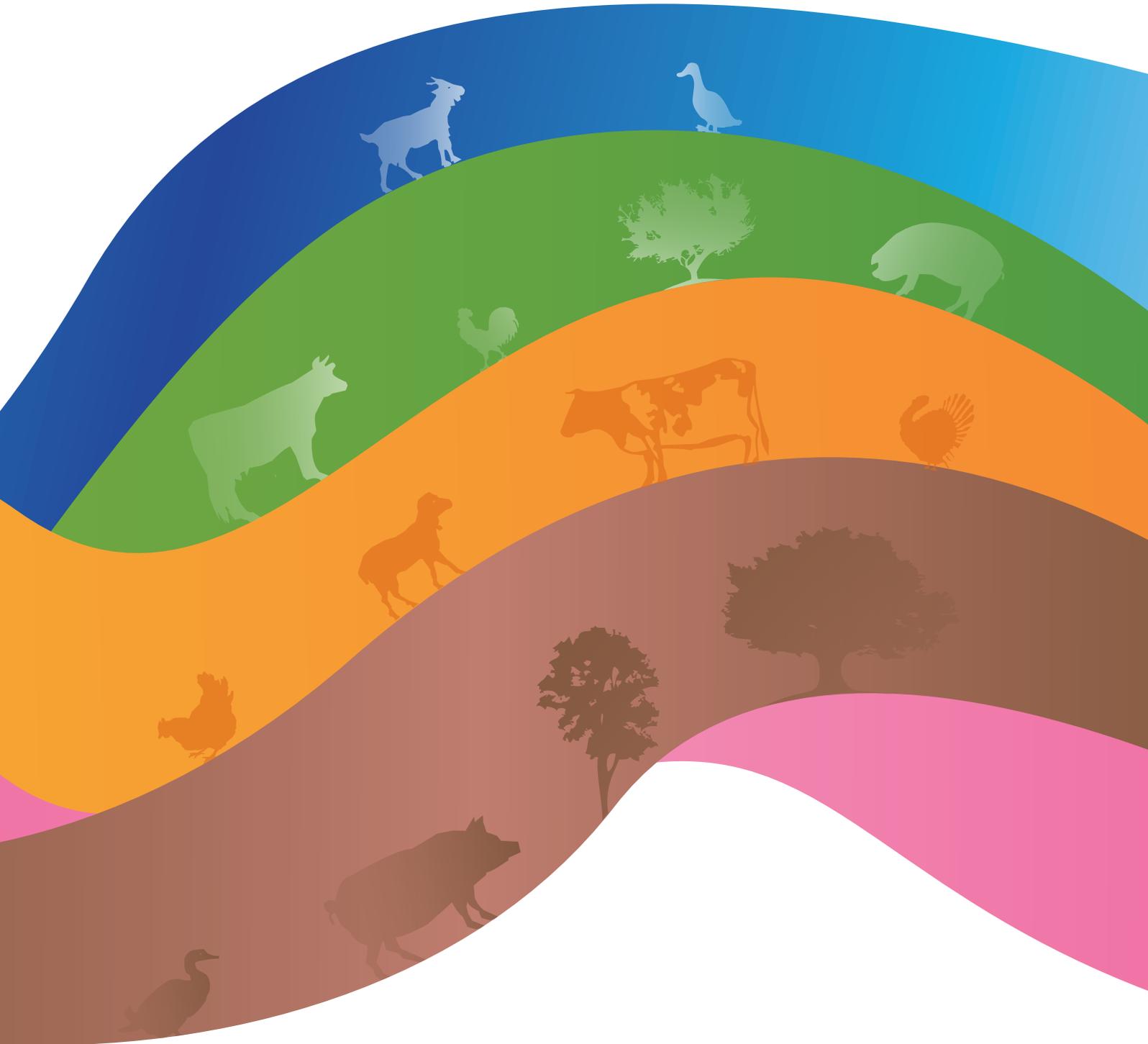




# GLOBAL AGENDA OF ACTION

IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK SECTOR DEVELOPMENT



**SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK**  
*for people, for the planet*

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**GLOBAL AGENDA OF ACTION**  
**Focus Area Group 1, Closing the Efficiency Gap**  
FA1 meeting, September 19-20, 2013

**Date:** 19-20.09.2013

**Venue:** FAO headquarters, Rome

**Participants**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Region</b>
1	Ernesto Reyes	<i>agri benchmark</i>	Global
2	Claus Deblitz	<i>agri benchmark</i>	Global
3	Fritz Schneider	Bern University of Applied Sciences	Europe - Switzerland
4	Nigel Penlington	BPEX	EU - UK
5	Philippe Lecomte	CIRAD INRA SupAgro	EU - France
6	Carlos Gonzalez	CIWF	UE - UK
7	Sune Jin Christensen	Danish Bacon & Meat Council	EU - Denmark
8	Felix Teillard	FAO-AGAL	Global
9	Alison Watson	FAO-AGAL	Global
10	Aimable Uwizeye	FAO-AGAL	Global
11	Anne Mottet	FAO-AGAL	Global
12	Pierre Gerber	FAO-AGAL	Global
13	Alessandra Falcucci	FAO-AGAL	Global
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15	Carola von Morstein	GIZ	Global
16	Katjiuongua Hikuepi	ILRI - Africa	Africa - Kenya
17	Michael Blummel	ILRI - India	Africa - Kenya
18	Hsin Huang	IMS	Global
19	Luis Azevedo	Novus do Brasil	South America-Africa
20	Henk Westhoek	PBL	EU - Netherlands
21	Ted Haney	Ranch 4	North America - Canada
22	Neil Fraser	The Global Agenda of Action	Oceania - N. Zealand
23	Lesley Lambert	World Society for the Protection of Animals	EU - UK

**1. Background**

During 2013 FA1 has developed and /or participated in the following activities:

- a. **Parallel workshop** - multi-stakeholder platform meeting (Nairobi, Kenya, 22-24 January)
- b. **FA1 Livestock Information Systems meeting** (Braunschweig, Germany, 18-19 April)
- c. **1<sup>st</sup> Guiding Group meeting** (Rome, Italy, 18 June)

**2. Developing the program**

Based on the process developed during the meetings of FA1 2013, and following the direction of the Agenda guidelines, the following elements have been taken into consideration for developing the program.

- a. Objectives
  - To define a list of criteria to assess Natural Resource Use (NRU) efficiency gaps.

- To define livestock information systems that could be potentially used by the FA1 for scoping production systems and regions and for a detailed assessment of the gap.
  - To develop the framework for selecting regions and production systems for future strategic guidance.
  - To identify livestock projects where NRU efficiency concept (elements in defining, metrics, criteria to assess), has been (will be) developed.
  - To develop the framework for a strategic plan for the FA1.
- b. With the following inputs:
- Efficiency matrix. It was a draft exercise performed during the Braunschweig meeting, defining and compiling regarding metrics on how to measure and indicators to use in NRU efficiency.
  - Livestock Information systems (LIS) matrix. It was an exercise performed during the Braunschweig meeting, identifying LIS which can contribute to the FA1.
  - Livestock projects matrix. A matrix has been provided for collecting relevant information regarding livestock projects in relation to efficiency and NRU. The main idea is to start exploring livestock projects' experiences related to efficiency and NRU.

These exercises are still open for future refinements. At this stage we are more focused on providing a framework for future contributions. They have been distributed among the FA1 members and were analyzed and complementing during the meeting.

### 3. Main outcomes

#### a. **Criteria to assess Natural Resource Use (NRU) efficiency gaps.**

- i. There is a need to clarify about the scope of FA1. Initially FA1 was about Natural NRU only; it has been proposed to include other metrics of efficiency, such as economic and social aspects. This point needs to be fully analyzed during the next MSP in Canada.
- ii. A production system approach was presented, with areas (forage and grain production, livestock performance, animal feeding, animal health and manure management) and assessment categories (environmental, economic and animal welfare). Some indicators were allocated to these areas.
- iii. There is a need to prioritize the elements of the criteria to assess Natural Resource Use (NRU) efficiency gaps. For each area, main indicators will be selected prioritizing those which are directly related with NRU and efficiency.
- iv. The areas of the production system approach have to be organized according to the sequence of the production process. For these areas, some indicators can be generic (yields/unit), and some others have to be species specific. Some proposed indicators were moved and/or merged into other areas (see matrix proposed).
- v. A time reference must be incorporated to the measurement process and indicators (lifetime indicators). In some production systems is important to measure the co-products (e.g. calf in dairy). There is a need to differentiate the production process (e.g. cow-calf from beef finishing).
- vi. Aquaculture was suggested as another component of livestock production to be analyzed. To this respect, the initial analysis of the FA1 will not include it as a priority; on later stages it will be taken into consideration.
- vii. It was also found important to consider what the other FA's are measuring in order to share views and methodologies.
- viii. Regarding assessment categories, economic evaluation must be a precondition when evaluating efficiency and NRU. Other areas such as social impact have to be included in terms of food security, livelihoods and nutrition. Animal welfare has to be included, but might not be determinant when evaluating efficiency and NRU, as indicators are

complex to measure and for the time being not fully developed and are related to many other aspects. On this sense, there were an agreement to keep stick to the “Do not harm principle”.

#### **Next steps**

- i. During the next MSP (Canada) the scope of the FA1 will be discussed in the light of including other aspects such as economic and social ones.
- ii. The metrics framework proposed will be modified according to the main suggestions and presented during the next MSP (Ottawa).
- iii. For the assessment categories, the main elements for each category will be developed.
- iv. A metrics framework needs to be ready by the end of this year.

#### **b. Selecting regions and production systems for FA1 future piloting**

- i. GLEAM was presented as an example in helping to identify regions and commodity chains to target. It concerns about data quality and animal census. FAO/AGAL is currently updating input GIS layers and improving data for GLEAM.
- ii. *agri benchmark* network was presented an a complement for global coverage at the farm level. It offers a global platform for farm level analysis within the Agenda covering productivity, economic and environmental aspects. There were some concerns regarding about typical farms and representativity.
- i. For selecting regions two approaches were discussed: look for regions and productions systems where most of the future demand’s growth will take place, or, where the higher current production inventories are located. A more feasible approach appears to start assessing the gap in some regions and refine our set of criteria and metrics while doing so.
- iii. There is a need to look into the scope of Agenda’s intervention. Some efficiency issues are beyond productions systems (land, access to water, research and extension services).
- iv. The productivity gap should be assessed first within systems and regions before comparing systems and regions.
- v. Size of farms might not necessarily correspond with efficiency levels. Small scale farming in some cases might even be more efficient than larger farms.
- vi. There is a need to define the scope of this process (piloting) as it is not foreseen to implement practice change ourselves. Our scope is foreseen to inform decision makers about things that make sense and also to be linked to extension services.

#### **Next steps**

- i. This approach needs to be validated. To discuss in Ottawa.
- ii. This approach will also be linked to current livestock projects that can be used as regional platforms to implement the FA1 actions.

#### **c. Livestock information systems (LIS) in relation to FA1**

- i. The metrics for NRU and efficiency to be developed by the FA1 needs to be inserted within an information system framework, where inputs can be entered, analyzed and the outputs compared. For doing so, there is a need to have a model which can harmonize the inputs, standardize the outputs and presenting them in a comparable way.
- ii. It was highlighted that there is also a requirement to properly conduct a refined assessment of the gap identified. Elements such as defining the baseline scenario, modeling alternatives to improve efficiency and NRU (what if analysis) and measuring the change proposed are basic prerequisites to this process.

- iii. Some LIS were presented, classifying them according to production systems coverage (species specific), regional coverage (global, regional, local), assessment areas (production, economics, environmental), updated level and results availability.
- iv. The scope of this LIS should also go into the direction of providing practical tools for extension services, advisors and farmers.
- v. *agri benchmark* was offering its network platform, models and tools developed to the FA1, bearing in mind that some adjustments need to be implemented to add more indicators to the process and covering more animal species (until know *agri benchmark* works with beef finishing, cow-calf, sheep and goats, dairy, and pigs).

**Next steps**

- i. *agri benchmark* offers to develop a proposal to explore the possibility to support this process.

**d. Livestock projects in relation to FA1**

- i. The main idea was to look at some livestock projects currently implemented by FA1 members and related with NRU and efficiency.
- ii. In general, livestock projects could be used as possible platforms for implementing some actions of the FA1 (piloting).
- iii. Consensus was reached on the importance to be linked to livestock projects as a win-win relationship for the FA1 and for the institutions running the projects.
- iv. The debate first focused on how to select those projects. Again, criteria regarding regional livestock growth currently being taken and/or future demand's growth must be taken into account.
- v. Recognition of the importance of the FA1 developments to help livestock projects in areas such as environmental chain performance, economic and social aspects.
- vi. The projects presented were offered for monitoring and analyzing possible FA1 actions.

**Next steps**

- i. To define criteria list for selecting projects where FA1 could develop some of the actions proposed. Scalability of the project, stakeholder composition, regional coverage, social impact were some of the elements mentioned. A draft on this criteria proposal will be presented in the next MSP (Canada).
- ii. Other sources of projects will be explored.

**Elements for a strategic plan**

- i. The context of the future possible actions of the FA1 was presented. To this respect, FA1 are working in the following areas: (a) developing NRU efficiency metrics, (b) defining the main LIS needs for implementing the metrics, (c) defining criteria for selecting regions and production systems and (d) exploring livestock projects where FA1 actions can be implemented.
- ii. LEAP initiative was presented as a possible joint venture for providing environmental assessment to the FA1 on the field of developing the metrics. There was a consensus to this respect.
- iii. Agreement on the need to develop a strategic plan for the FA1 actions. It must contain a business model, main deliverables (products), marketing model and resources need.
- iv. Some possible FA1 fields of expertise and its associated "products" were explored. Examples of these are: identifying barriers and opportunities for improving efficiency, promoting more efficient practices, exchange platform information, and providing tools and methods for project assessment.
- v. There is a need to build up the institutional setting of the FA1 process. The key elements for this are: (a) to clearly identify the management (who, which institution) of this

process, the funding needs and sources and the institutional assessment required to implement the actions.

- vi. To help with the strategic plan, a working group was subscribed to develop the main issues related with the process (E. Reyes, T. Haney, F. Schneider, Pierre Gerber, Luis Azevedo – NOVUS, H. Westhoek - PBL, and C. Deblitz – agri benchmark).

**Next steps**

- i. The working group will contribute to develop a strategic plan for the FA1.
- ii. For the time being, the main activities to be developed and consolidated are: (a) a draft version of the NRU efficiency metrics, (b) a LIS identified and selected where the metrics can be implemented, (c) some livestock projects selected where FA1 approach can be implemented and (d) draft program to implement activities above mentioned, including resources need and time table.