Response to request from Small-Scale Working Group (SSC-WG) seeking advice on identified issues related to SSC request for revision SSC_454 "Revision to include cover crops of short-cycle cellulosic biomass from non-dedicated plantations"

SN	Issue identified	Response
1	Are there other issues than the following that should be addressed? (a) The impact on the yield of the main crop; (b) Competing use of the land with other crops; and (c) soil carbon losses?	The A/R WG identified the following additional issues: (a) Potential increased use of inorganic fertilizers; (b) Potential additional use of machinery; (c) Potential increased use of irrigation; and (d) Potential displacement of activities (e.g. grazing) ususally present between two regular cropping seasons
2	Would it be possible (and reliable) to demonstrate from official records that the new crop is sourced between regular main cropping seasons only and that no crops were normally grown during those periods?	Potentially yes, but it depends upon local practice
3	Would it possible (and reliable) to demonstrate from statistical records available at the local administrative body level or through transparent reports compiled by a credible third party, that the new crop has no impact on the yield of the main crop?	Potentially yes, but it depends upon local practice
4	Are there any standards or procedures that could be used to demonstrate that no soil carbon losses occur within the project boundary during the crediting period?	If ploughing is practiced in the regular main cropping seasons, then additional ploughing for production of short-cycle cellulosic biomass does not lead to additional loss of soil organic carbon
5	Are there any other emissions sources or impacts that could be potentially significant due to these cover crops and therefore should be accounted for?	See response to para 1 above

SN	Issue identified	Response
6	Advice from the Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group (A/R WG) on the following identified issues: (a) Impacts to soil carbon losses; (b) Effects on the soil fertility; (c) Emissions associated with irrigation; (d) Fertilizer use; (e) Nitrous oxide emissions from cultivation of legume	(a) See response to para 4 above; (b) There is a potential for loss of soil fertility, depending upon the original fertility status and agronomic practice; (c) If irrigation is practiced, it could result in emissions from use of energy, if any, in drawing/distribution of water, and from increased leaching of soil nitrogen if fertilizers are applied; (d) There is a potential of increased emissions associated with increased use of fertilizers; (e) IPCC does not consider biological nitrogen fixation as a direct source of nitrous oxide emissions [2006 IPCC, Vol 4, p.11.6]. However, it does not exclude nitrous oxide emissions from decay of legume crop residues
7	Any other input	In the opinion of the A/R WG the lands where short-cycle cellulosic biomass is cultivated should be included within the project boundary

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