Animal Welfare Action Network

Key messages

- Animal welfare is widely accepted globally as part of sustainable livestock production, such as by the OIE, Committee on World Food Security, and OECD, as well as the GASL consensus.
- Animal welfare can contribute to a broad range of SDGs, with GASL members noting its potential to contribute to nutrition and wellbeing, responsible production and consumption, zero hunger and reducing poverty. It is also associated with life on land and climate resilience.
- A survey of 50 GASL participants found that 100% thought animal welfare is important to delivering the SDGs, 77% said there should be a network with 23% responding ‘maybe’. None said there should not be a network.
- The network could act as a hub for animal-welfare components of practice change to be revealed, linking with other GASL initiatives including Dairy Asia, Closing the Efficiency Gap, Grasslands and new networks for development.

Objectives and outcome

- Understand and demonstrate animal welfare’s role in delivering the SDGs
- Increase adoption of good practices and improve animal welfare conditions on farm that support the delivery of the SDGs
- Increase the profile of animal welfare in sustainable livestock
- Reflect and enhance the reputation of livestock production by demonstrating its work to achieve good animal welfare in practice

Outputs and impact

- Momentum increases to engage on animal welfare and the SDGs due to increased visibility of the issue (measures: no of members, membership profile, participation (resources, case studies, funding)
- More projects include animal welfare so linkages can be assessed (number and extent of projects including animal welfare assessment)
- The network will increase the adoption of good animal welfare practices that benefit SDG outcomes (metrics – productivity, better economic outcomes, availability of nutritional resources, welfare outcomes)
- The network will promote implementation of its tools and resources to increase adaptation, scaling and replication of good welfare solutions (metric: extent of uptake of tools, extent of scaling / replication)
- By contributing to GASL’s wider activities, the network and its outputs can ensure GASL is seen by potential members and funders to represent a comprehensive view of sustainability (metric: positive view by external stakeholders of GASL’s approach as evidenced through communications, feedback and support, survey)
- The network will increase GASL’s positive visibility, awareness, buy-in from a wider membership (metric: extent of membership of network and profile of membership base (geography and breadth of stakeholders)
- The network will increase the capability of policymakers to engage with animal welfare in the context of livestock and the SDGs (metric: positive feedback from policymakers on understanding of livestock through communications, representation of advice in policy)

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Partners

GASL members from industry, academia, NGOs and farmer organisations have expressed a wish to become part of the network. It will be convened by Lesley Mitchell and include a steering group across clusters.

7th Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Meeting
Achieving multiple benefits through livestock-based solutions, Addis Ababa, 8-12 May 2017