



PCR development for Green Coffee Project Newsletter

July 2012

This project is designed to develop a Product Category Rule (PCR) for the calculation of the greenhouse gas emissions from green coffee production. Developed through a transparent and engaging process with stakeholders, this PCR will be the recognised method for use by the sector and others when quantifying the emissions associated with the production of green coffee and to better understand the real impact of mitigation actions.

Este proyecto esta disenado para desarrollar las Reglas de la Categoria del Producto (RCP) para el calculo de la emision de gases de efecto invernadero en la produccion de café verde. Desarrollado a traves de un proceso transparente y participativo con los diferentes stakeholders, este RCP sera el metodo reconocido por el sector y otros para cuantificar las emisiones asociadas con la produccion de cefe verde y para entender major el impacto real de las acciones para mitigarlas.

Este projeto foi designado para desenvolver a Regra de Categoria de Produto (RCP) para o cálculo das emissões de gases efeito estufa na produção de café verde. Desenvolvida através de um envolvimento transparente dos Stakeholders, esta RCP será o método reconhecido para uso do setor produtivo e outros setores, quando se determinarem as emissões associadas à produção de café verde. Desta forma haverá uma melhor compreensão do real impacto das ações de mitigação.

Technical Working Group Meeting:

On June 21st, the Technical Working Group met in Brussels to start their challenge of the development of the PCR document. It was great to have a mix of science and practical experience in the room, which also incorporated representatives from both South America and Africa.

I will detail below some of the main points emanating from the meeting and should you have any comments/supportive information/alternative ideas, then please do come back and let me know. I will ensure any points raised will reach the Technical Working Group for consideration.

- **Functional Unit** – 1 kg Green Coffee at 11.5% moisture (SCAA – guidelines as the basis)
- **Conferences** to share our work at and seek dialogue – Sintercafe, ASIC and LCA Food Conference

- **Allocation** – At farm level this is a challenge related to the different coffee production systems around the world (mono culture, polyculture, etc). Many studies just treat all cultivation as a mono culture to get around this. Classifying the farming systems and providing guidance on the allocation procedure for each is a possible option which the group are currently exploring.

What are your views on allocation...how do you feel we should approach this in an equitable manner? E-mail blindsay@saiplatform.org

- **Sequestration** – A challenge based on limited data. The Group agreed that a balance needs to be found between the development of a meaningful and implementable methodology and having an approach that is so complex that it is not used! The Group agreed to explore existing LCI databases, national default values (if they exist) and even the FAO forest studies to see if a robust source of data can be found that allows a permits a global application of the PCR. The Technical Working Group did also consider the approach being applied by the Dairy and Beef Sectors which encourages the calculation of sequestration, though specifies that it needs to be reported separately from the main GHG result. This is a potential positive step forward which can be amended (incorporated) in future when the science 'catches up'



Have you had any experience in this area that may assist the Group deal with this challenge? What if it wasn't included....what would your reaction be? E-mail blindsay@saiplatform.org

- **Land Use Change** – Once again many studies do not include LUC due to the lack of data or the site is so specific that the change took place longer than twenty years prior (IPCC guidelines). The Group agreed that if we are to include sequestration, then we must find a way of identifying a method for calculating the direct LUC within the PCR.

In your region – how many coffee plantations (as a % of the total) are less than 20 years old? Have you had any experience in dealing with the direct LUC in your supply chain? E-mail blindsay@saiplatform.org





- **Data** – This is our biggest challenge, especially for the African producing nations as LCI databases are extremely limited. Often when data is not available, a ‘worst case scenario’ approach is recommended which makes the Technical Working Group uneasy. For this reason the Group want to look at ways of developing a PCR that can utilise effectively both primary and secondary data and importantly look at alternative data sources.

What are your thoughts on the data issue? Have you found innovative methods of sourcing and utilising the relevant data required for carbon footprint calculations? E- mail blindsay@saiplatform.org

Next Steps!



The Technical Working Group will be holding a series of conference calls in (early) August to pursue the above and other areas that will be included in the PCR for Green Coffee. Between the calls work will be undertaken exploring how we can best approach the challenges of developing a suitable PCR.

Please do come back to me on the points above if you have any ideas which I will ensure are placed in front of the Technical Working Group.

Relevant Paper:

I have attached a paper by kind permission of both the author – Martin Noponen and the publisher Elsevier which details a recent Carbon Footprint study which estimates the GHG emissions for a range of productions systems. We are lucky enough to have Martin working with us in the Technical Working Group, so we will capture all of his knowledge in this area and see how best we can apply his approach to our global PCR challenge.

Future Newsletters

Don't forget if you hear of or have any relevant GHG emissions calculation studies or PCR initiatives that we could potentially share via this newsletter, then please send them through and we will see what we can do to get it included in a future edition.



Deliverables for phase 2 – Months 2 and 17

We are now in the second phase of the project which is where the main thrust of the project is focused. I have listed below the key deliverables for this phase.

- **Implementation of the communication plan**
- **Development of the PCR for Green Coffee in line with the PCR development process required by Environdec**
- **Consultation on the draft PCR with the global green coffee sector**
- **Engagement with the PCF World Forum**
- **Engagement with Tool Providers for implementation case studies**