



Agriculture

The agriculture sector is the newest sector in the Partnership. Efforts in this area focus on capturing methane being released from liquid animal waste management systems and using it as a clean energy source to produce electricity. Gas-fired equipment such as engines, boilers, or chillers can be used to meet a portion of a farm's energy requirements. The U.S. government has already been an active participant in the agriculture sector, working to identify and implement improved technologies and management practices and promoting economically viable projects in targeted geographic regions across the globe. As activities in the agriculture sector gain momentum, the U.S. government is poised to make significant contributions. Some key activities and accomplishments in this sector are described below.

Livestock Waste Management in East Asia

EPA is providing technical support to a project promoting livestock waste management in East Asia. The Global Environment Facility and the World Bank are providing a \$7 million grant over 5 years to support a comprehensive approach to reduce the significant environmental and health impacts

Methane to Markets Expands to Realize Opportunities in Agriculture

In November 2005, the Partnership established a new Agriculture Technical Subcommittee to promote methane capture and use opportunities in livestock waste management. EPA, USAID, and USDA will play active roles on this subcommittee by identifying project opportunities; assisting with the development of the action plan; and recruiting participants from the private sector, development banks, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

from increasingly concentrated livestock production in China, Thailand, and Vietnam. This project integrates policy development and implementation, technological solutions, capacity building, and regional connections. The grant supports demonstration of cost-effective livestock waste management techniques at selected farms in these countries.

An array of projects are under development, ranging from large, modern methane recovery and waste stabilization systems in China, to smaller household and village-scale systems in Thailand and Vietnam. Multimedia-based, these projects reduce water and air pollution caused by confined livestock production. They also improve public health through the biological treatment of fecal material with anaerobic digestion technologies. These technologies are designed to recover methane that is used in energy applications such as electricity generation, lighting, cooking, shaft power, and water pumping.

Demonstration Farms in Mexico

USAID and EPA are working with the government of Mexico to develop a set of demonstration projects to showcase best practices for the capture and use of methane in large- and small-scale pig farms. EPA will train participants to install and operate biogas recovery systems and to use biogas in energy applications such as electricity generation, lighting, cooking, and water pumping. The lessons learned from these initial demonstration projects will be incorporated into planning efforts for upcoming demonstration farms in Latin America. The projects demonstrate technologies to reduce water and air pollution caused by confined livestock production, thereby improving public health in affected areas.

