



# **AWMS METHANE RECOVERY PROJECT MX06-S-84, AGUASCALIENTES AND QUERÉTARO, MÉXICO**

UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism  
Simplified Project Design Document  
for  
Small Scale Project Activity



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**CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM  
SIMPLIFIED PROJECT DESIGN DOCUMENT  
FOR SMALL-SCALE PROJECT ACTIVITIES (SSC-CDM-PDD)  
Version 02**

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**Revision history of this document**

<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description and reason of revision</b>
01	21 January 2003	Initial adoption
02	8 July 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Board agreed to revise the CDM SSC PDD to reflect guidance and clarifications provided by the Board since version 01 of this document.</li><li>• As a consequence, the guidelines for completing CDM SSC PDD have been revised accordingly to version 2. The latest version can be found at <a href="http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Documents">http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Documents</a>.</li></ul>

**SECTION A. General description of the small-scale project activity****A.1. Title of the small-scale project activity:**

AWMS Methane Recovery Project MX06-S-84, Aguascalientes and Querétaro, México

**A.2. Description of the small-scale project activity:**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to mitigate and recover animal effluent related GHG by improving AWMS practices.

Worldwide, agricultural operations are becoming progressively more intensive to realize economies of production and scale. The pressure to become more efficient drives significant operational similarities between farms of a “type,” as inputs, outputs, practices, genetics, and technology have become similar around the world.

This is especially true in livestock operations (swine, dairy cows, etc.) which can create profound environmental consequences, such as greenhouse gas emissions, odour, and water/land contamination (including seepage, runoff, and over application), that result from storing (and disposing of) animal waste. Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) use similar Animal Waste Management System (AWMS) options to store animal effluent. These systems emit both methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) resulting from both aerobic and anaerobic decomposition processes.

This project proposes to apply the Methane Recovery methodology identified in Section III.D, of the Indicative Simplified Baseline and Monitoring Methodologies for Small-Scale CDM Project Activity Categories, to a dairy cattle operation located in Aguascalientes and Querétaro, México. The proposed project activities will mitigate and recover AWMS GHG emissions in an economically sustainable manner, and will result in other environmental benefits, such as improved water quality and reduced odour. In simple terms, the project proposes to move from a high-GHG AWMS practice, an open air lagoon, to a lower-GHG AWMS practice, an anaerobic digester with capture and combustion of resulting biogas.

**Contribution to sustainable development:**

Establishing a positive model for livestock operations is essential. In the years 1993 to 2003, Mexican dairy cattle population grew by approximately 33%. In 2003, the dairy cattle inventory in México was 2,169,669.<sup>1</sup> Producers in Aguascalientes and Querétaro make up approximately 6% of that inventory.

Dairy cattle produce about 195 lbs of raw manure per day.<sup>2</sup> The proper handling of this large quantity of animal waste is critical to protecting human health and the environment. Because of the practices

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.siea.sagarpa.gob.mx/ar\\_compec\\_pobgan.html](http://www.siea.sagarpa.gob.mx/ar_compec_pobgan.html)

<sup>2</sup> Weida, William J. “A Citizens Guide to the Regional Economic and Environmental Effects of Large Concentrated Dairy Operations,” GRACE Factory Farm Project November, 19, 2000, Table II-2



employed by farmers, the design, location, and management practices of livestock operations are critical components in ensuring an adequate level of protection of human health and the environment.<sup>3</sup>

This methane recovery project activity will upgrade livestock operations infrastructure. The infrastructure improvement is in direct alignment with President Vicente Fox’s national goals and objectives for agriculture, livestock, rural development, fishing and nutrition as outlined in the Mexican government’s *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo, 2001 –2006* (National Development Plan, 2001 -2006).<sup>4</sup>

This project activity will have positive effects on the local environment by improving air quality (i.e., reducing the emission of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and odour) and will set the stage for future on-farm projects (i.e., changes in land application practices) that will have an additional positive impact on GHG emissions with an attendant potential for reducing groundwater contamination problems.

This project activity will also increase local employment of skilled labour for the fabrication, installation, operation and maintenance of the specialized equipment. Finally, this voluntary project activity will establish a model for world-class, scalable animal waste management practices, which can be duplicated on other CAFO livestock farms throughout México, dramatically reducing livestock related GHG and providing the potential for a new source of revenue and green power.

The proposed methane recovery project uniquely satisfies the Mexican government priorities for environmental stewardship and sustainability while positioning rural agricultural operations to develop and use renewable (“green”) power. Indeed, it does so with no negative consequences and with a series of environmental and infrastructure co-benefits.

Because the proposed project establishes an advanced AWMS the project participants believe the farm managers will adopt – and continue to practice – AWMS practice changes that result in meaningful, and permanent, GHG emission reductions beyond the project’s expected lifespan.

### A.3. Project participants:

Name of Party involved (*) (host) indicates a host Party)	Private and/or public entity(ies) project participants (*) (as applicable)	Kindly indicate if the Party involved wishes to be considered as project participant (Yes/No)
México (host)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AgCert International plc</li> <li>• AgCert México Servicios Ambientales, S. de R.L. de C.V.</li> </ul>	No

<sup>3</sup> Speir, Jerry; Bowden, Marie-Ann; Ervin, David; McElfish, Jim; Espejo, Rosario Perez, “Comparative Standards for Intensive Livestock Operations in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.,” Paper prepared for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx/Dgg/sectorial.htm>

**A.4. Technical description of the small-scale project activity:****A.4.1. Location of the small-scale project activity:****A.4.1.1. Host Party(ies):**

The host party for this project activity is **México**.

**A.4.1.2. Region/State/Province etc.:**

The project will be located in **Aguascalientes and Querétaro**.

**A.4.1.3. City/Town/Community etc.:**

The project sites are shown in Figure A1 with specifics detailed in Table A1.

**A.4.1.4. Detail of physical location, including information allowing the unique identification of this small-scale project activity(ies):**

The physical location of each of the sites involved in this project activity is shown in Figure A1 and listed in Table A1.

**Grupo Gómez Cobo S.A. de C.V.** owns one dairy cattle operation in Galeras Colón, Querétaro:

- Establo Los Olivos (32552) had approximately 1,715 animals on site between July 2005 and June 2006. Containment areas include twenty-eight corrals with paved feed lanes, one milking room, and one holding area. From these areas, manure is flushed out, hosed, or taken out with a scraper. There is a concrete basin, which is a type of open lagoon, on site functioning as an AWMS. This basin is 70m x 15m x 5m. The producer provided AgCert with a third party documentation that indicates the intention to build an efficient, anaerobic lagoon to serve as the site's AWMS. The construction of the proposed anaerobic digester is expected to be completed by 29 December 2006.

**Juan Carlos González Muñoz** owns one dairy cattle operation in San Francisco de los Romo, Aguascalientes:

- Rancho El Progreso (3280168) had approximately 804 animals on site between May 2005 and April 2006. Containment areas include thirteen corrals with paved feed lanes, one milking room and one holding area. From these areas, manure is removed with a tractor, hosed, or taken out with a scraper. The producer provided AgCert with a third party documentation that indicates the intention to build an efficient, anaerobic lagoon to serve as the site's AWMS. The construction of the proposed anaerobic digester is expected to be completed by 29 December 2006.



**José Ignacio Gerardo Cervantes Gutierrez** owns one dairy cattle operation in Fuentezuelas Tequisquiapan, Querétaro. This farm began operations in September 2005.

- Rancho Fuentezuelas (1335661) had approximately 1,217 animals on site between July 2005 and June 2006 (85 percent of capacity was used to determine July and August 2005 inventories in order to obtain a full 12 months of inventory). Containment areas include twenty-nine corrals with paved feed lanes, one milking room, and one holding area. From these areas, manure is flushed out, hosed, or taken out with a scraper. It is then routed to the site's AWMS, which consists of one open lagoon. The lagoon is approximately 96m x 75m x 4m. Effluent is disposed of from the lagoon through surface spread and irrigation. The producer provided AgCert with a third party documentation that indicates the intention to build a more efficient, anaerobic lagoon to serve as the site's AWMS. The construction of the proposed anaerobic digester is expected to be completed by 29 December 2006.

**Jose Gutiérrez Martín del Campo** owns one dairy cattle operation in Pabellón de Arteaga, Aguascalientes:

- Rancho San Pedro (3280023) had approximately 712 animals on site between August 2005 and July 2006. Containment areas include ten corrals with paved feed lanes, one milking room, and one holding area. From these areas, manure is removed with a tractor, hosed, or taken out with a scraper. The producer provided AgCert with a third party documentation that indicates the intention to build an efficient, anaerobic lagoon to serve as the site's AWMS. The construction of the proposed anaerobic digester is expected to be completed by 29 December 2006.

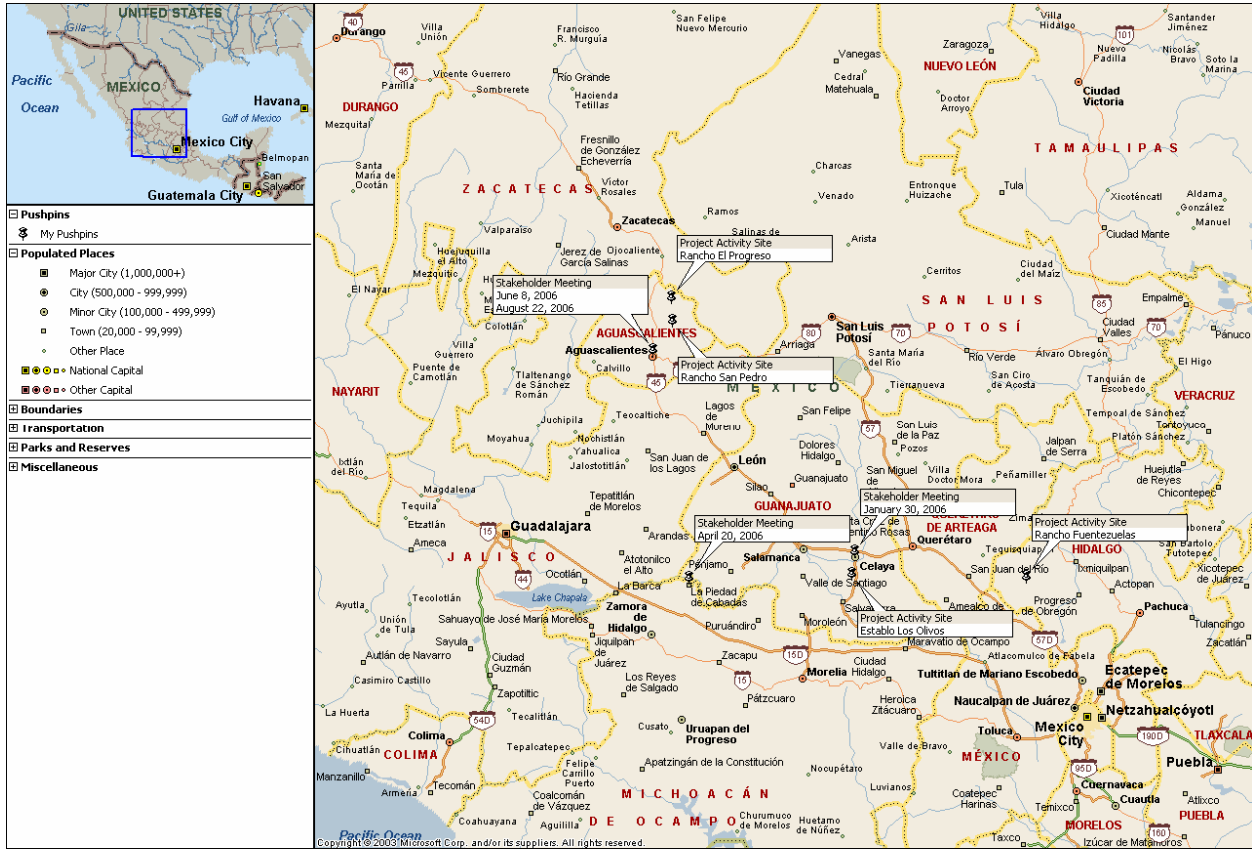


Figure A1, Project Activity Sites in Agascalientes and Querétaro, México

**Table A1. Detailed physical location and identification of project sites**

Farm/Site Name	AgCert ID	Address	Town / State	Contact	Phone	GPS Coord
Establo Los Olivos	32552	km 11 Carretera a Bernal, Galeras	Galeras Colón, Queretaro	Alejandro Gómez	442-125-3596	20.3655N 100.840W
Rancho El Progreso	3280168	Carretera Aguascalientes-Zacatecas Km 19	San Francisco de los Romo, Aguascalientes	Juan Carlos González Muñoz	465-967-0491	22.244N 102.1627 W
Rancho Fuentezuelas	1335661	Km. 47.8 Carretera Galeras tequisquiapan	Fuentezuelas Tequisquiapan, Queretaro	José Ignacio Cerva Noriega	414-219-6262	20.334416 N 99.575928 W
Rancho San Pedro	3280023	Km 1 Carretera Pabellón-Luis Moya	Pabellón de Arteaga, Aguascalientes	Jorge Gutiérrez	465-958-1330	22.0848N 102.1536 W

**A.4.2. Type and category(ies) and technology of the small-scale project activity:**

The project activity described in this document is classified as a Type III, Other Project Activities, Category III.D./Ver 10, Methane recovery in agricultural and agro industrial activities.

The project activity will capture and combust methane gas produced from the decomposing manure of dairy cattle farm located in Aguascalientes and Querétaro, México.

The technology to be employed by the project activity includes the installation of new covered lagoons creating an anaerobic digester. The system will be comprised of a lined and covered lagoon creating a digester with sufficient capacity and Hydraulic Retention Time (HRT) to greatly reduce the volatile solids loading in the effluent. The cover consists of a synthetic high density polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane, which is secured to the liner by means of an anchor trench around the perimeter. HDPE is the most commonly used geomembrane in the world and is well suited for use in this project. HDPE is an excellent product for large applications that require UV, ozone, and chemical resistance. The digester has been designed to permit solids residue removal without breaking the gas retention seal. Processed effluent from the digester(s) will be routed to a secondary and tertiary lagoon system, as needed, and captured biogas will be routed to an efficient combustion system to destroy methane gas produced. Special maintenance procedures have been developed to ensure proper handling and disposition of the digester sludge.

The enclosed flaring combustion system is automated to ensure that all biogas that exits the digester and passes through the flare (and flow meter) is combusted. Pressure control devices within the gas handling system maintain proper biogas flow to the combustion system. A continuous ignition system ensures methane combustion whenever biogas is present at the flare. Two (2) sparking electrodes provide operational redundancy. If biogas is present in the flare, it is immediately ignited by the sparking system. If biogas is not present, the igniter sparks harmlessly. This continuous ignition system is powered by a robust solar module (solar-charged battery system) that operates independently from the power grid. The component parts are tested and verified functional on a periodic basis in accordance with manufacturer and other technical specifications.

**Technology and know-how transfer:**

The project developer is implementing a multi-faceted approach to ensure the project, including technology transfer, proceeds smoothly. This approach includes careful specification and design of a complete technology solution, identification and qualification of appropriate technology/services providers, supervision of the complete project installation, farm staff training, ongoing monitoring (by the project developer) and developing/implementing a complete Monitoring Plan using project developer staff. As part of this process, the project developer has specified a technology solution that will be self-sustaining (i.e., highly reliable, low maintenance, and operate with little or no user intervention). The materials and labour used in the base project activity are sourced from the host country whenever economically possible.

By working so closely with the project on a “day to day” basis, the project developer will ensure that all installed equipment is properly operated and maintained, and will carefully monitor the data collection and recording process. Moreover, by working with the farm staff over many years, the project developer



will ensure that the staff acquires appropriate expertise and resources to operate the system on an ongoing/continuous basis.

**A.4.3. Brief explanation of how the anthropogenic emissions of anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHGs) by sources are to be reduced by the proposed small-scale project activity, including why the emission reductions would not occur in the absence of the proposed small-scale project activity, taking into account national and/or sectoral policies and circumstances:**

Anthropogenic GHGs, specifically methane is released into the atmosphere via decomposition of animal manure. Currently, the farm-produced GHG is not collected or destroyed.

The proposed project activity intends to change current AWMS practices. These changes will result in the recovery of anthropogenic GHG emissions by controlling the lagoon's decomposition processes and collecting and combusting the methane biogas.

**A.4.3.1 Estimated amount of emission reductions over the chosen crediting period:****THE TOTAL ESTIMATE OF EMISSIONS REDUCTION OVER THE 10 YEAR CREDITING PERIOD**

<b>A.4.3.1 - Estimated Emission Reductions over chosen Crediting Period</b>	
<b>Years</b>	<b>Annual estimation of emission reductions in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
Year 1	15,166
Year 2	15,166
Year 3	15,166
Year 4	15,166
Year 5	15,166
Year 6	15,166
Year 7	15,166
Year 8	15,166
Year 9	15,166
Year 10	15,166
<b>Total estimated reductions (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>151,660</b>
<b>Total number of crediting years</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Annual average over the crediting period of estimated reductions (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>	<b>15,166</b>

**A.4.4. Public funding of the small-scale project activity:**

There is no official development assistance being provided for this project.

**A.4.5. Confirmation that the small-scale project activity is not a debundled component of a larger project activity:**

Based on paragraph 2 of Appendix C of the Simplified Modalities and Procedures for Small-Scale CDM project activities,<sup>5</sup> this project is not debundled. There are no other registered small-scale CDM project

<sup>5</sup><http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/Meetings/007/eb7ra07.pdf>



activities with the same project participants, in the same project category and technology/measure whose project boundary is within 1 km of another proposed small-scale activity.

## **SECTION B. Application of a baseline methodology:**

### **B.1. Title and reference of the approved baseline methodology applied to the small-scale project activity:**

The project activity is a Type III, Other Project Activities, Category III.D./Ver 10, Methane recovery in agricultural and agro industrial activities. The project is a small scale project because it comprises methane recovery from agro-industries, and project emissions are less than 15 kt CO<sub>2</sub>eq.

### **B.2 Project category applicable to the small-scale project activity:**

The simplified methodologies are appropriate because the project activity site is considered an agro-industry and GHG emissions calculations can be estimated using internationally accepted IPCC guidance.

The project activity will capture and combust methane gas produced from the decomposing manure at a dairy cattle farm located in Aguascalientes and Querétaro, México. This simplified baseline methodology is applicable to this project activity because without the proposed project activity, methane from the existing AWMS would continue to be emitted into the atmosphere.

### **B.3. Description of how the anthropogenic emissions of GHG by sources are reduced below those that would have occurred in the absence of the registered small-scale CDM project activity:**

Anthropogenic GHGs, specifically methane, are released into the atmosphere via decomposition of animal manure. Currently, this farm-produced biogas is not collected or destroyed.

The proposed project activity intends to improve current AWMS practices. These changes will result in the mitigation of anthropogenic GHG emissions, specifically the recovery of methane, by controlling the lagoon's decomposition processes and collecting and combusting the biogas.

There are no existing, pending, or planned national regulatory requirements that govern GHG emissions from agro-industry operations (specifically, dairy production activities) as outlined in this PDD. However, the regional governments of several states do have recommendations that producers use anaerobic lagoons for manure management systems in order to maintain and improve the prevention, control and eradication of illness among the animals, with an emphasis on those that affect public health:

*"[...] request [...] the construction and operation of aerobic oxidizing lagoons or anaerobic lagoons, which guarantee an adequate treatment to waste water before it's final disposal [...]"*

-Biól. Juan Ignacio Solorio Tlaseca,  
Director General, Instituto del Medio  
Ambiente Del Estado de Aguascalientes

In addition, the Aguascalientes state government issued a statement through its Secretary of Agriculture indicating its recommendation of adequate waste management in order to "reduce impact on the ecosystems and the air quality of the state."



The Querétaro state government has also released a statement through its Secretary of Agricultural Development saying it considers important promoting those projects which preserve natural resources:

*“[...] The Secretary] suggests [...] the construction of anaerobic lagoons that facilitate the management and treatment of waste and that would transform to an advantageous resource benefiting the production unit and the environment at the same time.”*

-Lic. Héctor Samuel Lugo Chávez,  
Secretario de Desarrollo Agropecuario  
for the state of Querétaro

The project participants have solicited information regarding this issue during numerous conversations with local and state government officials and through legal representation and have determined there is no regulatory impetus for producers to upgrade current AWMS beyond the recommended open air anaerobic lagoon. The following paragraphs discuss the Mexican dairy industry and how conditions hinder changes in AWMS practices.

#### Assessment of barriers:

Absent CDM project activities, the proposed project activity has not been adopted on a national or worldwide scale due to the following barriers:

- a) *Investment Barriers:* This treatment approach is considered one of the most advanced AWMS systems in the world. Only a few countries have implemented such technology because of the high costs involved in the investment compared to other available systems.

Mexican dairy producers face the same economic challenges as farmers in other nations due to increased worldwide production and low operating margins. Farm owners focus on the bottom line. Odour benefits, potential water quality enhancements, and the incremental savings associated with heating cost avoidance, are rarely enough to compel farmers to upgrade to an (expensive) advanced AWMS system.<sup>6</sup> Unless the AWMS upgrade activity affords the producer the means to (partially) offset the practice change cost (via the sale of Certified Emission Reduction (CER) credits, for instance) the open lagoon will remain the common AWMS practice – *and all AWMS GHG biogas will continue to be emitted.*

Producers view the AWMS as a stage that is outside of the production process and have difficulty financing changes that should be undertaken. Even banks have been unwilling to finance such activities absent government guarantees or other incentives.

- b) *Technology barriers:* Anaerobic digester systems have to be sized to handle projected animal/effluent volumes with a Hydraulic Retention Time (HRT) consistent with extracting most/all methane from the manure. These systems become progressively more expensive on a ‘per animal’ basis as farm animal population (i.e., farm size) is decreased. Moreover, operations and maintenance requirements involved with this technology, including a detailed monitoring program to maintain system performance levels, must also be considered. Worldwide, few anaerobic digesters have achieved long-term operations, due primarily to inappropriate operations and maintenance.
- c) *Legal barriers:* The implementation of this project activity by these farms highly exceeds current Mexican regulations for dairy waste treatment. Apart from existing legislation in México that

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<sup>6</sup> DiPietre, Dennis, PhD, Agricultural Economist, (18 June 2003) Private communication



establishes water quality parameters that require that water supplies be protected from contamination and recommendations that producers use open lagoons to collect and process all manure produced on site, there is no legislation in place that requires specific dairy manure treatment as it relates to the emission of GHG.

An analysis was performed to assess whether the basis in choosing the baseline scenario is expected to change during the crediting period and the results follow:

- a) *Legal constraints*: There is no expectation that Mexican legislation will require future use of digesters due to the *significant* investments required. Further, there is no expectation that México will pass any legislation which deals with the GHG emissions. Indeed, the developer is aware of no Latin American or other worldwide location requiring either the use of digesters or the constraints of agricultural GHG emissions. Qualitatively, this is the most likely “risk” area associated with possible changes in the baseline scenario. Overarching environmental regulations have to balance creating a legislative framework that enables agricultural production against social pressures to make industrialized livestock operations “good neighbours.” México has successfully grown this sector, building upon low operating costs and technically expert labour.
- b) *Common practice*: While past practices cannot predict future events, it is worth noting that sites included in this project activity have been in existence for many years, during which time, the prevailing AWMS practice was open lagoons.

**B.4. Description of how the definition of the project boundary related to the baseline methodology selected is applied to the small-scale project activity:**

The project boundary is illustrated in Figure B1. It describes the basic layout of the project farm in a schematic format. The proposed project boundary considers the GHG emissions that come from AWMS practices, including the GHG resulting from the capture and combustion of biogas. The project activity site uses a system of one or more lagoons. Proposed AWMS practice changes include the construction of an anaerobic digester comprised of cells that capture the resulting biogas which is then combusted. Based on the methodology, the anaerobic digester is the physical boundary of the methane recovery facility.

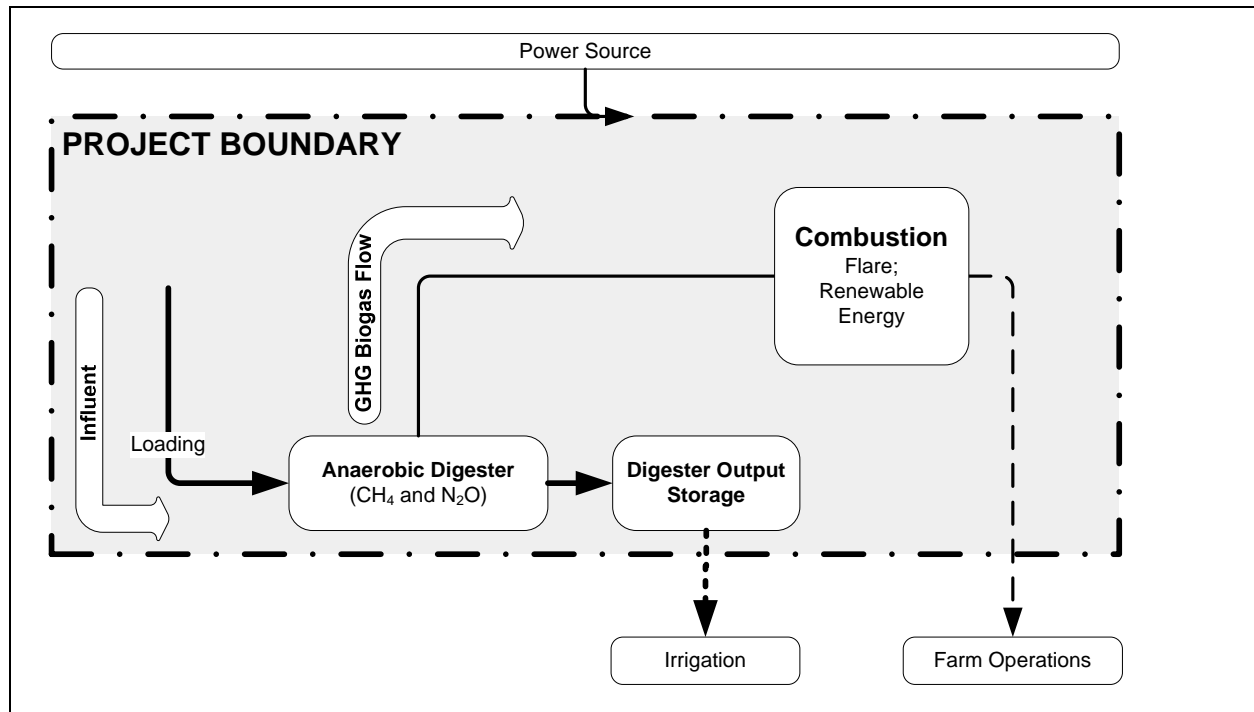


Figure B1. Project Boundary

### B.5. Details of the baseline and its development:

The amount of methane that would be emitted to the atmosphere in the absence of the project activity can be estimated by referring to Section 4.2.5 of the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories.

The final draft of this baseline section was completed on 20/09/2006. The name of entity determining the baseline is AgCert. AgCert is a project participant, as well as the project developer.

The baseline for this project activity is defined as the amount of methane that would be emitted to the atmosphere during the crediting period in the absence of the project activity. In this case an open lagoon is considered the baseline and estimated emissions are determined as follows:

#### Step 1 – Livestock Population

Animal populations for the project activity sites are described in the Section E.1.2.1, Table E1. The AWMS used on the farms is an open lagoon, unless otherwise noted in Section A.4.1.4.

#### Step 2 – Emission Factors

The emission factor for the animal group for any given month is:



$$EF_i = VS_i * n_m * B_{oi} * 0.67\text{kg/m}^3 * MCF_{jk} * MS\%_{ijk}$$

Equation B1<sup>7</sup>

Where:

- $EF_i$  = emission factor (kg) for animal type i (e.g., dairy cows, weight adjusted),
- $VS_i$  = Volatile solids excreted in kg/day for animal type I, default volatile solids value in Table E5 (adjusted as  $VS = (W_{\text{site}}/W_{\text{default}})^8 * VS_{\text{IPCC}}$ )
- $n_m$  = Number of days animals present,
- $B_o$  = Maximum methane producing capacity ( $\text{m}^3/\text{kg}$  of VS) for manure produced by animal type i,
- $MCF_{jk}$  = Methane conversion factor for each manure management system j by climate region k; and
- $MS\%_{ijk}$  = fraction of animal type i's manure handled using manure system j in climate region k.

The amount of methane emitted can be calculated using:

$$CH_{4a} = EF_i * Population_{\text{year}}$$

Equation B2<sup>9</sup>

Where:

- $CH_{4a}$  = methane produced in kg/yr for animal type I,
- $EF_i$  = emission factor (kg) for animal type i (e.g., dairy cows),
- $Population_{\text{year}}$  = yearly average population of animal type i.

### **Step 3 – Total Baseline Emissions**

To estimate total yearly methane emissions the selected emission factors are multiplied by the associated animal population and summed.

<sup>7</sup> Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual. Page 4.26, equation 16 and Page 4.43, Table B3.

<sup>8</sup> Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-1, p. 4.39, Table B-3, p. 4.43, Table B-4, p. 4.44

<sup>9</sup> Adapted from Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual. Page 4.26.



$$BE = [CH_{4a} * GWP_{CH4}]/1000$$

Equation B3<sup>10</sup>

Where:

- $BE$  = Baseline carbon dioxide equivalent emission in metric tons per year,  
 $CH_{4a}$  = annual methane produced in kg/yr for animal type I,  
 $GWP_{CH4}$  = global warming potential of methane (21).

**SECTION C. Duration of the project activity / Crediting period:**

**C.1. Duration of the small-scale project activity:**

**C.1.1. Starting date of the small-scale project activity:**

The starting date for this activity is 23/11/2005

**C.1.2. Expected operational lifetime of the small-scale project activity:**

The expected life of this project is 12y – 2m

**C.2. Choice of crediting period and related information:**

The project activity will use a **fixed** crediting period

**C.2.1. Renewable crediting period:**

**C.2.1.1. Starting date of the first crediting period:**

**C.2.1.2. Length of the first crediting period:**

**C.2.2. Fixed crediting period:**

**C.2.2.1. Starting date:**

The starting date of the crediting period is 01/01/2007.

**C.2.2.2. Length:**

<sup>10</sup> Adapted from Equation 9, page 12, AM0016/version 02, 22 October 2004 / UNFCCC / CDM Meth Panel



The length of the crediting period is **10y-0m**.

**SECTION D. Application of a monitoring methodology and plan:**

**D.1. Name and reference of approved monitoring methodology applied to the small-scale project activity:**

The methodology applied to this project activity is AMS-III.D./Ver 10, Methane recovery in agricultural and agro industrial activities.

**D.2. Justification of the choice of the methodology and why it is applicable to the small-scale project activity:**

The simplified monitoring methodologies are applicable to this project activity because they provide a method to accurately measure and record the GHG emissions that will be captured and combusted by the project activity.

**D.3 Data to be monitored:**

See Table D1 for specific parameters to be monitored.



Table D1, Data to be monitored

ID number	Data type	Data variable	Data unit	Measured (m), calculated (c) or estimated (e)	Recording frequency	Proportion of data to be monitored	How will the data be archived?	For how long is archived data to be kept?	Comment
1. BGP	Volume	Biogas produced	m <sup>3</sup>	m	Monthly	100%	electronic	Duration of project activity +2y	This parameter measures cumulative biogas produced. A biogas meter will continuously measure amount of biogas produced.
2. MC	Percent	Methane content	%	m	Quarterly	100%	electronic	Duration of project activity +2y	This parameter determines the methane content of the biogas.
3. CEE	Volume	Biogas produced	m <sup>3</sup>	m/c	As needed	n/a	electronic	Duration of project activity +2y	Whenever the flare is observed to be out of service, any biogas metered from the last recorded operational point in time, shall be excluded from the total Biogas reading (ID: 1. BGP)
4.FE	Percent	Efficiency of Flaring	%	m/c	Once	n/a	Electronic or paper	Duration of project activity +2y	AgCert staff will sample test flare efficiency periodically to ensure that enclosed flares are achieving complete methane destruction.

**D.4. Qualitative explanation of how quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) procedures are undertaken:**

AgCert has designed and implemented a unique set of data management tools to efficiently capture and report data throughout the project lifecycle. On-site assessment (collecting Geo-referenced, time/date stamped data), supplier production data exchange, task tracking, and post-implementation auditing tools have been developed to ensure accurate, consistent, and complete data gathering and project implementation. Sophisticated tools have also been created to estimate/monitor the creation of high quality, permanent, ERs using IPCC formulae.

By coupling these capabilities with an ISO quality and environmental management system, AgCert enables transparent data collection and verification.

**D.5. Please describe briefly the operational and management structure that the project participant(s) will implement in order to monitor emission reductions and any leakage effects generated by the project activity:**

A complete set of procedures and a Monitoring Plan (Annex 3) has been developed to ensure accurate measurement of biogas produced and proper operation of the digester equipment. This plan exceeds the requirements outlined in the approved methodology outlined in Appendix B of the simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale CDM project activities as it applies to proposed project activity.

Metering devices used are designed to continuously and accurately measure biogas flow and are specially designed for corrosive environments. Meters are received from the factory fully-calibrated and retain calibration for the service life of the unit. Volumetric accuracy of the meter is permanent and non-adjustable. Accuracy is not affected by low or varying line pressures. Accuracy of the flowmeters utilized exceeds 99 percent across the entire measured rate curve with an uncertainty range of less than  $\pm 1$  percent. Periodic maintenance will be performed based on manufacturer specifications. Other equipment calibrations are accomplished using procedures developed by the project developer (Annex 4).

Methane concentration is determined using a Bacharach Model Fyrite (or equivalent) gas analyzer. The process is described in the Monitoring Plan. The measuring equipment is calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer specifications. The equipment is accurate to within 0.5%.

Further, AgCert has a trained staff located in the host nation to perform O&M activities including but not limited to monitoring and collection of parameters, quality audits, personnel training, and equipment inspections. The associated Monitoring Plan has been developed to provide guidance (work instructions) to individuals that collect and/or process data. AgCert staff will perform audits of farm operations personnel on a regular basis to ensure proper data collection and handling.

**D.6. Name of person/entity determining the monitoring methodology:**

The entity determining this monitoring methodology is AgCert International plc who is the project developer listed in Annex 1 of this document.

**SECTION E.: Estimation of GHG emissions by sources:****E.1. Formulae used:**

**E.1.1 Selected formulae as provided in appendix B:**

Specific formula to calculate the GHG emission reductions by sources for the AWMS improvement are not provided in appendix B of the simplified M&P for small-scale CDM project activities.

**E.1.2 Description of formulae when not provided in appendix B:****E.1.2.1 Describe the formulae used to estimate anthropogenic emissions by sources of GHGs due to the project activity within the project boundary:**

The amount of methane that would be emitted to the atmosphere due to the project activity and within the project boundaries can be estimated by referring to Section 4.2.5 of the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories

The project emissions for this project activity are defined as the amount of methane that would be emitted to the atmosphere during the crediting period due to the project activity. In this case an anaerobic digester is considered the project activity and estimated emissions are determined as follows:

**Step 1 – Livestock Population**

Livestock populations for the project activity sites are described in the tables below. The AWMS proposed for use on the farm is an anaerobic digester.

**Table E1, Animal Population**

	Month/Yr	Animal Type				
		Lactating Cow	Dry Cow	Heifer	Calf	Bull
Establo Los Olivos (32552)	Jul-05	700	275	450	130	160
	Aug-05	700	275	450	130	160
	Sep-05	700	275	450	130	160
	Oct-05	700	275	450	130	160
	Nov-05	700	275	450	130	160
	Dec-05	700	275	450	130	160
	Jan-06	700	275	450	130	160
	Feb-06	700	275	450	130	160
	Mar-06	700	275	450	130	160
	Apr-06	700	275	450	130	160
	May-06	700	275	450	130	160
	Jun-06	700	275	450	130	160



	Month/Yr	Animal Type				
		Lactating Cow	Dry Cow	Heifer	Calf	Bull
Rancho El Progreso (3280168)	May-05	317	68	113	181	0
	Jun-05	336	57	133	195	0
	Jul-05	338	45	144	216	0
	Aug-05	348	55	157	232	0
	Sep-05	372	60	127	236	0
	Oct-05	404	41	119	235	0
	Nov-05	407	39	115	240	0
	Dec-05	402	44	114	238	0
	Jan-06	398	36	112	242	0
	Feb-06	405	43	176	291	0
	Mar-06	399	47	177	284	0
	Apr-06	389	44	169	305	0
	Month/Yr	Animal Type				
		Lactating Cow	Dry Cow	Heifer	Calf	Bull
Rancho Fuentezuelas (1335661)	Jul-05	456	81	193	331	0
	Aug-05	456	81	193	331	0
	Sep-05	524	95	211	400	0
	Oct-05	505	108	204	399	0
	Nov-05	510	105	212	396	0
	Dec-05	543	81	227	381	0
	Jan-06	547	90	229	385	0
	Feb-06	549	92	232	379	0
	Mar-06	539	92	237	385	0
	Apr-06	546	94	241	387	0
	May-06	541	95	243	389	0
	Jun-06	553	97	247	391	0



	Month/Yr	Animal Type				
		Lactating Cow	Dry Cow	Heifer	Calf	Bull
Rancho San Pedro (3280023)	Aug-05	580	168	0	0	0
	Sep-05	579	179	0	0	0
	Oct-05	578	170	0	0	0
	Nov-05	565	171	0	0	0
	Dec-05	555	155	0	0	0
	Jan-06	535	140	0	0	0
	Feb-06	540	146	0	0	0
	Mar-06	539	156	0	0	0
	Apr-06	540	141	0	0	0
	May-06	542	147	0	0	0
	Jun-06	542	172	0	0	0
	Jul-06	543	162	0	0	0

## Step 2 – Emission Factors

The emission factor for the animal group for any given month is:

$$EF_i = VS_i * n_m * B_{oi} * 0.67\text{kg/m}^3 * MCF_{jk} * MS\%_{ijk}$$

Equation E2<sup>11</sup>

Where:

- $EF_i$  = emission factor (kg) for animal type i (e.g., dairy cows, weight adjusted),
- $VS_i$  = Volatile solids excreted in kg/day for animal type I, default volatile solids value in Table E5 (adjusted as  $VS = (W_{\text{site}}/W_{\text{default}})^{12} * VS_{\text{IPCC}}$ )
- $n_m$  = Number of days animals present,
- $B_o$  = Maximum methane producing capacity ( $\text{m}^3/\text{kg}$  of VS) for manure produced by animal type i,
- $MCF_{jk}$  = Methane conversion factor for each manure management system j by climate region k; and
- $MS\%_{ijk}$  = fraction of animal type i's manure handled using manure system j in climate region k.

The amount of methane emitted can be calculated using:

<sup>11</sup> Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual. Page 4.26, equation 16 and Page 4.43, Table B3.

<sup>12</sup> Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-1, p. 4.39, Table B-3, p. 4.43, Table B-4, p. 4.44



$$CH_{4a} = EF_i * Population_{year}$$

Equation E3<sup>13</sup>

Where:

- $CH_{4a}$  = methane produced in kg/yr for animal type I,  
 $EF_i$  = emission factor (kg) for animal type i (e.g., dairy cows),  
 $Population_{year}$  = yearly average population of animal type i.

**E.1.2.2 Describe the formulae used to estimate leakage due to the project activity, where required, for the applicable project category in appendix B of the simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale CDM project activities**

In accordance with the baseline methodology, leakage calculations are not required.

**E.1.2.3 The sum of E.1.2.1 and E.1.2.2 represents the small-scale project activity emissions:**

To estimate total yearly methane emissions the selected emission factors are multiplied by the associated animal population and summed.

$$PE = [CH_{4a} * GWP_{CH4}]/1000 + DE$$

Equation E4<sup>14</sup>

Where:

- $PE$  = Project activity carbon dioxide equivalent emission in metric tons per year,  
 $CH_{4a}$  = annual methane produced in kg/yr for animal type I,  
 $GWP_{CH4}$  = global warming potential of methane (21),  
 $DE$  = direct emissions from use of fossil fuels/electricity for operation of facility<sup>15</sup>

Equipment	Total HP rating	kW equivalent	# hours operation per day	kWh per day consumption	# days per year operation	kWh per year consumption
agitator pump for mixing carcamo	20	14.9	6	89.6	365	32,687
digester mixer (s)	10	7.5	12	89.6	365	32,687
manure heating recirculation pump	10	7.5	24	179.1	275	49,254
boiler/heat exchanger recirculation pump	3	2.2	24	53.7	275	14,776
blower	1	0.7	12	9.0	365	3,269
					<b>Total:</b>	<b>132,672</b>

<sup>13</sup> Adapted from Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Reference Manual. Page 4.26.

<sup>14</sup> Adapted from Equation 9, page 12, AM0016/version 02, 22 October 2004/UNFCCC/CDM Methodology Panel

<sup>15</sup> Direct emissions calculated using country specific factors from The GHG Indicator: UNEP Guidelines for Calculating Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Businesses and Non-Commercial Organisations, Appendix 8.2, Table 12 (1996 calculation) [http://www.unep.org/energy/tools/ghgin/docs/GHG\\_Indicator.pdf](http://www.unep.org/energy/tools/ghgin/docs/GHG_Indicator.pdf)



Source per site	Est kwh consumed/produced per yr	kg CO2e emitted per kwh produced - Mexico	metric tonnes CO2e per site
Direct emissions from fossil fuel/electricity	132,672	0.5230	69.39

Table E2, Project Activity Emissions (Methane shown in metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e)

Project Activity Emissions			
Legal Entity	Site	Site ID	CH4
Grupo Gómez Cobo S.A. de C.V.	Establo Los Olivos	32552	718
Juan Carlos González Muñoz	Rancho El Progreso	3280168	329
José Ignacio Gerardo Cervantes	Rancho Fuentezuelas	1335661	480
Jorge Gutiérrez Martín del Campo	Rancho San Pedro	3280023	403
<b>Total:</b>			<b>1,930</b>

**E.1.2.4 Describe the formulae used to estimate the anthropogenic emissions by sources of GHGs in the baseline using the baseline methodology for the applicable project category in appendix B of the simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale CDM project activities:**

Table E3, Baseline Emissions (Methane shown in metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e)

Baseline Emissions			
Legal Entity	Site	Site ID	CH4
Grupo Gómez Cobo S.A. de C.V.	Establo Los Olivos	32552	6,465
Juan Carlos González Muñoz	Rancho El Progreso	3280168	2,964
José Ignacio Gerardo Cervantes	Rancho Fuentezuelas	1335661	4,322
Jorge Gutiérrez Martín del Campo	Rancho San Pedro	3280023	3,623
<b>Total:</b>			<b>17,374</b>

**E.1.2.5 Difference between E.1.2.4 and E.1.2.3 represents the emission reductions due to the project activity during a given period:**

Table E4, Total Emission Reductions

Total Emission Reductions	
	CO <sub>2</sub> e/year
Total Baseline Emissions (BE)	17,374
Project Emissions (PE)	1,930
Direct emissions from electricity/fossil fuel (PE)	278
<b>Total Emission Reductions (ER<sub>net</sub> = BE - PE)</b>	<b>15,166</b>

**E.2 Table providing values obtained when applying formulae above:**



Table E5

Parameter/Factor	Value	Source/Comment
<b>Baseline</b>		
GWP CH <sub>4</sub>	21	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, <i>Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change</i> (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996)
Population <sub>year</sub>	Table E1	Animal population used to estimate baseline and project emission estimates was based on a 12 month period of actual or projected operation production data.
n <sub>m</sub>	Table E1	Days resident in system
MS% <sub>ijk</sub>	100%	Percent of effluent used in system.
VS <sub>i</sub>	5.2 (Lactating) 3.47 (Dry cows) 2.86 (Heifers) 1.87 (Calves) 3.78 (Bulls)	Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-1, p. 4.39 Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-3, p. 4.43 Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-4, p. 4.44
B <sub>oi</sub>	.24 (Lactating) .17 (Dry cows) .17 (Heifers) .17 (Calves) .17 (Bulls)	Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-1, p. 4.39
MCF <sub>jk</sub>	0.90	Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-3, p. 4.43 and p. 4.44
<b>Project Activity</b>		
GWP CH <sub>4</sub>	21	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, <i>Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change</i> (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996)
Population <sub>year</sub>	Table E1	Animal population used to estimate baseline and project emission estimates was based on a 12 month period of actual or projected operation production data.
n <sub>m</sub>	Table E1	Days resident in system
MS% <sub>ijk</sub>	100%	Percent of effluent used in system
VS <sub>i</sub>	5.2 (Lactating) 3.47 (Dry cows) 2.86 (Heifers) 1.87 (Calves) 3.78 (Bulls)	Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-1, p. 4.39 Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-3, p. 4.43 Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-4, p. 4.44
B <sub>oi</sub>	.24 (Lactating) .17 (Dry cows) .17 (Heifers) .17 (Calves) .17 (Bulls)	Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-3, p. 4.39
MCF <sub>jk</sub>	0.10	Obtained from 1996 IPCC, Appendix B, Table B-3, p. 4.43 and p. 4.44



Table E6

Uncertainty Parameter for GHG Mitigation Project Estimates	
Uncertainty:	How Addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data collection inaccuracies</li> <li>○ Animal type</li> <li>○ Animal population, group/type, mortality rates</li> <li>○ Genetics</li> <li>○ Choice of appropriate emission coefficients</li> <li>○ Data security</li> <li>○ Animal health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accurate data collection is essential. The farms included in this project activity use a Standardized industry database package which captures a wide range of incremental production data to manage operations and enable the farm to maximize both productivity and profitability. AgCert uses some data points collected via this system.</li> <li>○ AgCert has a rigorous QA/QC system that ensures data security and data integrity. AgCert performs spot audits data collection activities.</li> <li>○ AgCert has a data management system capable of interfacing with producer systems to serve as a secure data repository. Project activity data related uncertainties will be reduced by applying sound data collection quality assurance and quality control procedures.</li> <li>○ Any significant mortality rates will be visible from the Monthly Monitoring Form and addressed accordingly.</li> </ul>

#### SECTION F.: Environmental impacts:

##### F.1. If required by the host Party, documentation on the analysis of the environmental impacts of the project activity:

An environmental impact analysis is not required for this type of GHG project activity.

##### Environment:

There are no negative environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project activity.

Beyond the principal benefit of mitigating GHG emissions (the primary focus of the proposed project); the proposed activities will also result in positive environmental co-benefits. They include:

- Reducing atmospheric emissions of Volatile Organics Compounds (VOCs) that cause odour,
- Lowering the population of flies and associated enhancement to on-farm bio-security thus reducing the possible spread of disease.

The combination of these factors will make the proposed project site more “neighbour friendly” and environmentally responsible.

#### SECTION G. Stakeholders' comments:

##### G.1. Brief description of how comments by local stakeholders have been invited and compiled:

AgCert invited stakeholders to meetings to explain the UNFCCC CDM process and proposed project activity. These meetings were held on 30 January 2006 in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato; on 20 April 2006 in La Piedad, Michoacán; and on 8 June 2006 and 22 August 2006 in Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes.



AgCert issued invitations to government officials at the federal, state, and local levels. Furthermore, AgCert published announcements of the meetings in the newspaper, which cover **Aguascalientes** and **Querétaro**.

These public announcements appeared in:

1. *Diario A.M., Celaya, Guanajuato* on **25 January 2006**
2. *Diario AM, La Piedad, Michoacán* on **12 April 2006**
3. *El Heraldo, Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes* on **30 May 2006**
4. *El Heraldo de Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes* on **16 August 2006**

All invitations were in the Spanish language. The meetings were attended by project participants and farm representatives. A full list of attendees and the meeting minutes are available on request.

**Eleazar Sonqui, Juan José Vizcaíno and Gabriela Dávila** of AgCert México gave a presentation, which covered the following topics: purpose of the meeting, background on global warming and the Kyoto Protocol, UNFCCC CDM process, process and responsibilities of the project, participants, equipment to be used for evaluation and audits, information management system, an example of project, benefits from the project (environmental and economic), and where to get further information.

AgCert has also participated as a speaker and described in detail this project in the Mexican government sponsored CDM workshops being presented throughout México.

#### **G.2. Summary of the comments received:**

After the presentations, attendees were afforded the opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed project activities.

Overall, the comments from the attendees at the stakeholders' meeting were positive and supportive of the project.

#### **G.3. Report on how due account was taken of any comments received:**

No action required.

Annex 1**CONTACT INFORMATION ON PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT ACTIVITY**

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Annex 2

**INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC FUNDING**

There is no official development assistance being provided for this project.



### Annex 3

## Monitoring Plan

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this method specification is to describe the criteria for maintaining equipment, reporting equipment outages, and to provide detailed guidance for collection and processing of data that is used in the determination of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

### SCOPE

This document applies to GHG Mitigation Project related activities. It applies to all personnel that operate and/or maintain project activity equipment and/or have an active role in data collection and processing.

### ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- UNFCCC approved monitoring methodology: AMS-III.D., Methane Recovery.  
[http://cdm.unfccc.int/UserManagement/FileStorage/CDMWF\\_AM\\_PF50DGZMOZM6QBRHQ3PWWSKEKCLSV2](http://cdm.unfccc.int/UserManagement/FileStorage/CDMWF_AM_PF50DGZMOZM6QBRHQ3PWWSKEKCLSV2)
- Jody Zall Kusek, and Ray C. Rist, June 2004. Ten Steps to a Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation System: A Handbook for Development Practitioners, World Bank.  
[http://www.worldbankinfoshop.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item\\_id=3688663](http://www.worldbankinfoshop.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item_id=3688663)
- Component guides / manuals for:
  - Manure transfer system
  - Ambient temperature anaerobic digester
  - Biogas transfer system including a biogas flow-meter
  - Combustion system (Flare)
  - Optional combustion system (Electrical Generator)
- MS004-F1, O & M Weekly Monitoring Checklist
- MS004-F2, O & M Monthly Monitoring Form
- MS004-F3, O & M Maintenance Log (en-br)
- MS004-F4, O & M Maintenance Log (sp-mx)
- MS008, Farm Data Collection Procedure
- MS008-F1, Animal Inventory Control
- MS008-F2, Monthly Inventory Reporting
- P004, Control of Nonconforming Product/Service



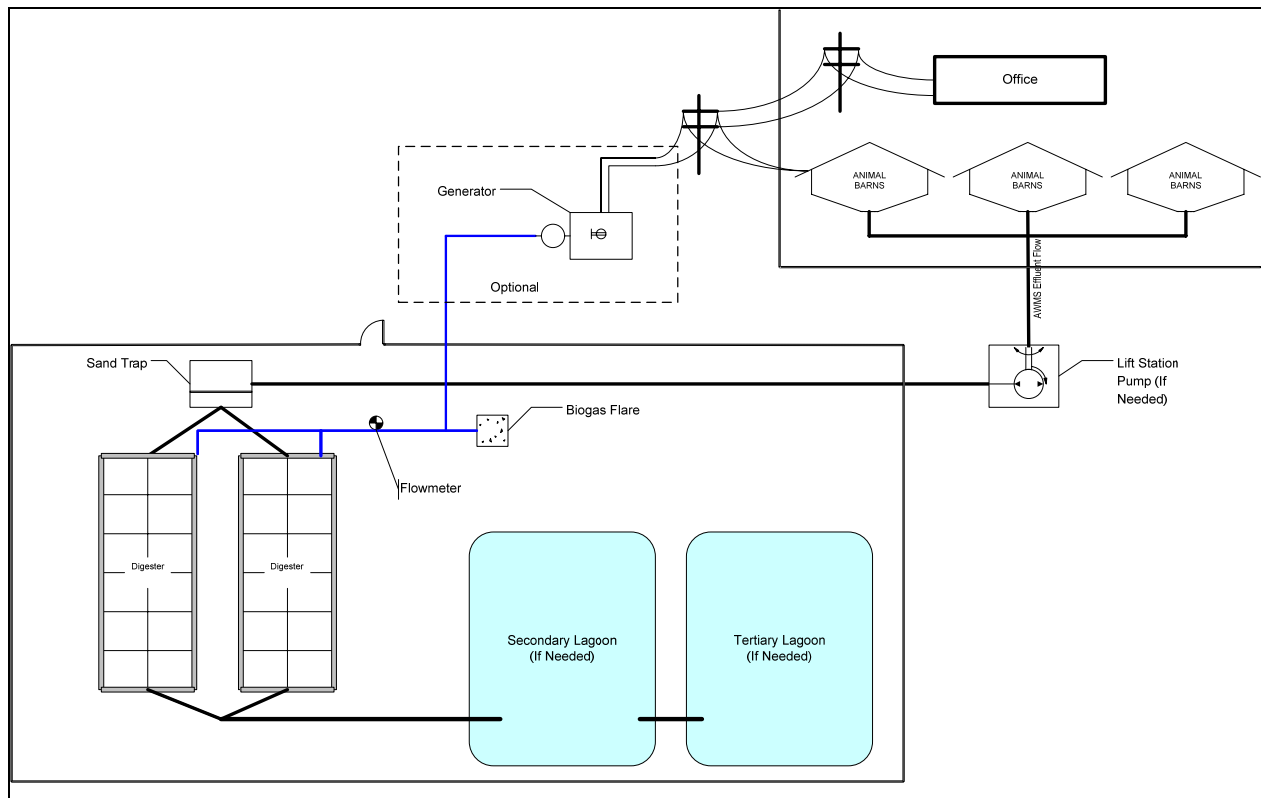
- P020, Monitoring & Measurement of Product/Processes
- P025, Control of Monitoring & Measurement Devices
- I025-1, Equipment Calibration & Verification
- P039, Competence, Training, and Awareness
- I031-2F11, Form B – Swine – IPCC (en)
- I031-2F13, Form B – IPCC – MX (sp)
- I031-2F16, Form B – Dairy – IPCC (en), (sp), (pt)
- I036-9, Bio-security and Safety
- Operations Manual CO<sub>2</sub> Analyzer
- EnviroCert Operations Management System (OMS)

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES**

### **System Overview**

The Animal Waste Management System (AWMS) used in this project is shown in Figure 1. The system is made up of four (4) major system components:

- Manure transfer system which includes one lift station if needed
- Ambient temperature anaerobic digester cell(s)
- Biogas transfer system including a biogas flow-meter
- Combustion system (Flare)
- Optional combustion system (Electrical Generator)



**Figure 1. Typical GHG Mitigation Project System Overview**

### **System Components Operation Requirements**

#### **Manure Transfer System**

##### **Training**

Training on the Manure Transfer System shall be provided to the operations personnel by the system manufacturer and installer. Training shall include: system components, normal operation, emergency operations, maintenance, and request for warranty service. Training on reporting procedures shall be provided to the productions operations manager by AgCert.

##### **Normal Operation**

The system described in Figure 1 is a typical flush system with one optional lift station. Under normal conditions, farm hands clean the manure from the barns using water hoses and squeegees. This effluent is captured and then flushed from the barns periodically. Effluent from the barns is deposited in a lift station. Upon reaching predetermined threshold, the pump engages and routes the effluent to the digester cell. Upon being treated in the digester, the effluent is then routed from the digester to the storage lagoon. Liquid from the lagoon can then be used for irrigation.

##### **Safety Issues and Emergency Preparedness**

Care should be exercised when working around the lift station and distribution box (if installed) to avoid falling into the pit.

##### **Weekly Inspection**

A periodic inspection shall include the following:



- Check for pipeline obstructions
- Check for leaks in exposed pipelines
- Check for corrosion at exposed joints

#### Alternative Operating Procedures

In the event the manure transport system becomes unusable, the farm manager shall notify AgCert in accordance with paragraph 0. Both parties shall work together to reach an acceptable alternate method to route the effluent so that farm operations are not affected, and GHG continues to be captured. If maintenance or warranty service is required, AgCert shall contact the appropriate service provider. Upon restoration of the system the farm manager shall notify the Regional Maintenance Technician (RMT) (phone, e-mail, etc.).

### **Ambient Temperature Anaerobic Digester**

#### **WARNING**

**The gas contained in the digester cell is EXTREMELY flammable. Sources of ignition and smoking are not permitted within 10 meters of the cell and gas handling system.**

**Death or serious injury may result.**

#### Training

Training on the Ambient Temperature Anaerobic Digester shall be provided to production operations personnel by the system manufacturer and installer. Training shall include: system components, start-up procedures, normal operation, emergency operations, maintenance, and request for service. Training on reporting procedures shall be provided to the production operations personnel by AgCert.

#### Startup Procedures

Refer to the guide / manual for the ambient temperature anaerobic digester.

#### Loading Rate and Total Solids Content

Refer to the guide / manual for the ambient temperature anaerobic digester.

#### Normal Operation

Refer to the guide / manual for the ambient temperature anaerobic digester.

#### Safety Issues and Emergency Preparedness

- No open flame permitted within 10 meters of the digester
- Do not allow personnel to stand, sit, or lean against the digester cover
- Do not use sharp objects/tools in the vicinity of the cover

#### Weekly Inspection

A weekly inspection shall include the following:

- Cover material – check for cracks, tears, or points of distress around perimeter of digester cell
- Check for excessive ballooning of cover or presence of odor
- Check seams for signs of gas leakage

#### Alternative Operating Procedures

In the event the digester cell becomes unusable, the farm manager shall notify AgCert in accordance with paragraph 0. Both parties shall work together to reach an acceptable alternate method to treat the effluent so that farm operations are not affected, and GHG gas continues to be captured. If maintenance or warranty service is required, AgCert shall contact the appropriate service provider. Upon restoration of the system the Regional Maintenance Technician shall be notified (phone, e-mail, etc.).

### Biogas Transfer System and Biogas Sensor/Flow-Meter

#### Training

Training on the Biogas Transfer System shall be provided to the operations personnel by the system manufacturer and installer. Training shall include: system components, normal operation, emergency operations, maintenance, and request for warranty service. Training on reporting procedures shall be provided to the production operations personnel by AgCert.

#### Normal Operation

Biogas produced in the anaerobic digester is trapped under a positive or negative pressure geomembrane cover installed over the digester cell. The biogas is routed from the digester to the flare via PVC tubing. A flow meter, which measures gas flow, is fitted in the biogas transfer system piping.



Figure 2. Roots biogas flowmeter

#### Safety Issues and Emergency Preparedness

Gas to the metering system should be disconnected prior to performing maintenance on the flow-meter. Care should be taken when digging in the area where the pipeline is buried.

#### Preventive Maintenance

Preventive maintenance shall be conducted in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. NOTE: A record of the cumulative biogas reading must be recorded prior to zeroing the meter.

#### Weekly Inspection

The weekly inspection shall include the following:

- Check for leaks in exposed pipelines
- Check for proper operation of the flow-meter

#### Alternative Operating Procedures

In the event that the biogas transfer system becomes unusable; the farm manager shall **immediately** notify AgCert in accordance with paragraph 0. Both parties shall work together to reach an acceptable alternate method to route the biogas so that farm operations are not affected and GHG gas emissions are mitigated. If maintenance or warranty service is required, AgCert shall contact the



appropriate service provider. Upon restoration of the system the RMT shall be notified (phone, e-mail, etc.).

### **Combustion System (Flare)**

#### Training

Training on the Flare Combustion System shall be provided by the system manufacturer and installer. Training shall include: system components, normal operation, emergency operations, maintenance, and request for warranty service. Training on reporting procedures shall be provided to the production operations personnel by AgCert.

#### Normal Operation

The flare system is designed to combust the biogas whenever it is present. AgCert's flaring combustion system is automated to ensure that all biogas that exits the digester and passes through the flare (and flow meter) is combusted. Pressure control devices within the gas handling system maintain proper biogas flow to the combustion system. A continuous ignition system ensures methane combustion whenever biogas is present at the flare. The continuous ignition system is powered by a robust solar module (solar-charged battery system) that operates independently from the power grid. These solar modules are designed for rigorous outdoor application in remote locations and are proven through many years of operational experience in ranch and farm settings similar to AgCert project sites. Two (2) sparking electrodes provide operational redundancy to ensure that a minimum of one (1) spark is produced at the flare burner every 3 seconds. If biogas is present in the flare, it is immediately ignited by the sparking system. If biogas is not present, the igniter sparks harmlessly.

#### Safety Issues and Emergency Preparedness

Prior to performing any maintenance on the flare system, the gas flow **must** be turned off. Care should be exercised when working around the flare system as components can be extremely hot.

#### Preventive Maintenance

Preventive maintenance shall be conducted at least yearly in accordance with component manufacturer's recommendations.

#### Weekly Inspection

The weekly inspection shall include a visual inspection to determine the flare is combusting gas.

#### Alternative Operating Procedures

In the event that the flare system becomes unusable, the farm manager shall **immediately** notify AgCert in accordance with paragraph 0. Both parties shall work together to reach an acceptable alternate method to combust the biogas so that farm operations are not affected and GHG emissions are mitigated. If maintenance or warranty service is required, AgCert shall contact the appropriate service provider. Upon restoration of the system the RMT shall be notified (phone, e-mail, etc.).

### **Optional Combustion System**

#### Training

Training on any optional combustion system, e.g., generator, space heater, etc., shall be provided by the system manufacturer and installer. Training shall include: system components, normal operation, emergency operations, maintenance, and request for warranty service. Training on reporting procedures shall be provided to the production operations personnel by AgCert.

Normal Operation

An optional combustion system is designed to take advantage of the biogas and convert it into renewable energy. The systems can be used to generate electricity, heat a barn, or any other process approved (in writing) by AgCert and the verifying designated operational entity (DOE).

Safety Issues and Emergency Preparedness

Prior to performing any maintenance on an optional combustion system, the gas flow **must** be turned off. Care should be exercised when working around the optional combustion system as components can be extremely hot and high voltage may be present (when operating).

Preventive Maintenance

Preventive maintenance shall be conducted in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

NOTE: In any case where it is required to zero and/or remove a meter, ensure that the meter reading is noted prior to zeroing and/or removing the meter.

Alternative Operating Procedures

In the event that the generator system becomes unusable, the user shall notify AgCert in accordance with paragraph 0. The flare shall be used as the only method to combust GHG biogas. The user shall take appropriate action to notify his service provider should maintenance or warranty service be required. Upon restoration of the system the RMT shall be notified (phone, e-mail, etc.).

**Maintenance, Trouble Reporting and Documentation**Emergency Maintenance:

Situations requiring immediate attention due to failure of components of the digester or combustion system that could cause significant damage to the physical structure, or could result in the release of GHG or failure to capture GHG should be immediately reported to the Regional Maintenance Technician. If unavailable, contact the National Monitoring or Maintenance Manager of the country where the equipment is located or the International Operations and Maintenance Manager.

Title	Phone	e-mail
Regional Maintenance Technician (RMT)	Supplied during training	Supplied during training
Argentina National Monitoring Manager		operationsar@agcert.com
Brazil National Monitoring Manager	(11) 5522 6940	operationsbr@agcert.com
Chile National Monitoring Manager		operationscl@agcert.com
International Monitoring Manager	+1.321.409.7846	operations@agcert.com
Mexico National Monitoring Manager	(55) 5557 1750	operationsmx@agcert.com

Unscheduled Maintenance:

Situations requiring maintenance (not resulting in the release or failure to capture GHG) should be reported to the Regional Maintenance Technician, normally within 1 to 24 hours of discovery.

Records Keeping

Maintenance and servicing of equipment shall be recorded.

**MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

The following table summarizes key parameters monitored:

**Table 1. Key parameters monitored**

ID	Item	Applies to Project	Monitored		ER Calculation Data		Performed by	Comments
			Ex-ante	Ex-post	Primary	Secondary		
1	Biogas Produced (BGP)	✓		✓		✓	FH, RMT	QA/QC
2	Methane Content (MC)	✓		✓		✓	RMT	QA/QC
3	Combustion System Operational Time (CEE)	✓		✓	✓		FH, RMT	Whenever the flare is observed to be out of service, any biogas metered from the last known operational point in time, shall be deducted from the total Biogas reading
4	%FE	✓		✓				Ensures correct performance of combustion

Farm: FH – Farm Hand; DP – Data Processor; FM – Farm Manager;  
AgCert: RMT – Regional Maintenance Technician, QA – Quality Assurance; OP – Operations, EN - Engineer

**MONITORING WORK INSTRUCTIONS**

Work instructions for the monitoring of key parameters can be found on the following pages:

**Work Instruction for monitoring ID 1, Biogas Produced**

## Summary

This ID monitors the volume and flow of biogas sent to the combustion system on a monthly basis. It is a quality control check to ensure proper operation of the anaerobic digester.

## References

- UNFCCC approved monitoring methodology: AMS-III.D., Methane Recovery.
- Data collection forms (provided by farm manager)
- P025, Control of Monitoring and Measuring Device (MMD)



- MS004-F2, O & M Monthly Monitoring Form

## Prerequisite(s)

## Processes

- I036-9, Bio-security and Safety

## Training of Monitoring Personnel

- Regional Maintenance Technicians and operations personnel shall be trained on data collection transfer processes.

## Equipment, Materials and Tools

- Biogas Flow Meter

## Calibration

- Prior to using a measuring device, ensure it is calibrated.

## Process

Step	Operator	Activity	Documentation	Comments
1	RMT	Record reading in appropriate area of MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form	MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form	
2	RMT	Transmit data to MLB operations	Fax, Electronic, etc	Enter data into EnviroCert
3	QA	Perform Quality Control Check for format, integrity, etc.		
4	OP	Confirm reading within expected limits IAW manufacturer guidelines.		
5	OP	Store Data		
Farm: FH – Farm Hand; DP – Data Processor; FM – Farm Manager; AgCert: RMT – Regional Monitoring Technician, QA – Quality Assurance; OP – Operations, EN – Engineer				

## Records Control

RECORD ID	RECORD LOCATION	RETENTION TIME	DISPOSITION
MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form	Document Control Center	Duration of project + 2 years	Destroy



## **Work Instruction for monitoring ID 2, Methane Content**

### Summary

This ID determines the methane content of the biogas. It is a snapshot of the AMWS methane production efficiency. Methane concentration is determined with CO<sub>2</sub> content measurement and is obtained with a gas analyzer. A range of  $\pm 10\%$  points is sufficient to determine uncertainties. For example, the nominal percentage of CH<sub>4</sub> in biogas is approximately 65%. Readings between 55% and 75% indicate proper operation of the digester. The measuring equipment is calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer specifications.

### References

- UNFCC approved monitoring methodology: AMS-III.D., Methane Recovery
- P025, Control of Monitoring and Measuring Device (MMD)
- Operations Manual CO<sub>2</sub> Analyzer
- MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form
- MS004-F3 or F4, O & M Maintenance Log

### Prerequisite(s)

#### Processes

- I036-9, Bio-security and Safety

#### Training of Monitoring Personnel

- Operating the CO<sub>2</sub> Analyzer
- Regional Maintenance Technicians shall be trained on data collection transfer processes.
- Operations personnel shall be trained on data processing and storage

#### Equipment, Materials and Tools

- CO<sub>2</sub> Analyzer

#### Calibration

- As required by the manufacturer.



## Process

Step	Operator	Activity	Documentation	Comments
1	RMT	Prepare the gas analyzer as directed in the operator manual.	CO <sub>2</sub> Analyzer Operations Manual	
2	RMT	Connect the CO <sub>2</sub> analyzer to the system test port.		
3	RMT	Open valve on test port		
4	RMT	Take gas reading in accordance with Operations Manual		Take 5 readings and average the results.
5	RMT	Record CO <sub>2</sub> readings in appropriate spaces of MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form	MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form	If there is greater than 10% points difference from previous reading, initiate appropriate maintenance actions.
6	RMT	Close valve on test port		
7	RMT	Disconnect hose in reverse order of connection		
8	RMT	Double check that biogas test port valve is closed prior to leaving area		
9	RMT	Transmit data to MLB operations	Fax, Electronic, etc	Enter into EnviroCert
10	QA	Perform Quality Control Check for format, integrity, etc.		
11	OP	Confirm reading within expected limits IAW manufacturer guidelines.		
12	OP	Store Data		

Farm: FH – Farm Hand; DP – Data Processor; FM – Farm Manager;  
 AgCert: RMT – Regional Monitoring Technician, QA – Quality Assurance; OP – Operations, EN - Engineer

## Records Control

RECORD ID	RECORD LOCATION	RETENTION TIME	DISPOSITION
MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form	Document Control Center	Duration of project + 2 years	Destroy

**Work Instruction for monitoring ID 3, Fraction of time Combustion Equipment Operates**

## Summary

This ID monitors the time in which gas is combusted.



## References

- UNFCCC approved monitoring methodology: AMS-III.D., Methane Recovery
- MS004-F2, O & M Monthly Monitoring Form
- P025, Control of Monitoring and Measuring Device (MMD)

## Prerequisite(s)

## Processes

- I036-9, Bio-security and Safety

## Training of Monitoring Personnel

- Regional Maintenance Technicians and operations personnel shall be trained on data collection transfer processes.

## Equipment, Materials and Tools

- Biogas Flow Meter

## Calibration

- Prior to using a measuring device, ensure it is calibrated.

## Process

Step	Operator	Activity	Documentation	Comments
1	RMT	Record reading in appropriate area of MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form	MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form	
2	RMT	Transmit data to MLB operations	Fax, Electronic, etc	Enter data into EnviroCert
3	QA	Perform Quality Control Check for format, integrity, etc.		
4	OP	Confirm reading within expected limits IAW manufacturer guidelines.		
5	OP	Store Data		

Farm: FH – Farm Hand; DP – Data Processor; FM – Farm Manager;

AgCert: RMT – Regional Maintenance Technician; QA – Quality Assurance; OP – Operations, EN - Engineer

RECORD ID	RECORD LOCATION	RETENTION TIME	DISPOSITION
MS004-F2, Monthly Monitoring Form	Document Control Center	Duration of project + 2 years	Destroy

## Records Control



**Work Instruction for monitoring ID 4, Flare Efficiency**

Summary

This parameter guarantees the correct performance of digester and gas recovery.

References

- Approved monitoring methodology: AMS-III.D., Methane Recovery.
- P025, Control of Monitoring and Measuring Devices
- MS004-F2, O & M Monthly Monitoring Form

Prerequisite(s)

Processes

Efficiency is tested prior to installation and amount of methane consumed is calculated based on the efficiency rating. According to the methodology, the flare efficiency shall be calculated as fraction of time the gas is combusted in the flare multiplied by the efficiency of the flaring process.

The flaring combustion system is automated to ensure that all biogas that exits the digester and passes through the flare (and flow meter) is combusted. Pressure control devices within the gas handling system maintain proper biogas flow to the combustion system. A continuous ignition system ensures methane combustion whenever biogas is present at the flare. Two (2) sparking electrodes provide operational redundancy. If biogas is present in the flare, it is immediately ignited by the sparking system. If biogas is not present, the igniter sparks harmlessly. This continuous ignition system is powered by a robust solar module (solar-charged battery system) that operates independently from the power grid. The component parts are tested and verified functional on a periodic basis in accordance with manufacturer and other technical specifications and those results are examined by the verifying DOE.

Equipment, Materials and Tools

- None

Calibration

- Prior to using a measuring device, ensure it is calibrated.

Process

Step	Operator	Activity	Documentation	Comments
Farm: FH – Farm Hand; DP – Data Processor; FM – Farm Manager; AgCert: RMT – Regional Monitoring Technician, QA – Quality Assurance; OP – Operations, EN - Engineer				

Records Control

RECORD ID	RECORD LOCATION	RETENTION TIME	DISPOSITION
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RECORD ID	RECORD LOCATION	RETENTION TIME	DISPOSITION

## EMISSION REDUCTION CALCULATIONS

### Classification

The methodology calls for the classification and categorization of the farm system to include animal type, population, AWMS in use/projected, climate, region, etc. This data is used to properly select lookup table parameters.

### Calculating Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) Emissions

Step 1: Record biogas meter reading (ID1).

Step 2: Record the percentage of methane of the biogas (ID2).

Step 3: Multiply step 1 and step 2.

Step 4: Multiply step 3 by the flare efficiency.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> For the purposes of estimating ERs, the value of 99% was used based on EPA studies on flaring processes <http://www.epa.gov/cmop/pdf/022red.pdf#search=%22EPA%20enclosed%20flare%20efficiency%22>



## Annex 4

### **Control of Measuring & Monitoring Devices (MMD)**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this document is to ensure that all MMD's used to demonstrate product conformity with specified requirements is identified, controlled and gauged at prescribed frequencies and that records for these activities are kept.

#### **SCOPE**

This document applies to all MMD's as well as software, used to verify product conformity with specified requirements. It applies to all individuals responsible for the selection, maintenance, and use of MMD's.

#### **ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

MS004, O & M Manual

P005, Corrective and Preventative Action

#### **DEFINITIONS**

OM:	Operations and Maintenance
OPS:	Operations
QA:	Quality Assurance
RMT:	Regional Maintenance Technician
SUP:	MMD Supplier

**PROCEDURE**

	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Associated Documents</b>
<b>1</b> Identify the need for measuring and/or monitoring devices/software	OM, OPS, QA, SUP	A
↓		
<b>2</b> Determine type of equipment based on required accuracy	OM, QA, SUP	A
↓		
<b>3</b> Upon purchase and/or installation, initiate record for equipment.	OM, OPS, RMT, SUP	A
↓		
<b>4</b> Establish frequency and calibration method or verification activity	OM, QA, SUP	A
↓		
<b>5</b> Correct any “Out of Tolerance” conditions.	OM, RMT, SUP	A, B

**NOTES**

- BOX 1. OM, OPS, and QA, together with SUP shall identify MMD’s/Software that will be used to monitor equipment performance.
- BOX 2. MMD’s/Software will be selected/designed as best suited to ensure proper performance. Determination of MMD’s/Software required shall be based on the measurements to be taken and the accuracy required.
- BOX 3. Calibrated Devices will be labeled at a minimum with a unique identification number, status of calibration and date next calibration due. Records will be maintained that show the actual state of each piece of equipment, physical conditions of calibrating equipment and actual readings obtained from calibration and/or verification. Records will be maintained in accordance with section 7.0 Record Control.
- BOX 4. Off-the-shelf equipment will be calibrated in accordance with the SUP recommended calibration cycle.



Custom-gauged equipment calibration intervals shall be defined by OM & SUP.  
The calibration intervals can be adjusted based on the analysis of previous calibration results and at the discretion of OM & SUP.  
Third Party Calibration Service will be managed as if activity was performed by company personnel. This will include requirement that all Qualifying Certifications and references to NIST Standards be submitted/maintained.

BOX 5. Devices found to be out of tolerance will be adjusted/repared. An investigation will be conducted to determine the effect that the out of tolerance condition may have had on the ability to verify conformance of product to customer requirements and to determine what action, if any, should be taken.

**RECORD CONTROL**

<b>RECORD ID</b>	<b>FILE LOCATION</b>	<b>RETENTION TIME</b>	<b>DISPOSITION</b>
Equipment calibration records	Site of use	1 year after equipment has been removed from service	Destroyed