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Challenges and opportunities for mitigation in the agricultural sector: The EU's view

Bonn, 4 April 2009

Agriculture is important for meeting 2°C goal

- Agriculture plays a crucial role in food security, rural development, biomass production, and environmental services, including management of the soil carbon pool
- Agriculture and LULUCF contribute around 30% of global GHG emissions
- There is a significant technical mitigation potential compared to BAU in the agriculture sector including carbon stocks in soil
- Some of the mitigation potential can be achieved at relatively low cost
- Win wins exist with advancing sustainable food production

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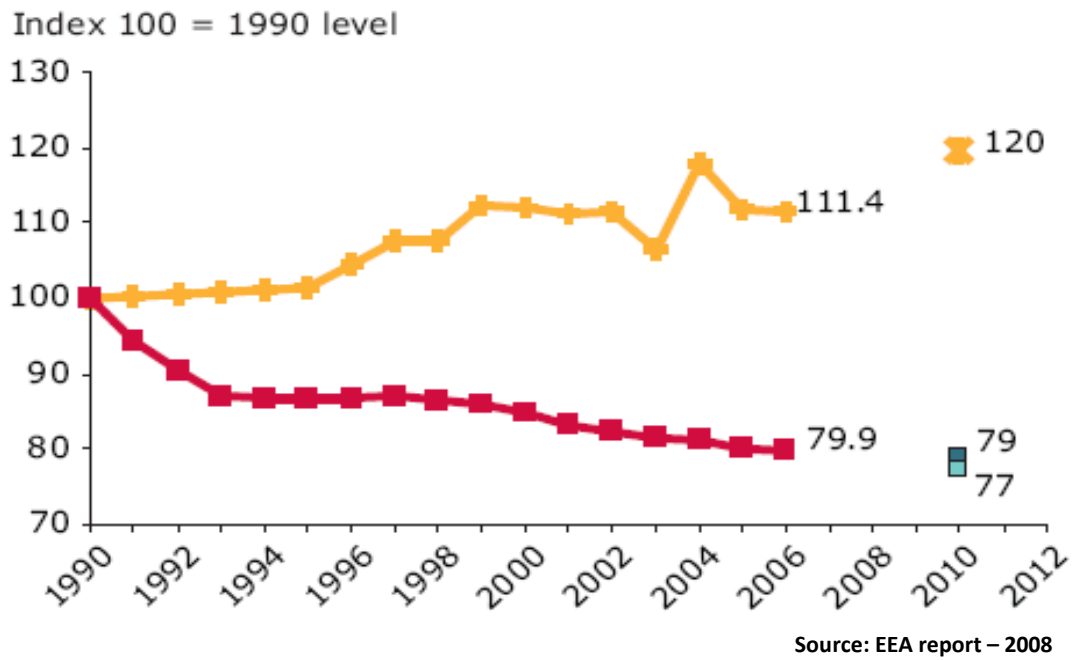
Realising the potential

- One size does not fit all – possible mitigation actions vary greatly across different physical conditions and agricultural systems
- Barriers exist in realising the full mitigation potential of agricultural and land management – these barriers can be lowered
- For instance, one barrier is the level of understanding of complex systems that emit/sequester GHG – more research is required
- There are important win-win opportunities for adaptation and mitigation in agriculture, specifically in land/soil management

Mitigation in agriculture Developed countries

- 25-40% by 2020 target for developed countries (all sectors, including agriculture)
- EU 2020 target of 20-30% includes agriculture



Source: EEA report – 2008

EU agricultural productivity - upper line

EU agricultural emissions of CH4 and N2O - lower line

Mitigation in agriculture
Developing countries

- Agriculture can be an important part of low carbon development strategies
- Low carbon development strategies and sustainable agriculture should work together
- Actions could be MRVed where needed and technically feasible
- Needs for support can be identified through this process
- Types of support could include: capacity building, technology and R & D cooperation

CONCLUSIONS

- There is a need to realise the agriculture potential as part of the global mitigation effort to meet the 2ºC objective
- The EU is taking action to reduce emissions from the agriculture sector to mitigate climate change
- Other developed countries need to address GHG emissions from agriculture as part of their future commitments
- Developing countries are encouraged to include agriculture related NAMAs in their low carbon development strategies
- EU also encourages further research and cooperation in enabling achievement of sustainable agricultural systems
- The EU is willing to work closely with all Parties in this important field