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Monitoring and Assessment of GHG Emissions and Mitigation Potentials in Agriculture Project - GCP /GLO/286/GER

Management response to the final evaluation report

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MAGHG Terminal Evaluation Report
Management Response from the MAGHG management team
GCP/GLO/286/GER

1 Overall assessment:

Attainment of Project Objectives and Results

1. The Evaluation Report positively assessed the overall attainment of the Objectives and Results of the Project very positively, recognizing that the Project contributed to enhance the global knowledge base on GHG emissions and mitigation potentials for the agriculture sector, through user friendly applications. While considering that the overall goal (Outcome) of the Project was very ambitious, the report furthermore recognized that the Project contributed to improving climate change mitigation linked to long term agricultural productivity.
2. The Evaluation rated as excellent the overall quality of the technical assistance provided by the Project to member countries and relevant Agencies, including the qualification and experience of the Project team members.

Relevance of the Project

3. The Evaluation found that the Project was well aligned with the strategic objectives of FAO, and very relevant to the climate change mitigation program of the Organization. The knowledge and information produced by the Project was rated as highly relevant to the Project's stakeholders. In particular, the relevance to National greenhouse gas (GHG) compilers was confirmed by the results of an extensive e-survey carried out as part of the evaluation.

Impact

4. The Project Outcome was deemed to be able to generate a positive impact on both the medium and long term. In particular, the results of the Project in terms of capacity development were considered highly useful to stakeholders, improving the ability of stakeholders in the countries involved towards improved reporting and communication of their National GHG Inventories.

Sustainability of Project Outcomes

5. The Evaluation Report noted that, despite limits in the sustainability strategy originally designed in the Project document, the actual Project implementation, in terms of operational and functional connections of the GHG database products directly within FAOSTAT, contributed decisively to the long-term sustainability of the Project outcome. The Evaluation also noted that the knowledge products produced by the Project, through high-impact scientific papers, IPCC reports and other assessments, will remain available well into the future.

Achievement of Outputs and Activities

6. The Evaluation Report recognized that the Project achieved its eight expected outputs, producing the planned knowledge base and associated tools with excellent quality. Furthermore, the Evaluation Report valued significantly the efforts developed by the Project in terms of implementing robust QA/QC procedures, which increased the reliability and therefore acceptability of Project outputs. Specific references to this end were made to the FAOSTAT Emissions database, which was peer-reviewed by over one hundred experts worldwide, and to the Life Cycle Assessment Guidelines, which were tested through the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership.

Monitoring and Evaluation

7. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system implemented by the Project was considered by the Evaluation Report to be overly based on performance (deliverables) rather than on development results. The Evaluation found that the indicators proposed in the Project document were not SMART enough to assess the full relevancy of results. Examples included the monitoring of training activities,

of the adoption by countries of GHG reporting tools, and of the increased awareness of agricultural mitigation options by UNFCCC negotiators. In these specific cases, while the Evaluation Report recognized that the Project had reached its stated goals (as confirmed through dedicated surveys of beneficiaries carried out by the Evaluation Team), yet indicated that the proposed targets were not realistic while the indicators were insufficient. The root cause of this was found in a disconnect between the revised project strategy and the indicators and targets in the original Project documents, which were never updated—making it difficult to quantify achievement of some outputs in the progress reporting.

8. The Project team considered the M&E system implemented by the Project to be of sufficient quality to ensure good input into a result-based management and thus to assess the effectiveness of the implemented actions. The suggestions of the Evaluation Report have been taken into account in the design of a more effective M&E for the MAGHG2 proposal.

Other

A. Gender

9. Gender equality issues were the evaluated factor that received a low rating. The Evaluation Report found a good gender balance in the team composition and responsibilities, yet no specific reference to gender in the Project progress reports, nor in the latest MICCA publication on “National Planning for GHG Mitigation in Agriculture.” Introducing gender aspects in the GHG emission data would require the availability of gender disaggregated activity data. While FAO and the member countries are making efforts to obtain such disaggregation, this is not currently available as input to the assessments.

10. In addition, it should be noticed that the Project contributed to a well-distributed, gender-specific MICCA publication, “Gender and Climate Change,” published in collaboration with several partners within and outside FAO. Unfortunately this publication was not brought to the attention of the Evaluation Team in time for consideration and inclusion in the relevant Annex 4 of the Evaluation Report.

B. Capacity Development

11. The CD activities implemented by the Project were assessed positively. The Project’s Regional Workshops were found of high quality and deemed to be effective events needed to transfer the knowledge and tools produced by the Project. Workshops participants and relevant stakeholders reported positive feedback on the usefulness of the information and tools provided by the Project. The Evaluation Report highlighted that the Regional Workshops raised the awareness of National GHG compilers, as confirmed by the respondents to a dedicated e-survey conducted by the Evaluation Team. In addition, the Evaluation Report stated that the Project initiated innovative ways to support the development of National GHG emissions inventories for the AFOLU sector, through partnering with relevant international agencies and programmes involved in GHG emissions inventories (e.g., UN-REDD, UNDP, UNFCCC, IPCC, CD REDD). As a consequence, the Evaluation report recommended that more work be developed by FAO alongside the directions taken by the Project, in order to further strengthen relevant actors and stakeholders at National and Regional level. This suggestion has been amply incorporated in the current MAGHG2 Project proposal.

Follow-up Activities

12. A follow-up Project proposal, MAGHG2, which builds on the knowledge base, the analysis tools and capacity development activities of MAGHG, as well as incorporates suggestions made in the Evaluation Report, was submitted to the donor for funding. The Evaluation Report recommends that the donor consider funding this follow-up proposal, as a means to extend FAO support of relevant stakeholders in member Countries in the area of climate change mitigation response actions, linked to rural development and food security goals, and grounded in solid data and useful analysis tools for policy-relevant decision making.

2 Management response matrix

Management response to the (Evaluation Title)					Date
Evaluation Recommendation	Management response Accepted, partially accepted or rejected and comment on the Recommendation	Management plan			Further funding required (Y or N)
		Action to be taken	Responsible unit	Timeframe	
Insert title of section, if any					
Recommendation 1: Revise and finalize the MAGHG2 proposal based on the assessment provided in this evaluation report.	Accepted The MAGHG 2 ProDoc was revised by taking into account the Evaluation Report	The MAGHG2 ProDoc has been revised to include an even stronger focus on new data analysis tools and a stronger dissemination component, via cooperation and alignment with activities and work programmes of relevant international agencies and programmes.	NRC, ESS	completed	N
Recommendation 2: The MAGHG2 project should focus on the dissemination of knowledge and tools to member countries and other groups of stakeholders.	Accepted The Proposal for MAGHG2 was re-elaborated with a renewed focus towards enhancing knowledge dissemination, via dedicated tools for use by member countries and stakeholders—including relevant international organizations and programmes.	The MAGHG2 ProDoc has been revised accordingly.	NRC, ESS	completed	N
Recommendation 3: Explore the possibility of developing a larger project focusing on supporting member countries to develop their mitigation strategies and actions (NAMAs) and to strengthen their reporting obligations.	Accepted Noted. In fact, specific components of member country support towards improved NAMA processes are already part of the proposed new project. FAO is seeking additional funding to increase country-level work towards NAMA support, based on the broad knowledge and tools already available both within the MICCA programme as well as the various sectoral Departments of FAO	Contacts will be taken with countries and relevant international agencies, in the context of the activities described above, to assess the actual possibility of establishing global and country-level NAMA support activities	NRC	2014/2015	Y
Recommendation 4: FAO should develop/expand its MICCA strategy with objective(s), lines of activities and links to other FAO programmes and projects, including the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) initiative and the upcoming FAO-GEF portfolio.	Accepted Noted. The proposed new project activities are consistent with FAO Strategic Objective 2, and to this end they will contribute relevantly to CSA activities at FAO. The possibilities to broaden the MICCA strategy will be explored	An internal discussion on the MICCA program has started with a management/staff meeting in April 2014. An extension of the Norway funding is being requested to Dec 2015, in order to allow for a continuation and expansion of NRC mitigation activities and a smooth transition towards the	NRC	2014-2015	N

		planned MAGHG2 project, as described in the evaluation report. Contacts with the GEF, both at FAO and global level, have been initiated to investigate a possible interest and role of the MAGHG2 tools as a global support analysis platform for GEF projects.			
Recommendation 5: Strengthen the alignment of the database structure to the 2006 IPCC guidelines and UNFCCC requirements.	Rejected Detailed technical answers on the differences highlighted were provided to document the alignment already in place between the FAO GHG data products and the IPCC Guidelines. The project has worked – and continues to work— in very close contact with the IPCC Task Force on National GHG Inventories and the UNFCCC consultative group of experts (CGE) for GHG inventories, ensuring alignment of the FAO GHG data tools with IPCC guidelines—while allowing FAO freedom to follow different data categorizations in very specific few instances, such as those related to energy and net forest conversion.	None specific to this recommendation. However, it should be noted that the Norwegian project is continuing close technical and strategic collaboration with the IPCC Task Force on GHG Inventories, as well as with the UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts, in order to ensure coherent alignment of the FAO tools with both IPCC and UNFCCC guidelines and international climate policy requirements.	NRC, ESS	-	N
Recommendation 6: Develop some GHG emissions comparison functions in the GHG emissions database in order to perform comparisons with the data officially communicated by Parties under the UNFCCC obligations.	Accepted Noted. These functional developments are part of the new proposed project.	A renewed focus on GHG data analysis tools has been developed and proposed for implementation under the proposed MAGHG2 project.	NRC, ESS	2014-2017	No extra funding beyond proposed project