

## Dominican Republic Livestock Protocol Workgroup Meeting 2 Notes and Takeaways

Work Group Meeting #2 Notes – 03/09/2023 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm (DR time)

**Reserve Attendees:** Amy Kessler, Rachel Mooney, Claudia Jurado

[Link to review recording](#)

### Workgroup Members in attendance:

| Organization (alphabetically)                  | Name                              | Present (P) or Absent (A) |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| AB Energía EE.UU., LLC                         | Jesus Solano                      | P                         |
| ATOA Consulting Pty Ltd                        | Sami Osman                        | P                         |
| Independent Consultant                         | Tomás Grammig                     | P                         |
| Independent Consultant                         | Nelly Cuello                      | P                         |
| MéxicoCO2                                      | David Colin                       | P                         |
| Ministry of Environment,<br>Dominican Republic | Kenia Feliz                       | P                         |
| Ministry of Environment,<br>Dominican Republic | Cesar Abrill                      | P                         |
| Nestlé Dominicana                              | Juan Crousset                     | A                         |
| P3Movilidad                                    | Josefina Fernandez<br>McEnvoy     | P                         |
| Ruby Canyon Environmental                      | Miguel Angel Freyermuth<br>Corona | A                         |
| Terralimpia Biogás Soluciones                  | Carolina Porrello                 | P                         |

### Agenda:

- Introductions
- Process Overview
- Protocol Considerations and Workgroup Comments
  - Project Definition – Eligible livestock categories
  - Social and Environmental Safeguards
  - Anaerobic Baseline – Greenfields
  - Site-specific B<sub>0</sub> value
  - Other comments
  - Open Discussion
- Next Steps

### Main Points of Discussion and Decisions Made:

1. **Chicken Waste Eligibility?**
  - The Reserve highlighted that chicken farms or beef cattle cannot be included without further evidence that they meet the baseline scenario requirements. Workgroup members

were informed that future versions of the protocol could continue to evaluate chicken waste eligibility.

- The workgroup agreed to share studies and information showing uncontrolled anaerobic digestion is the common practice in the DR.
- The workgroup identified key contacts to determine the number of existing chicken farms in the Dominican Republic, the current common practice for manure management, and the presence of biodigesters in chicken farms.

## **2. Should beef cattle be eligible?**

- The Reserve highlighted that there was no further discussion or input to include beef cattle. Likewise, workgroup members were informed that future versions of the protocol could continue to evaluate beef cattle waste eligibility.

## **3. Social safeguards**

- The Reserve highlighted that there was no further discussion or input on the safeguards concerning free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) and ongoing notification, participation, and documentation. There is no change to what was proposed.
- The workgroup agreed to the inclusion of the safeguard related to labor and safety, arguing that the DR has a strong legal framework for social security and labor rights that supports this safeguard.
- The Reserve noted that the safeguard regarding respecting local land tenure rights and non-conflict was modified to include a public consultation and dispute resolution process for each project so that neighboring communities or peoples could voice any concerns related to the project.
  - There was a suggestion to link this safeguard to an ongoing process for submitting comments and complaints.
  - The Reserve requested that the workgroup provide information on specific government agencies that provide certificates or attestations stating there are no land tenure conflicts.

## **4. Environmental safeguards**

- The Reserve noted the inclusion of the animal welfare safeguard based on feedback received from the workgroup. The protocol will include this safeguard in section 3.6. Regulatory compliance.
  - The workgroup identified possible key contacts/agencies for verifiers to obtain information on the necessary documentation requested by the local government to guarantee animal welfare.
- The Reserve requested information regarding the publication of government permits for water and air quality assessments.
- The Reserve provided further information regarding monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV), following the recommendation to clarify this section,
- Reserve staff reviewed suggested Dominican Republic REDD+ safeguards, which are more directly related to the forest sector and did not identify any specific safeguards applicable to the protocol.
  - There was a suggestion to include a reference to biodiversity, acknowledging that it is unlikely biodiversity would be directly impacted by the project and that the safeguard protecting against pollutants to water and air quality would likely prevent

any secondary harms to biodiversity. The Reserve agreed to include a reference to this consideration.

#### 5. Anaerobic Baseline – Greenfields

- The Reserve is assessing whether uncontrolled anaerobic treatment is a common practice.
  - The workgroup identified key contacts to clarify this information.
- Without further studies, the Reserve will leave the current project-specific requirement in order to prove the additionality of greenfield projects.

#### 6. Site Specific Determination of B<sub>0</sub> Value (Maximum Methane Potential)

- The Reserve is awaiting information from key contacts on monthly milk production trends to apply site-specific B<sub>0</sub> value methodology. Likewise, members of the workgroup were informed that without further data, the B<sub>0</sub> value methodology may be reviewed in future protocol revisions.
- The Reserve highlighted the voluntary nature of sampling and the availability of default values in response to workgroup concerns that site-specific testing may be costly.

#### 7. Other comments

- Legal requirements for the installation of biodigesters in the Dominican Republic. Workgroup members suggested the protocol should acknowledge the General Law 225-20 - Article 125: Treatment of Organic Waste to clarify ambiguity of legal requirements.
  - The workgroup acknowledged that while the law has the intention of encouraging the installation of biodigesters, it is not a clear regulatory mandate and there is no regulatory or financial infrastructure in place to enforce or support the installation of biodigesters.
- The workgroup suggested using the CDM AMS-III.R methodology since biogas flow monitoring may be expensive for smaller operations.
  - The Reserve requested further information to clarify how the CDM methodology differs from the Reserve protocol.
- The Reserve is currently evaluating the default values for VS and Methane Maximum Potential (Bo,L) against the IPCC 2019 values and the IPCC 2006 refinement of guidelines.
- The workgroup suggested considering the eligibility of swine farms that had installed biodigesters several years ago but have stopped operating due to swine flu.
  - The Reserve requested information on the documentation available to prove that the biodigesters have not been active for several years and that they would require a significant investment to start back up.
- Consideration of enteric fermentation. The Reserve suggests excluding for now and will consider developing a separate WG to include across US, MX, and DR livestock protocols.
- Consideration of N<sub>2</sub>O: The Reserve noted that currently there is no methodology to use as a starting point, which may be considered in the future.
- Consideration of reduced electricity or fossil fuel usage. The Reserve requested the workgroup to provide more information in support of including this section in the Protocol.
- The Reserve requested clarification on sections to review regarding the laws and resources shared.

**Pending Questions for the Workgroup:**

- Studies or datasets demonstrating uncontrolled anaerobic digestion as common practice for poultry.
- Studies or datasets on monthly milk production trends.
- Studies or datasets demonstrating uncontrolled anaerobic digestion as common practice for greenfield operations (i.e. new installations).
- Information on accreditation bodies or laboratories available in the DR to perform BMP assays.
- Clarification on the CDM AMS-III methodology.
- Studies or data sets supporting consideration of reduced electricity or fossil fuel usage.