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GLOBAL AGENDA OF ACTION

IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE
LIVESTOCK SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK *for people, for the planet*

UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES

RECONCILING DEMAND GROWTH WITH AVAIL-
ABLE NATURAL RESOURCES ...

In decades to come, the demand for livestock products is expected to grow significantly driven by rising affluence, urbanization and an increasing global population estimated to reach 9.3 billion by 2050. Consumption of food from livestock is projected to increase by about 70% during the same period.

This growth in demand is happening as concerns about scarce natural resources and climate change are increasing. Land, water and nutrients, for example, are under strain. The sector is an important user of such resources and contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and pollution of water and air.

The livestock sector thus needs to adapt to resource scarcity and climate change, whilst contributing to their mitigation and reducing its environmental impact.

WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Demand growth also presents opportunities for economic development and poverty alleviation in many developing countries.

The livestock sector supports the livelihoods of more than 750 million people.

VIABLE SOLUTIONS WITHIN REACH

JOINING FORCES TO IMPROVE PRACTICE

The complexity of the challenges and opportunities ahead requires urgent and concerted stakeholder action towards the necessary changes in institutional frameworks, policies, practices, technologies, and supporting investments.

The Agenda is comprised of actions by stakeholders from the private and public sectors, civil society, research institutions and inter-governmental organizations committed to sustainable sector development.

Its objective is continuous improvement in the use of land, water and nutrients and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. It seeks to align resource efficiency with poverty reduction and economic development, and human nutrition and health.

The Agenda is being built on this shared understanding and guides stakeholder action towards continuous improvement in the efficiency with which the sector uses natural resources.

FOCUS ON THEMES WITH A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE

INITIALLY, THE AGENDA FOCUSES ON THREE AREAS WITH LARGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GAINS.

1 CLOSING THE EFFICIENCY GAP

By changing production practices, we make better use of natural resources and enhance food security.

A large number of the world's producers rely on practices that are inefficient in their use of natural resources. The wider application of proven but not yet widely used technologies can generate large production and efficiency gains as well as environmental benefits.

Agenda partners will develop public-private and other forms of partnership to transfer and adapt resource use efficient technologies.

2 RESTORING VALUE TO GRASSLAND

By improving land management, we enhance livelihoods and environmental services.

The current widespread neglect of grasslands results in a high incidence of poverty in many marginal areas, but also in low productivity of land and livestock, and widespread degradation of land, water and biodiversity resources. Appropriately managed grazing land and supportive institutional and policy frameworks can provide large benefits in the form of carbon sequestration, protection of water services and biodiversity, but also enhance productivity and livelihoods.

Agenda partners will explore and promote the financial and institutional innovation required for the delivery of grassland-related ecosystem services.

3 WASTE TO WORTH

By recovering energy and nutrients from animal manure, we protect the environment.

The management of livestock manure has become increasingly important to reduce the environmental impact of intensive and confined pig and dairy production systems. Recovering nutrients and energy contained in animal manure will not only stop pollution but also improve public health. Recycled nutrients help soil fertility and substitute for mineral fertilizer. Recovered energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions and substitutes fossil fuel.

Agenda partners will develop planning tools and regulatory and incentive frameworks to support viable manure management and create opportunities for recycling.

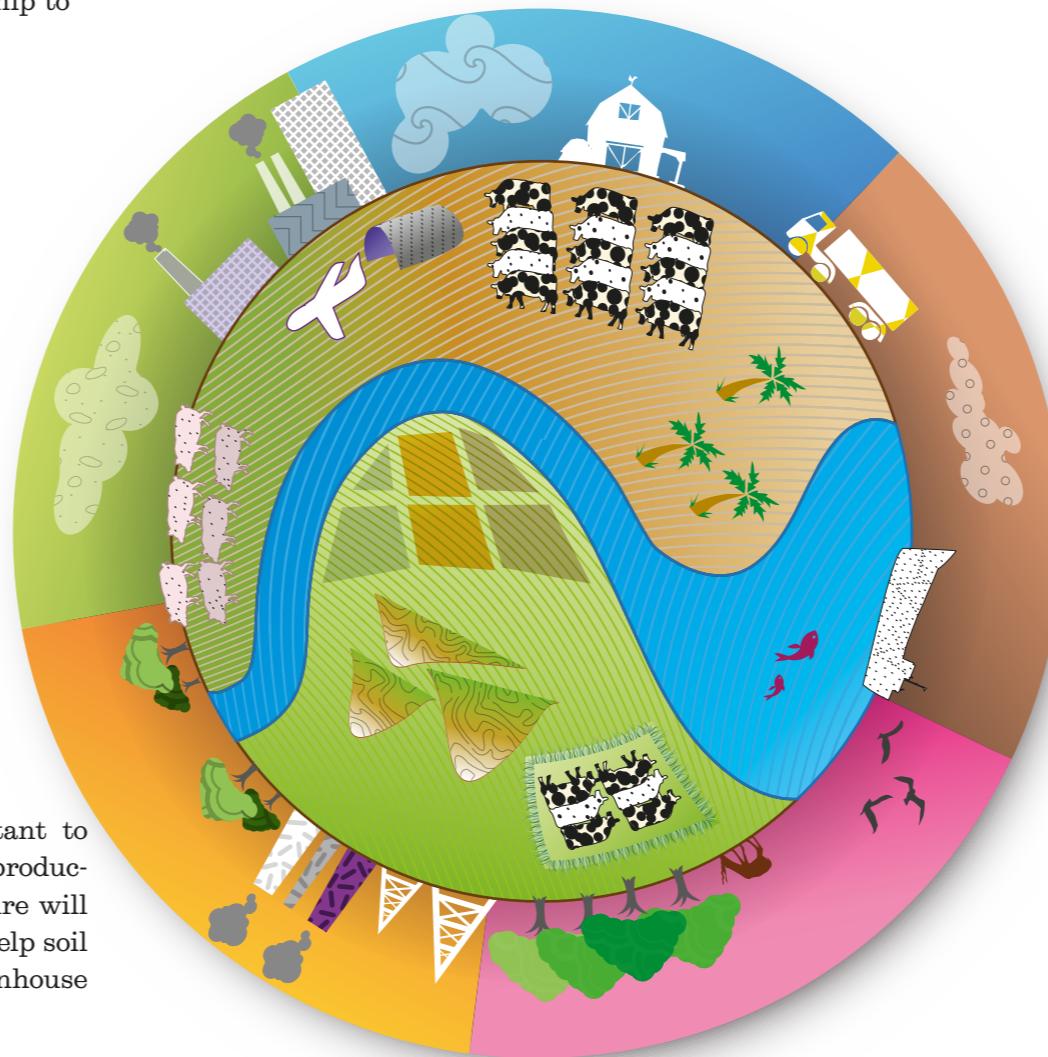
SHARE KNOWLEDGE, BUILD CAPACITY, DEVELOP ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS

AGENDA PARTNERS ENABLE THE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK SECTOR PRACTICES BY:

Consultation and networking to build consensus and share knowledge on technology, best practices, policies and institutional environments.

Analysis and information to better understand resource use issues, to develop harmonized methods to measure resource use efficiency, , and to identify entry points for improvement.

Guidance and piloting to provide strategic guidance on innovation and investments, and to catalyze resource use efficient practices at scale.



EXAMPLES OF JOINT ACTIVITIES

On-going scoping in the focus areas has already led to some initial activities:

Common metrics for resource use efficiency: Livestock sector resource use issues are complex and diverse, and their understanding critically relies on ways of better measuring and assessing their environmental impacts. Such metrics are also required to assess the potential efficiency gains that can be achieved. Work has started on the development of a broadly accepted framework to guide and monitor continuous improvements in resource use.

Affordable ways to measure and monetize carbon sequestration: Connecting livestock keepers in grassland areas to the growing market of environmental services, including carbon finance, can stimulate land rehabilitation, raise productivity and enhance livelihoods. However, conventional methods to measure carbon sequestration and to define payments are complex and costly, as they rely on sampling of soil and biomass and subsequent laboratory analysis. Alternative approaches based on modeling and monitoring of land management practices are being explored to facilitate the development and implementation of payment for these services.

A wiki for manure management mapping: Creating opportunities for animal waste to be recycled on crops requires access to crop land. Spatial analysis of global manure management practices is an indispensable tool to identify priority areas for improvement. Low-cost crowd-sourcing methods for the collection and evaluation of data are being explored to assist in the design of regulatory and incentive frameworks.