

## **Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Low-Carbon Food Systems in the ASEAN Region**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Expert Committee Meeting**

Time and date: 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. PHT (GMT +8), 10 April 2024

Venue: Asian Development Bank HQ and Online

#### **1. Opening**

Dr. Kazuko Ogasahara, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), gave the opening remarks and welcomed the members of the Expert Committee (EC) and other participants who attended the meeting. Dr. Ogasahara touched on the Food Security Forum (FSF), which aims to achieve long-term stability of food supply, and emphasized that the issues discussed at the EC were at the heart of the FSF.

#### **2. Outline of Draft Methodology**

The Secretariat gave a brief presentation providing an overview of JCM methodologies and explaining the main sections of the draft methodology for methane emission reductions in rice paddies as described below.

##### **2.1. Terms and definitions**

The definitions of single and multiple drainage are proposed to reflect the definitions used in the 2006 IPCC guidelines. The definitions included the conditions for the water level and drainage period. The EC shared the view that further clarification of the definitions was needed, especially as regards to scientific evidence to justify the water level and drainage period, the practicality for project participants applying such a methodology on the ground, and the impact on rice yield in terms of safe alternate wetting and drying (AWD) practices.

##### **2.2. Eligibility criteria**

In addition to the fulfillment of definitions of drainage types described above, eligibility criteria were discussed such as change in water management regime from continuous flooding to single or multiple drainage, no drainage practices in the last 2 years to avoid registration of business-as-usual (BAU) projects, and intentional yield reduction for the purpose of obtaining more carbon credits.

These criteria will be further elaborated by the Secretariat.

##### **2.3. Emission Sources and GHG types**

The following 3 emission sources and greenhouse gases (GHGs) are identified as emission sources and GHG types for the methodology: Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) emissions from activities of microorganisms under anerobic conditions in rice paddies, nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions from

fertilizer application and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions due to the utilization of mechanical equipment, farm machinery, and irrigation pumps.

The Secretariat will further explore the need to include CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as a source and the treatment of soil organic carbon for consideration by the EC members.

#### **2.4. Establishment and calculation of reference emissions**

The draft methodology proposes 2 options for establishment of reference emissions: 1) Direct measurement and 2) A country specific emission factor based on the IPCC guidelines. The methodology describes ways in which project site is stratified for specific parameters, and the frequency and timing of measurements.

The EC discussed the need for further clarification on the conditions allowed for using country-specific default values and the justification for using such values. The issue of consistency of country-specific values for the methodology and those for the national GHG inventory was discussed at the same time.

#### **2.5. Calculation of project emissions**

The use of country-specific emission factors and their scientific rationale were also discussed in this section, following the same discussion in the section “Establishment and calculation of reference emissions”.

#### **2.6. Monitoring spreadsheet**

Practical methods for monitoring water levels and drainage periods were discussed at the EC. The use of water sensors or photography of water levels may be options, while other methods may be accepted if transparency and credibility are ensured. Further consideration is needed on how to maintain a balance the capacity of farmers with the efficiency of monitoring, using smart phone apps and ICT.

### **3. Way forward**

The Secretariat outlined a timeline for completing the draft methodology, including the EC4 on 14 May 2024, the public comment process, and finalization towards the EC5 on 27 June 2024.

### **4. Conclusion**

Mr. Masato Nagai, Director, International Strategy Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, gave the closing remarks and closed the meeting.

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