

Opening address

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Opening ceremony “Workshop on Reduced Discharge”
Samsung Convention Center, Hoam Faculty House, SNU, Seoul
Wednesday, 25 April, 08.30 – 09.00 h.

Dear participants,

First of all I would like to thank the South-Korean Government and the Seoul National University, for hosting this Workshop. We are also happy that Korea has joined our Livestock Dialogue Platform and is taking a prominent role by hosting this meeting.

The Global Livestock Dialogue started in June 2010 as a side event during the Committee for Agriculture at FAO in Rome. It was organized to start a discussion on how to provide enough animal products to feed the world in 2050 without exhausting the planets’ natural resources.

At that occasion, many participants expressed their interest to start a multistakeholder discussion on how to improve the performances of global livestock sectors. Taking all the different interests into consideration: from smallholders to multinational companies, both NGO’s and Governments.

Two multistakeholder Platform meetings followed, one hosted by Brasil in Brasilia and the other in Phuket, hosted by Thailand. The World Bank chaired the meetings and FAO provides the Secretariat. Transparency is key, so all the information and discussions can be followed on our www.livestockdialogue.org website.

In Brasilia in May last year, the multistakeholder platform decided to develop an Agenda of concrete actions to improve the livestock sector performance. This would cover: strategic analysis, sharing of knowledge and experiences, capacity building, piloting of innovations, and advocacy of our approaches.

In the Phuket-meeting in December last year we identified three focal areas for further work in order to compose an Agenda of Action. The three areas are:

1. Closing the efficiency gap in natural resource use (Rome, 2-4 April)
2. Restoring value to grass land (Brasilia, 7-10 May)
3. Reduced Discharge (Seoul, 24-27 April)

These three working groups all have the same target, that is: provide concrete input for the Agenda of Action. The Agenda will be launched later this year at our third Multistakeholder meeting in Nairobi, hosted by the African Union.

So our challenge this week is to collect as concrete as possible valuable experiences in the field of manure management, manure processing and trading, energy recovery from livestock systems. We could come with some concrete proposals for cooperation activities among ourselves as stakeholders. We could identify mechanisms for multistakeholder cooperation: private sector, research, NGO’s and Governmental institutions. We should try to find ways of financing our pilots.

A lot of knowledge and technical know-how is already available at research institutes, universities and also companies. How can we make better use of already existing knowledge and technology, to make it operational. Piloting could be a good way to experiment. We have an opportunity to link our Platform with the Global research Alliance as our provider of knowledge.

So we have to organize our discussion in such a way that we get optimal and concrete results. This afternoon you will get further details of the Workshop format from IMS and FAO.

Before we do that we will first hear about the Green Growth Strategy of South-Korea and its relationship with livestock development in South-Korea.

Thank you

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