

Annex D: Guideline on Innovation Requirement for Climate Change Mitigation

SRP Standard recognizes and rewards farmers who implement innovative technologies or methods that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or enhance carbon sequestration. These innovations must demonstrate measurable environmental benefits beyond the existing SRP Standard requirements.

To qualify as an innovative technology or practice, the proposed approach must follow:

1. Introduce a new method or technology that is not already included in the current SRP Standard.
2. Go beyond existing practices recognized by SRP, representing a new approach to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction or carbon sequestration.
3. Demonstrate measurable improvements backed by scientifically verifiable data to prove its effectiveness.
4. Be distinct from previously approved or existing methods within the SRP framework.
5. Undergo approval from the SRP Technical Committee, which reviews submitted evidence and data to assess its applicability and impact on sustainable rice cultivation.

To ensure credibility and alignment with SRP's sustainability goals, all proposed innovations must undergo a structured review and approval process. This process is designed to validate the effectiveness, feasibility, and scalability of new methods or technologies that contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and carbon sequestration.

The solution provider or the organization that developed the method or technology (The Applicant) is responsible for submitting the required documentation and seeking endorsement. The process must follow these steps:

Step 1: Submission

1. Applicant prepares submission, including:
2. Peer reviewed technical documentation detailing the proposed innovation
3. Scientific data demonstrates its effectiveness in reducing GHG emissions or enhancing carbon sequestration
4. Implementation protocol following industry best practices or government recommendations
5. Verification framework outlining how innovation can be monitored and assessed

Step 2: Initial review

1. Technical Committee conducts a preliminary assessment to ensure that submissions meet basic criteria
2. If the proposal lacks necessary documentation or supporting data, the Applicant will be required to revise and resubmit
3. Once completed, the submission proceeds to the next step

Step 3: Scientific validation & effectiveness

1. The SRP Technical Committee reviews the innovation based on scientific validity, ensuring the claims are data-driven and reproducible
2. Effectiveness is assessed using GHG reduction methodologies, comparing results to baseline emissions levels
3. The committee examines whether the solution is practical for smallholder farmers, considering the following factors such as:
 - a. Cost-effectiveness and accessibility
 - b. Implementation of feasibility in different agricultural settings
 - c. Potential barriers to adoption and strategies for overcoming them

4. The technical committee may invite external experts with specialized knowledge to support the review process if needed
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Step 4: Endorsement

1. The innovation must provide measurable results, showing:
 - a. At least a 5% reduction in GHG emissions compared to baseline levels OR
 - b. Significant improvement in carbon sequestration in rice paddies
2. Evidence must be verifiable, including:
 - a. Trial data demonstrating the impact
 - b. Emissions monitoring reports validating reductions
 - c. Independent third party to confirm effectiveness
3. If the innovation meets all criteria, the Technical Committee officially endorses it as an approved climate change mitigation technology
4. The applicant is responsible for ongoing monitoring, ensuring continued effectiveness and providing updated information and data if needed
5. Endorsed innovations are eligible for implementation in SRP verification audits under the requirement of innovative climate change mitigation technology or methods.

Step 5: Webinar to introduce new technology

1. The webinar purpose is to educate producers, auditors, SRP members and stakeholders about the approved innovation, ensuring clarity on its application, benefits, and compliance requirements.
2. The Applicant will collaborate with the SRP Communication Team to set up the webinar and other communication channels.
3. The Applicant is responsible for organizing and delivering the webinar to introduce the technology to relevant stakeholders, ensuring clear presentation of the innovation, its benefits, and compliance requirements
4. The webinar must provide a clear demonstration of the innovation's impact, supported by verifiable data that aligns with SRP.
5. Applicants must ensure that all relevant materials presented in the webinar are available for verification and accessible to third-party auditors as part of ongoing compliance.
6. The Applicant must handle all questions and follow-up communications related to the webinar. This includes addressing inquiries from stakeholders, providing any necessary clarifications, and ensuring all relevant documentation is available for verification.