

**Mutual Learning Program for Enhanced Transparency (MLP)  
Reporting of mitigation actions in the agriculture sector under Art.13  
(Azerbaijan - Georgia - Japan - Moldova - Uzbekistan)  
- Main Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan on 30 July 2024 -**

*Summary report*

**Background:**

- The Mutual Learning Program for Enhanced Transparency (MLP), implemented and funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), aims to assist countries to prepare their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) under the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement through mutual learning of practices. The MLP is managed by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting (MURC) in close collaboration with the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP).
- In 2023, representatives of five countries, namely Azerbaijan, Georgia, Japan, Moldova and Uzbekistan, successfully completed the MLP for reporting of mitigation actions in the energy sector. In 2024, representatives of these five countries started the second phase of the MLP focusing on the agriculture sector and met together at the kick-off meeting (online) in May.
- This MLP Main Meeting, graciously hosted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijan Branch of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (RECC), aims to provide the opportunity for the country experts to discuss each country's reporting exercise of common tabular format (CTF)-5 in detail as part of their BTR preparation. Prior to the Main Meeting, experts completed the exercise, exchanged and reviewed each other's exercise, and shared their questions and comments.



**Photo 1 Group photo**

### Key take-away messages:

- Agriculture is the second largest emitting sector in almost all participating countries. While methane emissions from agriculture are very high, there are various opportunities to use a range of mitigation measures and policies which help to reduce these emissions to achieve the global temperature goal.
- This year's MLP focused on agriculture and proved to be quite a challenge (e.g. limited experience and knowledge compared with GHG inventories, limited disaggregated data, limited access to internal status of agricultural policies and measures, etc.). However, all participating countries completed the reporting exercise in a consistent manner, considering national conditions in each of their respective countries.
- All participating MLP countries are making progress with submitting BTR1 on time, i.e. before the end of 2024. Countries are expected to include the exercise which they performed in MLP (i.e. CTF 5) in their BTR1.
- Reporting exercises for agriculture contained the following characteristics and features:
  - Some countries reported emission reductions under an overarching policy/plan/roadmap for the entire agriculture sector by using estimated results from the GHG inventory for the same sector. In this case, countries reported that they would estimate the policy impact assessment per policy and measure, once the policy impact assessment is underway. Some countries considered applying flexibility with respect to policy impact assessment.
  - Some countries reported emission reductions for agricultural policies and measures by comparing BAU and with-policy scenarios based on assumptions with methodologies taken from GHG inventories. Assumptions are based on research or expert judgements.
  - Some countries also adjusted assumptions, when considering conditionality with international support.
- Participants expressed that it was useful to learn about the different approaches presented for CTF-5 by different countries. Getting feedback, clarification and dealing with common questions during the exercise helped to improve the quality of reporting on NDC tracking. This includes:
  - Reporting aspects: flexibility, notation keys, selection of timelines, conditional vs. unconditional with international support
  - Estimation aspects: assumptions and their rationale, selection of methodologies, lack of data, difference in data provided by different stakeholders including the private sector
- Participants also stated that the MLP helped them to improve their understanding of agriculture policies and measures and how to generalise them, especially in the case of countries where agricultural policies and measures are under development and that they are not necessarily focused on mitigation.

- It is expected that BTR1 will be used as the background and basis for NDC updating process and other key policies. Whether countries raise ambition in their NDC-2025 will depend mainly on the information and results of their BTR1 in 2024.
- Participating countries appreciated the in-person meeting of MLP and claimed it was more effective, as it provided the possibility to go deeper into each country's case and provoked wider discussion. The meeting also gave an opportunity to be taught in a practical way resulting in participants being able to transfer the acquired knowledge to other colleagues being as part of the BTR community.
- Access to a commonly-shared folder to review and revisit the exercises and estimates which countries have made is another point which was shared. Even after the MLP is finished, participants can always come back to the filled CTFs and Methodologies/Assumptions during practical work under CTFs in BTR1, which will encourage the countries to move in the right direction.
- Currently, the biggest challenge for countries is the use of the ETF reporting tool. It requires more attention to use it effectively and timely. Transition from GHG inventory systems to NDC tracking was also raised as another important area to address in the near future.
- Next steps for future collaboration could be: consideration of other sectors for CTF 5 – LULUCF, IPPU and Waste, filling in CTF3 (accounting approach in NDC), adaptation, and support provided and received.

(End)