



**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:	2–9 November 2020 / MP 83
Title/Subject of the request for clarification:	Clarification on applicability conditions of AMS-III.AU. and AMS-III.BF. for rice cultivation projects
Reference number of the request for clarification:	SSC_790
Exact reference (number, title and version) of the methodology or methodological tool to which the request for clarification applies:	AMS-III.AU.: Methane emission reduction by adjusted water management practice in rice cultivation --- Version 4.0 AMS-III.BF.: Reduction of N ₂ O emissions from use of Nitrogen Use Efficient (NUE) seeds that require less fertilizer application --- Version 2.0
Fast track or Regular track:	<input type="checkbox"/> Fast track <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular track

Summary of the request for clarification

Original text from Coordinating/Managing Entity (CME):

Dear Sir/Madam,

The project consists of 2 components in rice cultivation that we wish to apply together:

- (a) adjusting water management practice (considering **AMS-III.AU** methodology) to alternate wetting and drying.
- (b) reducing of nitrogen fertilizer application due to introduction of Nitrogen Use Efficient (NUE) seeds (considering **AMS-III.BF** methodology)

As such, our queries regarding the applicability of these methodologies are as below:

1. AMS-III.AU states as an applicability condition that “The project rice fields are equipped with controlled irrigation and drainage facilities such that both during dry and wet season, appropriate dry/flooded conditions can be established on the fields”.

- a. What is the definition of controlled irrigation here? Does it mean that the amount of water irrigated must/can be quantified? Currently, there are basic structures to block and retain water.

2. AMS-III.BF involves the use of Nitrogen Use Efficient (NUE) seeds. They are defined as “seeds for crop varieties that have been genetically engineered to modify genes in nitrogen assimilation and metabolic pathways in ways that significantly increase the quantity of crop output, measured as grain, biomass, or other elements of economic value, per unit of nitrogen available for plant use.” The project uses hybrid seeds (i.e. seeds produced from 2 different parent plants/cross-pollination), which are not exactly genetically engineered but their cross-pollination still leads to better nitrogen assimilation and hence increased crop output.

- a. As such, can these seeds be classified as NUE seeds and what needs to be done to establish that?

3. AMS-III.BF also states that “With the exception of the use of NUE seed, and associated reductions in nitrogen fertilizer applications, project proponents should undertake the same management practices before and after the project.”. Examples of management practices defined by the methodology include the “4Rs”, specifically changes in practices to apply the right fertilizer at the right time, right rate and right place.

- a. Prior to the project, the rice farmers might not have been undertaking Good Agricultural Practices and we do not wish to ignore this issue and have poor practices continue even after the Project commences. As such, there could be a change in management practices before and after the project. How should we address this?
- b. Lastly, broadly speaking, is it possible to apply AMS-III.BF in conjunction with AMS-III.AU for the Project, given that the latter methodology adjusts management practices related to water? Are such practices included in AMS-III.BF's definition of 'management practices'?

We would be grateful for your guidance on this. Thank you very much and we look forward to your reply.

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:

Regarding Q.1.:

"Controlled irrigation and drainage" facilities means both the irrigation activity and the drainage activity can be controlled or adjusted as desired, not just in terms of timing but also in terms of the quantity of water or the flow rate. The ability to quantify the water used for irrigation is not a necessity.

Regarding Q.2.a.:

No, hybrid seeds cannot be classified as NUE seeds. NUE seeds according to this methodology, as defined under paragraph 6(a) of the methodology, must have been genetically engineered to modify genes in nitrogen assimilation and metabolic pathways. Therefore, seeds produced from cross-pollination do not qualify as NUE seeds under this methodology.

However, if the PPs wish to use NUE seeds produced through other methods than the method specified in the methodology, they may request for a revision to the methodology as indeed a seeds variety produced using other methods may achieve nitrogen use efficiency.

Regarding Q.3.a.:

No, other improved agricultural practices cannot be employed under the project activity. The text of the methodology, in paragraph 3(c), clearly states that the PPs "should undertake the same management practices before and after the project".

Regarding Q.3.b.:

No, it is not possible to apply AMS-III.BF. in conjunction with AMS-III.AU. for a project activity. The text of the methodology AMS-III.BF. clearly states, in paragraph 3(c), that the PPs "should undertake the same management practices before and after the project."

However, if the PPs wish to to apply AMS-III.BF. in conjunction with AMS-III.AU. for a project activity, they may request for a revision to the methodology.

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

AMS-III.AU.: Methane emission reduction by adjusted water management practice in rice cultivation --- Version 4.0

AMS-III.BF.: Reduction of N₂O emissions from use of Nitrogen Use Efficient (NUE) seeds that require less fertilizer application --- Version 2.0

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Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
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)"
01.0	4 July 2013	Initial publication. This document supersedes and replaces the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Document Type: Form, Clarification Business Function: Methodology Keywords: applying methodologies and tools		