

Agriculture Guidance

Guidance for assessing the greenhouse gas impacts of agriculture policies

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Glossary, abbreviations and acronyms, references and contributors

GLOSSARY

Assessment period	The time period over which GHG impacts resulting from a policy are assessed
Assessment report	A report, completed by the user, that documents the assessment process and the GHG, sustainable development and/or transformational impacts of the policy
Baseline scenario	A reference case that represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the absence of a policy (or package of policies) being assessed
Causal chain	A conceptual diagram tracing the process by which the policy leads to impacts through a series of interlinked logical and sequential stages of cause-and-effect relationships
Emission factor	A factor that converts activity data into GHG emissions data
Ex-ante assessment	The process of estimating expected future GHG impacts of a policy (i.e., a forward-looking assessment)
Ex-post assessment	The process of estimating historical GHG impacts of a policy (i.e., a backward-looking assessment)
Expert judgment	A carefully considered, well-documented qualitative or quantitative judgment made in the absence of unequivocal observational evidence by a person or persons who have a demonstrable expertise in the given field (IPCC 2006). Users can apply their own expert judgment or can consult experts.
GHG assessment boundary	The scope of the assessment in terms of the range of GHG impacts that is included in the assessment
GHG impacts	Changes in GHG emissions by GHG sources and carbon pools that result from a policy

Impact assessment	The estimation of changes in GHG emissions or removals resulting from a policy, either ex-ante or ex-post
Independent policies	Policies that do not interact with each other, such that the combined effect of implementing the policies together is equal to the sum of the individual effects of implementing them separately
Inputs	Resources that go into implementing the policy, such as financing
Interacting policies	Policies that produce total effects, when implemented together, that differ from the sum of the individual effects had they been implemented separately
Intermediate effects	Changes in behaviour, technology, processes or practices that result from the policy, which lead to GHG impacts
Jurisdiction	The geographic area within which an entity's (such as a government's) authority is exercised
Key performance indicator	A metric that indicates the performance of a policy
Monitoring period	The time over which the policy is monitored, which may include pre-policy monitoring and post-policy monitoring in addition to the policy implementation period
Negative impacts	Impacts that are perceived as unfavourable from the perspective of decision makers and stakeholders
Overlapping policies	Policies that interact with each other and that, when implemented together, have a combined effect less than the sum of their individual effects when implemented separately. This includes both policies that have the same or complementary goals, as well as counteracting or countervailing policies that have different or opposing goals
Parameter	A variable such as activity data or emission factors that are needed to estimate GHG impacts
Policy or action or policy and measures	An intervention taken or mandated by a government, institution, or other entity, which may include laws, regulations, and standards; taxes, charges, subsidies, and incentives; information instruments; voluntary agreements; implementation of new technologies, processes, or practices; and public or private sector financing and investment, among others.
Policy implementation period	The time period during which the policy is in effect
Policy scenario	A scenario that represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the presence of the policy (or package of policies) being assessed. The policy scenario is the same as the baseline scenario except that it includes the policy (or package of policies) being assessed
Positive impacts	Impacts that are perceived as favourable from the perspectives of decision makers and stakeholders

Rebound effect	Increased consumption that results from actions that increase efficiency and reduce consumer costs
Stakeholders	People, organisations, communities or individuals who are affected by and/or who have influence or power over the policy
Sustainable development impacts	Changes in environmental, social or economic conditions that result from a policy, such as changes in economic activity, employment, public health, air quality and energy security
Uncertainty	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Quantitative definition: Measurement that characterises the dispersion of values that could reasonably be attributed to a parameter.2. Qualitative definition: A general term that refers to the lack of certainty in data and methodological choices, such as the application of non-representative factors or methods, incomplete data, or lack of transparency.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFOLU	agriculture, forestry and other land use
C	carbon
CBA	cost benefit analysis
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CH₄	methane
CO₂	carbon dioxide
CO_{2e}	carbon dioxide equivalent
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	gross domestic product
GHG	greenhouse gas
GWP	global warming potential
ha	hectares
ICAT	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
kg	kilogram
MJ	megajoules
MRV	measurement, reporting and verification
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	non-governmental organisation
N₂O	nitrous oxide
tC	tonnes of carbon
tCO_{2e}	tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPLP	sustainable pastures and livestock production
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	US dollar
VCS	Verified Carbon Standard
WRI	World Resources Institute

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