For Animals, People and the Planet:

Are you interested in animal welfare and the Sustainable Development Goals?

Is your organisation concerned about contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Does your organisation influence farming and livestock? Whether you are a farmer, food processor, food company, policymaker, NGO or development funder (or anything else for that matter), if what you do involves livestock and the SDGs, then you need to be a part of this new network!

Together, we are facing one of the world’s biggest challenges: how to produce meat and dairy sustainably, in way that meets the world’s social, environmental and economic needs now and for the future. You may not yet have heard of it, but the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock ([**www.livestockdialogue.org**](http://www.livestockdialogue.org)) has become one of the world’s most dynamic and inclusive multi-stakeholder initiatives to tackle this challenge. It aims to drive forward sustainable livestock practices and enable livestock to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It does this through dialogue to share ideas and develop strategy; it builds evidence of sustainable solutions; and it uses these tools to enable governments and policymakers to support more sustainable practices.

The Global Agenda has members across the world from all stakeholder groups interested in the livestock sector, from smallholder farmer groups, multi-national producers, academics and NGOs, governments and donors. The Agenda has the support of the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Committee on Agriculture and is convened by the FAO, but is shaped and driven by its members. Indeed, all organisations who are supportive of its ‘consensus for sustainable livestock’ are welcome to join, contribute and gain from this initiative.

Its driving forces are its ‘action networks’, which focus on developing and enhancing real practice change on specific themes. The latest action network to be developed in 2017 focuses on animal welfare and its contribution to the SDGs. It aims to:

* Understand and demonstrate animal welfare's role in delivering the SDGs
* Increase adoption of evidence-based good practice and improve animal welfare conditions on farm that support the delivery of the SDGs in line with the Global Agenda’s identified priorities
* Increase the profile of the benefits of positive animal welfare in sustainable livestock
* Reflect and enhance the reputation of livestock production by demonstrating its work to achieve good animal welfare in practice

Success ultimately will be measured in how many people and animals benefit, and in the longer term this will be a major focus of the work, aiming to quantify the impact members make as a result of actions implemented through the network.

The network draws members from all stakeholders engaged with livestock and is currently run by a steering group of eight founding members from across the commercial production industry, academia and the NGO sectors. It is governed by the strategic core guiding group of the Global Agenda.

If this is an area of work in which you are engaged (or even just enthusiastic about), the Animal Welfare Action Network provides a great opportunity for your organisation to gain high profile international visibility for its work in this area, both across the livestock sector and more widely to governments and policymakers. More importantly, through a collective platform such as this, we have an increased opportunity to achieve our desired objectives with our available resources.

One of the network’s first objectives is to demonstrate the role of animal welfare in livestock production, and how it can contribute to the SDGs. The plan is to work with stakeholders like you to build the evidence base from your existing projects, and communicate these case studies through the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock’s platforms and beyond, such as at its global meeting and through its virtual presence.

 We want to showcase evidence and tell inspiring stories of how good livestock welfare plays a major role in achievement of the SDGs. This evidence could reflect a wide range of benefits, such as improving sustainable production, reducing hunger, enabling better economic outcomes, supporting gender equality or enabling the viability of smallholder farmers. Sustainable solutions are highly diverse, whether across species, geography, climate or economic context and there will be many successful solutions that have the potential for scaling and / or replication. Some might demonstrate better breeding or farming methods, or nutritional evidence; some might cover routes to market or ways of engaging consumers. Others might demonstrate the benefits of mobile farming systems such as pastoralism, or corporate sustainability leadership. Throughout, we will seek to draw out both hard technical evidence and compelling stories to make the case.

If you have projects that fit this mandate, please get in contact now. We just need some brief information on the project (there is a simple table below). The network’s steering group will use this information to choose the most viable case studies that are best suited to the project (we hope we can build a portfolio of 20-30 at least). Once selected, we will work with you to pull together the data and information ready to showcase at the annual Global Agenda meeting in mid-2018.

If you want to know more about the Global Agenda, please contact its programme manager, Eduardo Arce Diaz, **Eduardo.ArceDiaz@fao.org**.

If you want to know more about the animal welfare action network, please follow this link below, or contact me directly at **lesley@goodfoodfutures.com**. http://www.livestockdialogue.org/fileadmin/templates/res\_livestock/docs/2017\_Addis/posters/2-Animal\_welfare\_action\_network\_-\_Lesley\_Mitchell.pdf

Please do get in touch now, we look forward to hearing from you.

**Case study summary template – please send us your brief project information below:**

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| Project title |
| A 2-3 line summary of what the project did and what it reveals  |
| What is the impact of the project: For people? For animals? For the environment? |
| What is the project’s compelling story about stakeholders’ roles and benefits, solutions for sustainable livestock and the SDGs, and what others could do to drive forward similar initiatives? |
| What SDG or other topics are included in the project and what metrics do they use? E.g.Economics; Productivity; Hunger; Poverty alleviation; Climate resilience; Empowerment; Responsible production / consumption, others? |
| What does the project include about the role of animal welfare? What metrics? e.g. Good animal feeding, good housing, good health, behaviour? (Examples might include reduced anti-biotic use, longevity, resting behaviour, affiliative behaviours etc.) |
| What is the relationship between animal welfare and is it a correlation or causation? Please explain briefly. Is it a ‘win win’ for animal welfare and SDG metrics, or a trade off?  |
| How scalable and / or replicable is the solution presented? What would be needed to enable this? |
| Which stakeholders are involved? Farmers, processors, food companies, policy makers, NGOs, donors, other? |
| What geographic region and animal species does the project involve? |
| Is this case study currently part of other GASL work, if at all? E.g. is it part of another action network project? |
| Can the case study be delivered with existing resources ready for presentation in June 2018? |
| Is the evidence (metrics, photos, summary etc.) available now or does further evaluation work need to be undertaken to achieve the above? |
| Is the project published elsewhere (or planned to be)? Are the owners of the project happy for it to be published as part of the GASL AWAN? |