

Carbon Footprint Product Category Rule for Green Coffee

Background:

The Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform (www.saiplatform.org) with their colleagues from the Sustainable Trade Initiative (www.idhsustainabletrade.com), over a twelve month period has been coordinating with industry stakeholders the development of a Carbon Footprint Product Category Rule (CF-PCR) for Green coffee. This is effectively a methodology that all in the sector will adopt if wishing to better understand the greenhouse gas emissions from the inputs to the farm through to the port of origin or pre roasting warehouse of any domestic roasting operation.

This CF-PCR will enable the sector to appreciate on a consistent basis where the hot spots for emissions are in different production systems and locations and importantly quantify the impacts of any potential mitigation strategies implemented.

Although, not the driver for this project, the CF- PCR concept is also the basis of measurement for any labelling initiatives considered by individual organisations under the Environmental Product Declaration process.

Who was involved?

The project involved a wide range of organisations and expertise from across the coffee supply chain. Organisations such as producer, consultancy, scientific, roasting, retail, standards bodies, coffee traders and the agricultural supply industry were all contributing to the development process. Individuals from each of these organisations collaborated through physical meetings, conference calls and the provision of feedback on documentation. Though a technical project, a major part of the development involved debate over the practical application of the CF-PCR 'in the field'. It was important to ensure that we developed a PCR that was scientifically robust though was not difficult to implement at field level.

What is the basis of the development:

Not wanting to duplicate other effective approaches already in existence, the Technical Working Group, with their wide ranging knowledge and experience, spent considerable time considering other more generic approaches to understanding GHG emissions. These included resources such as ISO, Pas2050, Pas2050-1 and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

The Technical Working Group have strived to adopt aspects of these initiatives where feasible and practical to do so and as such achieved alignment with these existing resources.

How can it be implemented?

The PCR is merely a methodology and as such is not a 'tool' that can be immediately used in the field. Recognising this and the fact that some organisations will want to establish their own 'tools' based on the CF-PCR, the Steering Group have agreed with the open source Cool Farm Tool (www.coolfarmtool.org) that the CF-PCR approach will become the dedicated coffee module within this facility.

What are the next steps?

The PCR is undergoing a 6 week consultation period (starting May 20, 2013) during which any stakeholder who wishes to comment can do so. After the 6 week period, the Technical and Steering Groups will consider the feedback and address any issues accordingly, before publication of the final CF-PCR document in October 2013.

To take part in the consultation please follow the below link:

<http://www.environdec.com/en/Product-Category-Rules/Detail/?Pcr=8539>