

**SBSTA 34 Side Event:**  
**Addressing agricultural drivers of deforestation in REDD+:**  
**critical issues to measure and assess**

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# Reference levels and REDD+ GHG accounting

- We need to know what is happening
- How to measure it
- How to measure changes
- How to calculate emissions reductions
- Then the finance and policy bodies must do their job to drive finance and incentives
- And developing countries should explore other demand/finance for REDD+ activities

# Review of SBSTA/COP decisions on REDD+ GHG accounting

## Montreal (CP/2005/5)

- Two year SBSTA methodological work program

## Bali 2/CP.13

- Requested SBSTA to do more methodological work on:  
Reference levels, forest carbon, national and subnational approaches, criteria for evaluating actions
- Advance development approaches and report to COP14
- Indicative guidance included:
  - Reductions based on historical emissions and take into account national circumstances
  - Allows for subnational approaches within national systems
  - Independent expert review encourages



# COP 15 decision on REDD+ GHG accounting

- **Copenhagen** 4.CP15 requested developing country Parties to:
- Identify drivers of deforestation/degradation resulting in emissions and the means to address these.
- Identify activities that reduce emissions, increase removals, stabilize forest carbon stocks.
- Use most recent IPCC guidelines as a basis for estimating forest related GHG emissions by sources, removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes.
- Establish robust and transparent national and subnational forest monitoring systems that:
  - Combine remote sensing and forest carbon inventories
  - Produce estimates that are transparent, consistent accurate as possible and that reduce uncertainties
  - Are transparent, results available and suitable for review as agreed by COP.
  - And that forest reference emissions levels should be transparent, based on historical data, combined with national circumstances, in accordance with relevant COP decisions.



# COP 16 decision (1/3) on REDD+ GHG accounting

## **Cancun Agreements (Annex II): By COP17**

- Develop modalities related to REDD+ national and subnational forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels and national and subnational forest monitoring systems
- Elaboration of those provisions by COP, in accordance with 4/CP.15
- Guidance on safeguards for implementing REDD



# COP 16 decision (2/3) on REDD+ GHG accounting

## **By COP17**

- Modalities for MRV of REDD
- Consistent with any MRV of NAMAs agreed by COP
- Taking into account, again, 4/CP.15

# COP 16 decision (3/3) on REDD+ GHG accounting

## By COP18

- Identify LULUCF activities in developing countries, especially those linked to drivers of deforestation.
- Identify methodological issues associated to estimate emissions and removals of these activities
- Assess potential contribution of these activities to mitigation of climate change



## Key reference level and accounting issues have been FULLY covered

- Reference levels are needed and should be transparent and comparable
- Based on historical rates, adjusted for national circumstances
- Using IPCC guidance with international review
- The SBSTA work on measurements and accounting is the most advanced of any topic or sector.
- Literally a forest trail of decisions, reports, issues, guidance, recommendations, and specific methodologies and case studies.



# How does this history lesson relate to agricultural drivers of deforestation?

- Agriculture is a major driver of deforestation
- Drivers are known, they can be measured
- National & subnational specificities are key
- Countries and subnational jurisdictions have varying degrees of small scale agriculture and large scale/ commodity agriculture
- Countries/states/provinces have varying plans to deal with drivers, often linked to national plans
- UNFCCC process - at large - should encourage less forest clearing, done appropriately, while maintaining food security and output.

# SBSTA 34 modalities should:

- Build off the enormous number of technical decisions developed over the past 6 years *inside* UNFCCC.
- And through *outside* channels (FCPF, UN REDD, GCF, etc)
- Ensure global consistency and additionality on reference levels, based on logical expert review called for in 4/CP.15.
- Be as specific as politically possible and set a deadline for these levels to be adopted (NOT JUST THE MODALITIES FOR THE LEVELS BUT THE LEVELS THEMSELVES).
- Provide clear indicators/guidance for listing subnational reference levels and monitoring and links to NAMAs seeking international support on emerging registry.