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Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel - Monday, October 19, 2020

On Monday, October 19, 2020, the Agriculture and Forestry Panel reconvened for its third meeting. Panel members first reviewed the final workplan and guidelines for sector recommendation contents before delving into mitigation recommendations for agriculture, specifically. For livestock, these emission reduction strategies included feed management, manure cover and flare, and increasing funding for pollution management and climate resilient farming programs. Strategies for soil management encompassed crop nutrient management, crop cover adoption, replacing annual crops with perennials and increasing agricultural environmental management. Panel member, Peter Woodbury emphasized potential emission reductions of the mitigation strategies have room for technical improvements. Recurring themes for further consideration emerged during feedback such as bioenergy, new funding sources, incentives for innovation and research and development, promotion of green certification markets and regenerative agricultural techniques, utilizing simple and tried-and-true practices in the first instance, environmental management concerns, for example of methane flaring and dry manure management, and assessing co-benefits and barriers to the adoption of these mitigation strategies.

From this discussion, the chair proposed subgroups that would deal with diary and renewable natural gas, nutrient management, agroforestry, afforestation and reforestation, and cross-sector topics including avoided conversion, costs and innovative financing, public-private partnerships, food waste, fuel production, energy siting and wetlands. At its next meeting, which will be held on November 2, the Panel will be discussing recommendations for the forestry sector. Presentations and notes from past Advisory Panels and Working Groups meetings can be found here.