



GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK 4-5 JUNE 2014, FRIBOURG, SWITZERLAND

Ensuring that current and future livestock sector investments are better targeted towards the sustainable development of the livestock sector and reconciling the requirements of different stakeholders and potential trade-offs simultaneously, requires the exploration of new approaches that capitalize on the strength of different actors by building consensus and commitment among all concerned to action and on-the-ground improvements. The Investing in Sustainable Livestock roundtable in Switzerland brought together livestock sector thought-leaders, decision-makers, and investors to discuss the multiple social, environmental, and health aspects of livestock sector development, and to ensure that they are addressed effectively in current and future sector investments.

The Investors' Roundtable was facilitated by the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (the Agenda), and integrated perspectives across scales and actors, focussing on incentives for investment in livestock sector practice change. The specific objectives of the Roundtable were to:

- Increase the shared understanding on livestock sector development issues;
- Develop consensus on the path towards sustainable food security;
- Work towards policy and operational coherence;
- Explore how investments might be better targeted towards sustainable livestock sector development objectives

The meeting, facilitated by Professor Brian Perry, was opened on the evening of 4th June with a short presentation on the current status of the Agenda, delivered by Neil Fraser, the Chair of the Agenda Guiding Group. This was followed by a welcome address which focussed on investing in resource efficient and sustainable livestock as the key to sustainable agro-food systems, by Prof. Bernard Lehmann, the Director General of Agriculture in the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, Zürich. This intervention was followed by brief speeches by Henri Kool, Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Netherlands; Matthew Hooper, Counsellor Primary Industries, New Zealand; and Jean Jacques Soula, Senior Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France, explaining why and how their countries invest in sustainable livestock sector development and the Agenda.

The following morning a plenary address entitled "Investing in sustainable food and agriculture, investing in livestock" was presented by Dr David Nabarro, the United Nations Special Envoy for Food Security. Dr Nabarro emphasised that livestock is vital for human development and plays diverse roles in food security and development. He identified several policy challenges. These included the need for:

- A transparent investment framework along the entire value chain;
- Policies which encourage sound governance of the sector: the work of the Agenda is critical for the future of livestock;
- An understanding of the environmental and health costs of livestock: professional capabilities are needed (roles for governments and the private sector), and policies need to be applied fairly;
- Financing mechanisms for those who invest in livestock: partnerships between governments, producers, private sector, financing institutions with a focus on risks and needs.
- The full accounting of risks and benefits of decisions relating to livestock: sustainability decisions often involve trade-offs, but these can also create new opportunities.

He argued that there is an urgent need to have all stakeholders giving support to one united approach, such as the Agenda. Such an approach should have a clear vision and messaging to underpin consensus-building efforts by a critical mass of experts representing all stakeholder constituencies. The process should involve all stakeholders, rather than just be advocated by governments, and sustainable livestock messaging should be clearly linked to sustainable food security messaging.

Many governments ignore the livestock sector. Emphasising the large benefits that can be derived from the investment in sustainable livestock sector development should thus be part of a strategy to get the attention of Ministers. Practice change towards sustainable systems in livestock, also requires consumers to play their part: sustainable must mean better, to consumers, to the environment, and to the world.

The next presentation was entitled “Contours of sustainable livestock sector investment”, delivered by Henning Steinfeld, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He argued that a sustainable livestock sector would contribute to food and agriculture through viable growth in value chains that have access to all necessary resources and services, and in which the poor can find secure livelihoods, participate in growing markets, or take up other opportunities outside the sector. It would have an inclusive approach to managing disease threats at the animal-human-environment interface, and involve producers at every level in the development and implementation of animal-disease and food-safety programmes. Importantly, livestock production would be based on materials not competing with direct use as human foods, and the sector would progressively provide incentives to transition to more resource use efficient ways of production and reward environmental stewardship. The sector would consider policy reform within a broad development context, and have robust actor-linkage networks for sector surveillance and learning, as well as the institutional capacity and flexibility to respond to emerging sector needs.

This presentation was followed by contributions from Francois le Gall, World Bank; Sandra Vijn; World Wildlife Fund U.S.; Antonio Rota, International Fund for Agricultural Development; Willi Graf, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; and Dionys Forster, Nestle. Each presented a statement on why and how their organization invests in livestock, the theory of change that underlie these investments, how and why investment strategies have evolved over the years, and how they expect current societal demands on the sector to shape future investment by their organisations.

The next session was introduced by Shirley Tarawali, International Livestock Research Institute, who presented “The contribution of research to sustainable livestock sector investment”. The presentation focussed on how research has influenced and shaped investment in the livestock sector, what current research is telling us about the types of policy and the institutional change required to create the conditions for sustainable sector investment. The presentation was followed by short statements from Ruaraidh Petre, Global Round Table for Sustainable Beef; Luis Fernando de Amaral, Rabobank and Brazilian Roundtable on Sustainable Beef; Maurice Boland, Alltech; and Simplicie Nouala, Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources. In a similar manner to the earlier session, each presented their insights on the characteristics of the environment that would facilitate and promote investment in sustainable livestock sector development, and the types of policy and the institutional change required to create the conditions for sustainable sector investment.

The round table’s closing session was introduced by Ren Wang, FAO’s Assistant Director General for Agriculture and Consumer Protection, with a presentation entitled “Towards coherence in policy and practice”. Following his presentation a discussion identified (i) key common messages related to the better targeting of livestock sector investment, and (ii) the specific role the Agenda should play therein, emerging from the meeting:

(i)

- The need for a comprehensive, evidence-based ‘all-in-one’ narrative on the role of livestock in sustainable development, integral to the post-2015 Development objectives;
- The need for a united vision supported by key messages, education and stakeholder engagement;
- The need for coherence, collaboration, and consensus towards investment in sustainable livestock sector development.
- The need for concrete actions and projects, which make ideas happen and put change into practice.

(ii)

- The need to further develop the Agenda’s umbrella role in building consensus on the path towards sustainable food and agriculture through dialogue, consultation, learning, and joint analysis integrating stakeholders, approaches, and objectives to ensure a value-added product;
- The need to continue the definition of concrete action, targets and key issues, and how progress will be measured;
- The need to identify new partners and pathways, including PES, to improve targeting of livestock sector investments towards sustainability;
- The need for the Agenda to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based ‘all-in-one’ narrative on the role of livestock in sustainable development, prior to its next session in Cali;
- The need to continue to support the establishment of similar groupings at regional, country, and livestock sector commodity levels.

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