Approved baseline and monitoring methodology / methodological tool clarification response form (Version 03.0)

INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SECRETARIAT OR PANEL / WG	
Date and number of Panel / WG meeting:	15–17 and 25–26 June 2020 / MP82
Title/Subject of the request for clarification:	Clarification on applicability of AMS-I.C., AMS-I.E. and AMS-I.I. for a fuel-switch project involving renewable biochar displacing non-renewable biomass in the context of household cooking
Reference number of the request for clarification:	SSC_785
Exact reference (number, title and version) of the methodology or methodological tool to which the request for clarification applies:	AMS-I.E.: Switch from non-renewable biomass for thermal applications by the user --- Version 10.0 AMS-I.C.: Thermal energy production with or without electricity --- Version 21.0 AMS-I.I.: Biogas/biomass thermal applications for households/small users --- Version 4.0
Fast track or Regular track:	☐ Fast track ☒ Regular track

Summary of the request for clarification

Original text from Coordinating/Managing Entity (CME):

The project is a fuel-switch project in Myanmar. It involves the distribution and use of renewable biochar (produced from rice husks from rice farms) as a cooking fuel in existing household stoves, hence replacing the current use of non-renewable biomass. There is no intention to introduce Improved Cookstoves with the biochar. As such, we are currently considering 3 methodologies in their latest versions, AMS-I.E, AMS-I.C and AMS-I.I and have the following queries:

1. With respect to AMS-I.E, can CERs be derived from **only** the fuel-switch aspect (switch from non-renewable biomass to renewable biochar)? Under this methodology, will it be necessary to introduce a new technology (i.e. Improved Cookstoves) with the renewable biochar?

2. With respect to AMS-I.C, it is noted that "this methodology comprises renewable energy technologies that supply users i.e. residential, industrial or commercial facilities with thermal energy that displaces **fossil fuel use".** However, in this situation, the baseline fuel is non-renewable biomass and not fossil fuel. Can this methodology be applied?

3. Similarly, for AMS-I.I, there is mention of displacing baseline **fossil fuel,** but no mention of displacing non-renewable biomass. Will this project be able to apply this methodology?

Hence, which of these methodologies would be best applicable to the Project, what would be the best way forward if they do not apply and are there other methodologies we could use to register the project?

Thank you very much.

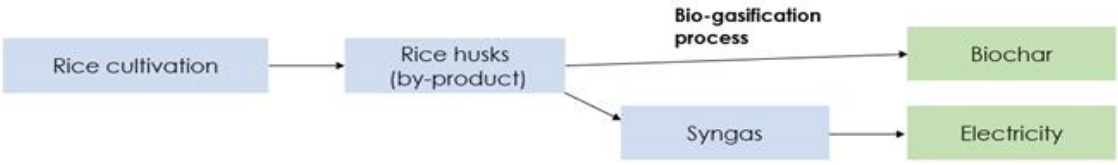
Additional information requested from stakeholder (10/06/2020)

Please elaborate on the production process of renewable biochar preferably with a schematic diagram showing the production process. Also, please list any chemical or mechanical processes involved and emissions generated in the production of biochar

Reply from stakeholder (10/06/2020)

The renewable biochar is generated from rice husks, which is a by-product of rice during the cultivation process. The rice farms are existent. The rice husks then undergo gasification to produce bio-char and

syngas (which can be used for electricity generation). However, for this Project, we are focusing on the biochar aspect only and hope to switch out woody biomass with this biochar in current household cookstoves. Hence, we wish to understand if this is sufficient under the highlighted methodologies, or a accompanying introduction of Improved Cookstoves (which are more efficient than the current household stoves) is required.



Clarification by the secretariat or Panel / WG

The Methodologies Panel (Meth Panel) would like to thank the stakeholder for submission of the query. The Meth Panel clarifies as follows:

To consider the Biochar that is produced through bio-gasification process to be 'Renewable biomass', project and leakage emissions due to production of Biochar and production of co-products have to be fully accounted for by applying "TOOL16: Project and leakage emissions from biomass" and "TOOL25: Apportioning emissions from production processes between main product and co and by-product".

Regarding the applicability of the methodologies, the Meth Panel would like to confirm that;

(i) Under the current version of the methodology AMS-I.E., emission reductions cannot be claimed only due to fuel-switch aspect and the project activity shall introduce a renewable energy based cooking technology displacing the use of non-renewable biomass;

(ii) Current version of methodology AMS-I.C. cannot be applied to the proposed project activity as this methodology is applicable for project activities that comprises renewable energy technologies that supply users i.e. residential, industrial or commercial facilities with thermal energy displacing fossil fuel use;

(iii) Current version of methodology AMS-I.I. cannot be applied to the proposed project activity as this methodology is applicable for project activities that displace fossil fuel usage in the baseline.

Version(s) of the approved methodology / methodological tool to which the clarification is applicable:

AMS-I.E.: Switch from non-renewable biomass for thermal applications by the user --- Version 10.0

AMS-I.C.: Thermal energy production with or without electricity --- Version 21.0

AMS-I.I.: Biogas/biomass thermal applications for households/small users --- Version 4.0

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Document information

Version	*Date*	*Description*
03.0	13 May 2016	Revised to include the row "Version(s) of the approved methodology / methodological tool to which the clarification is applicable"
02.0	18 July 2013	Revised to remove the row "Date and signature of the chair and vice chair of Panel/WG (in case of clarification by Panel/WG)"

Version	*Date*	*Description*
01.0	4 July 2013	Initial publication. This document supersedes and replaces the following documents: • Recommendation Form for Small Scale Methodologies (F-CDM-SSCwg) (Version 01.1) • Recommendation Form for Small Scale A/R Methodologies and Procedures (F-CDM-SSC-AR) (Version 01.1)

Decision Class: Regulatory
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