

USDA's Third Symposium on GHG and C Sequestration in Agriculture and Forestry

Baltimore, MD

March 22-24, 2005

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Closing Plenary

- What we heard...
 - What we expected to hear that was not addressed...
 - What should be done in the future?
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What I heard...

- Breadth, depth of topics
 - Issues of scale, feasibility, economics, heterogeneity (ecosystems, species, soils, regions, practices), research v practice, U.S. and international, comparison of methodologies, calibration of methodologies
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Historical perspectives
 - Research gaps
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What I heard

- Diversity of issues being investigated – not ‘putting all our eggs in same basket’
 - Energy, excitement
 - Pulling together all the pieces: technologies and practices; applications and decision support systems; inventory, observations, measurement and monitoring
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What I heard

- 1605(b): rules, software for ag and forestry (announced this week) are a great start: clear policy applications, recommendations for agriculture and forestry mitigation to operate in a market:
 - Standardized measurement, verification methodologies – updated as frequently as necessary – perfection over time
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What I didn't hear

- Urgency, engagement: KP Entry-into-force, ET schemes, need for U.S. emissions reductions

 - Agriculture and Forestry as Bridge: Time Frame for building the Bridge is now? 10 Years? 20 Years???
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What I didn't hear

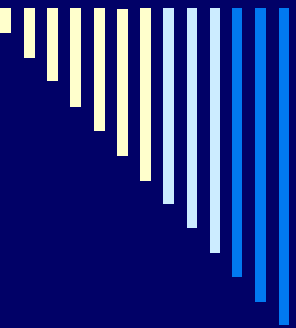
Big picture policy issues...

- Based on existing conditions in U.S., what are credible potentials for ag (soils, rangelands, grasslands, etc.) and forestry to mitigate GHG emissions in X period, *and*
 - What USDA (and other) policies will enable us to get there – focus.
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What I didn't hear

- Determination of reward for other ecosystem services: incentives, supports, systems, policies and measures? (Alice Ruhweza, Uganda – systemic policies)
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What should be done in the future

- Kick the Tires, Test the System
 - Holistic policies, measures to integrate knowledge, achieve and reward the ecosystem services and mitigation benefits – government-wide
 - Build the Bridge before market opportunities are swept downriver, before impacts minimize opportunities
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