

Agriculture Guidance

Guidance for assessing the greenhouse gas impacts of agriculture policies

May 2018

List of key recommendations

This document lists all of the key recommendations related to assessing GHG impacts of policies and actions contained in the ICAT *Agriculture Guidance*. Chapter 11 of the guidance lists all key recommendations related to reporting, which are not duplicated here.

Key recommendations are intended to assist users in producing credible impact assessments that pursue high quality and are based on the principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy.

The ICAT *Introductory Guide* provides further description on how and why key recommendations are used within the ICAT guidance documents, as well as more information about following either the “flexible approach” or the “key recommendations” approach when using the guidance.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter 2: Objectives of estimating GHG impacts

- Determine the objectives of the assessment at the beginning of the impact assessment process

Chapter 4: Using the guidance

- Base the assessment on the principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy

Chapter 5: Describing the policy

- Clearly describe the policy (or package of policies) that is being assessed

Chapter 6: Identifying impacts: How agriculture policies reduce emissions or enhance removals

- Identify all stakeholders affected by, or with influence on, the policy
- Identify the inputs and activities that go into implementing the policy
- Identify all intermediate effects of the policy
- Identify all potential GHG impacts of the policy
- Develop a causal chain

- Include all significant GHG impacts in the GHG assessment boundary
- Define the assessment period

Chapter 7: Estimating the baseline scenario and emissions

For enteric fermentation:

- Determine livestock categories and feed characterisation
- Estimate the baseline average annual population for the species mix
- Choose or derive emission factors
- Calculate the cumulative GHG emissions for the baseline scenario over the assessment period

For soil carbon sequestration:

- Stratify land by IPCC land-use category and soil management practices
- Estimate the area of land in each stratum
- Determine the soil carbon stock for each stratum
- Calculate the net change in soil carbon stock over the assessment period
- Calculate the cumulative GHG emissions and removals for the baseline scenario over the assessment period

Chapter 8: Estimating GHG impacts ex-ante

- Determine the maximum implementation potential of the policy
- Analyse policy design characteristics and national circumstances that may reduce the effectiveness of the policy, and account for their effect on the maximum implementation potential
- Analyse the financial feasibility of the policy for each stakeholder group, and account for the effect on the implementation potential of the policy
- Analyse other barriers that could reduce the effectiveness of the policy and account for their effect on the implementation potential
- Estimate the GHG impacts of the policy

Chapter 9: Estimating impacts ex-post

- Estimate or update baseline emissions using observed values for parameters that are not affected by the policy and estimated values for parameters that are affected by the policy
- Ascertain whether the inputs, activities and intermediate effects that were expected to occur according to the causal chain, actually occurred (if relevant)
- Estimate the GHG impacts of the policy over the assessment period for each GHG source and carbon pool included in the GHG assessment boundary

Chapter 10: Monitoring performance over time

- Identify the key performance indicators that will be used to track performance of the policy over time and define the parameters necessary to estimate GHG emissions ex-post
- Create a plan for monitoring key performance indicators and parameters
- Monitor each of the indicators and parameters over time, in accordance with the monitoring plan

Chapter 11: Reporting

- Report information about the assessment process and the GHG impacts resulting from the policy (including the information listed in Section 11.1)