

**Minutes of the 2nd Regional Coordination Group
(RCG) Meeting**

21 April 2007

Guangzhou, China

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A. Background

As specified in Project Appraisal Document (PAD), Regional Facilitation Office (RFO) has the task of organizing yearly (twice in the first year) the Regional Coordination Group (RCG) meetings. The first RCG meeting was held in Hanoi on 19 October 2006. The second RCG meeting was held on 21 April 2007 in Guangzhou, China, hosted by Department of Agriculture of Guangdong Province. It was organized back to back with Decision Support Tools (DST) Workshops held during 12-24 April 2007 in Vietnam, Thailand and China. It was also combined with high level meetings with government officials and the World Bank (WB) Supervision Mission (mission agenda is in Annex 1).

B. Introduction

RCG members from Guangdong Province of China, Thailand, Vietnam and FAO attended the meeting. In response to the request by the Chinese RCG in the first meeting, FAO had invited the Task Team Leader of the WB to attend the meeting. There were also observers from Project Management Office (PMO) from Guangdong Province of China, Thailand and Vietnam.

The objective of the meeting was to provide high-level oversight over the project, to promote institutional buy-in and to promote the livestock waste management agenda in policy circles. As it was connected to the DST workshops, the RCG meeting was instrumental to discuss the main points arising from the national workshops, and to make additional recommendations or notes as necessary.

C. Organizational and Procedural Matters

The opening of the meeting was presided over by the Chairperson, Ms. Hao Xian Rong, Division Director, Division of Energy and Ecology, Department of Science, Education and Rural Development, and member of the China RCG. Ms. Hao welcomed RCG members from China, Thailand, Vietnam, FAO and the WB to the meeting and congratulated the meeting on behalf of China National Steering Committee (NSC). Ms. Hao informed the meeting that the Ministry of Finance and the National Environment Protection Bureau are very interested in this project. Ms. Hao further stated that the first regional workshop and RCG meeting had been fruitful and served as a solid foundation for the project. Ms. Hao concluded her introduction by stating that the meeting should focus on strengthening the communication among the parties and by thanking the Guangdong Project Management Office (PMO) for its hard work in arranging the meeting.

Ms. Hao then requested Mr. Hans Wagner, the Project Coordinator and FAO RCG member, to conduct the meeting.

Mr. Wagner informed the meeting that he was pleased to welcome all distinguished participants to the meeting and thanked Ms. Hao for the welcoming address and the Guangdong PMO for arranging this meeting. He then informed the meeting agenda for discussion as follows:

1. Note of welcome and introduction
2. Review and adoption of the agenda
3. Issues arising from the last RCG meeting
4. Progress reports of the three countries and the RFO

5. Review and endorsement of the new project sites
6. Progress and endorsement of the decision support tools
7. Regional and national training activities
8. Procedural matters in delivery of RFO function
9. Next RCG meeting – suggested December 2007 in Thailand
10. Other business

D. Findings and Recommendations

1. Note of welcome and introduction

An introduction of each participant was proceeded (list of participants appears in Annex 2). Mr. Wagner invited Mr. Weiguo Zhou, Task Team Leader (TTL) from World Bank, to give a welcoming speech.

Mr. Zhou stated that LWMEA project has entered the second year of project implementation. The project has progressed but delay is encountered with regard to the physical construction on demonstration sites in all countries. As the project's end date is 31 June 2010, only a 3-year period is left for the project implementation. Mr. Zhou thus expects that the physical construction in the farms shall start soonest. Mr. Zhou took the opportunity to reassure to the countries of the World Bank's support to this project and reminded the very important role of the RCG in project implementation. Mr. Zhou wished a successful second RCG meeting.

Mr. Wagner thanked to Mr. Zhou for the welcome note and the evaluation of the progress in project implementation.

2. Review and adoption of the agenda

Mr. Wagner proposed to drop point 5 in the agenda: review and endorsement of the new project sites, as this is World Bank's responsibility. With this change the meeting adopted the agenda.

3. Issues arising from the last RCG meeting

Mr. Wagner presented the issues arising from the last RCG meeting in Hanoi, October 2006.

1. The RFO brochure was finished and sent to participating countries for distribution. Countries are encouraged to translate the brochure into local languages and add country specific project information in the brochure or prepare a brochure specifically for the country.
2. The RFO can only fulfill its mandate with the support of the countries. Mr. Wagner thus requested the RCG members to send relevant documentation and project manuals to the RFO to be made available to other countries and on the website.
3. Mr. Hong Lim Choi's report on his technical mission in January 2007 was distributed to the countries as requested by China RCG that consultant shall provide a brief report after their mission.
4. To reduce the workload of PMOs, and as proposed by China during the first RCG meeting, the mission prior to the second RCG meeting combined a supervisory mission by the WB and a technical mission to advance the Decision Support Tool

development. However, this might have to be reviewed as it causes too much stress for the small number of experts involved.

5. The TTL is attending the meeting as proposed by China and agreed during the previous RCG meeting.
6. The TTL urged countries to continue with the site selection and inform the WB accordingly.
7. The TTL stressed that the outline of replication strategy was due in December 2006 and has to be submitted to the WB.

4. Progress reports of the participating countries and the RFO

China

Mr. Ou Jiyin, project coordinator of the Guangdong PMO, presented the progress of project implementation in China. After having solved difficulties on counterpart funding and co-financing arrangements, initial counterpart funding has been approved by the government. The 2007 annual plan of the project was reformulated and improved. Project related documents were translated into Chinese. The project hired a procurement officer as well as an expert to compile the monitoring plan - Mr. Ou highlighted that it had taken more than six months for the WB to approve the TORs. More than 40 individuals in Boluo and related counties were recruited to support the project. Pig farms are being selected for the second year of project implementation. Ten farms were recommended by the project implementation agency in Boluo County. Based on the established selection criteria, a survey of the farms was done and the most suitable farms will be selected to be included in the project. The PMO also held a workshop to strengthen the understanding of farmers. Mr. Ou voiced the PMO request regarding the need to review the criteria for farm selection. In particular, the requirement of a direct discharge into waterway makes selection very difficult and the PMO proposes to use indirect pollution definition instead. The next steps would consist in the selection of new demonstration farms, training program, and study tour.

Vietnam RCG members inquired if the Chinese RCG members could organize a study tour for them in China, focusing on central treatment. Chinese RCG members confirmed that such a study tour could indeed be organized.

Thailand

Mr. Arux Chaiyakul, the director of Thailand PMO, presented the working progress in Thailand.

Technology demonstration component:

1. Government co-funding for construction, site survey and design process are awaiting the Central Accounting Bureau approval.
2. Contract with the construction company is expected to be signed in April 2007.
3. System construction would start after the selection of consultancy company. Document for bidding was prepared.
4. The PMO has engaged in studying "spirulina cultivation" for nutrient removal in treated waste water. Preliminary and first progress reports on the study were submitted in December 2006 and March 2007.
5. Farm management improvement was implemented in Saard Farms. 5S program was implemented in October 2006, started with the farm cleanliness. Another program

tested in Saard farm was a feed cost reducing program by changing a feed formulation.

6. Staff development program and training of master trainers were planned.

Policy and regulatory development component:

1. A project orientation workshop was organized in 19 September 2006, over 80 farmers (32 from Choburi and 40 from Ratchaburi) attended the Workshop.
2. A code of practice study on “odor reduction and required area for new farm establishment” was started. Government awareness raising program for local extension officers was planned.
3. International study tour to Denmark, France and Germany is planned to be held in September or October 2007.
4. Public awareness raising program was initiated by distributing environmental campaign poster for pig farmers via Provincial Livestock Office (PLO), distributing pamphlet of DLD biogas system for small pig farm, starting environmental friendly farms program in 90 farms.

On project management and monitoring component, baseline monitoring is on going.

Work Plan for technology demonstration component:

1. Construction site survey, design, supervision, operating and monitoring of treatment system
2. Bidding process for system construction was expected in August 2007 and system construction in September/October 2007. Study of nutrient management for treated waste water. Management improvement plan to be prepared for demonstration farms.
3. Staff development program for local implementation agencies, training for demonstration farmers, and training of master trainers.

Work plan for policy and regulatory development component:

1. Stakeholder workshop on COP in October 2007.
2. Odor reduction and Code of Practice study on “Green Product”.
3. Implementation of GIS tool, establishment of GIS capacity plan, training course for PMO on Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency.
4. Awareness raising program, staff development program for local extension officer, local leader information.
5. International study tour, national and regional study tour.
6. Public education with poster, pamphlet and document on environmental friendly farms.

For monitoring and evaluation component, base line monitoring, system performance monitoring, improvement of DLD laboratory center for facilitate system performance monitoring are yet to be done. With the exception of the physical construction the project implementation is on track.

Vietnam

Mr. Nguyen Hoang Duc, the coordinator of the Vietnam PMO, presented working progress in Vietnam.

Implementation arrangement, several activities are completed:

1. Establishment of National Steering Committee lead by the Deputy Minister of MONRE (meetings twice a year).

2. Establishment of PMO at the central level and PIUs at the two provinces (Ha Tay and Dong Nai). Project office was set.
3. Special account opened.
4. Financial management manual developed and delivered to related financial staffs of the project.
5. Financial software set up.
6. TOR for auditing consultant done and selection process initiated.

Technical demonstration component:

1. In Ha Tay, PMO has organized the meetings with local authority and the farmers for their comments on the technical design.
2. Surveys and field trips were conducted by international and national consultants to collect data for technical design.
3. Detailed technical design completed.
4. PMO is now preparing procurement document for selecting qualified construction firm.
5. In Dong Nai, PMO has organized survey and evaluation missions to select new project sites, based on project criteria. Tan An commune in Vinh Cuu district has been selected.
6. PMO has developed technical proposal for waste treatment at this demonstration site.

Policy and replication strategy development:

1. Legal documents related to animal husbandry industry and environment protection were reviewed.
2. New legal documents and regulations in animal husbandry and environmental protection at local and national level were developed.
3. Plan and implementation arrangement for dissemination and testing of new policies were developed. Replication strategy was drafted.

Project evaluation and monitoring:

1. PMO has developed implementation plan for data and sample collection for project evaluation and monitoring.
2. Company for collecting samples is selected.
3. PMO conducted equipment procurement procedure for project evaluation and monitoring.

Other activities done by PMO include the preparation of equipment procurement for Project offices at both PMO and PIUs; development of detailed plan for workshops, seminars and consultant meetings; planning of international study tours to China and; participating to workshops and meetings.

Mr. Duc recommended to strengthen the information exchange among the three countries. The project website should be setup rapidly to facilitate dissemination of project results and information exchange. The PMO also recommends that farmers should be invited to the regional workshops and seminars organized by FAO, to exchange experiences.

Mr. Wagner answered that the invitation of farmers to the seminars is up to the judgment of PMO of the countries.

RFO/FAO

Mr. Wagner presented the activities carried out by RFO since last RCG meeting:

The consultants undertook missions to:

1. Thailand, China and Vietnam to finalize the baseline monitoring that were presented and discussed at the Regional workshop and endorsed by the RCG in October 2006.
2. Vietnam, Thailand and China to review the baseline monitoring January 2007 (Mr. Hong Lim Choi only).
3. Vietnam, Thailand and China for the national workshops for the DST Development in April 2007.

Several meetings were organized by RFO:

1. The first regional workshop and RCG were held in October 2006 and hosted by the Government of Vietnam.
2. National workshops for the decision support tool development have been organized in April 2007 in the three beneficiary countries (discussed under agenda item 5 below).
3. High level meetings with government official of different ministries have been arranged to draw attention on the somewhat slow implementation of the project. April 2007, in the three beneficiary countries and in connection with the supervisory mission by the World Bank.
4. The 2nd RCG organized held in April in Guangzhou, China.

RFO also supported to Thailand PMO to prepare study tour to Europe.

Information and reports were sent by RFO to the countries:

1. The project brochure was printed and distributed to countries. Countries have been encouraged to translate the brochure into local languages and to prepare a country-specific brochure highlighting the objectives and the expected out puts of the project;
2. The development of the website was delayed: the initial webmaster resigned, forcing the RFO to recruit a new one. To overcome the situation, a temporary contract was made with an interim to prepare a prototype by end of May 2007. The prototype will be circulated for comments. A dedicated URL has been purchased: www.lwmea.org;
3. Consultants reports and project related documents were distributed;
4. Semi-annual report is ready for submission to the WB; and
5. Despite its encouragements, the RCG received no document or report from the countries; this lack of communication does not allow the RCG's to fulfil its regional coordination role.

Ms. Nawarat Chalernpao, the RFO project assistant, presented two ways by which the RFO intends to improve communication with the countries:

1. Development of a website, which is almost completed. The website will make all project information available: consultancy reports, countries report and data, news and update information on environmental topics. It will also perform as a communication channel for the countries, the RFO and those who are interested in the waste management issue. The users will be able to post the project implementation progress of their countries or engage in discussion forums.
2. Project E-bulletin or Newsletter. The RFO expect to distribute the E-bulletin every month or two months to update the members on the overall project progress. This E-bulletin will be linked to website and will update the members on the information on the project progress, reports, new questions and comment raised by other members. It will be another communication channel between RFO and the countries. .

5. Progress and endorsement of the decision support tools

Mr. Pierre Gerber introduced the progress made. Four DSTs are being developed by the RFO for early implementation i.e. 1) Tool for spatial planning of livestock development (Spatial DST); 2) Nutrient flux models for the calculation of nutrient balances on agricultural land at farm, watershed and regional levels (Nuflux DST); 3) Decision support tool for the selection and technical validation of on-farm manure management options for confined pig raising (Technology DST); and 4) Tools for monitoring environmental and socio-economic impacts of intensive livestock production (monitoring guidelines). Countries requested national workshops to further tailor the DST to national needs. Six workshops were held in April 2007 in the three countries in conjunction with the Bank's supervision mission. Despite limited attendance, the six workshops achieved good results in guiding the DST preparation work.

The participants generally expressed a strong interest in the DST preparation. The countries are invited to nominate one PMO staff to follow-up the DSTs preparation, in order to ensure continuity and ownership in the process. Contract with national consultants in the participating countries will be signed in order to advance the DST development and meet countries' expectations. A draft version of the monitoring guidelines was prepared and provided by RFO to the countries during the January 2007 backstopping mission. Some comments were collected during the mission and the PMOs are invited to send written comments to the RFO.

Mr. Wagner emphasized that Decision Support Tools (DST) development is a major task of the RFO. Ms. Hao agreed on adapting these tools in the project implementation. Mr. Nguyen Van Tai, emphasized the need for DSTs and indicated the Vietnamese PMO would cooperate with the RFO. Mr. Arux advised to involve farmers in the process of developing the DSTs, as they would be the main users. Mr. Do Kim Tuyen informed that the Vietnamese PMO needs technical advice from FAO regarding the sizing of bio-gas system and that the DST on the technical design would be very helpful in that regard. Mr. Wagner stated that the RFO should develop tools in close cooperation with the countries.

6. Regional and national training activities

No further requests from the countries. The RFO requests the countries to send details of institution, program, venue, participants and cost of training that they would like to have.

7. Procedural matters in delivery of RFO function

The role and function of RFO/ FAO regarding technical support was discussed as the RFO had sent a "Proposal on Technical Support from RFO to Participating Countries" to the RCG members in February 2007 (reference email and proposal to RCG members are in Annex 3).

It was agreed among the RFO and all three countries that RFO will continue to provide technical assistance to countries as specified in the Proposal on Technical Support from RFO to Participating Countries. This provisional arrangement, supported by the WB, will be initially be for one year and will be reviewed by the RCG meeting upon the end of this period (extension, termination or legalization).

Mr. Zhou encouraged the countries to develop their websites and submit website development plan to the World Bank.

Ms. Hao commented that websites need to be maintained and updated. Each country will therefore need to recruit a webmaster. Ms. Hao indicated that the Chinese PMO would appreciate FAO's suggestion on this issue, and especially on the estimation of information management costs.

Mr. Sommai Chatsanguthai informed that the Thai Department of Livestock Development has a website and that a link will be made with the project's website.

Mr. Wagner clarified that the costs related with the joint project website will be covered by FAO, but that the creation and maintenance of the countries' websites is of the responsibility of the PMOs and should be financed out of their budget. Mr. Wagner reminded that national websites can be limited to main information and links.

With regard to co-financing of on-farm investments (Component 1), Mr. Wagner informed the meeting that the Chinese RCG had suggested to change the co-financing proportion to: 25% from the World Bank, 45% from the governments, and 30% from farmers. Mr. Zhou clarified that the proposal was acceptable to the WB, as long as the project cost and GEF contribution are unchanged. Mr. Zhou emphasized that the counterpart funding should be provided according to the amounts and timing agreed during project's negotiations.

The meeting then discussed the issue of criteria for farm selection as Chinese representatives requested that farms polluting other rivers than the Pearl River could also be selected. The Chinese and Vietnamese PMOs also requested to be able to select farms that do not currently directly discharge effluents in streams. Indeed, Ms. Hao informed that medium to large farms are not allowed to situate by the river/water sources. Farms that are reverie to water courses are illegal and could therefore not be selected.

Mr. Steinfeld stressed that the rationale of the project is that investment should be made on farms that contribute to water pollution; selection criteria should be flexible and adapt to legal change.

Mr. Zhou indicated that he would check the exact wording of criteria in the legal document.

8. Next RCG meeting

Mr. Wagner proposed the next RCG meeting to be held in 8 Dec 2007 in Thailand, to combine with Workshop on policy development during 6-7 Dec 2007. We will invite number of international experts focusing only on the policy issue. Countries agree on the proposed date.

9. Other business

Mr. Zhou invited the participants to pronounce themselves about the opportunity for the project to be represented at the 4th International Water Conference, late July 2007 in South Africa. China RCG members showed interest and indicated they were willing to send a representative to attend the conference. Vietnam and Thailand RCG members agreed with China RCG. The RFO agreed to be present at the conference as this is a good opportunity to expand the credit of the project and to promote the issue of livestock waste management in GEF's projects portfolio.

E. Closure

Mr. Wagner summarized the important points of the meeting:

1. Project implementation is behind schedule and need additional efforts;
2. Co-funding, farm selection, role and function of the RFO and internal communication were discussed; solution were proposed;
3. Decision Support Tool is part of the RFO activities. Countries agree and made the commitment to support DST activities;
4. Countries are requested to submit the training requirement to the RFO for the appropriate support.
5. Next RCG meeting will be hold in Thailand, combined with a Policy Development Workshop.
6. The PMOs, FAO and the WB agreed that the project would be represented at the International Water Conference in South Africa
7. Minutes will be circulated to the countries before their finalization.

Mr. Wagner thanked the Chinese officials for their hospitality and kind assistance, and all RCG members for their contribution and productive discussions.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Wagner for the summary. She stated that it is important for PMO to have capacity built and to make sure that the project would be accomplished. Ms. Hao expressed her gratitude to all RCG members and the FAO for their cooperation and contribution, and wished everyone a good time in Guangzhou.

Annex I

A Combined Mission on

Decision Support Tools Development Workshops, High Level Government Officials Meeting,
the World Bank Supervision Mission and the Second Regional Coordination Group
Meeting April 12-24, 2007, Vietnam, Thailand and China

Agenda

Vietnam					
			FAO		World Bank
Date	Day		DST Team	RFO	
12.04.2007	Thursday	Morning		Arrive HCM	
		Afternoon	Arrive Hanoi		Arrive HCM
13.04.2007	Friday	Morning	DST Workshop HN	Field trip HCM	
		Afternoon	DST Workshop HN	Field trip HCM	
14.04.2007	Saturday	Morning	DST Working group	Field trip HN	Supervision (Field)
		Afternoon	DST Working group	Field trip HN	Supervision (Field)
16.04.2007	Monday	Morning	DST Working group	DST Working group	Supervision (Office)
		Afternoon		High level meeting +wrap up	High level meeting +wrap up
Thailand					
17.04.2007	Tuesday	Morning	DST Workshop	Field	Supervision (Field)
		Afternoon	DST Workshop	Field	Supervision (Field)
18.04.2007	Wednesday	Morning	Field/DST working group	Field	Supervision (Office)
		Afternoon	Field/DST working group	Field	Supervision (Office)
19.04.2007	Thursday	Morning	DST Working group	CDM workshop	CDM workshop
		Afternoon		High level meeting +wrap up	High level meeting +wrap up
20.04.2007	Friday*	Morning	DST Workshop	Meeting RFO	Meeting RFO
		Afternoon			
China					
21.04.2007	Saturday	Morning	DST Working group	RCG meeting	
		Afternoon	DST Working group	RCG meeting	
22.04.2007	Sunday	Morning	Filed trip with RCG members from Vietnam, Thailand, China		
		Afternoon	Filed trip with RCG members from Vietnam, Thailand, China		
23.04.2007	Monday	Morning	DST Workshop	DST Workshop	Supervision (Office)
		Afternoon	DST Workshop	High level meeting +wrap up	High level meeting +wrap up
24.04.2007	Tuesday	Morning	DST Workshop	High level meeting in Beijing	High level meeting in Beijing
		Afternoon			

Annex 2

The Second Regional Coordination Group (RCG) Meeting 21-22 April 2007, Guangzhou, China

List of participants

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Annex 3

-----Original Message-----

From: Chalermkao, Nawarat (FAORAP)

Sent: Friday, 23 February, 2007 3:28 PM

To: Ms. Jiang Ping; Mr. Li Shuyuan; Mr. Ou Jiyin ; Ms. Hao Xianrong; Mr. Sommai Chatsanguthai; Dr Wimolporn Thitisak ; Mr. Anuphan Ittharatana; Mr. Arux Chaikyakul; Dr. Truong Manh Tien ; Dr. Hoang Kim Giao; Dr. Nguyen Van Tai; Dr. Tran Dac Phu

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Subject: GCP/RAS/215/WBG_Proposal on Technical Support from RFO to Participating Countries

Dear RCG members,

During the first months of the project implementation, some shortcomings became apparent regarding the role of the RFO during the project implementation. We are trying to improve the situation and have discussed the issue with the WB (WB) Task Manager Weiguo Zhou, who showed great understanding.

The attached "Proposal on Technical Support from RFO to Participating Countries" clarifies the role of the RFO and will strengthen the project implementation.

We seek your comments and endorsement of this proposal. We would appreciate receiving them by 9 March 2007 at the latest. Should there be no reaction from your side by that date we will assume that you are in agreement with the proposal.

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation,

Best regards,

Hans Wagner

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proposal to
RCG.doc (76 KB)

Proposal on Technical Support from RFO to Participating Countries

1. During the first months of implementation of the GEF-funded Livestock Waste Management in East Asia Project, some deficiencies became apparent with regard to technical support to activities in participating countries. The provision of technical support may have indeed not been adequately discussed during the negotiations and therefore are not fully reflected in the PAD and in the Letter of Agreement between WB and FAO. In resolving this issue, we contacted the WB Task Manager Weiguo Zhou, and we are now addressing you as RCG members.

Background

2. As per the legal agreement and as stated by the Task Manager Weiguo Zhou, the role of WB during project implementation is to ascertain whether the recipients are carrying out the project with due diligence to achieve project development objectives in conformity with the legal agreements. As implementing agency of the GEF-funded project, the WB takes the overall responsibility for the project including administrative, procedural, financial, technical and all other aspects.

3. According to the PAD and the GEF Grant Letter of Agreement between the WB and FAO, the role of FAO during project implementation is confined to Regional Support Services Component of the Project comprising two sub-components: (a) Capacity building support, and (b) Coordination and facilitation support.

4. The component would finance consultants services, training, workshops, office equipment and incremental operating cost to provide (a) capacity building support to strengthen the participating countries' institutional capacity in project implementation and (b) regional coordination and facilitation support to ensure regional coordination and achieve cross country synergies and regional replication. As is obvious from the above, a role of FAO in technically assisting countries in their implementation of Components 1 -3 is not foreseen.

Issues

5. As stated in the PAD, role of FAO is limited only to a supporting role, and in the Letter of Agreement, there is no legal requirement for the RFO to provide technical assistance. However, FAO feels that countries still need considerable technical support in the design and the implementation of the various in-country activities. This view is confirmed by field visits conducted by consultants between October 2006 and January 2007 and by the inception workshop in Vietnam in November 2006. FAO's role in technical support is appreciated by the WB Task Manager. It also appears that all participating countries appreciate and demand technical assistance from FAO. However, the countries' appreciation and demand are not always known to the World Bank.

6. As per the legal Agreements, technical issues such as clearance of countries' annual work programs are resolved directly between the respective country and the WB. The RFO is neither involved in nor informed of such clearance in the past. FAO, as one of the initiators of the project, has an interest in the success of this project. This, however, is only possible if the RFO is kept informed on all technical matters and has the opportunity to comment/advise on technical issues.

Way forward

7. We have raised the above issues with the Task Manager who showed full understanding of and strong support to FAO's suggestion to play an active role in providing technical

assistance during project implementation if all three countries represented by RCG members are in agreement with such a suggestion. Thus, we propose the following:

FAO will provide technical assistance in the following areas:

- Technical specifications related to the waste management system which includes a) manure handling and transfer; b) primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment processes and c) other non-treatment processes where proposed.
- Construction management and oversight of livestock waste management facilities on the demonstration farms.
- Final disposal of treated waste in line with countries' nutrient management plans (land applied or other nutrient removal/uptake options) which result in some measurable nutrient reduction when compared to current practices.

The RFO continues to actively support countries in the implementation of the Livestock Waste Management Technology Demonstration Component and Policy and Replication Strategy Development Component through technical advice from key consultants and subject matter specialists. Specifically,

- Mr. Colin Burton: Animal waste management engineering
- Mr. Hong-Lim Choi: Technical backstopping on manure management and environmental monitoring
- Mr. Harald Menzi: Manure management and environmental monitoring and development of a decision support tool on nutrient management
- Mr. Gerrit Carsjen: Spatial planning of livestock production

All reports of these consultants and specialists will be provided to the participating countries and copied to WB.

All relevant technical reports and annual work programs which are sent by countries to WB for review will be copied to the RFO. The RFO will provide comments if any to countries and WB within 7 calendar days.

Should there be a controversial technical issue between the WB technical advisor(s) and the RFO, an outmost effort will be made to resolve the issue and find a mutual consent. Final decision lies with the WB Task Manager.

This arrangement will be initially for one year and will be reviewed by the RCG meeting upon the end of this period for further action (extension, termination or legalization).

8. This arrangement is expected to result in better technically sound and sustainable interventions in the participating countries; stronger technical support to the country team for improved implementation of the Livestock Waste Management Technology Demonstration Component in particular; accelerated application of the decision support tools; strengthened capacity building in the countries for expansion and replication; improved communication and coordination among participating countries, FAO and WB.