



GLOBAL AGENDA OF ACTION

IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY

(As at 19 February 2013)



The Global Agenda of Action (the Agenda) is a partnership of livestock sector stakeholders committed to the sustainable development of the sector. It brings together representatives from the public and private sector, producers, civil society and non-governmental organizations, research and academia, and inter-governmental organizations.

This strategy document presents the background to the building of the Agenda, its goal, scope, activities' focus, and initial set-up.

This current version of the strategy is the result of the partnership's latest discussions and consensus. The strategy is a 'living document', and open to revision as the Agenda's context and priorities evolve.

1. CONTEXT

GROWING DEMAND AND FINITE NATURAL RESOURCES

Growing populations, rising affluence and urbanization are translating into increasing demand for livestock products, particularly in developing countries. This global demand is projected to increase by 70 percent to feed a population estimated to reach 9.3 billion by 2050.

Demand growth has made livestock one of the fastest growing sub-sectors of agriculture, particularly in emerging economies and has been associated with a widespread transformation of the livestock sector. Much of this demand growth has so far mostly been met by rapidly expanding modern forms of intensive livestock production, even if more traditional systems continue to exist in parallel.

While the sector provides high value food and many other economic and social functions, its resource use implications are large. The livestock sector is the world's largest user of agricultural land, through grazing and the use of feed crops, and plays a major role in climate change, management of land and water, and biodiversity. The natural resources that sustain agriculture, such as land and water, are becoming scarcer and are increasingly threatened by degradation and climate change.

CALLS FOR EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Demand growth is happening at a time when concerns not only about resource scarcity and climate change, but also the need for more equitable development and the urgency of poverty reduction through agricultural development, are assuming ever greater importance. Pastoralists and smallholders, often poor, depend on livestock products and services for survival and income, but resource and market barriers restrict their access to the economic opportunities available to more market-oriented producers.

LARGE POTENTIAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Studies point to a large untapped potential to reduce the sector's environmental burden and enhance its role in climate change mitigation, nutrient recycling and biodiversity protection, and to strengthen its contribution to economic development and social progress. Such potential can, for example, be realized through the use and adaptation of existing and proven technology, and relies, among other things, on removing policy and institutional barriers to knowledge, services, and market access.

Further substantial gains can be realized by developing policy frameworks that align regulations and incentives to environmental and social outcomes. For extensive systems, such policies

need to address access to land and water resources, and payment for environmental services such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection. For intensive systems, appropriate pricing needs to encourage efficient use of inputs (e.g. water, feed, and energy) through transfer and adaptation of improved practices. Social and economic benefits and sizeable reductions in water use and pollution can be achieved by reconnecting specialized livestock production to crop agriculture.

2. WHY THE AGENDA?

A NEED FOR CONCERTED AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

The size and complexity of improving the sector's sustainability has led to the recognition that this task can only be tackled effectively through concerted action by all stakeholder groups. Moreover, given the public good nature of the sector's environmental, social and economic challenges and its increasing economic integration, collective global action is needed.

BUILDING AN AGENDA OF ACTION

Stakeholders from all relevant parts of the livestock sector have thus formed a partnership to develop a Global Agenda of Action in support of Sustainable Livestock Sector Development.

3. GOAL AND SCOPE

LIVESTOCK SECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The goal of the Agenda is the sustainable development of the livestock sector to support livelihoods, long-term food security and economic development.

A MORE EFFICIENT USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The purpose of the Agenda partnership is to inform, guide and catalyze the continuous improvement of livestock sector practices towards more efficient use of natural resources. Land, water, nutrients and greenhouse gas emissions are the initial focus.

The Agenda's focus on improvements in natural resource use efficiency holds great promise for global environmental, social, and economic benefits.

4. APPROACHES AND ACTIVITIES

FOCUS ON KNOWLEDGE AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS

Changing practices requires an enhanced flow of knowledge among actors and countries allowing them to transfer and adapt improved practices from different sources.

It also, critically, needs policy change and investments to end the political and geographical marginalization of many traditional producer groups, to reward efficiency gains and resource stewardship, and to discourage waste and pollution.

CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE

To inform, guide and catalyze practice change, the partnership has committed to embark on the following joint activities:

Consult and Network

- Stimulate multi-stakeholder interaction and collaboration;
- Enhance the access to, and choice of information;

Analyze and inform

- Conduct analyses and assessments to aid joint understanding and consensus building on resource use issues;
- Develop harmonized metrics and methodologies;

Guide and pilot

- Develop voluntary guidelines;
- Inform inter-governmental and other partnership processes;
- Facilitate and support innovation and investment in sustainable sector development;
- Make strategic sector recommendations.

BUILDING ON STAKEHOLDER'S COMPLEMENTARY STRENGTHS

The Agenda builds on the expertise and entrepreneurial skills of the private sector in an alliance with the public sector and other stakeholders. Innovation, often driven by entrepreneurs responding to market opportunities or threats, needs to be linked to concomitant changes in policies and institutions to ensure its wider application and practice change. The Agenda partnership will explore approaches such as participative policy development; national roundtables; technology and knowledge exchange initiatives (e.g. South-South cooperation); and creative forms of capacity development.

The implementation of the partnership's activities not only harnesses the comparative strengths of its stakeholders, but stakeholders also benefit from their participation in the partnership activities through better access to knowledge, technologies, policy processes, and resources (Table 1).

Table 1: Contribution of Agenda partners to, and the value-added obtained from, the Agenda

ACTOR GROUP	WHAT THEY CONTRIBUTE	WHAT THEY GAIN
Public sector	Supporting policies, research and investment; advocacy and awareness building.	Knowledge and capacity for informed policy making and effective implementation;
Private sector / producers / producing communities	Innovation and investment, applied knowledge; private sector guidelines; links to markets.	Strengthened corporate social responsibility; New business and livelihood opportunities.
Civil society / NGOs	Advocacy and awareness building; links to marginalized sector actors.	Access to policy makers; Shape research & development priorities.
Academia/research	Research and analysis for technical and institutional innovation; methodologies; Foresight.	Access to policy makers; Shape research & development priorities.
Inter-governmental organizations	Research and analysis for technical and institutional innovation; methodologies; Foresight.	Opportunity to deliver global public goods; Enhanced governance and relevance of investments.

5. FOCUS AREAS

In pursuing improvements in natural resource use, the partnership has identified three focus areas for initial attention: (i) Closing the efficiency gap; (ii) Restoring value to grasslands; and (iii) Waste to worth. Each presents specific opportunities for large environmental, social, and economic gains.

CLOSING THE EFFICIENCY GAP

The focus area aims to stimulate the application of existing but not widely used technologies by the bulk of the world's producers whose use of natural resources is often greatly inefficient. The rationale is that closing a big efficiency gap of many producers with existing technology brings larger environmental, economic and social gains than incremental advances by a few producers at the technological frontier. The Agenda's priority focus is on value chains and production systems where the efficiency gap is large and where upgrading of technologies is both technically feasible and economically viable.

Agenda partners will develop public-private and other forms of partnership to transfer and adapt resource use efficient technology.

RESTORING VALUE TO GRASSLANDS

The focus area proposes that the widespread neglect of grazing land constitutes a missed opportunity and has contributed to the high incidence of poverty in many marginal areas, low productivity of land and livestock, and widespread land degradation. Improved management of grazing land under enabling institutional and policy frameworks, can provide large resource use benefits in the form of carbon sequestration, water services, and biodiversity protection, and at the same time enhance productivity and livelihoods.

Agenda partners will explore and promote the financial and institutional innovation required to deliver grassland-related social, environmental, and economic services.

WASTE TO WORTH

The focus area aims at recovering and recycling nutrients and energy contained in animal manure, particularly from intensive and confined production systems. Nutrients and energy are only partially converted by animals, and between 50 and 90 percent of the nutrients, and about 30 percent of the energy are excreted and often discharged to the environment, leading to nutrient overloads and greenhouse gas emissions. Recycled nutrients can substitute for mineral fertilizer. Recovered energy can reduce GHG gas emissions and substitute for fossil fuels.

Agenda partners will develop planning tools and regulatory and incentive frameworks to support viable manure management practices.

The relative emphasis and the approaches for each focus area will vary among geographic regions.

Liaison with other relevant initiatives

Focusing on its comparative advantage, the partnership liaises with other relevant initiatives related to public and animal health, agricultural development and poverty reduction.

Respect for other socially desirable outcomes

Agenda partners have agreed to respect socially desirable outcomes that are not the immediate focus of Agenda-related activities. This principle will be safeguarded through the development of broad, practical due diligence assessments for outcomes including, but not limited to, public health, animal genetic diversity, and animal welfare.

6. PARTICIPATION IN THE AGENDA PARTNERSHIP

The Agenda is being built through voluntary stakeholder engagement. It is open, consensual, and based on knowledge and mutual respect.

Participation is subject to the signing of the Agenda Consensus.

7. OPERATIONAL MODALITIES

The Agenda's operational modalities reflect its multi-stakeholder and consensual nature. The initial set up will remain in place until the next Multi-Stakeholder Platform meeting when it will be subject to review and possible adjustment.

The initial set up consist of the following components:

An open Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) and network to consult and build consensus on priority issues and actions.

Composition: The platform is composed of representatives of all relevant sector stakeholder groups including governments, private sector, producers, civil society, academia, research and international organizations which have signed the Agenda Consensus. Stakeholders who have not signed the Consensus can participate in the MSP as observers only.

A Guiding Group to guide, coordinate and monitor Agenda objectives and activities and to ensure linkages and exchange of information among Agenda partners. Specifically, the Guiding Group:

- Provides overall direction and guidance and evaluates the overall status of the Agenda;
- Supports the functioning of the MSP;
- Refines the future set up of the Agenda for consideration by the MSP;
- Reviews Focus Area and Support Group activities and provides advice;
- Represents the Agenda in different fora and promotes the Agenda and its objectives;
- Facilitates the mobilization of resources.

Composition: the Guiding Group consists of:

- Up to three donor representatives;
- Up to three representatives from inter-governmental organizations;
- Up to three representatives from each of the Focus Areas Groups;
- Up to three representatives 'at large', to ensure regional and stakeholder group representation.

The Guiding Group will have a Support Group staff as an ex-officio member and its secretary.

Focus Area Groups to implement the work program of the focus area (currently three).

Focus Area Groups are largely autonomous and encouraged to develop the form and operational modalities which best fits their requirements.

Composition: Stakeholders who have signed the Agenda Consensus can participate in Focus Area Groups.

A Support Group (currently hosted at FAO) to support the building of the Agenda. Specifically, the group:

- Facilitates stakeholder interaction, coordination and consensus building;
- Provides and coordinates expertise and analysis;
- Assists in the preparation of guidance for technology and policy development;
- Provides support to the building of Focus areas including the formation of ad hoc expert teams;
- Supports the development and implementation of an Agenda communication strategy; and
- Provides support to the Guiding Group in the further development of the Agenda.

SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK
for people, for the planet

www.livestockdialogue.org



SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK
for people, for the planet

www.livestockdialogue.org