



GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

5TH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM (MSP) MEETING

7 - 10 OCTOBER 2014, CALI, COLOMBIA

From the Chair of the Guiding Group:

The 5th Multi-stakeholder Platform meeting, held in Cali, was a constructive, positive, warm and active event that delivered further developments in advancing the objectives of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. We enhanced our ideas and our level of commitment and action.

On the basis of a document prepared and distributed to participants beforehand, the meeting comprehensively addressed an elaboration of the three thematic facets of sustainability:

- Food security and health
- Equity and growth
- Resources and climate

Common ground and key expectations of all stakeholders were discussed and explored, including how to concurrently address the three facets as we pursue a sustainable livestock sector. We should now move quickly to finalise this document, which endeavours to provide a much-needed unifying, evidence-based ‘all-in-one’ narrative on the role of livestock in sustainable development. It will strengthen the basis for the Agenda’s stakeholders united approach, with a clear vision and messaging to underpin consensus-building efforts by experts representing constituencies. I would encourage all to provide comments on this draft narrative by 15 November as we try to finalise the document by the end of November 2014.

Focus Area group Chairs reported on the work of their groups, including past and current work, and an indication of their future trajectory. The three FA groups have advanced their conceptual thinking and their planning, and outlined ‘next steps’ - including several testing and piloting exercises, and also the exploration of an international meeting concerning grasslands, local development and livestock. The Focus Area groups recognize that the good work being undertaken needs to be realigned to incorporate all facets of sustainability.

Once again, the Presentation Space proved popular (24 presentations) and useful, to share knowledge and experience. Also, opportunity was taken for associated meetings to be convened in the margins of the MSP, particularly of the Guiding Group, Focus Area groups and of some Cluster groups.

A stimulating and enjoyable field trip was integrated into the meeting, to demonstrate silvo-pastoral systems management in action and to generate discussion around relevant issues.

The meeting recognized the need to upscale many of the examples that were outlined; and also reinforced the need to catalyse change and institutional development at regional, national and sub-national levels.

Of course many issues were traversed over the four days, and active dialogue provided many ideas – at a generic and at a particular level – for the Global Agenda to address. Some of the issues and proposed actions that emerged in the following (non-exhaustive) list included: the role of animal-sourced food in sustainable diets; policy visibility and integration (requiring attention to policy-relevant messaging); the role of markets and value chains; food safety; health services; food waste; One Health; initiation of a Silvo-pastoral Network; exploring the possibility of an Investment-themed event in and for Africa; the role of the Global Agenda in getting stakeholders together on AMR (anti-microbial resistance); and the contribution of, and the alignment by the Global Agenda to the Post-2015 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), particularly SDG 16 and SDG17.

Cross-cutting or generic issues covered the need for greater attention to communication, and the ongoing importance of gathering evidence and continuing analysis.

The Guiding Group will now need to examine all the suggestions made, and assess the value, the feasibility and the modalities of implementing or facilitating follow-up actions.

The MSP also examined aspects of the Agenda set-up, principally strengthening the Cluster Group approach, including their ability to ensure adequate representation on the Guiding Group and other working bodies. Steps were enunciated for ensuring this strengthening process. Raised, but not sufficiently covered, were the terms of reference and modalities for establishing the Executive Committee once the new Guiding Group is in place next year.

Once again, the MSP provided the opportunity for active networking, meetings of colleagues working in similar areas, the sharing of ideas and experiences, a reinvigoration of commitment, and the general interactive and friendly process that is a feature of these meetings.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all participants at the meeting, for their interest and their active contributions. My last word is to express my warm and heartfelt appreciation for the work and commitment of our Colombian hosts and the FAO support team for organizing such a memorable meeting, and in ensuring the meeting ran smoothly.

Neil Fraser
Chair, Guiding Group
October 2014