The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated livestock’s significant capacity for resilience in times of crisis. This webinar aims at initiating the discussion of resilience within the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock focusing on the relationship between animal health and production, livelihoods, climate change and COVID-19.

Based on the importance of addressing resilience in the livestock sector, especially during challenging times, the Action Network Closing the Efficiency Gap is happy to organize an important discussion within the GASL community to identify the main parameters and a common approach to the topic of resilience in livestock, with a special focus on ruminants. The webinar will feature expert panellists that will be debating on actors, common components and disturbances of resilience.
Sustainability of Resilience

• “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”¹

• “The capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to still retain the same function, structure and identity”²


2020 “Disturbance”

• First ASF then Covid19 tested resilience of supply chains
  – In late 2019 we assumed that ASF would be the overwhelming influence meat markets in 2020.
  – Covid19 moderated some of the biggest swings caused by ASF
  – The fungibility of meat means that ASF shaped and will continue to shape both supply and demand for meat in the food system as a whole.
  – The decline in pork production (28m t) in China is greater than the total production of the next biggest producer region (EU)
Disturbances to Supply Chain

- Supply chain hold ups where processing plants were affected by outbreaks
- Exposure of lack of flexibility / reduced processing capacity
- Retail channel shifting from food service to supermarkets
- Increases in online sales
- Logistical and export disruptions - freight cost
Actors: Consumer

• Consumer concerns vary according to income:
  – Safety – price – nutrition – ecological modernisation

• What is likely to continue?
  – Local & transparent
  – Direct to consumer
  – The need to build trust, sustainability and resilience
Longer term impacts

- The economic downturn is the largest we have seen in our lives, certainly since the Great Depression
  - The recovery of the pig herd in China will take until at least 2025
  - Plant protein manufacturers increasing investment, improving quality and reducing price; citing “peak meat”
Impetus for transformation

• The pandemic raised the level of concern around zoonoses and intensive production systems.

• Climate change further focuses attention; 2021 will accelerate this

• Before 2020 Supply chains tended to focus on actions such as GAP, technology & efficiency but there is a growing recognition of the need for resilience which may lead to stronger ecological modernization including on input and non market services.
Policy shifts

• There is huge potential to reduce emissions – and we must be proactive – we can benefit
• IPCC and IMF & UN FSS want to target demand – taxes on emissions will impact on beef models; transformation in one way or another.
• GRSB goals; Australia, NZ & Canada
The next normal

• Lessons from uncertainty and confusion?
  • 2020 exposed some weaknesses in specialization and efficiency models.

• Changing consumer behavior;
  • Trust
  • Transparency
  • Momentum for sustainability and further for PES and resilience increased at all levels

• “the Great Food Transformation” is still being ushered in…