
Manure: a valuable resource (part 3); Manure management in smallholder livestock systems

PROGRAMME webinar February 24:

- *Recap of webinar No. 1 and deepening the subject of manure management in smallholder livestock systems* by Asaah NDAMBI, Researcher at International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi; and coordinator of the Livestock and Manure Management project in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- *The role of the Public sector* by Khan HUQUE, Chief Scientific Officer & Head, Animal Production Research Division, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute in Bangladesh.
- *The role of the Private sector* by Didier MOREAU, Milk, Quality, Nature & Sustainable Agriculture Director, Danone Dairy Division in France.
- *The role of the NGO sector* by Steven VON EIJE, Advisor Renewable Energy at SNV – Netherlands Development Organisation in Vietnam.
- *Discussion*

SUMMARY

After recapturing the main topics and issues of the first webinar, **Asaah Ndambi** focused on the mixed smallholder crop-livestock systems. These systems provide most of the world's milk, beef and cereal supply and are essential to poor peoples' livelihoods and food security. Asaah indicated that two aspects are hindering improvement of integrated manure management: inappropriate policies and insufficient farmer awareness. Therefore, stakeholders and policy makers should be brought together to improve awareness of manure management. Besides that, improved practices should be encouraged using training and demonstration material. Both a legislative approach and an extension approach can be used to stimulate integrated manure management.

After Asaah Ndambi's kick-off, **Khan Shahidul Huques** approached the subject from a public sector point of view in the Bangladesh perspective. Khan showed that in Bangladesh, many smallholders do not properly utilize animal manure. Improved manure management, however, has shown many benefits, such as saving time, improved farm productivity and saving costs of artificial fertilizer. The government in Bangladesh has developed policies and action plans for integrated manure management, which are corresponding with sustainable development goals. Kahn emphasized that an integrated policy should contain aspects of sustainable production, mitigation of emissions, R&D for improvements, awareness creation, investments, and regional and global partnerships.

As Khan Huques approached the subject from a public sector point of view; **Didier Moreau** showed us the views of the private sector and more specifically those of Danone. Didier explained why manure is at stake for a company like Danone. Firstly, poor manure management can be a threat to milk supply due to excess nutrient surpluses in livestock dense areas and nutrient losses elsewhere. Also, poor manure management practices can affect milk quality, can enhance greenhouse gas emissions, and can pollute watersheds used for drinking water. Didier concluded that multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential to successfully improve fertilizing and manure practices. Manure can be a threat, but also an opportunity if it is managed properly and collectively.

In the last presentation **Steven von Eije** approached the subject from the NGO sector point of view, with emphasis on Viet Nam. Steven emphasized that there are 4 critical success factors for manure management, which are:

- Inclusive development;
- Systemic change;
- Local ownership, and;
- Contextualized solutions.

Steven emphasized that linking with governments provides an opportunity to enable usage of existing extension networks and raise awareness among politicians. Obtaining sufficient funds for manure projects is difficult, however, as well as the challenge to have both a customized approach and a large impact as required by donors. In Vietnam and many other countries around the world, anaerobic digesters have been successfully installed, providing energy and reducing greenhouse gases. A major challenge is now to ensure utilization of the bio-slurry, which is often still discharged in many farms, but

Steven has shown us that there are many promising examples of utilization of bio-slurry. This requires extensive follow-up trainings, and NGO's can play an important role in this.

The discussion session revealed that government has a key role for putting in regulations and enforcing them. They should closely work together with public and NGO sectors, because the latter are in contact with farmers. Subsidies might be needed when it comes to biogas, because it is often not affordable to smallholders.

Click [here](#) to watch the integral live recording of webinar 3.