



MONITORING & MITIGATION OF GREENHOUSE GASES
FROM AGRI- AND SILVI-CULTURE

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Report on the 1st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting

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1. Introduction

The first FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting was held in Wageningen, the Netherlands on 10-11 October 2017.

The meeting was organised by Wageningen University & Research, a partner in FACCE ERA-GAS, with support from Teagasc (FACCE ERA-GAS Coordinator), and included a full programme of activities. The coordinators and participants of all 10 projects funded under the 2016 Joint Call were invited to attend. Minimum two representatives per research project were expected to join the meeting. Furthermore, FACCE ERA-GAS Consortium members and relevant stakeholders were invited to participate in the meeting. The programme of day 1 was open to FACCE ERA-GAS research project coordinators / partners, FACCE ERA-GAS consortium members and stakeholders. The programme of day 2 was intended for FACCE ERA-GAS research project coordinators / partners and FACCE ERA-GAS consortium members.

The key note speaker, Prof. Dr Louise Fresco, President of the Executive Board of Wageningen University & Research, acknowledged the work being done in the FACCE ERA-GAS ERA-NET and stressed the importance of stakeholder involvement and public engagement in order for the COP 22 Paris Agreement to be successfully implemented.

The FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting is reported in detail in the following pages.

2. Research Programme Meeting

The Research Programme Meeting (RPM) took place on Tuesday 10th October 2017 from 12:00 to 21:30 and Wednesday 11th October 2017 from 9:00 to 13:30 at Wageningen University & Research. The RPM was organised by Wageningen University & Research, a partner in FACCE ERA-GAS, WP7 lead and task leader in WP5.

60 people joined the first day of the meeting, including 35 people from FACCE ERA-GAS funded projects and 16 FACCE ERA-GAS Consortium Members. On the second day, 57 people attended the RPM, including 35 people from FACCE ERA-GAS funded projects and 15 FACCE ERA-GAS Consortium Members. All research projects were present with 1 – 5 representatives. Some projects organised a project meeting prior to or after the RPM.

2.1. Programme of the meeting

The RPM programme was designed with multiple purposes. The project task description states:

Launching, presenting and networking the funded research projects from this ERA-NET call.

The programme of the first RPM reflected these aims with a focus on networking and identification of synergies / possible collaborations between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and other initiatives /other projects / stakeholder groups.

1st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting

FACCE ERA-GAS
MONITORING & MITIGATION OF GREENHOUSE GASES
FROM AGRI- AND SILVI-CULTURE

10 - 11 October 2017
Wageningen Campus, The Netherlands

1st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting

Agenda of the 1st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting

Day 1, Tuesday 10th October 2017

Room: ATLAS 1 & 2

Note: The programme of day 1 is open to FACCE ERA-GAS research project coordinators/partners, FACCE ERA-GAS consortium members and stakeholders.

12:00 – 12:55 Registration and lunch

12:55 – 13:00 Organisers' welcome

Huub Löffler, Director International and Accounts of WUR

13:00 – 13:10 Presentation of agenda and Introduction to FACCE ERA-GAS

Frank O' Mara, Teagasc, Coordinator FACCE ERA-GAS

13:10 – 13:20 FACCE ERA-GAS in the context of FACCE-JPI

Gudrun Langthaler, The Research Council of Norway, Vice Chair FACCE-JPI

13:20 – 13:30 Welcome speech

Louise Fresco, President of the Executive Board of WUR

13:30 – 13:40 Introduction to the Project Roundtables

Órlaith Ni Choncubhair, Teagasc, FACCE ERA-GAS Executive Team

13:40 – 14:30 First set of Project Roundtables

Seven or six projects host one roundtable each. The roundtable starts with a ~5-minute introduction by the project representative, followed by 20 minutes of discussion on the project. Other researchers can discuss the details of the project and make constructive suggestions and/or consider if there are possible areas of cooperation/collaboration between projects. After 25 minutes, the attendees have the opportunity to move to a new roundtable and each project hosts a second roundtable discussion (as above) with a new set of attendees.

14:30 – 14:45 Tea/coffee, snacks

14:45 – 14:50 Welcome back

Martin Scholten, Member Board of Directors of WUR, Co-chair GRA

14:50 – 15:05 Presentation on GHG Nexus

Órlaith Ni Choncubhair, Teagasc FACCE ERA-GAS Executive Team, Hayden Montgomery, Special Representative of the GRA

15:05 – 15:55 Second set of Project Roundtables

As above

15:55 – 17:05 Communication & Stakeholder engagement workshop, part 1

Rhonda Smith, Minerva, H2020 CSA action CommBeBiz

Part 1 aims to raise the issue of stakeholder engagement; find and share appropriate ways to engage stakeholder; explore possible common initiatives to engage stakeholders.

17:05 – 18:35 Tour of WUR facilities

19:30 Social Dinner, including key note speech

Martijn Root, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs

1st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting

Day 2, Wednesday 11th October

Room: ATLAS 1 & 2

Note: The programme of day 2 is intended for FACCE ERA-GAS research project coordinators/partners and FACCE ERA-GAS consortium members.

09:00 – 09:05 Welcome back

Christine Bunthof, WUR, FACCE ERA-GAS Executive Team

09:05 – 09:15 Project Monitoring

Órlaith Ní Choncubhair, Teagasc, FACCE ERA-GAS Executive Team

09:15 – 10:05 Third set of Project Roundtables

As above

10:05 – 10:20 Tea/coffee

10:20 – 12:20 Communication & Stakeholder engagement workshop, part 2

Herman van Keulen, WUR, FACCE ERA-GAS and Rhonda Smith, Minerva, H2020 CSA action CommBeBiz

Introduction to basic science communication strategies, with practical tips for creating impact with your research project.

Feedback on draft communication plans.

Part 2 of the workshop is **for the researchers of the FACCE ERA-GAS projects only**. This workshop will be held **in parallel with the FACCE ERA-GAS Consortium Meeting**.

12:20 – 12:35 Closing Research Programme Meeting

Frank O' Mara, Teagasc, FACCE ERA-GAS

12:35 – 13:30 Lunch

Venue

Wageningen Campus
ATLAS (Building 104)
Room: ATLAS 1 & 2
Droevendaalsesteeg 4,
6708 PB Wageningen

Day 1

2.2. Organisers' welcome

Huub Löffler, Director International and Accounts, WUR



Dr Löffler kick-started the meeting by welcoming participants to Wageningen University & Research. He said that WUR was formed through the merging of the university and specialised research institutes, with the aim of ensuring the flow of science, research and education between the two programmes. He explained that this organisational structure and enhanced collaboration allows WUR to capitalise on the ideas of students and researchers. WUR is an attractive location for international companies and has also produced many start-ups in the area of healthy food and the living environment, Dr Löffler added.

2.3. Introduction to FACCE ERA-GAS

Frank O'Mara, Director of Research, Teagasc and Coordinator of FACCE ERA-GAS



Dr O'Mara, Coordinator of FACCE ERA-GAS, welcomed everyone to the 1st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting. He thanked and welcomed the funding agencies who provided finance to fund the 10 research projects and the organisational teams at WUR and Teagasc who prepared the programme and logistics for the meeting. He welcomed the project coordinators and partners of the funded projects and wished them well as they start their exciting new research. He spoke about the specific goals of FACCE ERA-GAS (Cooperation, Alignment, Impact) and how the funded projects were a direct result of enhanced cooperation and alignment between partner countries in order to achieve greater impact in terms of GHG mitigation and improved monitoring.

2.4. FACCE ERA-GAS in the context of FACCE-JPI

Gudrun Langthaler, The Research Council of Norway, Vice-Chair of FACCE-JPI



Dr Langthaler commented that FACCE ERA-GAS was at the heart of the work of FACCE-JPI in terms of supporting sustainable agriculture and food security in the context of climate change. She said it had been a long journey from the initial development of an Implementation Plan involving the FACCE-JPI Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and Stakeholder Advisory Boards (StAB), developing the call scope and securing financial commitments from funders, organising and implementing the co-funded call to today, the 1st Research Programme Meeting with researchers who were successful in the call. She stated the work of FACCE-JPI is important for identifying gaps, needs and resources across

Europe. This transnational effort, both in terms of money and minds, is crucial for addressing grand societal challenges. Equally important is the link with society, policymakers and farmers and working proactively with these groups to tackle climate change. The 1st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting is a milestone event, Dr Langthaler said, and she is looking forward to an exciting programme of events and learning more about the newly-funded projects.

2.5. Key note speech

Louise Fresco, President of the Executive Board of WUR



Prof. Fresco stated that WUR, like FACCE ERA-GAS, was at the interface of climate change, food security and agriculture. She stressed the importance of stakeholder involvement and that the public would need to be engaged in order for the Paris Agreement, which is dealing with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation, to be successfully implemented. Choices will have to be made, she said, and these will have to be based on solid science. Agriculture is currently both part of the solution and the problem and we need to move to a situation where agriculture provides concrete solutions for climate change.

“ Scientists can give the framework in which political choices can be made”

The answer, Prof. Fresco feels, is in political translation and public support. We also need to build a Europe that is truly leading in developing future solutions to our greatest challenges. She mentioned that FACCE ERA-GAS is well placed to address the challenge of climate change and provide solutions that will appeal to the general public. Our task as scientists is not just good science, she said, but also to be open-minded and transparent and to engage in a public debate on the issues involved.

2.6. Project Roundtables

Órlaith Ní Choncubhair, Teagasc, Consortium Manager of FACCE ERA-GAS



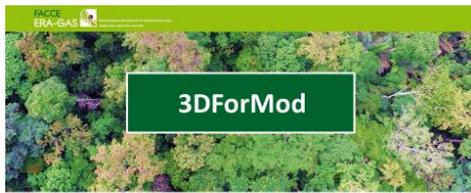
Dr Ní Choncubhair outlined the objectives of the Project Roundtables to the participants and described the format. She also gave a brief introduction of the 10 projects and project coordinators to the group.

Each project hosted four round table discussions in total. Three sets of roundtables were held, two sets on day 1 and 1 set on day 2. Each roundtable started with a ~5-minute introduction by the project representative, followed by 20 minutes of discussion on the project. Other researchers could discuss the details of the project and could make

constructive suggestions and/or consider if there are possible areas of cooperation/collaboration between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and other initiatives /other projects / stakeholder groups. After 25 minutes, the attendees had the opportunity to move to a new roundtable and each project hosted a second roundtable discussion with a new set of participants.



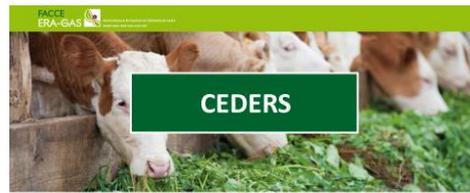
The 10 FACCE ERA-GAS funded research projects that participated in the project roundtables.



3DForMod

Combining remote sensing and 3D forest modelling to improve tropical forests monitoring of GHG emissions

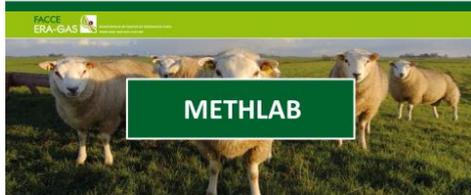
Coordinator: Dr Raphaël PÉLISSIER
(Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France)



CEDERS

Capturing Effects of Diet on Emissions from Ruminant Systems

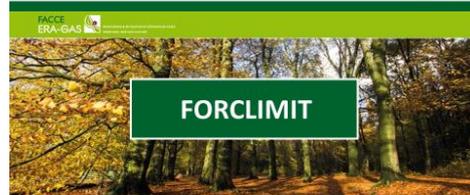
Coordinator: Dr André BANNINK
(Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands)



METHLAB

Refining direct fed microbials (DFM) and silage inoculants for reduction of methane emissions from ruminants

Coordinator: Prof Catherine STANTON
(Teagasc, Ireland)



FORCLIMIT

Mobilizing and Monitoring Climate Positive Efforts in Forests and Forestry

Coordinator: Prof Erik NÆSSET
(Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway)



GHG-Manage

Managing and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Carbon Sequestration in Different Landscape Mosaics

Coordinator: Prof Bruce OSBORNE
(University College Dublin, Ireland)



MAGGE-pH

Mitigating Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions by improved pH management of soils

Coordinator: Dr Peter DÖRSCH
(Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway)



PEATWISE

Wise use of drained peatlands in a bio-based economy: development of improved assessment practices and sustainable techniques for mitigation of greenhouse gases

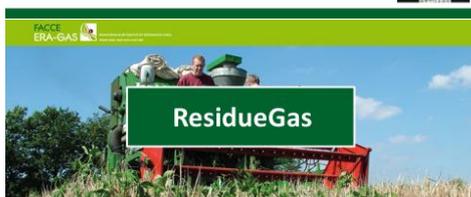
Coordinator: Prof Bjørn KLÖVE
(Norwegian Bioeconomy Research Institute, Norway)



INVENT

Improving National forest inventory-based carbon stock change estimates for greenhouse gas INVENTories

Coordinator: Dr Rasmus ASTRUP
(Norwegian Bioeconomy Research Institute, Norway)



ResidueGas

Improved estimation and mitigation of nitrous oxide emissions and soil carbon storage from crop residues

Coordinator: Prof Jørgen E. OLESEN
(Aarhus University, Denmark)



RumenPredict

Predicting appropriate GHG mitigation strategies based on modelling variables that contribute to ruminant environmental impact

Coordinator: Dr Sharon HUWS
(Queens University Belfast, UK)



2.7. Welcome back

Martin Scholten, Member of Board of Directors of WUR and Co-Chair of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases



In his capacity as Co-Chair of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) and member of the FACCE-JPI Stakeholder Advisory Board, Dr Scholten commented that there is no time to wait in addressing the issue of climate change. He said we need to work quickly to generate new knowledge and good advice to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide adaptive systems for climate change. He stressed the importance of cooperation across the world and highlighted the fact that over 3,000 researchers are involved in the work of GRA networks. A new Dutch government has been formed which aims to reduce the climate profile of food without jeopardising food security.

Smart solutions such as alternative animal feeds, carbon sequestration and better use of crops will be required to achieve this. Dr Scholten stated that we need to move towards a systematic approach in which crop, animal and forestry production work together to reduce their overall carbon footprint.

2.8. GHG Nexus

Órlaith Ní Choncubhair, Teagasc and Consortium Manager of FACCE ERA-GAS, Hayden Montgomery, Special Representative of the GRA



Dr Ní Choncubhair and Dr Montgomery introduced the participants to the new GHG Nexus Initiative which has been jointly developed by FACCE ERA-GAS and the GRA. Dr Ní Choncubhair provided some background on enhanced cooperation between FACCE-JPI and the GRA in recent years and outlined the aim of GHG Nexus – *“to enhance the outputs and impact of the funded FACCE ERA-GAS projects by opening them up to participation from GRA member countries, where there is mutual interest and benefit”*. She described the potential benefits for researchers and also FACCE ERA-GAS, the GRA and the wider European community of engaging with the initiative and gave some details of the mechanism for opening up projects. Dr Montgomery provided some background on the work of the GRA and the scope and guiding principles of the GRA Flagships. He described potential synergies between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and GRA Flagships and provided some detail on initial interest in the initiative from GRA members.

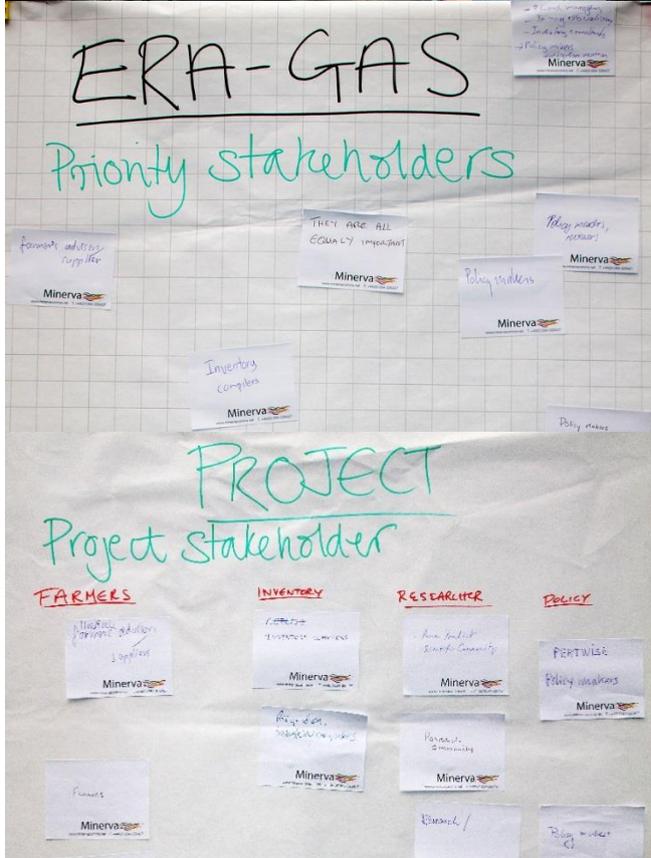
2.9. Communication & Stakeholder Engagement Workshop, Part 1 Stakeholder Engagement

Rhonda Smith and Annabel Mead, Minerva Communications, CommBeBiz

A workshop was held to raise the awareness and importance of stakeholder engagement, find and share appropriate ways to engage stakeholders and explore possible common initiatives to engage.

The attendees discussed the following questions:

- Who or what are the FACCE ERA-GAS key stakeholders?
- What are the benefits for engaging with priority stakeholders?
- What is your perspective?
- What do you know about the stakeholder group? What's their perspective?
- What are the key principles of engaging effectively with stakeholders?



2.10. Tour of WUR facilities

As part of the first day's programme of activities, the RPM participants visited three research locations on the Wageningen Campus.

1. Popular poplar – a twittering tree on Wageningen Campus. This tree serves as an initiative to integrate existing tree monitoring network in Europe (COST Action) to study resilience of European tree species to extreme climate events.

Ute Sass-Klaassen, Wageningen University Department of Forest Ecology and Forest Management



2. Climate Respiration Chambers

Marcel Heetkamp, Wageningen University Department of Adaptation Physiology and André Bannink, Wageningen Livestock Research



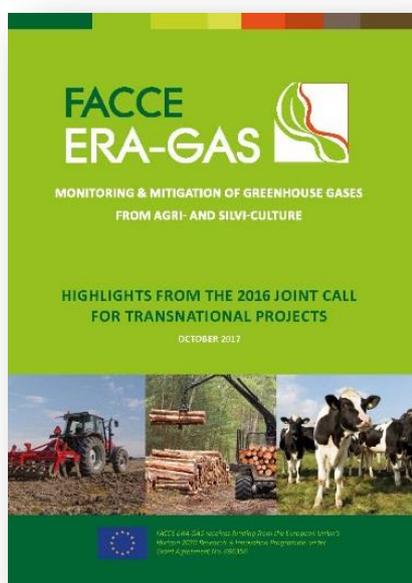
3. Mitigation of nitrous oxide emissions from intensively managed grasslands by plant diversity

Diego Abalos Rodriguez and Hannah Vos, Department of Soil Quality



2.11. FACCE ERA-GAS Brochure

Each participant received a copy of the newly-published brochure which details all FACCE ERA-GAS funded projects from the 2016 Joint Call. The brochure was compiled and edited by WUR and Teagasc and is available to download online at: www.eragas.eu.



2.12. Social dinner

51 RPM participants attended a social dinner at the Hotel Hof van Wageningen. Prior to the dinner, Martijn Root from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs made a brief speech to express the Ministry's support and enthusiasm for the launch of the FACCE ERA-Gas projects. Furthermore, he stated that GHG research is urgently required now to help national governments to meet their climate change targets. He wished the newly-funded FACCE ERA-GAS projects well in their future work.



Day 2

2.13. Welcome Back to Day 2

Christine Bunthof, Policy Advisor and Account Manager Joint Programming, WUR and WP7 Manager FACCE ERA-GAS



Dr Bunthof welcomed participants back to the second day of the FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting. She provided some context for the morning's discussions by highlighting the urgent need for action on climate change. She said that the research community want to achieve impact from their work and see verified mitigation solutions and technologies implemented at farm and forest level. But time is ticking and if we want to see meaningful reductions in emissions, we need to reach out to farmers, citizens and policymakers to ensure their active engagement in both the co-creation and implementation of solutions.

2.14. Project monitoring

Órlaith Ní Choncubhair, Teagasc and Consortium Manager of FACCE ERA-GAS (in place of Dr Bettina Heimann, Innovationsfonden and WP4 Manager FACCE ERA-GAS)

Dr Ní Choncubhair provided some context to the monitoring and evaluation activities planned for FACCE ERA-GAS projects by describing the evaluation frame at a European (Horizon 2020) level. At FACCE-JPI and FACCE ERA-GAS level she outlined the reports requested from the consortia at mid and end-term stages of the funded projects and the nature of the information that will be requested. This will ensure that project coordinators are aware in advance of their requirements in terms of project data, impact and outputs.

2.15. Project Roundtables

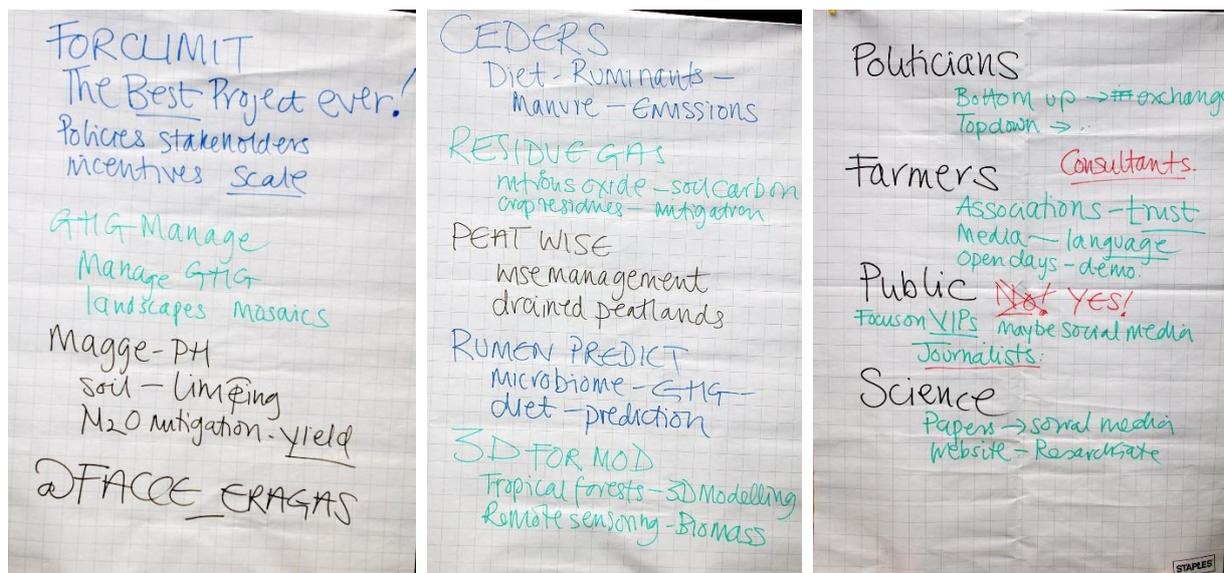
On day 2 of the Research Programme Meeting, the third Project Roundtables session was held, as described in paragraph 2.6.



2.16. Communication & Stakeholder engagement workshop, Part 2 Communication

Rhonda Smith and Annabel Mead, Minerva Communications, CommBeBiz, Herman van Keulen, WUR, Task manager WPS FACCE ERA-GAS

In part 2 of the workshop Rhonda Smith and Annabel Mead put emphasis on science communication strategies and how to deliver communications that engage and create impact. Furthermore, generic observations on submitted project communication plans were discussed. Herman van Keulen presented the common FACCE ERA-GAS communication tools available and informed the participants about the common support offered by the ERA-GAS communication team to the projects. Moreover, he clarified what is expected of ERA-GAS projects in terms of communication.



The photos on the left and in the middle show the main themes in the projects. The photo on the right displays the key stakeholders for the issue that FACCE ERA-GAS covers and the suggested ways to engage these stakeholders effectively.

2.16. Meeting Evaluation

All participants were encouraged to complete the meeting evaluation form. The results of the evaluation are presented in Chapter 3.

2.17. Closing remarks

Frank O'Mara thanked the participants for attending the Research Programme Meeting and especially for their active engagement in the group discussions and activities which created a lively and interactive meeting.

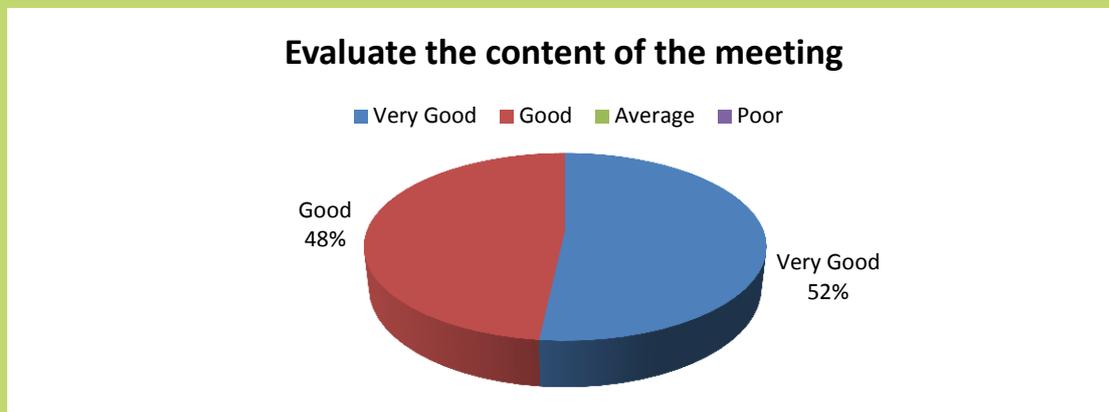
3. 1st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting – Feedback Evaluation

3.1. Meeting participation

| Attendance at 1 st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting | |
|--|----------|
| Total attendees over both days | 61 |
| No. involved in organising/facilitating the meeting, workshops etc. | 8 |
| No. of attendees who left early | 4 |
| No. of Evaluation Forms completed | 29 (59%) |

3.2. Meeting Content

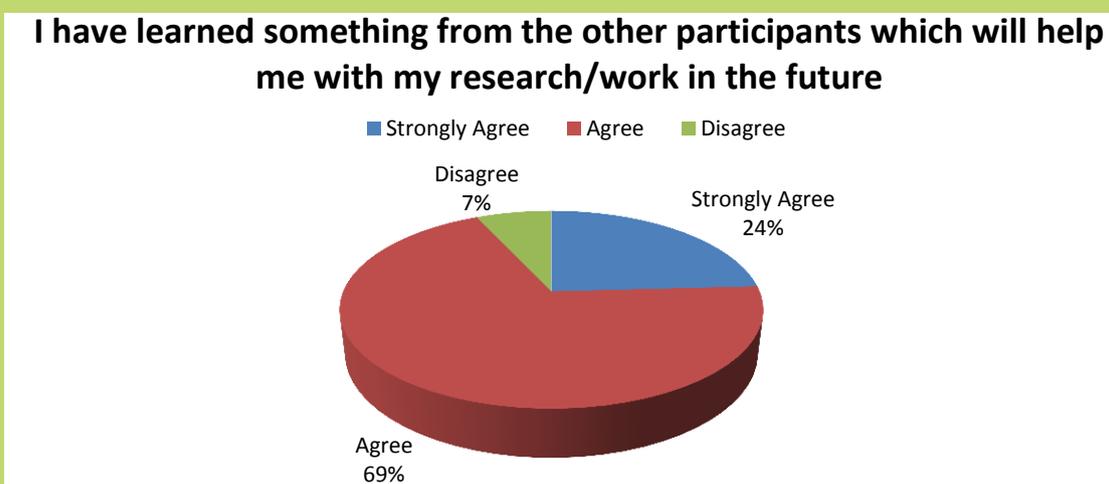
100% of participants rated the meeting content as either very good or good.



3.3. Impact

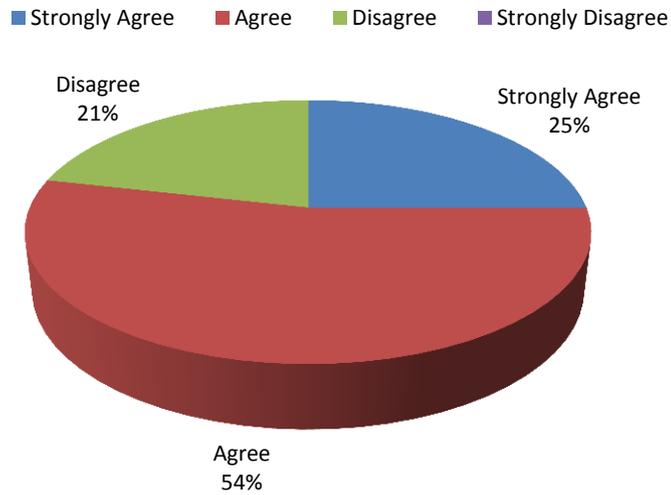
The objectives of the meeting were to introduce the newly funded FACCE ERA-GAS projects, to provide opportunities for learning between participants and to allow for networking which may lead to future collaborations. The meeting's impact was evaluated through four questions:

93% of participants indicated that they had learned something from attendees that will help with their future work.



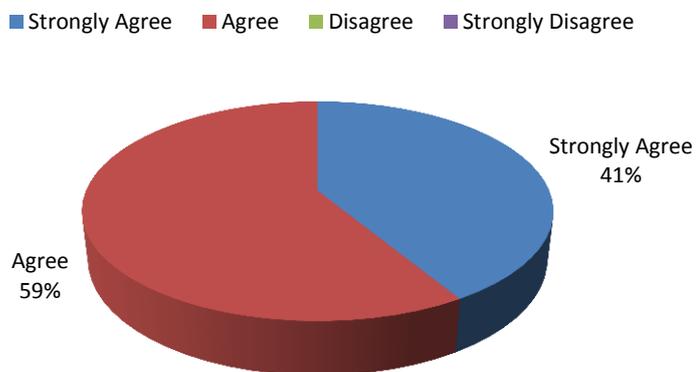
79% of participants said that they had made a new contact with a researcher during the RPM which could potentially lead to collaboration in the future.

I have made contact with a researcher today whom I did not know before today and with whom I could pursue a collaboration in future



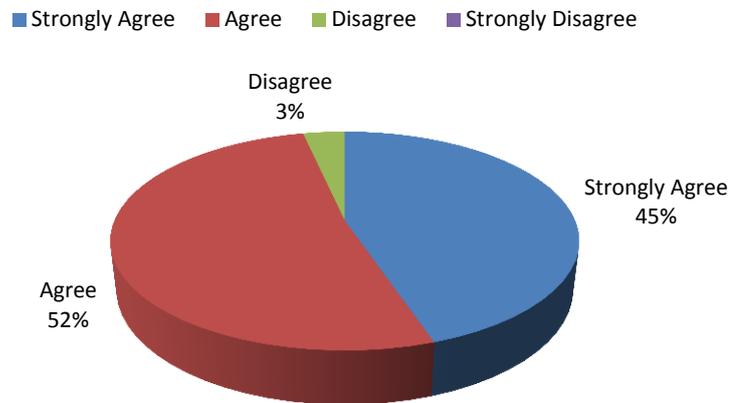
100% of participants agreed that the meeting was a good use of their time.

The meeting was a good use of my time



97% of participants said they would encourage their colleagues to attend a similar event if organised in the future.

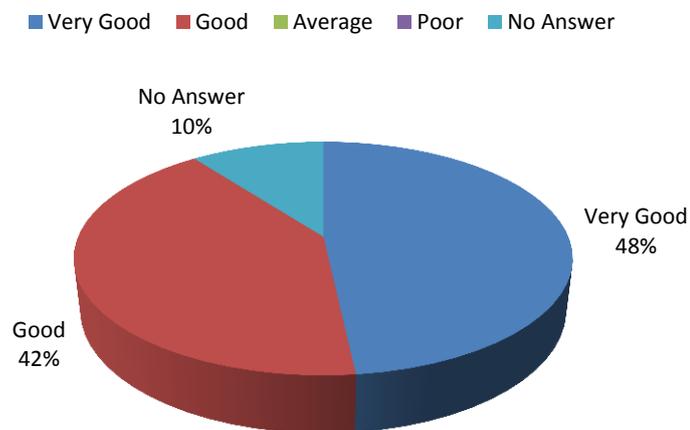
I would encourage colleagues to attend a similar event in the future



3.4. Organisation

100% of respondents who rated the overall organisation of the meeting said it was very good or good.

How would you rate the overall organisation of the meeting?



3.5. Synergies and potential for collaboration

Participants were asked to think as they discussed the new projects about what synergies there are between (a) FACCE ERA-GAS projects themselves and (b) between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and other initiatives / other projects / stakeholder groups. A diagram was provided in the Meeting Evaluation form where they could illustrate connections between projects and provide some explanation on where they saw potential for collaboration (example of completed diagram shown below).

MEETING EVALUATION FORM

4. Synergies and potential for collaboration

What synergies do you see between (a) FACCE ERA-GAS projects and (b) between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and other initiatives / other projects / stakeholder groups? Please draw lines between the boxes below to show these synergies and provide some explanation in the text box underneath.

Please explain the synergy / potential for collaboration:

SEE ARROWS.

Figure 1: Example of participant response to Question 4. Synergies and potential for collaboration.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3DForMod | | | | | | | | | |
| | CEDERS | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | FORCLIMIT | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 4 | GHG- Manage | | | | | | |
| 3 | | 10 | 4 | INVENT | | | | | |
| | | | 5 | | MAGGE- pH | | | | |
| | 5 | | | | | METHLAB | | | |
| | | | 4 | | 5 | | PEATWISE | | |
| | 3 | | 4 | | 7 | | 1 | Residue Gas | |
| | 14 | | 1 | | 1 | 9 | | | Rumen Predict |

Figure 2: Matrix showing synergies identified by participants between FACCE ERA-GAS projects. The darker the green colour, the greater the number of participants who identified synergies between those particular projects. The numbers refer to the number of participants that identified that particular synergy.

Strong synergies were identified between projects with similar themes, e.g. forestry-related projects (3DForMod, FORCLIMIT, INVENT), projects looking at management-related impacts on GHGs (GHG-Manage, ResidueGas, MAGGE-pH) and also research looking at rumen-derived emissions (METHLAB, CEDERS, RumenPredict). Peat soils were also identified as a cross-cutting issue with particular relevance to PEATWISE, GHG-Manage and MAGGE-pH.

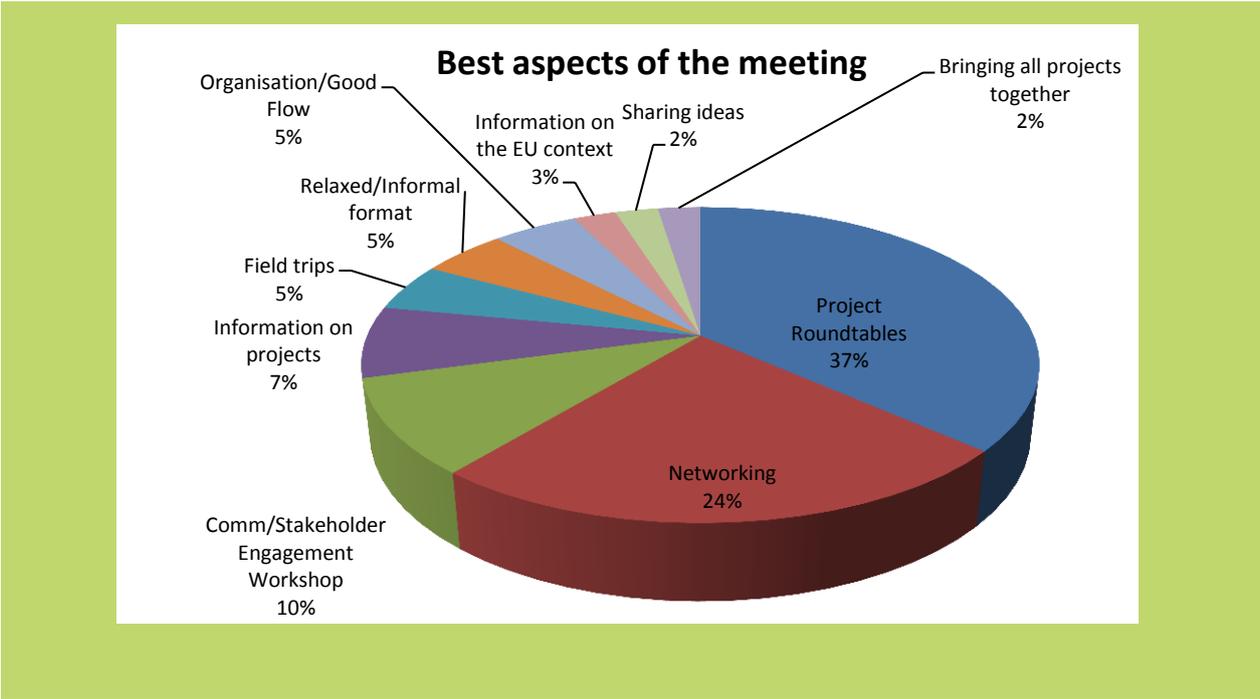
Synergies were also identified between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and other initiatives, projects, cross-cutting themes and stakeholder groups. In particular, national inventory compilers and sectoral experts were identified as a stakeholder group of particular relevance to the projects, as many of the projects are working towards improving national GHG inventories. Potential for collaboration with the GRA Feed Network was also identified (in particular in relation to the CEDERS project) and other projects such as the Horizon 2020 VERIFY project and the CINDERELLA FACCE ERA-Net Plus project. Cross-cutting issues identified were ruminomics and quantifying tree carbon budgets.

The opportunities for collaboration most cited by participants were **data/sample sharing** (which is already being planned for the CEDERS and RumenPredict projects) and **discussion of results/experimental approaches**. Cooperation between INVENT and FORCLIMIT is currently being formalised and contracts being established. Other synergies/potential for collaboration were:

| Nature of synergies and potential for collaboration identified by participants | |
|--|--|
| Data/sample sharing | Discussing experimental approaches & results |
| Peat soils | Forestry-related management effects |
| On-farm reporting tools | New dietary strategies |
| Feed x host interactions | Mitigation strategies |
| Rumen microbial genomics | Small-scale C accounting – landscape aircraft fluxes |
| Residue management, modelling turnover | Inventory workshop |
| Links through rumen microbiome or animal phenotype/diets | Collaboration through supervision of students |

3.6. Best aspects of the meeting

One of the most positive aspects of the meeting listed by participants was the **Project Roundtable format** and also the opportunity the meeting provided for **networking** and meeting new contacts. Participants also listed the **Communication/Stakeholder Engagement Workshop** as a positive aspect, as well as the field trips, relaxed/informal format of the meeting and the organisation and overall flow of the meeting.



3.7. Room for improvement

Suggestions for aspects of the meeting that could be improved included increasing the time for discussions at the Project Roundtables as some participants missed some project discussions and it was also suggested to allow time for brokering or discussing further the possibility of collaboration between projects. Other suggestions were to include short project presentations in the plenary and more breaks for mingling. Suggestions were also made in relation to the Communication and Stakeholder Engagement workshops:

| Aspects of the meeting that could be improved and number of participants making the suggestion | |
|--|---|
| Missed some discussions/more time for roundtables | 6 |
| Include short project presentations in plenary | 3 |
| Dedicated time for discussing possible collaboration between participants | 3 |
| Less communication lessons | 2 |
| More breaks (for mingling) | 2 |
| Comm workshop condensed therefore quite simplified/too much to deliver in the time | 2 |
| More information on roundtable exercise | 1 |
| More information on who is attending, their role, background | 1 |
| Stakeholder Assessment task | 1 |
| Stakeholder links | 1 |
| Less Welcome speeches | 1 |
| General talks | 1 |
| More water | 1 |
| More active ERA-GAS website, more news to members | 1 |
| Present attendees with key questions to think about prior to the meeting | 1 |
| Presentation of projects themselves, overview, concepts used, questions answered | 1 |
| Ask in advance which roundtables people would like to attend to avoid imbalance | 1 |
| Print project flyers of each project in advance – save time for discussions | 1 |

3.8. Other comments

| Other comments from participants | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| + | Congratulations for a very inspiring meeting |
| | Always inspiring to meet and listen to people, in particular non-scientists |
| | Very well organised |
| | Congrats to the organisers |
| | Fantastic timing (start at 12h, end at 13h) |
| | Enjoyed visit of research facilities |
| | Thanks for a good meeting |
| - | Stakeholder/Communication workshop conventional in its message |
| | Workshop too short, could have used more time to better understand projects, have more interactions |
| | I would have preferred short presentations of all the 10 ERA-GAS projects |
| | More additional activities to collaborate with more ERA-GAS members |
| | Room a bit challenging (pillars) for interactive sessions |
| Larger font on name tags | |
| Suggestion: | Organise joint project meetings with invited representatives from national inventories to investigate their needs and how the projects could fill knowledge gaps |

4. Images from the Research Programme Meeting







5. Conclusions

The 1st FACCE ERA-GAS Research Programme Meeting was well attended and received very positive feedback from the participants in terms of content, overall organisation, use of their time and whether they would recommend a colleague to attend a similar event in the future. Some interesting synergies were identified between projects which indicate possible areas of cooperation/collaboration between FACCE ERA-GAS projects. Some of these collaborations are currently being elaborated and formalised. In other cases, future FACCE ERA-GAS events will work to build on these synergies and enhance interactions between projects, in terms of common experimental approaches, sharing data and results. This will help to ensure that resources are used in an optimal manner, results are inter-comparable and research impact is maximised.

Synergies were also identified between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and other initiatives, projects, cross-cutting themes and stakeholder groups. Plans are already well advanced to enhance cooperation between FACCE ERA-GAS projects and the GRA through the *GHG Nexus* initiative. Another key target group identified by participants was the representatives of national GHG inventory compilers. As many FACCE ERA-GAS projects are working to develop refined GHG emission factors and improved monitoring of emissions across partner countries, this group represents a key stakeholder which will be considered for involvement in future activities.

Two further Research Programme Meetings are planned during the lifetime of FACCE ERA-GAS. The next RPM will take place at the mid-term stage of the funded projects, provisionally set for May 2019, while the final RPM for the presentation of project results and recommendations on GHG mitigation and monitoring in agriculture and forestry is planned to take place at the end of 2020.