



## PCR development for Green Coffee Project Newsletter

October 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 mayor 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 Progress:

#### **Cool Farm Tool presentation:**

One of the deliverables from this project is to use the 'approved' PCR methodology in a sample of case studies to share with the industry with the aim of supporting implementation. Therefore any existing tools that may be able to apply the PCR once complete is of immediate interest to us.

In the Technical Working Group discussions, ideas related to some critical aspects such as Sequestration and Land Use Change have taken place. Before agreement colleagues from Cool Farm Tool team agreed to share with the Group how the CFT model addressed these criteria as they were already included.

Jon Hillier of Aberdeen University, developer of the CFT, shared with the Group how the CFT was developed and the basis on which the model was developed. This involved a look behind the front pages of the tool to appreciate the principles used in the calculation.

I have attached a copy of the paper that Jon wrote for us for the call.



If you have or are aware of any other 'tools' that could potentially be used in the (rapid) implementation of the PCR methodology, please do let me know of these.

[blindsay@saipatform.org](mailto:blindsay@saipatform.org)

### **Allocation:**

Well, until last Monday, we thought we were on a journey close to reaching agreement on the allocation approach for inputs to the coffee growing system. Wrong!!

Attached is the paper we initiated discussions on though have now found ourselves exploring a potentially more robust 'biophysical' approach whereby we allocate the inputs based on a ratio based on the agronomic requirements of individual plants.

Monoculture is the easy one; it is where there is intercropping that we need to look at the feasibility of this approach. By establishing a set ratio e.g. 60% to coffee and 40% to bananas (or other intercrop). This would make the process considerably more simple to implement. It may be that we need to do some extra work in establishing the ratio's for different 'systems' though this would negate the need to ensure that financial data used (if we took an economic allocation approach) was appropriate.

We have agreed to explore this approach using 5 -10 different intercrop systems to ascertain whether the necessary data is available for use in this manner.

I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this approach if you have had any experience in this area [blindsay@saipatform.org](mailto:blindsay@saipatform.org)

On Tuesday October 16, the Technical Working Group will have a conference call on 'Boundaries'. I will report on this in the next newsletter.

### **PCF World Forum – Berlin, September 26-27**

Many thanks to Michael Spielmann of PE international (on behalf of his colleague Sabine Deimling who is an active member of the Technical Working Group) who presented our PCR project to the delegates of the PCF World Forum. I hear that you did a great job Michael under trying conditions (the presentation did not function as it should).

Already as a result of this presentation we have others working in both the coffee and allied sectors wanting to engage with the process which is fantastic! The presentation was also used to communicate to the PCR community the real need for a joined up and global approach to the development and registration of PCR's.

I have attached a copy of the presentation.



### **Steering Group News**

The Steering Group for this project will be having their next meeting on Monday October 15 in Trieste, Italy. The meeting will focus on (apart from the usual administrative actions) progress made on the development of the Green Coffee PCR and how best to ensure that the end product is an acceptable and deliverable approach for the Coffee Industry.

Should you have any points related to this initiative that you would like to share with the Steering Group, Please e-mail [efellus@saiplatform.org](mailto:efellus@saiplatform.org)

### **LCA Food Conference**

.The LCAFOOD 2012 conference was held in the first week of October and as mentioned previously the Green Coffee Project was represented to gain an appreciation of the scientific developments in the application of lifecycle assessment (LCA) methodologies.

One of the major points made at this conference (to me anyway) is that...we have a challenge! Using LCA as a tool to understand environmental impact is not a very precise science (this has become very evident during our TWG discussions with regards data!), though many who want to use the outputs of this process for marketing, influencing decision makers or policy development are using the outcomes as a very precise piece of data.

Maybe we should make the study 'goal' the title to any LCA paper for publishing...this may then allow the reader to understand the 'driver' of the study and the associated methodology applied? This reiterates the importance of this Green Coffee PCR project!

I want to share with you three relevant 'abstracts' (attached) related to Land use change (one looking at models for indirect land use change) and 'uncertainty'. These abstracts basically provide the general theme for the conference in line with the desire to make the results of LCA studies more robust. The progression of the science is absolutely necessary...though sometimes we need to have industry interaction at an earlier stage!

Should you want to see the full paper for either of these studies, please get in touch and I will see what I can do.

### **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**