

Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock



SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK
for people, for the planet



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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WHO ARE WE?

Commitment

The partnership is committed to results on a global agenda for sustainable livestock development

The partnership is open and voluntary, inclusive and consensual; operates on the basis of profound knowledge and respect for one another.

Building Consensus

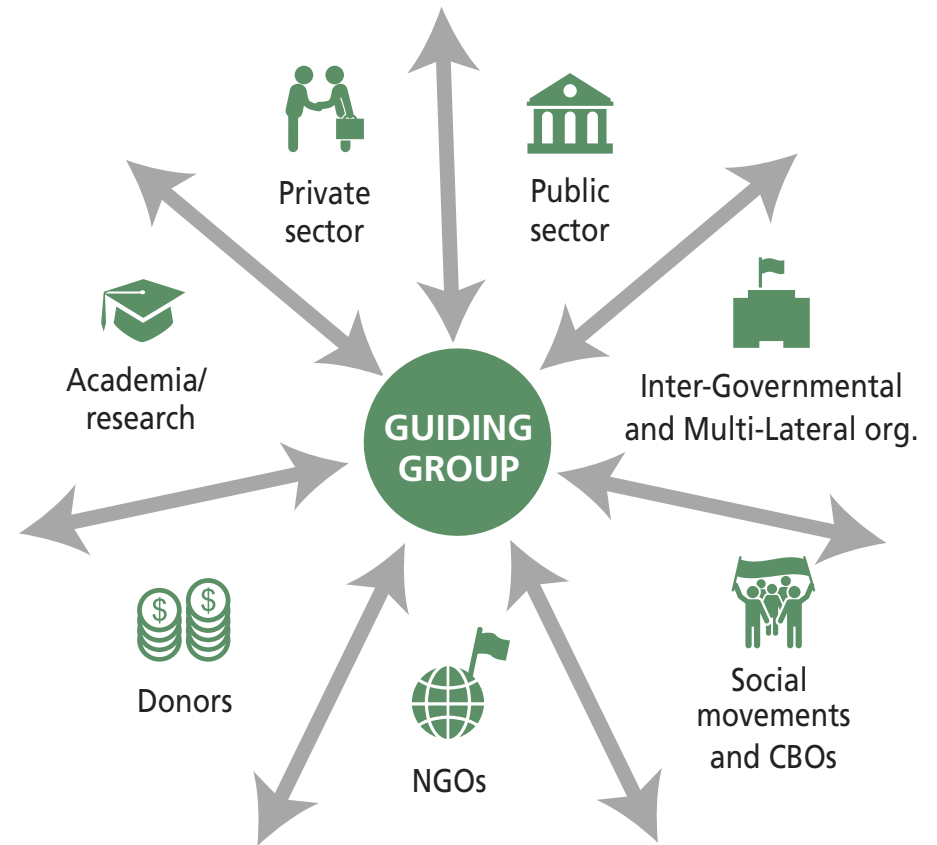
The partnership engages in dialogue and sharing knowledge, and promotes local practice and policy change

About 200 participants convene each year to deliberate on the current situation of relevant livestock sustainability issues as well as to anticipate forthcoming challenges.

Composition

The partnership is composed of a wide range of different types of organisations

Currently operations are clustered into seven groups, guided by five representatives per cluster, who also appoint the chair and provide executive guidance to the partnership and the secretariat.





WHY LIVESTOCK MATTERS TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Livestock sector facts and its environment

- Demand for animal products in the upcoming decades will heavily increase, particularly in developing countries
- The fast growing demand cannot be met without modern forms of intensive livestock production
- Livestock converts biomass for which there is no alternative use into valuable products
- Livestock uses a great share of available land, water and nutrients, and emits substantial amounts of greenhouse gases

Facts at the human/livestock junction

- Livestock is fundamental to the food and nutrition security of many low income earners in developing countries – be it as food, as an additional source of income or as collateral
- In developing countries livestock is often kept by women who have less rights to land and other resources
- Antimicrobials for animal health contribute to drug resistance, a growing concern to human health
- Consuming livestock products balances human diets and is part of many healthy, traditional diets
- Livestock is part of many traditional live-styles and cultural heritage

What does it mean?

- Keeping livestock is an integral part of proven strategies to make households resilient against environmental shocks
- As a source of additional income, livestock is of particular importance to many smallholders, many of them women in developing countries
- What distinguishes the development position from the global is that meat eating is not the key issue, it is the amount that is consumed and the manner in which it is produced
- Certain regions would not be habitable without the keeping of animals

WHY A GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK



The livestock sector needs practical action

- Low income earners need support with their livestock keeping. Government policies should address the particular situation of female livestock keepers
- Global assessments show that meat consumption averages in first world countries often exceed 100kg per year per person, whereas in least developed countries consumption of less than 5kg in a year on average is not uncommon. Different situations need a differentiated approaches.
- Acknowledge that livestock farming has no alternative in some parts of the world and act accordingly

How the Global Agenda approaches practical action

To successfully tackle most of the issues a collaborative approach to livestock development is needed -- one which the Global Agenda has chosen to take on vigorously, reflecting the diversity in livestock systems worldwide and the different demands and expectations placed on the sector. The Global Agenda aims at:

- Effective participation in policy debates
- Facilitating dialogue between different interests, reaching consensus
- Supporting joint analyses to identify entry points for practice change
- Developing harmonized metrics and methodologies
- Promoting innovation and supporting investments

LIVESTOCK AND THE SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a broad framework of action with critical importance for humanity and the planet. The goals and targets set by the UN are used by the major development partners to position themselves and to clarify their ambitions for the next fifteen years.

Basically all SDGs are relevant to livestock keeping, because of the integrated nature of the goals and the fact that livestock is closely linked with human life. However, the Global Agenda has identified eight with particular importance to the development of the livestock sector – Goal 17 Partnerships being critical to the Agenda as an institution.

The goals balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental dimension. As such they pose an extraordinary opportunity for the livestock sector.

SDGs with particular relevance to the livestock sector



- Many rural poor rely on livestock
- Livestock provides 3 major pathways out of poverty: (1) securing assets, (2) improving productivity and (3) increasing market participation



- Food (energy and high value protein)
- Traction and fertilizer for crop production
- Income



- Essential micronutrients, especially for children, women and the elderly
- Majority of animal diseases could cause human pandemics
- Use of antimicrobial expected to rise in livestock
- Diseases limit livestock productivity



- 40% of agricultural GDP is provided by livestock
- The sector is growing at a fast rate
- High rate of child labour and occupational hazards



- Wastes and losses along livestock supply chains are high
- Rebalancing diets and the share of animal products can contribute to sustainability and health



- Poor livestock keepers are among the most vulnerable to climate change
- Livestock is responsible for a significant share of GHG emissions but have a large mitigation potential, through reduction of emissions intensity and soil carbon sequestration



- The major part of land is used for livestock
- Livestock interacts with biodiversity through impacts on habitats, LUC, water & soil pollution, grassland species etc.
- Domestic animals are part of biodiversity



- Stakeholders of the livestock sector have come together to form the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock and recognize the UN SDGs in their strategy



HOW WE SUPPORT CHANGE

It is becoming apparent to all of us that natural resources are limited. The livestock sector has to play its role in better resource management. The sector has to explore possibilities to raise productivity throughout its entire value chains while making efficient use of natural resources

The process of sustainable intensification requires experience to identify best practices, and knowledge to develop and implement new practice

Experts from various areas have been mobilised:

- Animal health
- Livestock breeding and genetics
- Nutrition
- Crop fertilization
- Water management
- Business administration

Innovation is often triggered by relative scarcities that put pressure on productivity levels, leading to technological advancement

However, innovation processes need our support in terms of:

- Enhancing the capturing of experience
- Generating new knowledge through proposed research to fill in knowledge gaps
- Improving the mode in which knowledge and information is transferred
- Making markets respond more, better and quicker
- Assisting with the formulation of conducive policies, not only on livestock but also the ones affecting it
- Empowering institutions that deal with livestock issues

WE BUILD KNOWLEDGE

The Global Agenda promotes building integrated knowledge to comprehensively address sustainable livestock via its thematic and regional action networks, where experts from the different clusters contribute their knowledge and expertise.

Current action networks

All action networks cover different themes and regions

Closing the efficiency gap – This network supports the application of existing technologies and good agricultural practices to improve natural resources use efficiency in livestock supply chains

Restoring value to grasslands – This network pursues better management of grazing land which contributes to carbon sequestration, protection of water resources and biodiversity

Waste to worth - This network deals with recovering and recycling of nutrients and energy contained in animal manure

Global Network on Silvo-Pastoral Systems – This network looks at the integration of livestock with pastures and forests

Dairy Asia Partnership for Health and Prosperity – This network works on building a sustainable dairy sector in Asia and the Pacific region

Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP) – The network wants to improve the environmental performance of livestock supply chains while considering economic and social viability

MEMBERS

What we have achieved so far

Within a diverse sector, members repeatedly came together and found a meaningful consensus. The process made them partners, who then went on to formulate an integrated approach and a common vision with a sustainable development trajectory

Today this agreement has become a point of reference for global action on sustainability issues around livestock. International research and development programs have started to use our priority areas to frame their activities. Our action networks inform investments and projects such as the Efficiency Matrix, the Global Database of Grasslands Pilot Projects and the Online Manure Kiosk

The partnership was instrumental in the set-up of the Livestock Waste Management and Enteric Methane projects as well as developing harmonised environmental metrics and guidelines

In 2016, FAO's Committee on Agriculture expressed their appreciation of our work. Especially the established governance structure and the close linkage to the SDGs were highlighted. Most governments demonstrated decisive support to the Global Agenda and encouraged us to follow the path we have chosen. To operate mainly via the action networks was seen as conducive, effective and future-oriented. It is also the mode of operation valued most by our members

HOW TO JOIN

The Global Agenda is a multi-stakeholder partnership. Membership is open to organisations who consent to our vision and core values

1. Go to livestockdialogue.org
2. Download the agenda consensus
3. Email us the signed copy



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