



GLOBAL AGENDA OF ACTION

IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Turning the Agenda into concrete action

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The third Interim Preparatory Committee (IPC) meeting on 28 May 2012 decided that a focus on concrete action was required to be able to translate the concept of livestock sector sustainability into practice, as it is through practice change that impact will be made, the benefits from multi-stakeholder involvement will be realized, and generic lessons can be learned.

To examine this further, the Secretariat decide to organize an additional meeting linked to the IPC of 19 September to arrive at a shortlist of suitable pilots for further development, to identify the key actions needed to make pilots succeed and to clarify how pilots can help our understanding of sustainability concepts/principles. Selected pilots need to relate to activities where the Agenda of Action provides a significant value-added, be consistent with the focus and nature of the Agenda; fall under at least one of the focus areas, involve multiple stakeholders; and lead to practice change.

The meeting started with a short introduction by the FAO OCP division in respect to the ongoing developments within the FAO to revise its corporate engagement strategy with private and civil society sector partners, as well as its involvement in a new initiative through the UN Global Compact (www.unglobalcompact.org/) which aims to develop a set of voluntary business principles for sustainable agriculture as a follow up to Rio +20.

The meeting subsequently examined a number of proposals for concrete action (link to pdfs of presentations). Whilst all presentations offered value-added to the Agenda, the following were decided to offer the most concrete immediate options for action:

- A smallholder dairy pilot in Kenya exploring (i) the capacity to measure, certify and monitor emission intensity reductions accurately and at a low cost by benchmarking emission reductions achieved by participating producers against a reference group; (ii) the potential for farmers to aggregate so that pools of carbon mitigation in tradable amounts are generated; and, (iii) the potential to capitalize on the existence of carbon credit mechanisms that not only efficiently connect the demand for and supply of carbon offsets but use the mechanisms to fund technological adoption costs

- A sustainable grazing management and soil carbon sequestration pilot in degraded grasslands in Uruguay, Brazil, Central Asia, and Ethiopia exploring (i) the technical and economic potential for carbon sequestration on degraded grasslands; (ii) the securing of access to carbon

market funds; (iii) the increases in productivity, product diversification and herder incomes ; and (iv) the improved institutional capacity for sustainable management, engagement with carbon markets, monitoring, and marketing.

- A manure management smallholder dairy pilot in Vietnam in response to the increasing pollution and public health problems associated to the large increase in smallholder dairy production. The pilots which will be based around Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh, and implemented by farmer organizations, the public and private sector and a range of other Agenda stakeholders proposes to explore practice changes through a combination of co-financing, price and labeling incentives, and legislation. The main tools that will be deployed as part of these activities are (i) innovation platforms: a family of approaches focused on linking organizations and individuals relevant to various topics where the private sector is or should be prominent; (ii) independent brokers to facilitate interactions; (iii) co-financing or venture capital to incentivize implementation processes; (iv) sourcing of knowledge bases; experiences; services; technologies through the proposed Agenda's *Manure Management kiosk*.

The meeting also discussed opportunities to enhance the Agenda's dialogue and knowledge exchange, and network functions through:

- (i) the creation of multi-stakeholder managed chapters and blogs on the Agenda's website for each of the focus areas;
- (ii) the more extensive use of the Agenda dialogue platform to discuss and explore novel issues relevant to the livestock sector;
- (iii) the increase of efforts to ensure the appropriate representation of regional and stakeholder grouping, and relevant ongoing and past activities in the MSP through, for example, a network of network approach and the organization of specific regional Agenda events as proposed by the Liflod network in respect to participatory sustainable rural development and innovation activities in grassland areas;
- (iv) the establishment of regional centres of Excellence. These centres would be envisaged to become regional foci in the development of new technologies and processes related to focus area issues, centres of professional exchange and secondment, and centres where specific Agenda-related training needs can be concentrated and hosted. These centres could also feature as hosts to annual Agenda technology and market place exchange events; and
- (v) the promotion and use of the Brazilian low carbon agriculture programme lessons, experiences and technologies in other, similar agro-ecological zones through its customization to different cultural, policy and institutional settings.