

Informal EPMAN meeting

Held at the 'Faculty Club', Seminaris Hotel, Berlin
27 Sept 2012; 15:00-18:00

Attending:

Natalia Kozlova	SZNIIMES, St Petersburg, Russia
Oene Oenema	Wageningen University, NL
Harald Menzi	Bern University of Applied Sciences,
Helmut Döhler	KTBL, Darmstad, Germany
Gabriele Wechsung	Federal Environment Agency, Germany, Dep. Air
Shabtai Bittman	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Anastasia Svirejeva-Hopkins	Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany
Barbara Amon	Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering, Potsdam
Eike Poddey	Thünen-Institut, Institut für Agrarrelevante Klimaforschung

Regrets: Mark Sutton, TFRN co-chair, Martin Dedina, EPMAN co-chair

Goal of meeting:

To discuss revision of Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practices (FC) for abating ammonia emissions. The FC is required by the Gothenburg Protocol, i.e., Annex 9, and revision falls under the mandate of EPMAN under TFRN

Background:

In preparation to the meeting a questionnaire was posted on the TFRN website to solicit attitudes to the Code and willingness to work on it. There were just a few responders but all agreed that the Code is useful and should be revised and all were willing to contribute. We have 12 responses to a similar questionnaire from the meeting in St Petersburg, with similar outcome, many were willing to contribute.

In an email prior to the meeting, EPMAN co-chairs suggested two versions of FC: a brief official one for UNECE secretariat or WGRS, because they want to have everything short and one version detailed with pictures, graphs and experiences placed on the TFRN website.

Discussion

For whom?

- The consensus was that the FC should be for people who are close to farming, e.g., advisors, policy makers working on policy implementation, well-educated farmers. It should be integrated and consistent with the Guidance Document, BAT and NEC (should include cattle) with cross reference to the Guidance Document. There should be sections on feeding management, housing management etc.

What?

The FC document should provide a 'Framework' for countries to develop their own technology transfer documents for their internal use taking into account local knowledge and language. It should include all possible good agricultural practices for preventing and abating ammonia emissions (and not just the Annex IX provisions). Examples from Germany and the St Petersburg region (HELCOM-related) were shown, and there is also a relevant document from France (received from following day).

It was agreed that the updated/revised FC should largely follow the structure and style of the current FC, i.e., rather simple style of writing, without pictures. In addition, it was agreed that an appendix should be made with more extensive elaborations of techniques, using also drawings and pictures. This appendix could be mounted on the website of the TFRN. This appendix would be a living document that can be updated with the advent of new information and new technology.

Should the FC attempt to reflect the Guidance Document (GD)?

The GD is now in the process of formal editing by the UNECE secretariat. It has been accepted by WGSR as it is, or just passed over to the Executive Body for approval during its meeting in December 2012. The GD was developed for supporting WGSR, to allow them to make well-informed decisions about the revision of Annex 9. However, the Annex 9 revisions were turned down by UNECE parties. One idea was that the Code, by helping decision makers better understand proposed measures, might help win more acceptance of some of the measures of the proposed options and ambition levels for abating ammonia emissions, as developed by EPMAN-TFRN.

It was decided by the meeting that the German Env Agency and KTBL should be asked to investigate funding to allow:

1. A revision of the current version of the framework Code by KTBL to ensure that it is consistent with the knowledge level in the Guidance document; the structure and style of the document would remain essentially the same. This document would be completed in time for general review by EPMAN prior to Spring meeting (date and location to be determined).
2. Making a 'model appendix' by KTBL, as an example for a more detailed and elaborated description of one or a few techniques, with drawing and pictures.

In addition, it was decided that experts of EPMAN should also work on collecting information for additional Appendices to the Framework Code that harbours more detailed and elaborated descriptions of techniques, with drawing and pictures, following largely the model appendix suggested by KTBL. These appendices should be considered as living documents, and should be mounted on the website of the TFRN. This appendix would be a more readable version of the Guidance Document, targeted mainly at industry that would include more figures and charts and a more conventional writing style. If well received, the remainder of the sections will be adapted.

Addendum: Gabriele Wechsung

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2. Making a 'model appendix' by KTBL, as an example for a more detailed and elaborated description of one or a few techniques, with drawing and pictures.

Since I have promised to figure out whether the revision could be financed I did some research. Thus, BMU (German Env. Ministry) and UBA (Federal Env. Agency) intend to fund the project in coordination with the National Focal Point and BMELV (German Ministry of Agric.). Yesterday, I received a first positive signal from BMU. I will confirm this proposal as soon as I can, hopefully until the end of this month.

KTBL responded to UBA that in this case Helmut would be ready to do the first step in the revision. Means, he would work on the FC GAP and send a first version to Harald Menzy. This should happen until about End of February/ Beginning of March 2013. I remember that we agreed that Oene and Shabtai would than split the new version to all EPMAN/TFRN colleagues before we discuss it in the next meeting in spring 2013.