Humane sustainable agriculture:
Farm animal welfare and livestock sector development

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Livestock sector responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Meat and milk production projected to double from 2000 to 2050.

FAO 2006
Why consider farm animal welfare?

• Public
• Farmers, packers, retailers
• Non-Governmental Organisations
  • RSPCA Freedom Food
• National governments
• European Union
  • European Food Safety Authority
• Council of Europe
• World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
• UN Food & Agriculture Organisation
Animal welfare: the best vaccine
Definition of animal welfare (OIE)

Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress.
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Five freedoms
• Freedom from hunger and thirst
• Freedom from discomfort
• Freedom from pain, injury and disease
• Freedom to express normal behaviour
• Freedom from fear and distress
Principles for animal welfare (OIE)

- Critical relationship between animal health and animal welfare
- Use of animals carries duty of care to ensure their welfare
- Improvements in farm animal welfare often improve productivity and food safety and lead to economic benefits
- Improvements in farm animal welfare often lead to environmental benefits
Sustainable livestock production and consumption

Environmental

Animal welfare

Economic

Social
Economics and animal welfare

Welfare

Productivity

Customer priorities
• Quality
• Health
• Natural
• Organic
• Animal welfare

McInerney
Environment and animal welfare

World Society for the Protection of Animals

5,000,000,000

60,000,000,000

80,000,000,000
Environment and animal welfare
Principles for animal welfare (OIE)

• Critical relationship between animal health and animal welfare  
  Economic, social

• Use of animals carries duty of care to ensure their welfare  
  Social

• Improvements in farm animal welfare often improve productivity and food safety and lead to economic benefits  
  Economic

• Improvements in farm animal welfare often lead to environmental benefits  
  Environmental
111. We reaffirm the necessity to promote, enhance and support **more sustainable agriculture**, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger, and is economically viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters. We also recognize the need to maintain **natural ecological processes** that support food production systems.

112. We stress the need to enhance **sustainable livestock production systems**, including through improving pasture land and irrigation schemes in line with national policies, legislation, rules and regulations, enhanced sustainable water management systems, and efforts to eradicate and prevent the spread of animal diseases, recognizing that the livelihoods of farmers including pastoralists and the health of livestock are intertwined.
Climate change & sustainability

Poverty & hunger reduction

Disaster management

Social development

Human health
Animal management

Animal neglect  Animal care
negative effects  positive effects

Climate change & sustainability
Poverty & hunger reduction
Disaster management
Social development
Human health

World Society for the Protection of Animals
Humane sustainable agriculture

Environmental

Animal welfare

Economic

Social