

## 13th GASL MSP Meeting, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 30 October-3 November 2023

### Executive Summary

15-11-2023

The 13th Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) Multistakeholder Partnership Meeting (MSP) and the Regional Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation were jointly organized by GASL in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Department of Livestock Development of Thailand (DLD) and Chiang Mai University (CMU). The event received financial support from DLD and GASL's generous funders, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the governments of Switzerland, the Netherlands, Ireland, and France, the Confédération Nationale de l'Élevage (CNE), and the Global Dairy Platform (GDP).

The main objective of the meeting was to gather a diverse community of livestock and non-livestock stakeholders and engage them into global and regional dialogues to stimulate discussion around the theme *“multi-stakeholder collaboration to strengthen sustainability and resilience of livestock systems in response to drivers of change”*.

In agrifood systems, a driver of change is a factor that influences industry practices and shapes production, consumption, and distribution patterns. Recognizing these drivers is crucial, as their interconnected and synergistic nature amplifies their impact on global livestock systems. Bringing together **275 participants from 55 countries** worldwide, this event provided opportunities to address global and regional livestock system dynamics, focusing on fast and slow-moving drivers of change across geopolitical, socio-economic, health and diseases, environmental, and innovation and knowledge aspects. It provided a platform to share knowledge and envision innovative solutions under GASL's livestock sustainability domains: food and nutrition security, livelihoods and economic growth, animal health and welfare, and climate and resource use.

This event was thoughtfully structured to address crucial aspects of livestock system sustainability in the face of drivers of change. Leading up to the event, a set of preparatory webinars, jointly organized with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), explored the theme of change drivers affecting livestock systems and provided participants with an introduction to the subject. Furthermore, preceding the main event, various regional meetings were conducted, ensuring that the meeting's agenda incorporated a range of diverse regional perspectives.

The event featured **four sessions dedicated to exploring various drivers of change**: geopolitical and socio-economic drivers on Day 1, health and disease drivers on Day 2, environmental drivers on Day 4, and innovation and knowledge drivers on Day 5. For each session there were introductory presentations from the South-East Asia region and panel discussions addressing significant drivers, their impacts, and concrete solutions to enhance sustainable livestock systems. These discussions facilitated in a hybrid format, allowing interactions between in-person and virtual participants.



In addition to the main sessions, a **series of complementary plenary sessions** were organized including a **Keynote Session** by renowned speakers addressing the nature of the main drives of change affecting livestock systems; a **Ministerial Roundtable** addressing key change driver issues in various countries and regions featuring the Minister of Agriculture from Tanzania, the Vice Minister of Livestock from Paraguay, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry from Mongolia; and the Director of the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR); a **Policy Forum** featuring representatives from all GASL stakeholder clusters on policies needed to address and respond to drivers of change in Asia Pacific; a session on GASL Past, Present and Future, with the testimonies of three GASL founders; and **three plenary sessions** regarding *livestock production and antimicrobial use as a driver of change– the economic cost of action and inaction* organized by the FAO Asia Pacific Regional Office, *importance of cross-sector partnerships to enhance investment in sustainable livestock in Asia* organized by the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group, and *gender and youth responses to drivers of change in livestock systems* organized by the GASL Working Group on Gender and the GASL Youth Advisory Group.

Field trips exploring local agri-food systems were arranged on Day 3, discovering real-world settings and practical applications for tackling critical challenges in livestock systems. Throughout the meeting, a sharefair with 44 booths was showcased, exhibiting successful stories on solutions to deal with drivers' pressures facing livestock systems around the world.

The event highlighted the complex interplay among geopolitical and socio-economic factors and their varying effects on livestock systems across different regions. The impacts of health and disease drivers were also emphasized, with particular attention to smallholder farmers and their challenges. Better communication to get the messages across on climate smart practices based on evidence with all stakeholders was acknowledged. The gender forum brought to light various initiatives and strategies being implemented to support gender inclusion and highlighted areas where further efforts are needed. Regarding the youth perspective, youth not only represent the future but are also pivotal in the present, bringing forth innovative solutions and ideas that need recognition and support. The policy panel concluded with an understanding of the complexities of livestock management, recognizing the importance of both modern and traditional practices in the sustainability of livestock production, and the necessity of targeted policies to address specific regional challenges and needs. The accurate communication of scientific data to stakeholders was recommended to ensure informed decision-making and reflecting the livestock sector's adaptability and the necessity for innovative solutions, sustainable practices, and collaboration among stakeholders for a prosperous and balanced future.

Overall, the 13th GASL MSP Meeting provided a global multi-stakeholder discussion platform, offering a diverse range of engagement opportunities, and making strong commitments towards more sustainable livestock systems. In conclusion, the main take away messages of this meeting can be summarized as follows:

1. The meeting helped participants with our primary ambition – not just for the 13<sup>th</sup> MSP meeting, but since the start of the preparatory process almost three months ago (with webinars on drivers and regional consultations): to get a better understanding of the drivers – or forces – that impact livestock systems, what these look like in different regions, and how



as a livestock community and using the diverse multi-stakeholder nature of GASL we must be positioned to respond to change. **By embracing change, we will respond in ways that foster greater resilience and sustainability both of livestock systems and food systems.** In other words, a key dimension of responding better is being ready and able to change.

2. A few key themes or issues that will help GASL fine tune its role as we move forward from here.

#### Drivers

- Multiple drivers identified, all connected. Climate change seems to feature most strongly
- Greater awareness that we don't have to wait for drivers to impact, but must be proactive, by changing and get ready to change
- Emphasized the different impacts and responses to drivers
- Opportunity as a driver of change

#### Connections

- Importance of being better connected:
  - o Across ministries (finance, infrastructure, environment, health, nutrition and wellbeing, etc.)
  - o Across all stakeholders (more on farmers, pastoral, businesses of all kinds, consumers)
  - o Food and animals
  - o All sustainability dimensions
- To make sure that the entire spectrum of diversity is included and represented – in an integral way – youth, gender... all shapes and sizes of 'private sector', etc.

#### Communication

- Within the livestock community – better opportunities for knowledge exchange
- And outside – sharing balanced, nuanced messages about the roles of livestock. While acknowledging the need for changes towards greater sustainability
- Opportunities to learn – capacity development in multiple shapes and forms and flowing in multiple directions

3. One of the changes to embrace is acknowledging the whole 'ecosystem' of new livestock related initiatives.

When GASL started there was nothing else. Now we have the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock (SCL) and the FAO Sustainable Livestock Transformation (SLT) initiative. A great opportunity – having much more energy, commitment and focus on livestock than ever before. We'll be continuing to work to ensure that the roles and synergies of each is clearly articulated so we make the 'whole greater than the sum of the parts'. FAO and SCL providing important interface with public sector – identifying demands, challenges, drivers; GASL providing MSP environment to explore these and their solutions; which might then go back



to regional or country level consultations with governments and again require MSP dimensions for implementation.

4. Part of GASL task is contributing to this balance between MSP processes that lead to action and undertaking things ourselves. In a sense, GASL's MSP process is about 'inspiring others through scientific evidence and transparent dialogue to getting things done in new/changed ways towards greater livestock sustainability' and not necessarily GASL doing everything by itself.
5. In the MSP meeting there was strong confidence that challenges can be met and opportunities uncovered if we see driver forces as opportunities, embrace change and harness diversity.
6. The GASL Guiding Group (GASL steering committee) we'll be working through many of these issues in the coming months as we work to shape GASL's future.