



GLOBAL AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK



FROM CRISIS TO ACTION

**Lessons from COVID-19 for Building a Better Future
through Sustainable Livestock**

Tuesday 15 September

Summary of the day

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FROM CRISIS TO ACTION

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**Similarities among regional meetings' outputs are
highlighted in red**

Africa 1: English Speaking Africa

- 215 registered participants, 100 participants, 32 countries, 16 in Africa
- Many cross cutting issues and inter-related throughout sustainability domains
- Food security and especially food system resilience (Climate change)
- **One Health recognized as essential**
- **New technologies – digital solutions (research)**
- Small-scale playing better than large scale
- Rethinking business models
- Livestock need to be part of building forward sustainable, resilient food systems
- **Importance of dialogue and coordinated solutions (collaboration between stakeholders)**

Africa 2: French Speaking Africa

- 67 participants
- **The impacts vary depending on the countries and areas (4 domains)**
- Resilience measures were taken (inputes, animal health, logistics)
- Importance of mobility as a factor of exchanges (resilience to be secured)
- **Intensive systems were too dependent on imports**
- Formal sector achieve better dialogue with institutions for adapted measures to crisis

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

100 invited, 30 attended (different countries & livestock systems)

1. Holistic approach
2. Addressing all levels and supply chains (e.g. farm)
3. Building resilience and prevention - instead of dealing with the impacts
4. Reduction of dependency - farm inputs
5. Identification of barriers to control disease
6. Investment opportunities
 1. Sustainable economic growth
 2. Resilience to crises and disasters
 3. Reduction of negative environmental externalities
 4. Strong contribution to poverty reduction - smallholders and family farmers
7. Economic assessment of planned interventions

Latin America

- 80 participants, 11 countries
- **Diverse social and economic impacts in the livestock systems and chains**
- Livestock world will not be the same post-pandemic (opportunities ahead)
- **Livestock has a significant potential for resilience in times of crisis**
- The need to strengthen production chains in relation to sustainability, environmental performance, biosecurity and animal welfare
- Policies for livestock small holders
- **R&D is a key point and science projects should be closer to farmers' needs and policy design.**
- Latin-American chapter GASL

Oceania, 9 speakers, 37 participants

Challenges:

- ✓ **Impacts all along the supply chain:** maintaining production levels, transport restrictions, safety of processing workers, panic purchases by consumers, closure of restaurants, hampered import and export channels)

Responses:

- ✓ Agric. sector deemed **essential services**
- ✓ **Better coordination and communication among actors,**
- ✓ **Specific govt. financial support,**
- ✓ Shorter channels to reach consumers (online, direct sales) -> agility of the supply chain

Lessons:

- Pandemic highlighted NZ's specificities (importance of high quality products, responsive producers and diverse and solid intl. network)
- **Importance of credible govt. response**
- **Opportunity to think about additional scenarii** (e.g. feed shortage, access to market)

Western Europe, 15 September 2020, 3 speakers, 30 participants

Challenges:

- **High impact of Covid-19** on the whole food supply chain and consumption habits, but not much disruption
- Covid **compounded existing challenges** (climate change, youth engagement) -> need to make food systems healthier and more sustainable
- Problem of **misinformation**

Lessons learnt:

- **High resilience** of the systems: **promote this positive aspect** to avoid wrong decisions
- **Connectedness key for resilience (scientific, vets services, etc.)**
- **Coordination crucial** to prevent the next pandemics
- Farm animals not affected by Covid-19

Opportunities

- **One health, global health approach**
- **Time for task forces and concerted action:** GASL crucial in that regard, should continue
- **Transdisciplinary approach**

North America, 2 September 2020, 8 speakers, 40 participants

Challenges:

- **Disruption** in some sectors at early stages
- Shift from food services to individual consumption

Lessons learnt and opportunities:

- Role of **restaurants / canteens** in demand for specific products (e.g. beef)
- Importance of **concerted action** and **risk management programmes**
- Importance of trusted relationships along the supply chain
- Importance of **govt. policy** and financial support BUT lack of focus on sustainability so far
- Crucial **role of communication** in crisis times
- **Role of private-public partnerships** (buy equipment, fund research)
- Need to reduce environmental footprint not only at production but at consumption

“Rest of Asia”, 9-10 September 2020, 2 sessions, 71 participants

Challenges:

- **Most sectors and all sections hit**, disruption in some sectors, incl. vet services
- Sever socio-economic impact, but not quantified
- **Covid-19 compounded other problems** (drought, ASF, locust infestations)
- Dropping prices for producers, **dropping purchasing power**
- **Misrepresentations** from media
- Various govt. responses, general unpreparedness

Lessons learnt and actions needed:

- **Coordination** among actors
- Greater environmental health, **One health** approach
- Support **short value chains, local systems**
- Some sectors more **resilient** than others (e.g. pastoralists)

Following crucial points identified, out of inputs from over participants in 8 regions :

Challenges

- Diverse effects of and responses to Covid-19 in different regions / countries
- Covid-19 compounded pre-existing crises (locusts, droughts, animal diseases, protracted poverty)
- Agricultural sector recognized as essential BUT
- Growing or sudden mistrust of many consumers in animal products (misinformation, misconceptions, etc.)
- Role of institutional consumers in demand for specific products, panic purchases by individual consumers
- Role of govt. support in times of crisis (level of preparedness, lack of agility to respond, etc.)
- Dropping prices for producers and consumers (but dropping purchasing power as well)

Lessons learnt

- Demand for healthy food, new forms
- Importance of agricultural sector, food security !
- Resilience of many existing systems, but need for a transition towards more resilience & sustainability
- Level of connection & trust along the supply chain important for resilience
- Role of new technology / digitalization to become more agile: e.g. e-commerce
- Crucial role of govt. for support, but also from other forms of support (e.g. private/public partnerships)
- Frameworks for sustainability reinforced

Opportunities for the future:

- Livestock remains a crucial component of a systems approach
- Preparedness and cost effectiveness: need for govt. to invest money to anticipate such crises rather than overcome them
- Rethink business models for more resilience (smaller-scale? More systemic approaches?)
- Holistic approach needed, transition to more sustainable systems
- Identification of barriers towards more resilience and sustainability
- Reduction of producers' dependency (e.g. on inputs)
- Importance of sound policies, based on scientific results
- One health approach needed (not only human & animal, but also planetary health)
- Importance of dialogue and coordinated solutions between stakeholders in searching for solutions
- Need for regional GASL chapters: many issues can be tackled on a regional basis

Thank you!

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