LIVESTOCK IN THE UNFCCC

Henning Steinfeld
Chief of FAO Livestock Information, Sector Analysis and Policy Branch (AGAL)
UNFCCC article 2

"The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

In 1992 when the UNFCCC was adopted, agriculture was referred to in terms of food production.
In 2015, the Paris Agreement went one step further, recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger.

Paris Agreement preamble
"Recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change".

Article 2b
Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low GHG emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;
The Paris Agreement and the NDC

Countries’ NDCs show an overwhelming commitment to taking action on climate change in their agricultural sectors.

This clearly demonstrates the need for all Parties to work together to address issues related to agriculture.
The livestock sector in the NDCs

- **Number of INDCs**: 165
- **Number of INDCs with livestock**: 80 (48%)
- **Number of INDCs mentioning enteric methane**: 26 (33%)
- **Number of INDCs with quantifiable enteric methane targets**: 3 (4%)
From the UNFCCC (1992) to the Paris Agreement

While the PA is clearly landmark, the discussions on agriculture were not easy and straightforward ...

The discussion on Agriculture started really only in 2011, and under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice only:

- Decision 2/CP.17 (Durban-2011) requested the SBSTA to consider issues relating to agriculture with the aim of exchanging views
- Since 2013, the SBSTA has held five in-session workshops, providing opportunities for Parties to exchange their views on issues relating to agriculture
From COP-17 to COP-23

*Koronivia joint work on agriculture:* The first decision on agriculture since COP17 in Durban (2011).
Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) Decision 4/CP.23

The decision calls for:

• Joint work on Agriculture under SBSTA and SBI, taking into consideration vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to address food security.

It aims to achieve this through, inter alia:

• Workshops and expert meetings; and
• Collaboration with constituted bodies under the Convention.

SBSTA/SBI are requested to report back to COP 26 (November 2020)
Six elements of the Decision

(a) Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work

(b) Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience

(c) Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management

(d) Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems

(e) Improved livestock management systems

(f) Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector
c. Soil carbon, soil health, soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management

- Development of guidelines for estimating and modelling soil carbon stocks and stock changes in livestock production systems and water use from livestock supply chains
d. Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems

- Development of the Guidelines for nutrient flows and impact assessment in livestock supply chains
- Global assessment of nitrogen flows and losses in global livestock and their interaction with international trade
- Better integrate livestock into the circular bio-economy reducing waste and recycling carbon, nutrients and water
e. Improved livestock management systems

• Productivity improvements that reduce emission intensities
• Livestock actions and methane (CH₄) lifetime
• Integrated approach: importance of linking manure management - livestock – grasslands
• Working with other partners and initiatives
The way Forward

• The Bonn Session (May 2018) adopted a roadmap:

“The SBI and the SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize the workshops referred to in the annex in conjunction with the specified sessions. They encouraged admitted observers to participate in these workshops.”
Submissions - opportunity to provide inputs to the workshops

2(a) five in-session workshops
22 Oct 2018

2(b) Adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience
2(c) Soil, water management and integrated systems
6 May 2019

2(d) Nutrient use and manure management
30 Sept 2019

2(e) Livestock management
2(f) Socioeconomic and food security dimensions
20 Apr 2020

Future topics and views on the progress of the KJWA
28 Sept 2020

Workshops at upcoming SB sessions

SB49 / Dec 2018
2(a) five in-session workshops

SB50 / Jun 2019
2(b) Adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience
2(c) Soil, water management and integrated systems

SB51 / Nov 2019
2(d) Nutrient use and manure management

SB52 / Jun 2020
2(e) Livestock management
2(f) Socioeconomic and food security dimensions

Nov 2020
Report to COP26 on progress and outcomes of work, including on potential future topics