



## GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE INTERNET-BASED MEETING

Thirteenth Session of the Agriculture Subcommittee  
Internet-Based Meeting  
28 November 2012

### Minutes

#### Summary

- 1 The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Agriculture Subcommittee conducted its thirteenth session via an Internet- and telephone-based meeting on 28 November 2012.
- 2 Key agenda items included:
  - Update from the Administrative Support Group (ASG)
  - Subcommittee activities
    - Statement of Purpose
    - International Best Practices Guide
  - Planning for Methane Expo 2013
- 3 The subcommittee meeting agenda and a recording of the meeting are posted online on the [GMI website](#).
- 4 Allison Costa of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), an Agriculture Subcommittee Co-chair, welcomed meeting participants on behalf of Agriculture Subcommittee Co-chairs Anil Dhussa of the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Jorge Hilbert of the Argentine Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA). Ms. Costa reviewed the meeting agenda.
- 5 Mr. Dhussa introduced the ASG representatives attending the meeting and invited all meeting participants to introduce themselves. The meeting participants included GMI Partner Country delegates and Project Network members in addition to ASG personnel. A participant list is presented in [Annex 1](#).

#### Country Updates

- 6 Ms. Costa invited country delegates to provide brief country updates.
- 7 **Argentina.** Mr. Hilbert provided an update on the activities in Argentina. Since the last GMI meeting, there are more than six anaerobic digestion (AD) plants under construction. There is a 2-megawatt (MW) plant being constructed using energy crops and pig manure, which will become operational by the end of 2012. Argentina is currently developing a national standard for land application of effluent. A program was launched, called Probiomass, which is supported by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Argentine Department of Energy; this program encourages the use of biomass to produce energy. Mr. Hilbert explained barriers to renewable energy projects in Argentina include low energy prices and high subsidies for conventional energy.

- 8 **Canada.** Daniel Masse of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada presented an overview of the GMI activities in Canada. Mr. Masse explained Agriculture Canada is supporting a 5-year, approximately 30 million US dollar project to support research and development to address greenhouse gas issues in agriculture. This project encompasses both enteric fermentation and manure management.
- 9 **India.** Mr. Dhussa shared an update on India, noting there are more than 4.5 million household biogas plants in India and more than 2,000 small 10-50 kilowatt (kW) capacity plants, all based on manure. There are also two larger (MW scale) biogas plants using manure. There are a few projects installed to use co-digestion of urban, industrial, and agricultural wastes for power generation, as well as additional projects in India that upgrade biogas to compressed natural gas quality fuel. The Indian government has supported capital expenditures, tariffs, tax concessions, program implementation, and research and development.
- 10 **United States.** Ms. Costa provided a country update for the United States. She stated there are almost 200 operating digesters in the United States using livestock manure. There is a U.S. workgroup that includes government, private industry, universities, and other associations to address barriers to AD projects. The workgroup is developing general information to educate the public about AD opportunities and benefits. In addition, the workgroup is developing a compilation of AD policy and regulatory issues across the country.
- 11 **Pakistan.** Prem Subedi of Winrock International shared a brief overview of his work in Pakistan. He works with SNV (a nonprofit organization headquartered in the Netherlands) to develop small-scale AD systems in Pakistan that use produced biogas for cooking fuel. In addition, he has worked with U.S. EPA-funded AD systems on five medium-sized dairy farms to generate electricity. Winrock has been involved in helping develop an innovative funding method for AD systems. For medium-sized farms supplying milk to Nestle in Pakistan, Nestle provides chilling costs to farmers. When an AD system is installed, the farmer no longer needs to use the Nestle funding for chilling because they may use biogas to power refrigerators. Therefore, farmers can borrow against the future money from Nestle to finance the AD system. This model might be scaled up and replicated on up to 500 systems.

### **Update From the ASG**

- 12 Ms. Monica Shimamura of the GMI ASG provided an update on ASG activities. She noted GMI has been working with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), which was launched in February 2012 to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) including methane, black carbon, and hydrofluorocarbons. CCAC focal areas are SLCPs from municipal solid waste and oil and natural gas production. The ASG is developing a white paper for discussion during the March 2013 Steering Committee meeting to explore the collaboration of CCAC and GMI.
- 13 Ms. Shimamura announced the third Expo is taking place in March 2013 in Vancouver, Canada. The format will be similar to previous Expos and will include subcommittee meetings, Steering Committee meeting, site visits, an exhibition hall, project opportunity and success story posters, and sector-specific technical and policy sessions. She provided a brief overview of the Methane Expo 2013 schedule, which currently includes 9.5 hours of sector-specific time (including a Subcommittee meeting and technical sessions), cross-cutting plenary and biogas sessions, and side events.
- 14 Methane Expo 2013 is an international forum for promoting methane recovery and use. Involvement in the Expo exposes participants to the latest methane recovery information and provides a networking opportunity. The Expo is being promoted through an international task force, flyers, a dedicated website, social networking sites, and an event at the Canadian embassy. Ms. Shimamura encouraged all meeting participants to attend Methane Expo 2013 and to help promote the event.

- 15 Ms. Shimamura noted GMI has social networking sites to help promote our activities and encourage discussion. GMI is active on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Ms. Shimamura encouraged all meeting participants to join the GMI social networking sites.

### **Statement of Purpose**

- 16 Ms. Costa explained the co-chairs decided to develop a subcommittee Statement of Purpose as a means to encourage participation, better define the subcommittee's focus, and make the subcommittee more beneficial to its members. The document defines the subcommittee's mission and focus, and the delegates' and Project Network (PN) members' roles. The draft Statement of Purpose was discussed at the July 2012 GMI Agriculture Subcommittee meeting in Singapore. Minor revisions were made the Statement of Purpose based on comments received at the Singapore meeting, and the final version is now available on the [GMI website](#).

### **International Best Practices Guide: Case Studies**

- 17 Mr. Dhussa noted the development of an International Best Practices Guide (IBPG) for Agriculture was the result of brainstorming at the Agriculture Subcommittee meeting in Singapore. The creation of this guide will help to increase Subcommittee participation and help delegates to play a more meaningful role in Subcommittee product development. The first step will be the collection and compilation of project case studies. Daniel Fikreysus of Community Development Research (a PN member) developed a case study template with input from the Co-chairs and ASG.
- 18 Mr. Dhussa provided an overview of the draft template and explained that the ASG will be sending the template out to the Agriculture Subcommittee and Project Network. Templates should be completed and sent back to the ASG by the end of January 2013. The ASG will compile the case studies in time for Methane Expo 2013.

### **Methane Expo 2013**

- 19 Mr. Hilbert noted the Agriculture Subcommittee has technical and policy sessions and a subcommittee meeting at Methane Expo 2013, and there are several available presentation slots to fill. Mr. Hilbert walked through the current Agriculture Subcommittee meeting agenda, which includes country updates and a working session for the IBPG. Mr. Hilbert suggested adding a discussion of final effluent use and he asked for other suggestions from the meeting participants.
- 20 Mr. Luigi Petta of the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy & Sustainable Economic Development suggested the IBPG and the Methane Expo 2013 technical and policy sessions could include information about digestate, biogas treatment, and digester influent pretreatment.
- 21 The current agriculture technical and policy sessions include tools and technical consideration for biogas projects, case studies, project financing options, market and technical considerations for biogas end uses, and overcoming biogas project barriers. Mr. Hilbert again noted there were still some open presentations slots and asked for suggestions.
- 22 Mr. Masse suggested the subcommittee discuss other benefits of AD beyond electricity production, including the production of by-products such as high value fertilizer.
- 23 Mr. Hilbert explained posters will be displayed at Methane Expo 2013 to highlight success stories and projects seeking funding and encouraged meeting participants to provide poster suggestions. Ms. Costa noted the agriculture sector currently has fewer posters than other sectors, and she asked the meeting participants to provide poster suggestions to the ASG at [asg@globalmethane.org](mailto:asg@globalmethane.org).

- 24 Ms. Shimamura reminded meeting participants to register for Methane Expo 2013 at <http://globalmethane.org/expo/registration.html>.
- 25 Mr. Hilbert asked if there might be a way for Methane Expo 2013 participants to participate in the meeting remotely via telephone or internet. Ms. Shimamura noted this might be difficult and depends on the meeting venue capabilities, but the ASG will pursue this suggestion. Mr. Hilbert noted travel can be difficult and expensive for participants. Ms. Shimamura explained in person meeting helps to develop relationships and networking opportunities, so the ASG encourages participants to attend in person if at all possible.
- 26 Ms. Costa, Mr. Dhussa, and Mr. Hilbert thanked the meeting participants for their time and attention.

#### **Action Items Discussed at the Meeting**

- 27 The ASG will:
- Send the IBPG case study template out to the subcommittee
  - Complete the Methane Expo 2013 technical and policy session and subcommittee meeting agendas
  - Compile the completed IBPG case study templates
- 28 Country delegates will:
- Provide suggestions for agenda topics for the Methane Expo 2013 technical and policy sessions and subcommittee meeting
  - Complete and submit the IBPG case study template
  - Provide poster opportunity and success story input
  - Update sector action plans

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