

Livestock and the SDGs: review of main linkages

17 Partnership for the goals

- Stakeholders of the livestock sector have come together to form the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock and recognize the UN SDGs in their strategy

1 No poverty

- Many rural poor rely on livestock
- Livestock provide 3 major pathways out of poverty: (1) securing assets, (2) improving productivity and (3) increasing market participation

16 Peace, justice & strong institutions

- Numerous conflicts in areas where access to land creates tensions between communities (e.g. pastoralists)
- Livestock can also be a threat to biosecurity

2 Zero hunger

- Food (energy and high value protein)
- Traction and fertilizer for crop production
- Income

15 Life on land

- The major part of land is used for livestock
- Livestock interacts with biodiversity through impacts on habitats, LUC, water & soil pollution, grassland species etc.
- Domestic animals are part of biodiversity

3 Good health & well being

- Essential micronutrients, especially for children, women and the elderly
- Majority of animal diseases could cause human pandemics
- Use of antimicrobial expected to rise in livestock
- Diseases limit livestock productivity

14 Life below water

- Livestock use large amounts of fishmeal, contributing to overexploitation of marine resources and loss of biodiversity
- Manure discharge can lead to eutrophication and hypoxic water conditions

4 Quality education

- A healthy diet is key to learning capacities (e.g. school milk programs)
- Livestock provides income which supports education

13 Climate action

- Poor livestock keepers are among the most vulnerable to climate change
- Livestock are responsible for a significant share of GHG emissions but have a large mitigation potential, through reduction of emissions intensity and soil carbon sequestration

5 Gender equality

- Majority of poor livestock keepers are women, especially with small ruminants and poultry
- Women have less access to resources (land, capital and services)

6 Clean water & sanitation

- Livestock use large amount of water
- They are a source of water pollution (e.g. nitrates)
- Water contaminated by livestock causes hygiene problems
- Livestock can contribute to protect water quality (grazing)

12 Responsible consumption & production

- Wastes and losses along livestock supply chains are high
- Rebalancing diets and the share of animal products can contribute to sustainability and health

7 Affordable & clean energy

- Livestock are an energy sink and source
- Recycling animal manure (e.g. biogas) provides an alternative to fossil fuels or wood

11 Sustainable cities & communities

- Hundreds of million of people in cities keep livestock
- Benefits for food security, nutrition, jobs creation
- Potential threat to health and sanitation
- Supports rural-urban linkages

8 Decent work & economic growth

- 40% of agricultural GDP is provided by livestock
- The sector is growing at a fast rate
- High rate of child labour and occupational hazards

10 Reduced inequalities

- Livestock are a source of income, create employment opportunities and provide market participation to poor rural households

9 Industry, Innovation & infrastructure

- Many people depend on livestock, including from jobs provided in the value chain (feed, processing, retailing)
- Small scale livestock keepers lack market access and inclusion

