ICAT Fiji – Project Validation & Lessons Learnt

Workshop Report

13 May 2022
Holiday Inn, Suva, Fiji

ICAT Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency - ICAT

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May 2022

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PREPARED UNDER

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1. Introduction

The **ICAT Fiji – Project Validation & Lessons Learnt Workshop** was held on the 13th of May 2022, to validate the results obtained through the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Project. It also discusses the lessons learnt and a way forward upon completion of the 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 workshop was conducted in hybrid mode where the face-to-face session was conducted at the Holiday Inn, Suva, Fiji. Participants from GHGMI and ICAT joined the workshop virtually through Zoom.

The workshop results from the three key components of the project were presented by the National Experts for validation by the stakeholders from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Additionally, the workshop was facilitated by Dr. Olia Glade (GHGMI), Ms. Zahra Nizbat (ICAT Fiji Project Coordinator and National Expert), Dr. Francis Mani (National Expert), Dr. Deeksha Krishna (National Expert), and Mr. Ravneeth Deewan (CCICD).

Furthermore, the welcome address and opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Prelish Lal, Acting Climate Finance Specialist, CCICD, followed by Mr. Oleg Bulanyi, Senior Programme Manager from ICAT. This was followed by presentations on the project outcomes by the National Experts, and a discussion session on Lessons Learnt and Way Forward. The agenda for this workshop can be found in Annex 1. Details pertaining to the workshop presentations and discussions are outlined under Section 2.

A total of 21 participants attended the workshop, of which 7 were from the Ministry of Agriculture, 1 National Expert from Fiji National University, 2 National Experts from The University of the South Pacific, 1 consultant, 4 from GHGMI, 5 from CCICD and 1 from ICAT. A detailed participant list is provided in Annex 2. Upon further analysis of the list of participants, there were 33 % male and 67% female in attendance during the workshop. This is also illustrated in the figure below.

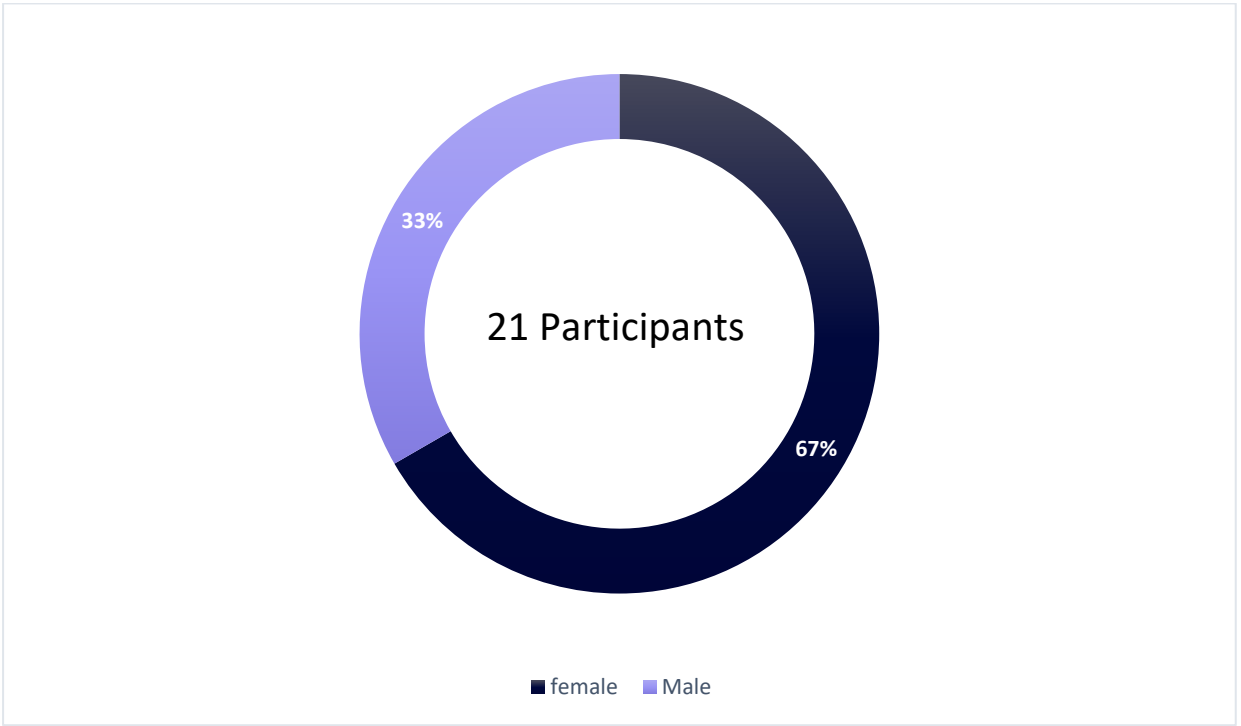

Figure 1: Total participants, disaggregated by gender

2. Workshop Presentation

To reiterate, the workshop presentations were based on the results of the following project activities:

i. ***Activity 1: Agriculture Sector Inventory Development***

ii. ***Activity 2: Agriculture Sector Policy Impact Assessment***

iii. ***Activity 3: Agriculture Sector Institutional MRV System Development***

The draft project reports for these activities were shared with the stakeholders prior to the workshop so that the participants had sufficient time to read the report and follow the presentations made to provide feedback during the workshop for validation of the results presented. Each presentation was followed by a discussion and validation of the results by the stakeholders present. The following sub-sections provide an overview of the workshop presentations.

2.1. Presentation and Discussion on results of ACTIVITY 1

Prior to the presentation, Dr. Glade gave a brief overview of Activity 1, focusing on the objectives, to allow the audience to understand what the project aimed to achieve through Activity 1.

The first presentation was by Ms. Nizbat (National Expert) on the GHG Emissions from Enteric fermentation and Manure Management Systems. The presentation detailed the objectives of Activity 1 for Fiji's livestock sector. The selection of key categories for GHG emissions from livestock and the rationale behind the use of the Tier 1 IPCC methodology for emission estimation was also discussed. The presentation further outlined the various sources of data that were used to develop the GHG inventory. Ultimately, the national expert illustrated and discussed the current inventory status, showing the GHG emission trends from enteric fermentation (methane) and manure management systems (methane and nitrous oxide) from 1995 – 2020. The presentation on the GHG inventory for livestock concluded with recommendations that would help to improve the inventory for Fiji.

The results presented to the stakeholders were validated and accepted.

In addition, Dr. Krishna (National Expert) presented the GHG inventory on rice cultivation. Similar to the presentation on livestock, this presentation gave an overview of Activity 1 in terms of rice cultivation – activity data, emission factors, and other parameters used for GHG inventory estimations. This was followed by the illustration of methane and carbon dioxide emission trends from rice cultivation (1994 – 2020), carbon dioxide emissions from urea application under rice cultivation (2003 – 2019), direct nitrous oxide emissions from managed soils (2003 – 2020) and indirect nitrous oxide emissions from managed soils (1994 – 2020), respectively. The presentation also outlined the necessary information required and a checklist for inventory estimation for GHG emissions under rice cultivation. The presentation concluded with recommendations for improvement of the inventory.

The results presented to the stakeholders were validated and accepted.

2.2. Presentation and Discussion on Results of ACTIVITY 2

A brief introduction was given by Ms. Goldman on the objectives of Activity 2, which allowed the audience to grasp an understanding of the purpose of policy impact assessment for the Fiji's Agriculture sector. The presentation was divided into three sections as follows:

Section A: This section focused on the objectives of the policy impact assessment deliverables to give the audience an overview of what the policy impact assessment was aiming to achieve. This information was

linked to the other sections which were later presented by the national experts. This section also illustrated the policy impact assessment process, in line with the ICAT Policy Assessment Guidelines. This also included a brief introduction to the Policy Review Template which was developed during the policy assessment phase of the project and used to select the appropriate policies for assessment. Furthermore, this was followed by an overview of the agriculture policies which were reviewed by the national experts to identify 2 policies for assessment and outlining the policies that were prioritised for impact assessment.

Section B: This section was presented by Dr. Mani on the results of the livestock policy impact assessment. The presentation gave an overview of the livestock policy inputs, activities, intermediate effects and GHG impacts which were factored into and illustrated in the causal chain for livestock policy implementation. This was followed by an illustration of the projected GHG emission trend from 2020 – 2030 (NDC period) which encompassed the with and without policy implementation scenarios. The key take-away was the 67% increase in cumulative emissions for the assessment period upon implementation of the policy for the NDC period. Furthermore, the presentation also highlighted the sustainable development (Environmental, Social and Economic) impacts due to the livestock policy implementation and identified the 10 SDGs which were implicated due to the implementation of the policy. The SDGs impacted include the following:

Figure 2: Impact on SDGs upon livestock policy implementation

Dr. Mani concluded his section of the presentation with recommendations for including the agriculture sector in Fijis enhanced NDCs.

Section C: This section was presented by Dr. Krishna on the results of the policy impact assessment for the rice policy. The presentation began with an illustration of the causal chain for the rice policy implementation, identifying the policy, inputs and activities, intermediate effects, GHG impacts, and market-based effects. This was followed by a quantified illustration of the GHG impacts under the baseline scenario and the policy scenario, followed by a comparison between the annual with- and without-policy GHG emission trends for the period between 2020 – 2030. This approach was similar to that of livestock policy impact assessment. Furthermore, Dr. Krishna elaborated on the potential GHG impacts arising from the implementation of the rice policy which further extended to the sustainable development impacts arising from the implementation of the rice policy. Dr. Krishna's presentation concluded with recommendations for the improvement of management practices to reduce emissions from rice cultivation.

The results presented to the stakeholders for the policy impact assessment were validated and accepted.

2.3. Presentation and Discussion of Results of ACTIVITY 3

A brief introduction was given by Dr. Glade on the objectives of Activity 3, the expected outcomes, and MoA's contribution to finalizing the National Inventory Systems (NIS) Guidelines for the Fiji's Agriculture Sector through the GHG MRV Systems Development Workshop. The NIS was divided into 6 key components which were facilitated through the presentation by the national experts. The following is a breakdown of the presentation structure:

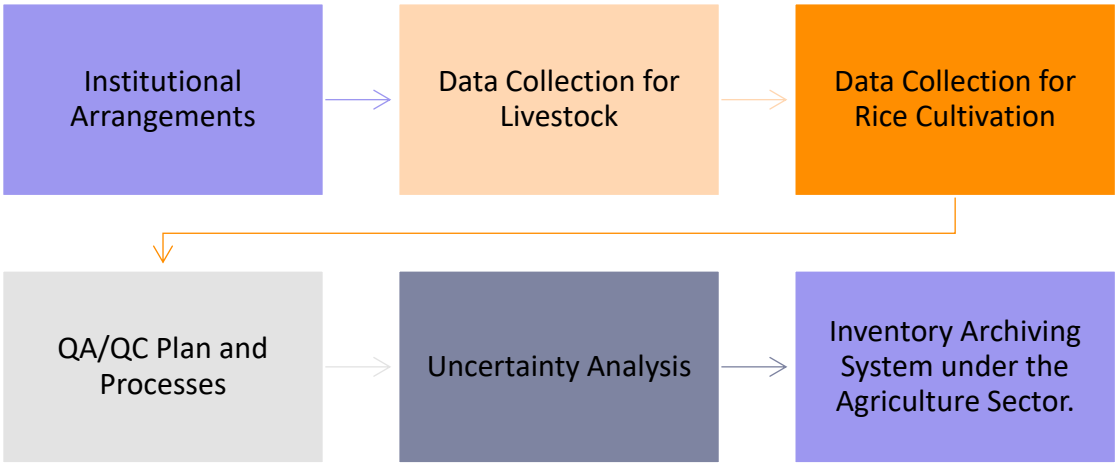

Figure 3: Overview of Activity 3 presentation structure

The institutional arrangements for Fiji's agriculture sector were presented by Ms. Nizbat. This included an overview of the steps involved in the development of the institutional arrangements for GHG inventory management for livestock and rice cultivation. Each step was thoroughly explained to the audience and the proposed institutional arrangement for livestock and rice cultivation was illustrated. This also included the processes and institutional arrangements for data approval and was presented by Ms. Mani. Furthermore, Ms. Nizbat also elaborated on proposed recommendation for potential improvements in the management structure of the NIS and a proposed plan for the National GHG Inventory Cycle.

The next presenter, Dr. Mani, presented on the data collection processed for the development of the livestock category GHG inventory. The presentation also illustrated the activity data collection flowchart which was an outcome of the GHG MRV Systems Development Workshop. Similarly, Dr. Deeksha presented the data collection processes for rice cultivation and elaborated on the activity data collection flowchart for rice cultivation.

The next section of the NIS presentation was dedicated to the QA/QC plan and process for both livestock and Rice. This section of the presentation was facilitated by Dr. Mani. He elaborated steps involved in the QA/QC plan and the QA/QC procedures for the Agriculture Sector which had been developed as an outcome of Activity 3. The presentation on QA/QC analysis concluded with an illustrative demonstration of the QA/QC processes, in the form of a flowchart, for livestock and rice cultivation.

The presentation on Uncertainty Estimation was facilitated by Dr. Krishna. The presentation defined uncertainty analysis, elaborated on the processes involved, its application within the NGGI as per the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, identified potential personnel to conduct uncertainty analysis, and recommendations for reducing uncertainty within the inventory for the agriculture sector.

The presentation further shifted to the Archiving System and was facilitated by Ms. Mani. It included a

description of the proposed archiving system and highlighted the entities which should be archived for the purpose of developing as well as archiving the NGGI for Fiji's Agriculture sector. She further elaborated on the plan, procedures, and the overall archiving procedure checklist for the proposed archiving system. The presentation concluded with recommendations for improvement of the inventory archiving system.

With minor feedback/clarification regarding the specification of some key responsible entities for data collection (rice) and the archiving system, the NIS was validated and approved by the stakeholders present during the workshop

With this, the presentations on the results and outcomes of the ICAT project had concluded.

3. Key Takeaways and Lessons Learnt

The lessons learned session was facilitated by Mr. Deewan from the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Economy. Some of the key takeaways which were highlighted include:

- Implementation of the proposed institutional arrangements and recommendations for the NGGI reporting system for Fiji's Agriculture sector.
- Further development of the domestic expertise on ICAT tools, GHG data collection, and processing tools for policy and inventory work, considering the amount and complexity of the data and information that need to be processed for the GHG inventory.
- Capacity building on practical aspects of GHG emission estimation.
- Continuation of the work from this project to identify indicators to track GHG and SD impacts of agriculture sector policies.
- Recommendation to include the agriculture sector policies in Fiji's enhanced NDC.

To gather feedback from the stakeholder on their perspective of key lessons learned through the ICAT project, a Mentimeter poll was used. This poll was facilitated by Ms. Benchimol. The feedback gathered through the Mentimeter poll was summarised as follows:

Q1. What are some key outcomes or takeaways that have resulted from this project?

- Importance of collecting accurate data.
- Training of national experts on inventory development and policy impact assessment using the ICAT tool.
- The development of the National Inventory Systems Guidelines.
- Development of an arching system for activity data and inventory data.
- The need for relevant government ministries to work together and coordinate mitigation projects.
- Importance of data in policymaking.
- The need to include the agriculture sector policies in Fijis' future NDCs, given the results of the policy assessment activity.
- The extreme importance of country-specific uncertainty values for the national data.

- Importance of practical training for data collection and having appropriate data.
- The GHG emissions also have an impact on SD, and this can affect the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Mapping out essential processes that will result in ensuring we are able to collect reliable and consistent data.
- A clear outline of the approval processes.
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of the NIS.
- Waste sector ex-ante for Phase 2.
- The establishment of a climate change team and the steering committee within the institutional arrangement for inventory development and approval.

Q2. What are some areas of strength identified in terms of data availability?

- There is a strong intention to implement a more structured approach to data collection and processing.
- Interest from data vendors to be provided with the appropriate data collection templates.
- The NIS guidelines are a great tool for establishing the National MRV system.
- Data vendors have been identified and training will be provided on the appropriate recording of activity data.
- The availability of templates within MoA for data collection which can be used and modified for activity data collection – PHASE 2!

Q3. What are some areas of strength identified in terms of QA/QC procedures?

- QA/QC plan and process have been developed.
- The importance of appointing a national QA/QC coordinator.
- The QC procedures are supplemented by specific and quantifiable templates.

Q4. What are some strengths identified in terms of Institutional Arrangement for inventory compilation for the Ag sector?

- MoU to be established and mandated with clear and defined roles for inventory development.
- A Steering committee will be established along with the climate change team.
- Processes are identified and can be aligned to Standard Operating Procedures within the Ministries.
- The climate change act provided a good basis for the development of the institutional arrangements.
- The institutional arrangements are well-designed by the project team, and it is well discussed with the MoA and MoE stakeholders.
- The need to have a good understanding between the Ministries with a good indication of

the roles of each focal point.

- The proposed institutional arrangement brings together different agencies and Ministries to make them work together as a team – exactly as the Climate Change Act had envisioned.

Q5. What are some areas of strength identified in terms of Institutional Arrangement for Inventory Archiving System?

- The steps to establish the archiving system are well outlined within the institutional arrangement.
- Archiving systems is a useful source of activity data and previously determined GHG inventories.
- CCICD current has something similar to the proposed archiving system, however, needs to be improved.
- The proposed archiving structure, roles, and responsibilities will help to implement the proposed archiving system.
- The proposed archiving system is in line with the Climate Change Act.

Q6. What are some of the key challenges that have been identified through this project in terms of agriculture sector inventory compilation?

- Lack of data availability and data gaps and technical support for data collection and archiving.
- Data is not collected periodically and in the correct format.
- The need for extension officers to have strong support in terms of tools (template) and provision of proper training to use it.
- Limited or lack of access to historic data due to lack of archiving system.
- Need for further training on emission calculations, and the use of emission calculation software and templates.
- Lack of data collection template which lists the correct format in which the data must be recorded.

Q7. Can you identify potential improvements that can be made to improve the National Inventory System (possibly in Phase 2 of the ICAT Fiji Project)?

- Develop a template for data collection so that data is provided in an appropriate format for inventory compilation. Training must also be provided to extension officers and farmers on how to use these templates.
- Institutional arrangement for data collection and inventory compilation.
- Improve mechanism for data collection and archiving.
- Establishment of the steering committee and the climate change team.
- Understanding and factoring in the on-ground challenges and practicalities of data collection.

- Implement the proposed Institutional Arrangements.
- Implement the National Systems Guidelines.
- Implement the development of the proposed archiving system.
- MoUs developed and mandated in line with the roles and responsibilities identified as part of the institutional arrangements.

Q8. What are some of the key challenges that have been identified through this project in terms of capacity to carry out Agriculture policy impact assessment?

- There was a disconnection between the policy team and the rice/livestock divisions – this project helped bridge some of the gaps.
- Lack of appropriate policies from a mitigation point of view.
- Consultation on agriculture policy development can be reviewed using the ICAT Assessment Guidelines to understand the GHG and SD impacts upon implementation.
- Lack of a proper archiving system from which national experts could have gained access to the agriculture policies.

Q9. What are potential improvements that can be made to increase policy impact assessment capacity for the agriculture sector and/or to inform future NDC updates?

- Include agriculture policies in future NDC updates.
- Technical capacity building for policy impact assessment.
- Development of policies with a focus on mitigation while also increasing production – improved breed/ crop variety.
- NDC tracking system needs to be set up, focusing on the agriculture sector.
- Propose a pathway to include Agriculture sector policies in Future NDCs.
- Review of existing policies using the ICAT Policy Assessment Guidelines.

4. Discussions on Way Forward

The following is a proposed way forward upon completion of this project in terms of support required through the ICAT Phase 2 Project:

- Design, develop, and pilot a survey for livestock data collection for the Extension Officers based on the IPCC data requirements for estimating emissions in GHG inventories.
- Perform targeted capacity-building seminars for the data collection officers (Extension Officers) on data collection templates.
- The IPPU sector emissions assessment for HFC emissions for:
    - GHG inventory
    - Baseline calculation and progress monitoring for the Kigali amendment under the Montreal protocol

- Design TORs for the Climate Change focal points for respective line Ministries and agencies to facilitate the operationalization of the Climate Change Act.

The following points highlight the strengthening of Fiji's reporting to UNFCCC, which the ICAT Fiji Project ensures:

- Continuous and sustainable support of Agriculture GHG Inventory and Enhanced Transparency Report Preparation.
- Credible baseline estimations to enable mitigation projects for generating revenue through carbon credits.
- Improvement and strengthening of national GHG reporting under the UNFCCC (Fiji's BUR and NC) and the ETF under the Paris Agreement.
- Implementation of the project recommendation regarding the inclusion of agriculture sector intensity-based targets as well as the agriculture sector policies into Fiji's Enhanced NDC.
- Outcome documents will feed into the work CCICD and carry out in the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Project.

5. Conclusion

The validation and lessons learned workshop concluded successfully where the project deliverables were presented by the national experts to the stakeholders present which were then validated and approved. The lessons learned through the project were also discussed and documented with a proposed outline for a way forward upon successful completion of the ICAT Project.

Annex 1: Workshop Agenda

AGENDA
ICAT Project Lessons Workshop

Friday, May 13, 2022

Participants: Internal Climate Change Working Group, ICAT National Consultants, ICAT Technical Support Team from the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute
Location: Holiday Inn, Suva.
To Join Zoom Meeting:

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87960056462?pwd=QVhKYzJSV003enVrZjdHMXlMMnlXUT09

Meeting ID: 879 6005 6462
Passcode: 435439

TIME (FIJI)	TOPIC	PRESENTER
8.00 AM	**Participant Registration**	Participants to Sign-in
8:10 AM	**Welcome, Opening Remarks**	CCICD, MOE
8:20 AM	**Introduction**	ICAT Secretariat (TBC)
8:30 AM	**Presentation and Discussion on results of ACTIVITY 1** **1. Introduction** **2. Presentation on results of activities for the Livestock and Rice Cultivation Sector**	Dr. Olia Glade (GHGMI). Zahra Nizbat (Project Coordinator), Dr. Deeksha Krishna (National Expert)
9:30 AM	**Presentation and Discussion on results of ACTIVITY 2** **1. Introduction** **2. Policy Assessment/Process** **3. Results of activities for the Livestock and Rice Cultivation Sector**	Katie Goldman (GHGMI). Zahra Nizbat (Project Coordinator), Dr. Francis Mani & Dr. Deeksha Krishna (National Experts)
Morning Tea Break @ 10:30 AM		
10:45 AM	**Presentation and Discussion on results of ACTIVITY 3** **1. Introduction** **2. Institutional Arrangements** **3. Data Collection, QA/QC & Uncertainties**	Dr. Olia Glade (GHGMI). Zahra Nizbat (Project Coordinator) Dr. Francis Mani & Dr.

	4. Approval Process and Inventory Archiving System under the Agriculture Sector	Deeksha Krishna (National Experts) Ms. Jeanette Mani (Consultant)
11:45 AM	**Key Takeaways and Lessons Learnt**	Open Discussion
Lunch @ 12:45		
1:45 PM	**Discussions on Way Forward**	Open Discussion
2.45 PM	**Closing Remarks**	Ministry of Economy Representative
Break Off @ 3pm		

Annex 3: Agriculture Sector Policy Review Template

Descriptors	Policy 1	Policy 2	Policy 3	Policy 4	Policy 5
Name of Policy					
Cabinet Approval Date					
Description (Provide a short summary of the policy being reviewed)					
Purpose (State the purpose of the policy. What is the policy trying to achieve or why has it been developed?)					
Background & Scope (What are some of the circumstances that led to the development and need for the policy?)					
Significance of the policy (Broader context for understanding the policy)					
Responsible entities/ key stakeholders (who will implement the policy? Who will be the beneficiaries of this policy?					
Are there any key/specific interventions? If yes, state them. (These may include specific mitigation practices and/or the use of technology as part of the policy. Are beneficiaries provided with start-up materials from the Ministry or partner agencies?).					

Descriptors	Policy 1	Policy 2	Policy 3	Policy 4	Policy 5
Financial implications (Does the policy have a designated budget or funding source to make it feasible for implementation?					
Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification of the policy (Does the policy have a defined MRV plan/ process outlined? If yes, who are the responsible stakeholders involved? Is there a defined institutional arrangement to monitor, review and verify the policy implications on a regular basis in a timely manner?)					
Planned or implemented					
Status of implementation (Has funding been authorized; how many hectares or farmers have been impacted? How long until complete)					
The expected level of penetration (E.g., 50% of idle land; 25% of eligible households, etc.)					
Potential Ag GHG source categories impacted by the policies (CH4 from enteric fermentation, CH4 and N2O from manure management, CO2 from liming, N2O from soils, soil carbon)					
For each source listed above, will the impact be low, medium, or high (will need to think of a qualitative scale for this; can be based on expert judgment and the NIR for Fiji)					

Descriptors	Policy 1	Policy 2	Policy 3	Policy 4	Policy 5
What is the current level of data availability for estimating GHG emissions from the impacted source categories? (e.g., High, Medium, Low, unknown)					
What are the potential Sustainable Development impacts of the policy?					
What is the level of barriers or risks to the successful implementation of the policy?					
Could the policy help achieve goals in Fiji's Agriculture Sector Policy Agenda and/or 5-year Strategic Development Plan? Which ones? Which priority area does this align with					
Could the policy help achieve goals in Fiji's Low Emissions Development Strategy? Which ones?					
Recommendations to consider for future NDC update					