Livestock Sector Actions Towards More Sustainable Food Systems

Briefing of the 12th GASL MSP meeting, Ireland

Shirley Tarawali, GASL Chair

Based on:
Synthesis Rapporteur, Nancy Bourgeois, Academia and Research Cluster
Note taking in parallel sessions: Rogerio Mauricio, Michael Victor, Nitya Ghotge, Walter Oyhantcabal, Alejandro Acosta, and many others
## GASL principles framework for all GASL activities

- Open and voluntary, no fees
- Inclusive and consensual
- Change oriented
- Evidence and knowledge based
- Respect the diversity of views
- Aligned with the SDGs, under the umbrella of 4 sustainability domains

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### Meeting process

- 148 in-person participants from 42 countries
- 55 GASL-sponsored participants from 31 countries
- 900+ views in YouTube

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3 – 7 October 2022 Dublin Ireland | 12th GASL MSP Meeting (Hybrid)
Day 1: Setting the scene - official opening

- Shirley Tarawali - GASL Chair
- Thanawat Tiensin - Animal Production and Health Division, FAO
- Brendan Gleeson - Ireland Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Tom Arnold - Ireland’s Special Envoy on Food Systems
- David Kennedy - Bord Bia
- Alice Stanton - Royal College of Surgeons

- Multi-stakeholder partnerships are crucial to work across the complex food system
- Political priority given to food and nutrition security must increase at national, regional and international level
- Gaps between suppliers and buyers to meet sustainability goals = huge opportunity!
- Need to share best practices globally
- Crucial need for facts, evidence-based, unbiased information/results
- Ways to communicate better fact-based information

3 – 7 October 2022 Dublin Ireland | 12th GASL MSP Meeting (Hybrid)
Day 1: Livestock challenges / Next generation

Session 2 Challenging livestock: global actions for sustainable food systems

- Jessica Fanzo, John Hopkins University
- EAT Lancet report shed light on inequities
- Some countries need to take more action than others

- Food system governance and agency (e.g., meat grown lab)
- Gender lens: no binary approach, focus on responsibilities
- Big challenges for developing countries to cope with challenges, e.g., double/triple burdens of malnutrition

- 4 Challenging
- 4 Respondents
- Always consider 3 dimensions of sustainability
- Tackle food waste issue more thoroughly
- Efficiency increase needed
- Work together across the sector
- Inclusiveness, equity, supply chain governance
- Upscale best practices
- Solutions need to be differentiated, no fit for all

3 – 7 October 2022 Dublin Ireland | 12th GASL MSP Meeting (Hybrid)
Day 2: Regional consultations (participants/registered)

- Opportunity to **scale-out GASL’s activities** & expand its reach
- Every region has its **specific challenges**: food safety, food security, animal welfare, AMR issues, livestock numbers, production costs, emerging diseases **BUT** the same stressors, **climate change & the environmental crisis**
- Every region has its **tailor-made solutions**: locally adapted technologies, new technologies, global sustainability programmes, etc.
- Need to give more space, voice, trust and means to the **next generation**
- No fit-all solution
Day 3: Field trips

(1) TEAGASC Grange Animal and Grassland Research Centre;
(2) Dermot Heaney commercial dairy farm; (2) Devenish Lands at Dowth research farm

- Different pathways of adoption of technologies and innovations
- A technology can be mainstreamed in one country and new in another one (e.g. inclusion of clover, EBI, protected urea, slurry spreaders, GreenFeed, etc.)
- Technologies, systems adapted to the local context: e.g. Spring calving)
Day 4: Policy forum

- Take control of the narrative
- Livestock is part of the solution
- Farmers are doers and have always adapted their practices!
- Need to highlight research & technologies used by farmers towards sustainability: huge progress done, still many to come (e.g. C-soil measurement)
- Data, metrics are crucial to move forward
- Opportunity to learn from other sectors (e.g. energy industry)
- Opportunity and need for a robust articulation between FAO COAG sub-committee on livestock & GASL

Policy Panel

- Consumers’ behaviour: in Ireland there is a readiness to pay for more sustainability if it is shown
- Earn concerned citizens’ trust
  - Technology:
    - Some technologies available and under adoption (breeding, methane measurement, etc.)
    - Some technologies still under research and testing (e.g. soil C-sequestration, genetics for low methane animals).
    - Transfer of technologies to other countries: capacities, resources are needed!
- Balanced approach to the problem: whatever is done, all 3 pillars of sustainability need to be taken into consideration!
Day 4: Action networks

- Diversity of contexts, species, agro-ecological zones
- All steps from research to actions/implementation: investigations -> case studies -> models -> validation -> publications -> restitution to beneficiaries -> initiatives (e.g. Yak association)
- Enhancement of accuracy transparency, comparability, consistency of methods
- Collaboration across action networks (e.g. Animal welfare & LAMP)
- Collaboration with Clusters (e.g. A&R through editorial board committee)
  - Some overlap between Silvopastoral systems and Closing the Efficiency gap
  - Lack of diversity of livestock systems represented (-> invisibility of some livestock keepers & species)
Conclusions (what’s good, what’s to improve)

- GASL acknowledged and respected
- Wide range of activities (e.g. AN’s activities, regional consultations, clusters’ support)
- Great progress in being more inclusive & representative (e.g. young generation, farmers), but efforts need to be continued (gender, consumers, systems, livestock species)
  - So far, defensive stance in face of “adverse weather”
  - Too much focus on the environmental pillar of the sustainability
  - Not enough focus on impact of climate change on livestock

Next steps

- Move from defensive to offensive: take control of the narrative!
- Bring balance into polarized debate, also highlight positive facts!
- Communicate progress based on scientific evidence
- Continue providing robust evidence
- Bring better balance between the 4 sustainability pillars
- Make invisible livestock keepers and “neglected” species visible
- Better show synergies between livestock and crops in the food system
- Consider involving more stakeholders in future (e.g. Agtech, consumers)
- Strengthen synergies with other stakeholders, such as COAG sub-committee on livestock

Dublin Communiqué

- Reaffirmation of GASL shared commitment to sustainable development of the livestock sector as a key element of sustainable and resilient food systems in the 4 sustainability domains adopted by GASL in 2018, in alignment with the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development
- Extend access to livestock products/ Promote application of inclusive and equitable livestock business models/ Foster production, management and stewardship of livestock and their products/ Enhance soil health, above and below ground carbon sequestration and biodiversity/ Promote good standards of animal health and welfare globally/ Work in partnership with GASL partners and others (SCL)/ Contribute to a nuanced and science-based debate

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Three series of parallel technical sessions, 16 in total

- International Finance Corporation (IFC): practices for sustainable investment in livestock areas
- Building a social platform for livestock

- **Foods** of pastoral communities
- Pastoralism as sustainable food system: examples from Europe
- Dairy Asia: action network of GASL to the dairy sector in the Asia and Pacific

- The case for investment in animal health towards One health
- **One health** investment in livestock
- Understanding the prevalence and impacts of zoonotic disease among small scale dairy holdings; the journey towards a reliable dairy supply chain while mitigating risks to public health in Malawi

- Global Livestock Environmental Assessment (GLEAM) Dashboard
- **Boosting carbon initiatives** in livestock farm
- Addressing the supply and demand of environmental impact data to empower livestock development
Thank you