INITIATIVE FOR CLIMATE ACTION TRANSPARENCY PROJECT: SET UP OF SECTORAL MRV SYSTEMS FOR THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

ICAT Agriculture Policy Assessment Workshop

6th & 7th October, 2021

Virtually Delivered via Zoom

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency - ICAT

PROJECT: SET UP OF SECTORAL MRV SYSTEMS FOR THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

ICAT Agriculture Policy Assessment Workshop

October 2021

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PREPARED UNDER

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Introduction

The Agriculture Policy Assessment Workshop was organized to provide training and support to relevant personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture and National Experts in agriculture under the Initiative for Climate Action and Transparency (ICAT) Project. The workshop was organized by the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division (CCICD) from the Ministry of Economy in collaboration with the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI). The sessions were conducted virtually and recorded via Zoom for 4 hours on the 6th and 7th of October, 2021. These are the workshop recordings for Day 1 and Day 2.

The 2-day workshop was designed strategically to train the national experts and the technical partners from the Ministry of Agriculture on understanding and implementing the ICAT Assessment Guide for Agriculture. This assessment guide is to be used by the national experts and the technical partners to carry out an impact assessment of the agriculture policies on Fiji's Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Prior to the workshop, a pre-workshop questionnaire was distributed amongst the anticipated participants to gather information to help plan the policy assessment workshop and better address the needs of the national experts and technical partners in assessing agriculture policies for impact analysis (See Annex 1: ICAT Fiji Policy Pre-Workshop Questionnaire). This training was facilitated by Ms. Katie Goldman and Ms. Alissa Benchimol from the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute.

Moreover, the welcoming remarks were delivered by Ms. Goldman where she gave a brief introduction regarding the objective of the workshop and how it links to the objectives of the ICAT project, and the inventory work carried out under Activity 1 of the project. This was followed by a quick overview of the training schedule and introductions from the participants and their role in the project. The next presentations were intended to set the stage for the policy assessment training. They included a review of the ICAT project and progress to date, GHG emissions from rice and livestock, and key agriculture policies in Fiji. Following this introduction, participants were led through a training on the ICAT Agriculture Assessment Guide. The agenda for this workshop can be found in *Appendix 1: Agenda for ICAT Agriculture Policy Assessment Workshop*. Details on the presentations are provided below.

A total of 18 participants attended the workshop, of which 11 were from the Ministry of Agriculture, 1 National Expert from Fiji National University, 2 National Experts from The University of the South Pacific, 2 from GHGMI and 2 from CCICD. A detailed participant list is provided in *Appendix 2: ICAT Policy Assessment Workshop – Participant List.* Under the post-workshop survey that included all participants apart from the representatives from GHGMI, 68.8 % of the 18 attendees were females while 31.3 % were males, as seen in Figure 1. The survey completion rate stood at 44 %, and the results of the survey will be articulated in this report.

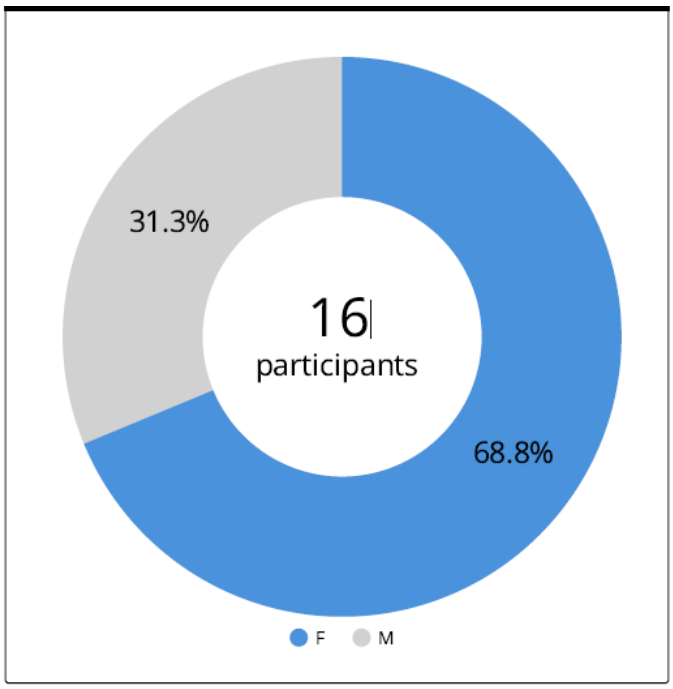

Figure 1: Total participants, disaggregated by gender

Workshop Presentations

The workshop was divided into four components, spread over the two days, and delivered in the form of presentations, quizzes, and exercises. The presentations made during the workshop were to assist the participants develop an understanding of the ICAT Assessment Guide for Agriculture and to use that knowledge to assist the national experts by identifying 2 existing, planned, or future agriculture policies for analysis using the ICAT methodology. This would include describing the policies using the ICAT template, developing causal chains and estimating baseline emissions. The following section gives an overview of the training that was provided during the two days of the workshop.

Day 1

The first day of the workshop started with a quick mentimeter warmup exercise and an overview of the ICAT project and progress to date. The first set of presentations for the workshop were based on "Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Policies Discussions". This began with a presentation given by the National Expert for Rice cultivation, Dr. Deeksha Krishna, on the estimates of GHG emissions for Fiji from Rice, followed by another presentation by the National Expert for Livestock, Dr. Francis Mani, on the GHG emissions estimates from enteric fermentation and manure management. The two presentations were a representation of the work carried out as part of Activity 1 of the ICAT Project and allowed for discussions amongst the participants regarding the GHG inventory estimates that were projected as well as possible recommendations for a more robust GHG inventory.

This session also included a presentation by Dr. Elva Borja (Senior Veterinary Officer at MoA and Virtual Learning Centre Coordinator for FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands) on the current Livestock policies and programmes of Fiji. In her presentation, Dr. Borja provided an insight on the various legislations under the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, MoA, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Economy, that govern animal health and production. Moreover, she also elaborated on the current policies and programmes that are in place through the various Government Ministries and partners on monitoring, managing, and improving animal health. Finally, the presentation concluded with an overview of the current implementation & review process for the various legislations, policies and programmes benefiting animal health and production. Copies of the presentations from this session are provided in *Appendix 3: Agriculture GHG Emissions and Livestock Presentations.*

After deliberations on the current GHG emissions from Livestock and Rice cultivation as well as on the Livestock policies and programmes for Fiji, the focus was shifted towards ICAT Policy Assessment. All presentations pertaining to the ICAT Policy Assessment and the ICAT Policy Assessment Guide for Agriculture were led by Ms. Katie Goldman from GHGMI. For the participants to grasp the importance and application of the workshop and the need to develop a working knowledge of the ICAT Policy Assessment Guidelines, Ms. Goldman provided a recap on the ICAT Policy Assessment goal and scope and went on to the first part of the workshop – **Part I: Methodology Overview, Key Steps & Principles –** and was supported through a presentation, Q&A, and a quiz to engage with the participants. **Part II: Defining the Assessment** was also covered in a similar manner through a presentation and Q&A session. This part of the workshop also included an exercise where the participants were divided into breakout groups to work together and describe the policy: Fiji Programme for Intensive Dairy Farms (IDF) using the provided ICAT template for policy assessment for the agriculture sector. The participants were required to present and discuss their results with the other groups.

This concluded Day 1 of the workshop.

Day 2

The second day of the workshop commenced with a continuation of **Part II: Defining the Assessment.** This part of the workshop also required the participants to work in breakout groups (same groups as Day 1) to complete 2 exercises on:

- identifying stakeholders, inputs and activities, intermediate effects of IDF
- defining the GHG assessment boundary and develop a causal chain for IDF

using the same ICAT Policy Assessment Template from Day 1.

This was followed by **Part III: Assessing Impacts** which was supported through a presentation, Q&A, and quiz.

The workshop came to a successful completion with a comprehensive wrap-up of the content that was covered over the 2 days by Ms. Goldman followed by an overview of the expected outcomes and deliverables for Activity 2 by the Project Coordinator, Ms. Nizbat.

Note: See *Appendix 4: ICAT Policy Assessment Guideline Presentations* for the workshop presentations and ICAT template.

Workshop Effectiveness

The overall rating of the workshop was very positive, with 71.4 % of the participants rating it as "good". The effectiveness of the workshop was measured through the post-workshop survey from ICAT and GHGMI. It was deduced from the post-workshop survey that participants showed an enhanced understanding of the application and implementation of the ICAT Policy Assessment Guideline for the Agriculture Sector, and the results of the survey are illustrated in Figure 2 below.

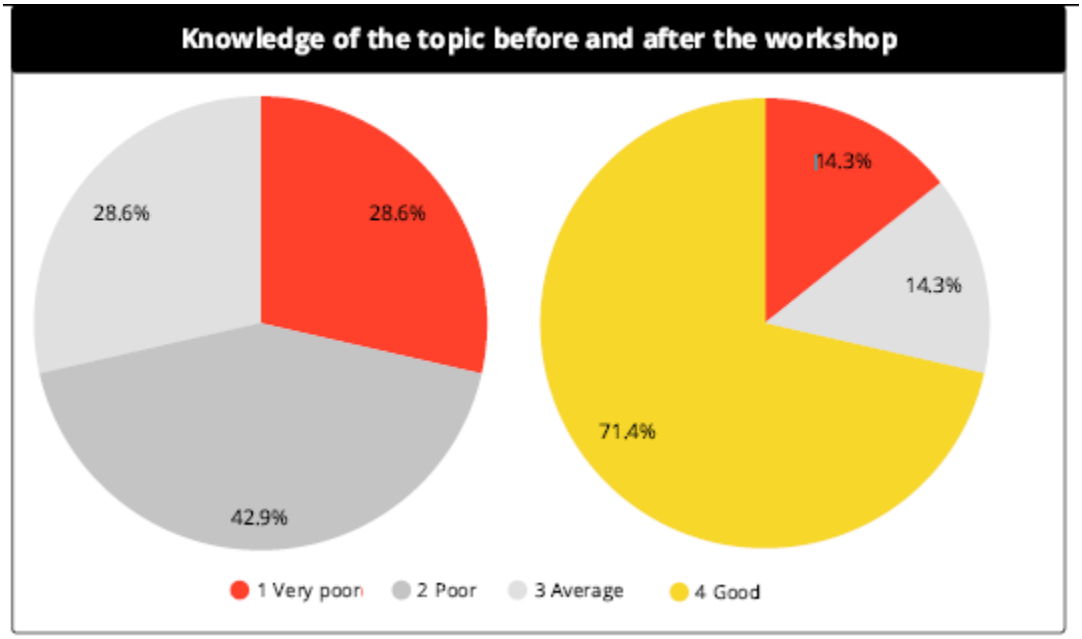

Figure 2: Knowledge on the topic before and after the workshop

It can also be inferred from the survey responses that the participants were able to develop a working knowledge on how to describe a policy and the various processes relevant for policy assessment. Additionally, the participants were also able to understand the importance, relationship, and impact of agriculture policies on GHG emissions and possible emission scenarios.

Moreover, considering that the participants of the workshop would be involved in Activity 2 of the ICAT Project, 57.1% of the survey participants indicated that the knowledge gained through the workshop will be applied on a regular basis. This analysis is illustrated in Figure 3 below:

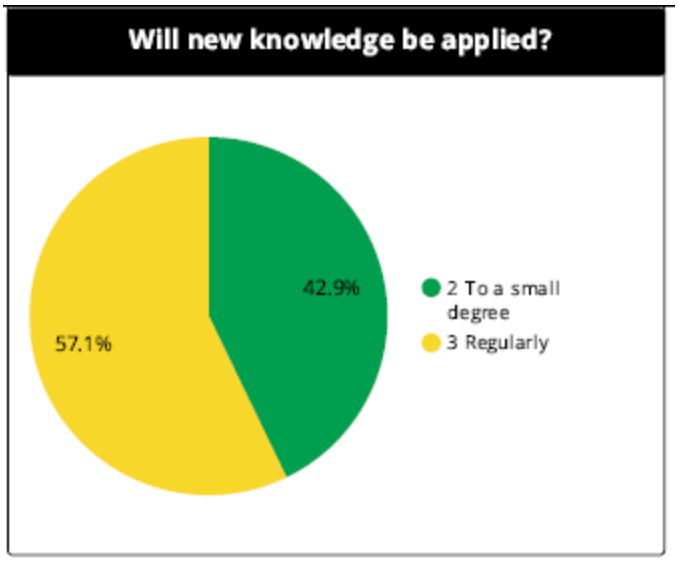

Figure 3: Application of new knowledge from the workshop

Workshop Outcome

Upon completion of the workshop, the participants were required to identify 2 existing, planned, or future Agriculture policies to analyse using the ICAT methodology and use the ICAT template to describe the policy and identify stakeholders, inputs and activities, intermediate effects, and GHG effects of the policy. This would be followed by the development of a causal chain. These outcomes are also part of Outcome E: Report on estimated GHG and SD impacts for two agriculture sector policies for the ICAT Project.

Recommendations

As per the post-workshop survey, recommendations for future training include:

- having a face-to-face workshop with the facilitators.
- Allow for more time for the breakout sessions so that the participants can grasp a better working knowledge of the policy assessment guideline.

Conclusion

The two-day work ended on a positive note. Ms. Nizbat thanked Ms. Goldman and Ms. Benchimol for the excellent delivery of the training and thanked the participants for their enthusiasm and active participation.

Annex 1

ICAT Fiji Policy Pre-Workshop Questionnaire

Background on the Fiji ICAT Project and Purpose of this Questionnaire

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) aims to help countries better assess the impacts of their climate policies and actions and fulfil their transparency commitments under the Paris Agreement. It does this by increasing the overall transparency capacities of countries, including the capacity to assess the contribution of climate policies and actions on countries' development objectives, and providing appropriate methodological information and tools to support evidence-based policymaking.

The ICAT Fiji project is coordinated through the Climate Change Division of Fiji with the Ministry of Agriculture being a key stakeholder. A technical support team from the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI) was assigned by ICAT to support Fiji in carrying out the ICAT project. The project began with a scoping phase to determine capacity gaps and needs for Fiji., which were used to establish the intended goals, scope, and outcomes of the Fiji ICAT project.

As a result of the scoping phase, it was determined that the ICAT project in Fiji should strengthen the national greenhouse inventory system in the agriculture sector by establishing a robust system for data collection and processing and providing a training program for local experts in agriculture. To date, a team of national consultants has been hired by the Climate Change Division, received training in GHG inventory preparation, and developed the GHG inventory estimates for livestock and rice cultivation, which are a subset of the emissions sources in the agriculture sector.

Another goal identified during the scoping phase, which builds on this enhanced inventory capacity, is to improve the capacity of Fiji to include the agriculture sector in its enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions, a key part of the Paris Agreement commitments. To this end, the ICAT project aims to develop a basic understanding of relevant ICAT tools for GHG and sustainable development policy impacts in agriculture, use those tools to assess impacts of two agriculture policies, and identify potential indicators for tracking the impacts of the two agricultural policies over time.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information that will help with planning the first policy assessment workshop for the Climate Change Division, Ministry of Agriculture and National Consultants.

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* Required

Please provide the following information about yourself

1. Name: *

_____

2. Position/Title: *

3. Organization: *

4. Gender (Optional)

Mark only one oval.

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say
- Other:

5. Educational Background (Degree and Major): *

6. Involvement in the Agriculture Sector in your current position: *

Section A: Relevant knowledge and experience with the topic.

What is your experience in the following topics?

7. Understanding greenhouse gas emissions in the agriculture sector *

Mark only one oval.

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

8. Preparing greenhouse gas inventories for the agriculture sector *

Mark only one oval.

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

9. Calculating future greenhouse gas emissions for the agriculture sector *

Mark only one oval.

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

10. Developing future greenhouse gas emissions scenarios for the agriculture sector *

Mark only one oval.

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

11. Performing greenhouse gas mitigation assessments for agriculture *

Mark only one oval.

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

12. Knowledge of sustainable development benefits of agriculture policies *

Mark only one oval.

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

13. To what extent is developing agricultural policies and programs part of your job? *

Mark only one oval.

- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Significantly

14. Are you familiar with the ICAT assessment guides? *

Mark only one oval.

- [ ] No
- [ ] Yes

15. If you answered yes to above, which ICAT assessment guides are you familiar with? *

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Introduction to Assessment Guides
- [ ] Renewable Energy
- [ ] Transport Pricing
- [ ] Forestry
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Building Efficiency
- [ ] Sustainable Development
- [ ] Transformational Change
- [ ] Non-state and Subnational Action
- [ ] Stakeholder Participation
- [ ] Technical Review

16. How often do you apply greenhouse gas and sustainable development impact analysis in your professional capacity? * *Mark only one oval.*

- [ ] Never
- [ ] Sometimes
- [ ] Regularly

Section B. Applicability of the workshop to you; your interest level in the topic.

17. Do you feel that training in "how to apply policy assessment methods for greenhouse gas and sustainable development impacts" will help you perform your job better? *

Mark only one oval.

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Somewhat

18. If you answered Yes or Somewhat, please explain how: *

19. What are your expectations for the training? *

20. What are the key topics that you would like to learn about? *

21. What do you see as your role in carrying out the policy assessment for the ICAT project? (Choose all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Provide advice and guidance on GHG impacts
- [ ] Provide advice and guidance on sustainable development impacts
- [ ] Collect data, design analysis, calculate impacts
- [ ] Design and track policy indicators
- [ ] Build policy indicator tracking tools
- [ ] Write the report
- [ ] Review the report and provide technical input
- [ ] Review the report and provide advice as a key stakeholder
- [ ] Use the results in consideration of Fiji's future Nationally Determined Contribution I
- [ ] don't know

Present your work!

22. Would you be willing to give a presentation on the agriculture policies and programs that you currently lead or support in your job? * *Mark only one oval.*

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

23. If you chose yes in the above, please provide a brief description of those policies and programs. *

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. You may answer “I don’t know” to any of the following questions if you have no information

D. Information on Fiji's agriculture and climate change policies.

24. 1. Are climate policy objectives, including objectives for both mitigation and adaptation, mainstreamed into agricultural policy? What is this process? *

25. 2. Is there legislation regulating the use of chemicals and pesticides in agriculture? *

26. 3. Are there policies, including legislative requirements or economic incentives, to promote reductions in GHG emissions from livestock and/or crop production? *

27. 4. Is adaptation planning integrated into national agricultural policy? How is resilience to climate risk incorporated into agricultural policy (i.e., through what process is it incorporated or through the input of which entities)? *

28. 5. Are there policies that seek to increase the amount of carbon stored in agricultural land? Which entities implement and/or enforce these policies? *

29. 6. Are there policies aiming at decreasing the amount of nitrogen (e.g., N2O emissions) and/or methane (CH4) released from agricultural lands and livestock? Which entities implement and/or enforce these policies? *

30. 7. Is there a mechanism/program/communication channel to identify, share and promote best farming practices to achieve GHG mitigation and adaptation goals (e.g., improved irrigation and soil management practices, choosing crops and varieties better adapted to climate change events, adjusting dates of planting and sowing treatments, identification of vulnerable areas)? *

31. 8. Is there any legislative requirement or economic incentive supporting low emissions rural development? Which entities implement and/or enforce these policies? *

32. 9. What barriers exist that make agricultural policy goals more challenging to accomplish? *

33. 10. What would improve your office's (and other offices relevant to the agriculture sector) ability to achieve the sectoral goals? *