

Three-Country GASL Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on determining priorities and options in climate-resilient and low-carbon ruminants production development

February 10-11, 2020

Kyrgyzstan, near Bishkek

BACKGROUND

The FAO Strategy on Climate Change emphasizes livestock as one of the most important sectors for the climate change adaptation and mitigation. The main source of the livestock-related emissions in the region is from the enteric fermentation and manure management produced by ruminants. At the same time, grassland management practices can increase carbon sequestration by increasing productivity or reducing carbon losses. As ruminants are an essential source of nutrition and livelihoods for the vulnerable populations, the actions to enhance adaptation to climate variability are needed to be taken. The national ruminant management policies or programmes can streamline climate-related practices in order to improve productivity and sustainable management. Policies related to the ruminant sector can be enhanced to encompass climate change mitigation and adaptation goals and incorporate consistent, integrated strategies that focus on the potential synergies between mitigation and adaptation in the context of the agricultural sector. There is obviously a need for an effective policy that will optimize ruminant management and capitalize on the country's ruminant resources taking into account the climate change issues. The FAO assistance is instrumental considering that this topic is poorly understood in the region and not supported under the ongoing and implemented interventions. The aim of this project is to evaluate the role of the ruminants in reducing agricultural GHG emissions and the potential in grassland carbon sequestration, to prepare a groundwork for the successive large-scale projects for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the ruminant production sector. The review of ruminant sector policies will evaluate the potential to increase productivity and mitigate GHG emissions by improving the husbandry, feeding and manure management practices. The mitigation and adaptation to climate change will enhance the resilience of rural communities, including a gender aspect. Additionally, this project will contribute to the assessment of the ruminant related information and development of database (GLEAM) by complementing the currently available data. Overall, this project will sustain rural development, food security and livelihoods, ecosystem services and maintenance of traditional production systems under the climate change impact.

OBJECTIVE

After collecting the preliminary information, validating it with local stakeholders and assessing the information on institutional set up and policies, as well as ruminant production systems, pasture management and their relation to climate change in the three targeted countries of Central Asia, the objective of this final workshop is to present the GHG assessment via GLEAM tool and the recommendations for institutional development and more efficient and sustainable livestock management. Production systems can be defined by productivity, resource use and socio-economic variables, but for GLEAM, the starting point is to define the diets (feeding practices, feed availability and feed quality among production systems) and then move to the herd parameters, manure mgmt., allocation, etc.

Another component of this workshop is to assess how sustainable livestock policies can be promoted in the national targets to tackle climate change (NDCs, NAMAs, etc).

Last but not least, the concept notes for the future projects based on the provided recommendations will be discussed with the following resource mobilization.

Expected outputs:

- GHG assessment of the ruminant production systems and pasture management presented
- Recommendations on sustainable ruminants production systems, its policy alignment introduced
- The national climate change targets respective to livestock management discussed
- The concept notes for the future projects based on the practical and policy recommendations discussed

METHODOLOGY

In order to produce a successful workshop, FAO will involve different stakeholders to share the results of findings from the previous steps of the project and to have a consultation process regarding the elaboration of the future project proposals. Round tables and panel discussions will be used to ensure inclusive consultation process.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This workshop will target three countries and different groups of stakeholders:

- Policymakers
- Livestock keepers and other relevant businesses
- Relevant CSOs
- Academia
- Potential resource partners (GCF, GEF etc.)
- FAO national and international staff

It is expected that 40-50 participants will attend the workshop.