The Global Research Alliance and the Livestock Agenda of Action

Neil Fraser
New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Phuket, Thailand, December 2011
Summary

• Background
• Structure
• Progress update
• Funding mechanisms
• Links to Agenda of Action
Background

• Agriculture’s contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions
• Projected increases in agricultural emissions as global demand for food grows
• Agriculture also has to adapt to a changing climate
• Opportunities to reduce GHG emissions while working towards food security and adaptation objectives
• Collaboration between countries is essential

PRODUCTIVITY + EFFICIENCY = LESS EMISSIONS & MORE FOOD
The Alliance

- Launched in December 2009

- Brings countries together to find ways to grow more food without growing greenhouse gas emissions:
  - Find ways to reduce the emissions intensity of agricultural production systems and increase their potential for soil carbon sequestration, while enhancing food security
  - Improve understanding, measurement and estimation of agricultural emissions
  - Improve farmers’ access to agricultural mitigation technologies and best practices
Membership

32 member countries:

Argentina  
Australia  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
China  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  

Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Ghana  
Indonesia  
Italy  
Ireland  

Korea  
Japan  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Peru  

Philippines  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
UK  
United States  
Uruguay  
Vietnam
Structure

At the centre:

• **Three Research Groups:**
  – Livestock (Ruminant and Non-ruminant Sub-groups) (New Zealand and Netherlands)
  – Paddy Rice
  – Croplands

• **Two Cross-cutting Groups:**
  – Soil carbon and nitrogen cycling
  – Inventories and measurement

**Held together by a Charter**
**Supported by a Secretariat**
Progress update

- Ministerial Summit in Rome 24 June: Charter signed
- Approaches to potential partner organisations underway (incl. FAO)
- Research and Cross-cutting Group meetings (Oct-Nov)
- Initial collaborative projects underway: best practice manuals, technical guides, research protocols, information and data sharing networks
- NZ international research fund opening in Sept 2011
New Zealand Fund for Global Partnerships in Livestock Emissions Research

• Established by New Zealand, September 2011
• Contestable, international fund
• NZ$25 million over 4 yrs
• Support research on mitigating GHG emissions from pastoral livestock farming
  – Manipulating rumen function
  – Reduce N2O emissions from soils in grazing systems
  – Manipulating soil C change in grazing systems
  – Tools for farmer decision making in grazing systems
Other means of New Zealand support

- **Livestock Emissions & Abatement Research Network (LEARN) Fellowship programme**
  - Technician award
  - Co-funded PhD Scholarship
  - Postdoctoral Fellowship

- **Global Research Alliance Senior Scientist (GRASS) award for scientific exchanges**

- **Livestock Group projects** (networks, manuals, guidelines, database,...., plus six further projects)
Links to Agenda of Action

- AoA can be a conduit for dissemination of Alliance results - e.g. pilot projects
- AoA can help identify research priorities for the livestock sector, including ‘Restoring value to grasslands’
- AoA can help mobilise funding in support of Alliance activities
- Further clarification and suggestions when AoA structures and governance formalised
For more information

Website: www.globalresearchalliance.org
Email: secretariat@globalresearchalliance.org.nz

Other sites of interest:
www.nzagrcc.org.nz
www.maf.govt.nz/nzlivestockkemissionsfund