

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: WHAT ROLES FOR LIVESTOCK?

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), 43rd Session, 2016, endorsed the recommendations on “Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?”

The following recommendations have been elaborated building upon the main findings of the CFS High Level Panel of Expert’s report on Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? The sustainable development of agriculture, including livestock, is essential for poverty reduction and the achievement of food security and nutrition. The recommendations aim to strengthen the contribution of the livestock sector¹ to sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition (FSN) and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in the overall context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the essential role of smallholders in achieving food security and nutrition.

These recommendations draw upon the pathways towards sustainable livestock development identified by the HLPE report which are based on the three principles of improving resource efficiency, strengthening resilience and improving social equity/responsibility outcomes.

The Recommendations are primarily addressed to governments for public policies, but are also addressed to all stakeholders with a role in achieving food security and nutrition. The recommendations are voluntary and non-binding. The recommendations aim to complement and not re-state recommendations and related guidance previously provided in other CFS products².

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¹ For the purpose of these recommendations, references to the livestock sector or livestock production systems refer to the entire livestock sector and animal sourced foods (ASF), including working animals and draught power that facilitate food production.

² Including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure of Land Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI), the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA), and the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations included under sustainable agricultural development apply to all agricultural systems including livestock systems. The specific recommendations under livestock production systems are addressing particular challenges for that sector.

Sustainable Agricultural Development

I. FOSTER POLICY COHERENCE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- a. Promote integration of food security and nutrition (FSN) into related policies to maximize the positive role that sustainable agricultural development and particularly livestock have in improving the economic, social and environmental sustainability of food systems, and strengthen coherence between sectoral policies and programmes;
- b. Build on guidance from relevant international and regional intergovernmental organizations and agreements³, and take into account, as appropriate, the work of multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships⁴, which are dedicated to sustainable agricultural development and livestock specific issues;
- c. Promote a fair and market-oriented world agricultural trading system in accordance with multilateral trade rules, in acknowledgment of the role of trade as an important element in support of sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition.

II. ADDRESS NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY, WORKING CONDITIONS AND SERVICES

- a. Encourage the appropriate intake of animal sourced foods, that is culturally acceptable⁵, for healthy diets and improved nutrition, including through awareness-raising and education in the context of promoting sustainable agriculture and livestock production in accordance with SDG 12;
- b. Recognize the important role that animal sourced food, including dairy products, can play for children, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly people;
- c. Develop capacity to meet national and international food safety and quality standards, frameworks, and schemes, ensuring that they are appropriate for different scales, contexts and modes of production and marketing, in particular CODEX Alimentarius standards;

³ Examples include but are not limited to the Global Plan of Action on Antimicrobial Resistance; the Codex Alimentarius; the OIE Guidelines for Animal Disease Control; the FAO Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration; the WHO's One Health Initiative; and the Global Research Alliance, among others.

⁴ Examples include but are not limited to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL); the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP); and the Multi-stakeholder Feed Safety Partnership, among others.

⁵ In accordance with national and international laws and obligations.

- d. Ensure that the working and living conditions of all workers at all stages of production, transformation and distribution comply with ILO conventions, and are protected by domestic laws, and provide adequate living wages;
- e. Develop and implement policies and tools to facilitate farmers' access to markets and credit to help improve their livelihoods;
- f. Encourage responsible public and private investment⁶, including foreign direct investment consistent with national regulations, and provide other forms of adequate financing, including official development assistance, that supports implementation of sustainable agricultural development, including livestock, particularly for smallholders, including those that are family farmers, and pastoralists;
- g. Facilitate inclusive access to quality social services, safety nets, extension, and breeding and veterinary services, particularly for smallholders, including those that are family farmers, and pastoralists.

III. FOSTER GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

- a. Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of women working in agriculture, including the livestock sector;
- b. Promote gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring equal access to livestock productive resources, capacity building and education for women and foster women's equal participation in decision-making.

IV. FOSTER EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH

- a. Promote youth initiatives, including education, training, rural advisory services and inclusive finance, to develop their capacity and facilitate access to land and resources, in order to enable them to be drivers of improvement in sustainable agriculture development, and involved in all levels of food systems.

V. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENT USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- a. Promote sustainability and improvement of all systems of production, including organic approaches, agro-ecological approaches, and sustainable intensification, so as to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems, minimize environmental degradation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of product;
- b. Promote integrated agricultural systems making better use of natural resources, halting deforestation, restoring degraded lands, improving soil quality, and fostering the sustainable management of water resources;
- c. Strengthen the development, conservation, sustainable use and management of livestock genetic resources in line with the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, stressing the importance of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS), and promote

⁶ In line with the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

access and benefit-sharing for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, in line with relevant internationally agreed treaties;

- d. Recognize, respect and protect those traditional production systems, including pastoral systems and their mobility strategies, that use ecosystems sustainably and contribute significantly to the FSN of their communities and associated ways of life;
- e. Identify options for improving efficiency throughout food systems, while minimizing negative environmental impacts and optimize the efficient use of energy, water, nitrogen and other natural resources;
- f. Reduce food loss and waste including by supporting the improvement of infrastructure and cold chain development, through consumer education, the dissemination of best practices, information, capacity development, and the transfer of technology as mutually agreed, including for smallholders and pastoralists, considering the most appropriate local technologies.

VI. ENHANCE RESILIENCE AGAINST RISKS AND VARIABILITY

- a. Strengthen the security of tenure rights in line with the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, including in all cases of conflict;
- b. Facilitate the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change in agricultural systems in line with the Paris Agreement, and with particular support for smallholders and pastoralists, and women's role in food systems;
- c. Develop policies and tools, and improve capacity, to assess, mitigate, and manage risks, and reduce excessive price volatility, and their impacts on the most vulnerable;
- d. Enhance access to livestock insurance for all systems, including index-based insurance;
- e. Improve disease prevention, control, and surveillance, including through cross border cooperation on transboundary diseases, in order to foster early-warning and early action on disease control, spread and eradication, with emphasis on the Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme (PPR).

VII. PROMOTE COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION IN INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND ADDRESS DATA NEEDS

- a. Enhance North-South, South-South and Triangular and international cooperation particularly for capacity building, transfer of technology as mutually agreed, sharing of knowledge, and to leverage additional financial resources;
- b. Promote global collaboration for collection and dissemination of relevant and disaggregated data, especially by sex;
- c. Develop and foster innovation that addresses challenges in achieving sustainable agricultural development in livestock systems, including through collaborative and participatory research, transfer of knowledge and capacity building;

- d. Support the protection and strengthening of traditional knowledge systems which promote sustainability and the use of experiential knowledge in research and development;
- e. Promote access to and the use of digital technologies, including for precision agriculture, and foster their appropriate application for sustainable agricultural development.

Livestock Production Systems

All Systems

VIII. IMPROVE ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

- a. Enable access to veterinary and extension services, vaccinations, medications, including antimicrobials, adapted to the specific livestock production systems;
- b. Improve animal health management including biosafety and biosecurity, particularly focusing on infectious diseases, zoonosis, and reducing exposure to environmental hazards, by following OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) standards, and the One Health approach;
- c. In accordance with the UN General Assembly Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) (September/2016), the WHO⁷ Global Action Plan on AMR, FAO Resolution 4/2015, and OIE, CODEX Alimentarius and WHO guidelines and standards, in respect of the One Health approach and in the spirit of FAO, OIE, WHO collaboration, promote the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in agriculture and prevent their unnecessary use, including the phasing out of use of antibiotics for animal growth promotion in the absence of risk analysis;
- d. Improve animal welfare delivering on the five freedoms⁸ and related OIE standards and principles, including through capacity building programmes, and supporting voluntary actions in the livestock sector to improve animal welfare;
- e. Promote access to good quality feed, and facilitate training on sustainable feeding practices.

⁷ World Health Organization

⁸ Five Freedoms include 1) Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; 2) Freedom from fear and distress; 3) Freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; 4) Freedom from pain, injury or disease; 5) Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour. See OIE Guiding Principles on Animal Welfare in the Section 7 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Specific Systems

IX. RECOGNIZE, PROTECT, AND SUPPORT PASTORAL SYSTEMS FOR LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- a. Enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, and resilience of pastoral systems for food security and nutrition;
- b. Enable pastoralists' mobility, including transboundary passage as appropriate; securing access to land, water, markets and services, adaptive land management, and facilitate responsible governance of common resources, in accordance with national and international laws;
- c. Enhance the role of pastoralist organizations and strengthen public policies and investments for the provision of services adapted to the needs and ways of life of pastoralists and their mobility, including promoting gender equality and addressing the specific needs and roles of women within pastoralist communities.

X. PROMOTE AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE GRAZING SYSTEMS

- a. Enhance the role of grazing systems in the provision of ecosystem services, including carbon storage, by improving the sustainable management of biodiversity, soil and water;
- b. Restore degraded land and reduce deforestation by promoting sustainable grazing management, such as agro-silvopastoral systems, aiming at improved soil quality, carbon storage, pasture productivity, and conservation and storage of forages.

XI. PROMOTE AND SUPPORT MIXED SYSTEMS

- a. Strengthen integration of livestock with crops, including by more integration of legumes in crop rotation and inter-cropping, and forests – agro-silvopastoral systems - at different scales, including on farm, across watersheds and ecosystems, and provide benefits in terms of addressing input and energy needs in a sustainable manner, including through the use of draught power and the use of manure as fertilizer;
- b. Leverage the potential of livestock as a means for sustainable livelihoods for smallholders, through enabling collective organizations and actions, investing in infrastructure, facilitating access to markets⁹, and implementing measures to manage risks and address challenges;
- c. Promote manure management and the use of by-products and re-use and recycling of waste, as appropriate, while protecting water and air quality, and improving soil health.

XII. PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF INTENSIVE SYSTEMS

- a. Reduce pressure on resources by promoting the efficiency of feed crop production and feed use and the sustainable use of appropriate by-products for feed;

⁹ In line with the CFS recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets.

- b. Improve production efficiency and protect the environment, including by improving the management of waste and the use of by-products, and through the use and sharing of innovative and appropriate technologies and practices;
- c. Ensure that working and living conditions meet national and internationally agreed labour standards and reduce occupational hazards and other harmful effects on workers across the value chain;
- d. Promote a physical environment and genetic selection that ensures compliance with the OIE welfare standards, including the Five Freedoms.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

CFS is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all. CFS endorses policy recommendations on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics.

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