Summary

Think-table session *Methane mitigation in agriculture: Opportunities on the road to COP30*

Tue 17 December 2024 | 10:00-13:00 CET

Organized by Clim-Eat &
Netherlands Food Partnership

As agriculture remains a significant source of methane emissions globally, addressing emissions from this sector is essential to achieving climate objectives. Livestock systems, in particular, present both challenges and opportunities for impactful interventions. With COP30 approaching, this THINK-table session provides a timely platform to enhance collaboration across the food system, align methane mitigation efforts with food and nutrition security and farmer livelihoods, and scale innovative solutions. By convening key stakeholders, this event aims to drive actionable insights and collaboration that can accelerate progress in reducing agricultural methane emissions.

This THINK-table featured Gregory Kohler, an Agriculture Expert from the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), who opened the session with a keynote to lead discussions on the urgency of methane mitigation in agriculture, explore opportunities for public-private collaboration, and identify innovative solutions. Followed by three firestarter pitches from Senni Alho (Clim-Eat), Yvette de Haas (WUR), and Ward Mosmuller (dsm-firmenich), we brainstormed individually and explored together the potential for methane mitigation in the run up to COP 30 through the lens of existing opportunities and those that need to be created. The session closed with synthesizing remarks and a networking lunch.

Keynote Presentation by Gregory Kohler (CCAC)

- **Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs)**: Early action on SLCPs, such as methane, can have a significant short-term impact on climate warming, health, and food security. Addressing SLCPs can lead to substantial benefits, including avoiding warming, reduced premature deaths, and prevented crop loss.
- **Roadmap to COP30**: Workshops, such as those in tropical agriculture, convene livestock stakeholders to discuss strategies to improve livelihoods, enhance resilience, and mitigate methane. Technology and economic assessment panel to scale innovation through sharing knowledge about promising and underfinanced SLCP mitigation measures. Evidence based assessments & raising ambition in policy and finance – e.g. informing NDCs.

Firestarter Pitches

- **Senni Alho's presentation about Bold Bets for the Future of Food (Clim-Eat)**: Overview of various innovations for mitigating methane production and 'escaped' methane. Projects such as Sea Forest × NileOrbital in Uganda examples of effective bundling of mitigation and measurement technologies for added value to farmers. Understanding both innovations and their pathways for deployment essential for success!
- **Climate-smart livestock breeding by Yvette de Haas (WUR)**: Improving livestock genetics to reduce methane emissions, effects are permanent and cumulative. Collaborative projects are ongoing worldwide – we need more measurements on all sorts of breeds (including indigenous).
- **The Bovaer experience of scaling innovations by Ward Mosmuller (DSM-firmenich)**: Highlighting the innovation pathway and current state of the Bovaer feed additive (3-NOP active compound for immediate enteric methane reduction). Highlighting the importance of engaging with all the actors within the value chain to make sure everyone benefits from the innovation.

Discussion Highlights

- **Methane per unit of livestock**: Sustainable intensification may be particularly crucial in LMICs where nutritional needs are not met and increased production may be necessary – more discussion and collaboration needed on how sustainable intensification & other approaches may co-exist and be optimized in tandem.
- **Education and Awareness**: Emphasizing the need for education on climate change impacts and best practices to mitigate methane emissions and improve social acceptance - both on local and global levels.
- **Methane mitigation × Nutrition**: in LMICs nutrition is a key priority. Moving away from a sole focus on food security towards also optimizing the quality of food for human consumption is essential to factor into the conversation of methane mitigation in livestock production systems. It's not only about increasing production but also about increasing the quality of what is being produced.
- **Policy Integration**: Enhancing collaboration between ministries of environment, agriculture, and finance, and integration in the NDC's to streamline efforts, access climate finance and facilitate uptake and scaling of innovations.
- **Innovation and Technology Access**: Addressing the accessibility of interventions related to methane measurement and mitigation, particularly in LMICs, as well as how we can shorten innovation timelines. E.g. methane measurement barriers include finance, training, physical accessibility, etc.

- **Multistakeholder collaboration:** Increased funding for rapid emissions reduction efforts, supporting South-South collaboration and joint planning towards COP 30, engaging all key actors in the value chain.
- **Create incentives:** For governments, consumers and industry, through taxes or temporary coverage of extra costs