



**CDM recommendation form for proposed standardized baselines
(Version 01.0)**

(To be used to make a recommendation to the Board regarding a proposed standardized baseline.)

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of the proposed standardized baseline:	Standardized Baseline for Methane Emissions from Rice Cultivation in the Republic of the Philippines
Submitting DNA:	Philippines
Developer of the standardized baseline: <i>(Parties, project participants, international industry organizations or admitted observer organizations)</i>	United Nations Development Programme
Party or Parties to which the standardized baseline applies:	Philippines
Sector to which the proposed standardized baseline applies: <i>(the sector according to the definition of sector in the "Guidelines for the establishment of sector specific standardized baselines")</i>	Agriculture

SECTION 2: RECOMMENDATION ON THE PROPOSED STANDARDIZED BASELINE

The following recommendation is made by the secretariat and/or the Meth Panel/Small scale working group: (please check)

- Approve the proposed standardized baseline; or
- Requires further input (e.g. additional information or modification to the submitted documentation) from the DNA; or
- Not to approve the proposed standardized baseline.

The recommendation was made, in accordance with the procedures, as follows: (please check)

- The secretariat prepared a draft recommendation and the two appointed members of a panel or working group independently assessed and agreed to the draft recommendation; or
- The secretariat prepared a draft recommendation and at least one of the two appointed members of a panel or working group disagreed with the draft recommendation or requested it to be considered by a panel or working group. The panel considered the draft recommendation and finalized it.

A. Approve the proposed standardized baseline

Please provide a description of any change made to the original submitted standardized baseline, if applicable.

B. Requires further input from the DNA

The CDM Executive Board at its 80th meeting took note of this submission "Standardized Baseline for Methane Emissions from Rice Cultivation" and considered the issue that the approach taken for determining the baseline in the submission is built upon the methodological approach from the approved methodology AMS.III.AU, but it deviates from it in some aspects. The Board requested the secretariat to prepare and submit a draft top-down revision of AMS.III.AU incorporating the new approach based on the proposed standardized baseline and a draft recommendation on the

proposed standardized baseline for consideration at the 45th meeting of the Small-Scale Working Group (SSC WG).

Following the mandate from the Board, the SSC WG at its 45th meeting prepared the draft top-down revision of AMS-III.AU, as contained in annex 6 of the meeting report, and agreed to launch a call for public inputs with an aim to finalize the draft revised methodology at its 46th meeting for recommendation to the Board. The draft revision now introduces a new approach which allows countries to propose a country-specific emission factor, taking into account the national circumstances. Therefore, the DNA is encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed revision.

In accordance with section V and paragraph 26¹ of the procedure “Development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines”², further input on the issues listed below is required to facilitate the consideration of your submission. However, it should be noted that these issues are only preliminary since they have been identified by the SSC WG against the requirements included in the proposed draft revised methodology AMS-III.AU contained in annex 6 of the meeting report of the SSC WG45, which has not been approved by the Board yet.

A. Issue 1: Determination of baseline emission factor for continuously flooded fields

It is stated in page 7 of the submission that *“the proposed standardized baseline will be applicable to the following types of transplanted rice fields in the Philippines that use straw on season as an organic amendment:*

- *Irrigated rice fields that are continuously flooded on-season and where single cropping is practiced (g = 1);*
- *Irrigated rice fields that are continuously flooded on-season and where double cropping is practiced (g = 2).”*

It is also stated in page 8 of the submission that *“the baseline emission factor for continuously flooded rice fields without organic amendments (EF_c) is determined based on national values derived from the measurements in five reference fields in Maligaya and Los Banos (Philippines). The measurements were done over nine cultivation seasons during the period of 1994 – 1998. Methane fluxes were determined with an automated closed chamber method. The system consists of a field chambers made of plexiglas, valve module, transfer module, injection module and a data analysis module (see Wassman et al. 2000 for details). The measurements are conducted in a manner that complies with the requirements in Appendix I of AMS-III.AU. (ver. 03.0).”*

The proposed revision to AMS-III.AU (annex 6) requires that *“the baseline emission factor for continuously flooded fields without organic amendments shall be either determined ex-ante prior to the start of the project activity (in this case, the ex-ante value should be used to calculate emissions reduction during the crediting period) or monitored annually (in this case, the ex-post values should be used to calculate emissions reduction during the crediting period). At least three reference fields shall be determined in the project area. On these fields, measurements shall be carried out using the closed chamber method in accordance with the guidance on methane measurement in the appendix.”* It also requires that *“Alternatively, the baseline emission factor for continuously flooded fields with organic amendments may be*

¹ “If both of the selected members of the relevant panel or working group agree that the draft recommendation requires further input from the DNA, the secretariat shall notify the DNA and the proponent of the proposed standardized baseline accordingly. The DNA should submit the requested input within 28 days of the notification. If the DNA submits inputs including new data, the DNA should resubmit the assessment report referred to in paragraph 12(c) in accordance with the “Guidelines for quality assurance and quality control of data used in the establishment of standardized baselines”. If the DNA fails to provide the requested input within the deadline, the secretariat shall suspend processing the submission any further until it receives the requested input.”

² <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Procedures/index.html#meth>

determined. In this case, scaling factors to account for organic amendments shall not be applied in the equations(8) and (9) above.

Therefore, the DNA is requested to clarify the following issues:

- The results of the measurements shown in page 8 and 9 are not separated for two groups due to different water regime pre-season (i.e. single cropping vs double cropping). Please clarify the conditions under which the measurements have been carried out.
- While it is said that "*the measurements were done over nine cultivation seasons*", all the results of the measurements are not summarized in the table in page 9. The table only gives the results of 8 seasons.
- The results of chamber methods are also not shown in the document. Please clarify how many reference fields and how many chambers for each reference field were established;
- The procedure proposed to determine baseline emission factor for continuously flooded transplanted rice fields **without organic amendments** is based on measurements derived from reference fields in Maligaya and Los Banos (Philippines) over nine seasons. The second table on page 9 of the submission summarizes the data, for the conditions T1, T2, T3 and T4. However, the paper of Corton et al (Methane emission from irrigated and intensively managed rice fields in Central Luzon (Philippines), Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems 58: 37–53, 2000), submitted as supporting material, describes the Treatments conditions during the experimental measurements (Table 2) with use of organic bio-organic fertilizers, chicken manure, rice straw compost, etc. as organic amendments. It is not clear whether the data in the second table on page 9 are the result of considering organic amendments or not. .
- Further, the same paper of Corton et al discuss in its abstract and in the section "mitigation strategies" some additional parameters that have been identified as influencing methane emissions, e.g. inorganic fertilizers. Please clarify how these have been considered when proposing the standardized baseline.

B. Issue 2: Additionality

Because of barriers due to the prevailing practice, it is proposed that a switch at irrigated transplanted rice fields from continuous flooding on season to alternative wetting and drying (AWD) is automatically additional in the case of the Philippines.

As per para 2 (c) of the "*Guidelines on the demonstration of additionality of small-scale project activities*", the positive list comprises of "*project activities solely composed of isolated units where the users of the technology/measure are households or communities or Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and where the size of each unit is no larger than 5% of the small-scale CDM thresholds*" (that is 3,000 tCO2/year for Type III).

Since in this case the users of the technology/measure are farmers and the resulting emission reductions are very small (less than 1 ton/ha/year), it could be concluded that the proposed technology/measure can be included in the positive list.

C. Not to approve the proposed standardized baseline

Please provide a justification for not approving the standardized baseline.

Date of transmission to the EB:

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History of the document

Version	Date	Nature of revision(s)
01.0	23 March 2012	Initial publication.
Decision Class: Regulatory Document Type: Form Business Function: Methodology		