

Civil Society

AOA Work Group

Civil Society Value – What we add to AOA

- Critical Voice to raise issues and help AOA understand importance of certain issues e.g. biodiversity and social sustainability
- Technical Expertise – environmental issues, multi-stakeholder approaches & community based engagement etc.
- Research Partnerships – field based pilot projects at local level
- Relationships with Roundtables, Standards & Certification programs & niche markets that tie to the private sector that creates bridges, provides funding streams & legitimacy

Action #1

What is required (Actions, Mechanisms, Institutions, etc.)to achieve the purpose of the thematic area?

- More data – wider perspective e.g. milk from other species
- Better data on current local production systems & their comparative efficiencies – Needs to be done before gaps can be understood and recommendations made
- Appropriate/better measures of efficiency – Define efficiency criteria
- Grazing thematic area – broaden scope beyond carbon to include eco-systems services & social factors
- Greater political will to provide funds & mechanisms that serve livestock producers (PES- Payment for Eco-system Services)
- Knowledge management

Actions #2.

Which of the elements that are required are already in place?

- Ability to analyze closed systems
- General increased awareness of the role of grazing toward carbon sequestration

Actions #3

Where are the gaps?

- Ability to analyze open production systems
- Better Science & knowledge of comparative nutritional value of livestock products including dietary and environmental implications
- Institutional mechanism for payment for eco-system services – pilot projects
- Small farmer environmental impacts

Actions #4

Where can the actions of AOA be focused to fill existing gaps?

- Research on wider range of species and feeds, beyond 'industrial' feeds, i.e. feeds used by smallholders
- Lobby for institutional mechanisms for payment of ecosystems services (PES)
- Value of livestock species toward ecosystems services
- Demand more NGO participation – Civil Society stakeholder group provide insight on which NGO's to engage
- Understanding of existing initiatives to avoid duplication
- Provide information platforms, databases etc. (who's doing what & where) – FAO is good at this
- Disaggregate/collect data on all livestock products according to production system

Actions #5

What the Civil Society Stakeholder Group can provide?

- Efficiency – Leverage in field work with small-stakeholder
- Link with local stakeholders:
 - Knowledge transfer - farmer training on improved practices
 - Provide understanding of local systems
 - Partner on farm pilot projects
 - Set-up local payment for ecosystems services projects