The session began with a presentation by Jimmy Smith outlining the process in the run up to this meeting. He indicated that the context for the proposed global agenda of action was provided by a series of systematic analyses carried out by FAO, the World Bank and other agencies. All these analyses concluded that livestock sector has the potential to contribute more than it is doing by investing in institutions and technology to enhance productivity and resource use efficiency and minimizing the negative impacts on natural resource and environment base and public health. To meet the emerging challenges in this context and to ensure that the sector fulfils its potential contribution to society's multiple objectives, appropriate institutional and technological interventions may be required.

To move from analysis towards a more systematic action response, several preparatory meetings were held which then led to formation of a dialogue group for responsible livestock sector. The dialogue group included representatives from Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Netherlands and New Zealand. He emphasized that the main purpose of this initiative was to get the sustainable livestock production back on the international development agenda. The central question, he outlined, that concerned the dialogue group was “would we still have the natural resources for enough meat and milk in 2050?”

The dialogue group met several times on the sidelines of a number of multilateral meetings and it was concluded to create a platform, outline a vision, proposed focus, and the means and products to achieve the vision and affect change in behavior that can enhance sustainability of livestock based food chains. He reminded the participants that the expectation at the end of this meeting is to have a draft agenda and recommendations that will lead to launching of the platform. In the medium term, the proposed plan of action will be presented in COP17 in Durban, during November-December 2011 and COAG 23 session next year.

This was followed by another presentation by Jeroen Dijkman who introduced more specific objectives and the format of this meeting. He emphasized that although some thinking has already gone into various elements of the agenda of action, and a concept note has been prepared and circulated to facilitate the process, all aspects of this process are still fully open. The participants should therefore not constrain their thinking and should feel free to discuss and question all aspects of the proposal on the table. What is important, however, that by the end of this meeting, we agree on basic principles and a way forward for the future.

The introduction was followed by five presentations on global environmental perspectives

1. Environmental performance along livestock food chains – P. Gerber, FAO
2. Land use and livestock – Geraldo Martha, EMBRAPA
3. Climate change and livestock – M. Herrero/S. Staal, ILRI
4. Nutrient cycles and livestock by Mercedes Bustamante, Universidade de Brasilia
5. Water and livestock by Julios Palhares, EMBRAPA
6. The protein puzzle by Maurits van den Berg from PBA, The Netherlands

Afternoon session was spent on discussion of vision and scope for the global agenda for action. The participants were presented the below presented as it appeared in the concept note.
Vision: “A global livestock sector that provides safe and plentiful livestock source food for growing urban populations, a livelihood for poor producers, a contribution to economic growth and sustained wellbeing of livestock producers, the preservation and efficient use of natural resources, and the minimization of health risks to human populations.”

Extensive discussion took place on the intent and content of the vision statement. Following were the key points

1. The phrase ‘growing urban populations’ is restrictive and may be replaced by ‘growing demand’. This will encapsulate the notions of growing populations, increasing incomes and changing diets.

2. It is important to explicitly recognize the context of ‘rapidly growing demand and resource scarcity’ in the vision statement.

3. The vision statement should be sufficiently broad to acknowledge the importance of all public goods such as livelihood support, natural resource management, and public health.

4. The vision statement must be socially inclusive and should give due explicit recognition to enhancing the livelihoods for poor producers and the potential of the sector in support of economic growth. The statement must also recognize the regional diversity with respect to livestock production, marketing and institutional environment.

5. It is important to include the word ‘Responsible’ in the vision statement as that brings out the notion of accountability and puts the onus of action on all actors.

After extensive discussions the following revised vision statement was adopted

“Responsible livestock sector development which contributes to food and nutritional security - in a context of rapidly growing demand and resource scarcity -, enhances its contribution to broad-based economic growth, livelihoods and wellbeing of actors in the livestock sector, uses natural resources efficiently, recognizes regional diversity, and reduces risks to the health and welfare of human and animal populations.”

Following the adoption of revised vision statement, the participants were presented the following scope statement for the action agenda

“The scope of a Global Agenda of Action is proposed to be global and, in principle, to cover all major livestock sector systems, stakeholders, and related value chains”

In general, the participants expressed agreement with the scope statement. With minor modifications, the following scope statement was adopted

“The scope of a Global Agenda of Action is proposed to be global and, in principle, to cover all and entire livestock sector value chains”