitigation strategy. Participants were invited to participate in an interactive poll to answer the following discussion question:

- 1. Does your country have strategies, targets, or NDCs to abate and/or recover methane emissions from biogas sources?**
 - 80% of participants responded 'Yes'
 - 20% of participants responded 'We have no formal strategies and methane abatement in this sector is currently not a priority'

Mr. Andreas Taeuber, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Germany) added to the discussion by emphasizing the importance of ruminant management in the biogas sector and the key role that grasslands play in methane mitigation. He noted the importance of addressing animal health. He suggested a science-based workshop on differentiating between methane from natural resources and fossil fuel-based resources.

Latest GMI Biogas Tools and Resources

Mr. Hilbert provided an overview of new biogas tools and resources available on the GMI website. He described the latest enhancements to the GMI website, highlighted the EPA Biogas Toolkit, and reviewed the Risk Analysis and Technical Review Checklist for Biogas Projects. He also emphasized the Solid Waste Emissions Estimation Tool (SWEET) and shared information about a tool coming soon, the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) Handbook for Governments. Participants were invited to answer the following question:

2. Does your country have tools and/or guidance documents for the development of biogas projects?

- 67% of participants responded 'Yes'
- 33% of participants responded 'No'

Developing a Collective Vision

Mr. Hamilton discussed the plans to collect feedback from the GMI Biogas Subcommittee delegates which will be used to develop an Action Plan. He provided a timeline for the feedback process and shared information about next steps. The delegates were encouraged to share their feedback so the Subcommittee can develop a new Action Plan that reflects the collective goals and interests of the Subcommittee members. Participants were asked to answer the following poll questions:

3. What are the fastest growing uses for biogas in your country?

Participants ranked the options in the following order:

1. Electricity Generation
2. Renewable Natural Gas
3. Direct Use
4. Steam/Heat Generation
5. Combined Heat and Power
6. None
7. Compressed Natural Gas

4. What would your country like to gain from its participation in the Biogas Subcommittee?

- 19% of participants responded 'Assistance in integrating biogas into NDCs and commitments'
- 19% of participants responded 'Support policy development'
- 19% of participants responded 'Learn more about methane recovery technology'
- 19% of participants responded 'Share information with other countries to grow the biogas industry'
- 13% of participants responded 'Capacity building in government and other organizations'
- 13% of participants responded 'Tool and resource development'

Mr. Osman Arikan, Istanbul Technical University (Turkey) provided information about current methane management practices in Turkey, noting that a recent change in January 2021 decreased the rate for landfill gas compared to the rate for electricity generated by anaerobic digestion. He also mentioned that there have been many biomethane and anaerobic digestion projects over the last 5 to 10 years. Mr. Taeuber also shared his views on the connection between land use and agriculture.

Wrap-Up and Adjournment

Mr. Elger closed the meeting by discussing options for how the delegates could engage with GMI. He encouraged attendees to attend GMI's upcoming virtual event on 3 June and shared contact information for the Co-Chairs. Mr. Elger thanked the attendees for their participation and confirmed that the meeting materials would be shared on the GMI website. The meeting was adjourned.

ANNEX I

GMI Biogas Subcommittee Meeting Participants

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|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Osman Arikan | Istanbul Technical University | Turkey |
| Daniel Benefoh | Environmental Protection Agency | Ghana |
| Nick Elger | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | United States |
| Jamie Figler | Tetra Tech | United States |
| Tom Frankiewicz | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | United States |
| Matt Hamilton | Environment and Climate Change Canada | Canada |
| Jorge Hilbert | National Agricultural Technology Institute | Argentina |
| Andres Intriago | Municipality of Guayaquil | Ecuador |
| Cathy McGirl | Tetra Tech | United States |
| Monica Shimamura | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | United States |
| Alessandro Spagni | Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy & Sustainable Economic Dev. | Italy |
| Andreas Taeuber | Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture | Germany |
| Hussein Zaki | Environment and Climate Change Canada | Canada |



Annex II

**GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
Biogas Subcommittee Meeting
17 March 2021
Virtual Meeting
11:00 - 12:00 UTC**

AGENDA

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|---------------|---|
| 11:00 – 11:05 | Welcome and Opening of the Meeting; Adoption of the Agenda <i>Subcommittee Co-Chairs:</i> <i>Matthew Hamilton, Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (Canada)</i> <i>Jorge Hilbert, National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) (Argentina)</i> <i>Nick Elger, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (United States)</i> |
| 11:05 – 11:10 | Update on GMI Activities <i>Monica Shimamura, GMI Secretariat</i> |
| 11:10 – 11:25 | Global Opportunity for Biogas and Connection to Paris Climate Agreement <i>Nick Elger</i> |
| 11:25 – 11:40 | Update on Ongoing GMI Biogas Activities <i>Jorge Hilbert</i> |
| 11:40 – 11:55 | 2021 Subcommittee Feedback Effort <i>Matthew Hamilton</i> |
| 11:55 – 12:00 | Wrap-Up and Next Steps |