



GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

FOCUS AREA GROUP 1, CLOSING THE EFFICIENCY GAP

Paris, France, March 19-20, 2014

Venue: International Meat Secretariat, Paris, France

BACKGROUND

During 2013 FA1 has developed the following activities:

- a. **Parallel workshop** - multi-stakeholder platform meeting (Nairobi, Kenya, January 22-24)
- b. **FA1 Livestock Information Systems (LIS) meeting**
(Braunschweig, Germany, April 18-19)
- c. **FA1 meeting** (Rome, Italy, September 19-20)
- d. **FA1 meeting at the MSP meeting** (Ottawa, Canada, October 15-17)

Main outcomes of these meetings can be consulted at the Agenda's webpage.

<http://www.livestockdialogue.org/focus-areas/en/>

<http://www.livestockdialogue.org/events/ottawa-15-17-october-2013/presentations/en/>

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 and elements**

- To improve the efficiency matrix exercise
- To conform a FA1 pilot projects portfolio
- To define main attributes and contributions from the pilots to the FA1, and vice versa
- To define main elements of the FA1 business plan
- To explore the scope and focus of the FA1

b. **With the following inputs:**

- **Efficiency matrix.** It has been a draft exercise performed during the last two FA1 meetings, regarding metrics on how to measure and indicators to use in NRU efficiency. A latest version of the matrix will be presented.
- **Pilot presentation.** FA1 members will present projects for exploring and defining means of interaction with the FA1.
- **FA1 Business Plan (BP).** A framework will be provided in order to define main elements to include in the FA1 BP.
- **Exploring the scope and the focus of the FA1.** During the last Guiding Group meeting, Theun Velinga (Chairman FA3) had proposed to modify the scope and the focus of this Area. A document for this, will be provided in advance.

MAIN OUTCOMES

a. **Efficiency matrix (EM)**

a.1 It was agreed to use the current version as a starting point, bearing in mind that one of the main uses is the applicability to the activities performed in the pilots and in later stages of the Agenda.

a.2 A refined version called 'EM Version 1' will be launched once the issues under point 3 have been addressed.

a.3 There is a need to refine the EM according to the following elements:

- Water use. It can vary according to regions and production systems
- Soil quality has to be included.
- Regarding to feeding:
 - Non-conventional feed resources must be also included such as indigenous raw materials and by-products
 - Some ratios derived from the rations need to be calculated such as home ground feed used vs. purchased feed, as well as the forage/grain used ratio, among others.
- Energy inputs e.g. fossil fuel.
- Management of antibiotics and growth promoters
- Prevalent disease risk

a.4 Some comments / questions were made in relation to:

- the need to think about its application, prioritizing what needs to be looked at, depending on production systems and the scale (farm, local, regional, etc.).
- The difficulties to find the sources of information and access to them at the field level.
- The importance of illustrating the usefulness of the EM, using examples or case studies.

a.5 Next steps

- EM version 1 will be developed by working groups (WG).
- One WG will develop a document outlining the context and the objectives of the EM within the FA1 framework, to assist in understanding the purpose of the EM. The first draft proposal will be made by Ernesto Reyes, Pierre Gerber and Lesley Lambert
- Another WG will be developing the efficiency areas and indicators (vertical elements of the matrix) with the following emphasis:
 - Forage, grain and feeding (Eliel Gonzalez, Luis Azevedo, Philippe Becquet)
 - Livestock performance, animal health and manure management (Ulf Magnusson, Julián Chará, Henk Westhoek)
- Regarding the evaluation areas ('horizontal' assessments) the following work stream (WS) was agreed to develop proposals for evaluation methodology and tools, to bring back to the FA1.
 - Economics, environmental, animal welfare and social impact (Claus Deblitz, Lesley Lambert and Hikuepi Katjuongua)

b. **Pilots**

b.1 pilots' activities were highlighted as the main instrument for illustrating the following elements of the FA1:

- Proof of concept to show practice change
- Refinement of the EM and the inclusion of new dimensions of sustainability

- Testing a framework for efficiency gains gap analysis
- Demonstrating real examples of solutions for narrowing the efficiency gap and the possibility for extrapolation
- Helping to understand the diversity of causes and consequences of NRU efficiency and possible alternatives to narrow the efficiency gap.

b.2 Pilots have been classified according to the level of interaction and collaboration with the FA1 into 4 types:

- Existing pilots with which activities of monitoring and evaluation can be performed by the FA1 expertise, where lessons learnt can be compiled and the potential for scaling up these experiences can be analyzed.
- Original idea of the pilots, where a new project funded by the FA1, is defining a region and a production system, for measuring the efficiency gap, and providing a set of alternatives to narrow this gap.
- Pilots with which specific methodological exchange and collaboration can be developed for improving the EM and or opening new fields of monitoring and evaluation activities.
- Pilots in a pre-feasibility phase which can use the FA1 platform for funding and implementation.

b.3 Pilots' implementation

- Participants agreed to start as soon as possible, using some pilots presented at the meeting, where a testing phase of "learning by doing it" can be implemented. However,
- There were some comments highlighting that it would be better if the FA1 could prepare 1st the terms of references for the pilot selection.

b.4 Next steps

- FA1 will offer to its members a platform for presenting pilots, according to the classification types above explained.
- For each type of pilot, terms of references need to be developed. For this, a draft document will be presented at the next FA1 meeting.

c. **FA1 business plan and next steps**

Five areas have been defined for the working plan of the FA1

c.1 Efficiency matrix. It was agreed to develop the EM version 1. For this, working groups have been selected.

c.2 Pilots. They have been clustered according to the interaction with the FA1. Terms of references for selecting those pilots will be developed.

c.3 Modelling and assessment. There is a need to identify NRU efficiency gaps, where regions and production systems can be identified, and some alternatives can be modelled. A conceptual note on modelling analysis will be developed and presented at the next FA1 meeting (FAO, CIRAD, PBL).

c.4 Data portal. Central portal of information is required for gathering and disseminating main inputs and outputs of the FA1 activities. FA1 will have to define first main needs in terms of information management (website, file management, communication tools, etc.) and then to check with The Support Group what can be shared with other FA's.

c.5 Management of the FA1. There is no doubt that the FA's need a new concept of management which can match with the new requirements of the Agenda's development and the growth associated to this. This new concept requires elements such as more input labour for managing the processes, secretary support, and travelling allowances. For these as well as for the chairmen of the Focus Areas, funding resources will be

required if the FA's will like to implement a change in terms of quality. For the time being, the support Group will explore how to provide more support to these new requirements.

d. **Changing the focus and the scope of the FA1**

According to the proposal sent by Theun Velinga (Chairman of the FA3) for changing the scope and the focus of the FA1, the participants have concluded that the feeding component is important and it has been and will be taken into account; however, the FA1 has a broader mandate in terms of efficiency and NRU, and therefore we cannot restrict, or use the feeding component, as the core element or the main entrance for the Focus Areas 1.

e. **Next FA1 meeting**

The colleagues from INRA/CIRAD have proposed Montpellier for hosting the next FA1 meeting (10 and 11 of July).