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AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WHICH HAVE GHG MITIGATING EFFECTS

IMPROVED CROPLAND MANAGEMENT	
Improved agronomic practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of cover crops • Improved crop/fallow rotations • Improved crop varieties • Use of legumes in crop rotation
Integrated nutrient management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased efficiency of nitrogen fertilizer; organic fertilization; legumes and green manure; • compost; animal manure
Tillage/residue management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of residues • Reduced/zero tillage
Water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation • Bunds/zai • Terraces, contour farming • Water harvesting (e.g. runoff collection techniques, water storage tank construction, devices for lifting and conveying water)
Perennials and Agroforestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live barriers/fences • Various agroforestry practices: undersowing of <i>Tephrosia vogelii</i>, pigeon pea and <i>Sesbania sesban</i> in maize for soil fertility improvement; dispersed tree • interplanting (e.g. <i>Faidherbia</i>, <i>Acacia polyantha</i>, <i>A.galpiniii</i>. and contour grass hedges)
IMPROVED PASTURE AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT	
Improved pasture management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving forage quality and quantity • Seeding fodder grasses • Improving vegetation community structure (e.g. seeding fodder grasses or legumes; reducing fuel load by vegetation management)
Improved grazing management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stocking rate management • Rotational grazing
RESTORING DEGRADED LAND	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-vegetation • Applying nutrient amendments (manures, biosolids, compost)

Based on Annex 7.1 from FAO, 2009.

A variety of **standards** have been developed in the AFOLU sector and the following are of interest:

- **VCS Standard:** The VCS Program provides a robust, new global standard and programme for approval of credible voluntary offsets. VCS offsets must be real (have happened), additional (the project can only be implemented because of the carbon finance component), measurable, permanent (not temporarily displace emissions), independently verified and unique (not used more than once to offset emissions) (www.v-c-s.org). A **tool** has been developed to provide guidance for dealing with the methodological issues of AFOLU projects and to determine the land eligibility. At the time of writing it can be used for four activities:

1. Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation;
2. Agricultural Land Management;
3. Improved Forest management;
4. REDD,

but the activity types will probably expanded in the near future, eg to wetlands.

VOLUNTARY CARBON STANDARD

Tool for AFOLU Methodological Issues

The steps to be followed are:

Step 0: follow the general methodological guidance (determination and quantification of the baseline and the project scenario; measurement, estimation and monitoring of GHG sources and leakage for baseline and project scenario).

Step 1: determine the land eligibility (the land must be used for the eligible AFOLU activities).

Step 2: determine the project boundary (geographic boundary, crediting period, sources and sinks, GHG types, and carbon pools).

Step 3: determine the carbon pools (living biomass or dead organic matter).

Step 4: establish a project baseline (demonstrating the business-as-usual situation and the with-project scenario).

Step 5: assess and manage leakage (any increase in greenhouse gas emissions that occurs outside a project's boundary (but within the same country), but is measurable and attributable to the project activities needs to be accounted for).

Step 6: estimate and monitor net project greenhouse gas benefits (using IPCC 2006 guidelines the GHG emissions are estimated).

(www.v-c-s.org/docs/Tool%20for%20AFOLU%20Methodological%20Issues.pdf)

Other standards exist which can also be used for AFOLU projects:

- **VER + Standard** developed by TÜV SÜD, a Designated Operational Entity (DOE) for the validation and verification of CDM projects accepts AFOLU projects, including REDD www.tuev-sued.de/uploads/images/1179142340972697520616/Standard_VER_e.pdf.
- the **California Climate Action Registry**, which provides detailed protocols for forest carbon sequestration projects www.climateregistry.org.
- the **CarbonFix Standard** emphasizes sustainable forest management www.carbonfix.info.
- the **Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standards (CCB)** are a set of project-design criteria for evaluating land-based carbon mitigation projects and their community and biodiversity co-benefits www.climate-standards.org.
- the **CCX standards** also include uniform rules for AFOLU projects www.chicagoclimatex.com.

TWO CASE STUDIES OF CARBON PROJECTS

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT: KENYA SMALLHOLDER COFFEE CARBON PROJECT

In 2007 a pre-feasibility study to identify cropping systems with a high economic mitigation potential in Kenya was started by the BioCarbon Fund of the World Bank. Coaching support was provided to shortlisted project developers to prepare promising Project Idea Notes. Finally it was decided to support two pilot projects to develop a Project Design Document (see also Table 1., Agricultural Soil Project in Kenya) and it was agreed to develop a methodology under the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS). The project developer for the Kenya Smallholder Coffee Carbon Project is ECOM Agroindustrial Corp, an international coffee trader, which together with the World Bank and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) will be implementing the project.

The project aims at restoring coffee production and producing certified specialty coffee using best coffee practices, as well as reducing climate change vulnerability. It is working with the Komothai smallholder farmers cooperation which has 9,000 members. The project site is located in Kiambu District in Central Kenya and during the first phase 7,200 ha are targeted of which 50% are coffee and 50% subsistence agriculture, and during the second phase it will be enlarged to 10,000 ha.



Photo by UNIQUE forestry consultants.

By adopting sustainable agricultural land management (SALM) practices such as agroforestry, mulching and soil and water conservation techniques, approximately 3.5 tCO₂/ha/yr or more than 30,000 tCO₂/year will be mitigated in the total project area during the first phase. Apart from the income through carbon credits, the coffee yields are also expected to rise. In addition the practices have the potential to increase climate resilience of agricultural production systems.

For more information, see:

www.rural21.com/uploads/media/R21_Harvesting_agricultural_carbon..._0109.pdf,

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/335807-1236361651968/Timm_RWsideevent.pdf.

REDD PROJECT:

THE JUMA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESERVE IN BRASIL

This project has been set up in 2006 in the Amazonas. The Juma Reserve has a size of 589,612 ha and is home to 370 families. The region is isolated but it is expected to have high deforestation rates in the future. The Brazilian NGO the Amazonas Sustainable Foundation (FAS) is implementing the project which is expected to prevent the deforestation of approximately 330,000 ha of tropical rainforest.

It is estimated to prevent the emissions of 3.6 million tons of GHGs between 2006 and 2016. Until 2050 over the entire project period it is expected to displace 190 million tonnes of CO₂ eq. The project is certified through the German firm TÜV-SÜD for the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA).

The funding for the project is supplied by the Amazonas state government and the Brazilian Bradesco Bank. Additionally the Marriot International hotel chain contributes US\$2 million for the up-front costs of the project during the first four years.

The families which live in the region will receive payments, grants are made to community associations for social programmes and sustainable income-generating activities are promoted.

Source: Viana et al., 2009.

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This booklet is intended to guide extension service advisors and institutions who work with small-scale farmers and foresters with an interest in Carbon Finance and Carbon Projects.

Its aim is to support setting-up carbon projects which involve small-scale farmers. Their participation allows them to be involved in the development and implementation of the project, influence the design of the project to generate positive impacts for the farmers and increase their knowledge about carbon finance. The definition of a small-scale farmer differs between and within countries. In most cases it is a farmer who cultivates less than one hectare of land and has diverse sources of livelihood.



The guide is structured into five sections: first, the background of climate change is explained (1); second, an introduction is given to how the carbon market works (2); this is followed by an explanation of

carbon project development and the timeline and project size to take into account for planning (3); four, costs to be expected during the development of carbon projects are summarised, as well as benefits (4); finally, different funds and grants are presented (5). This booklet will need constant updating, as the political framework is changing very fast, causing changes in legislation, as well as actors, funds and regulations. In addition, the available data, research and knowledge for the development of carbon projects is constantly improving which will facilitate their future upgrowth.



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