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**Livestock Environmental Assessment
and Performance Partnership**



WHO WE ARE?

The LEAP Partnership was founded in 2012 and involves stakeholders across the livestock sector, all who share an interest in improving the environmental performance of livestock supply chains. The objective is to develop comprehensive guidance and methodology for understanding the environmental performance of livestock supply chains.

WHY LEAP?

The livestock sector wants to improve its environmental performance. And stakeholders across supply chains, including consumers want to know more information about how products are produced and what their environmental impact is. But there is a need for internationally agreed metrics to measure environmental performance in a robust way that leads to real improvement. The aim of LEAP is to provide that harmonized methodology and guidance.

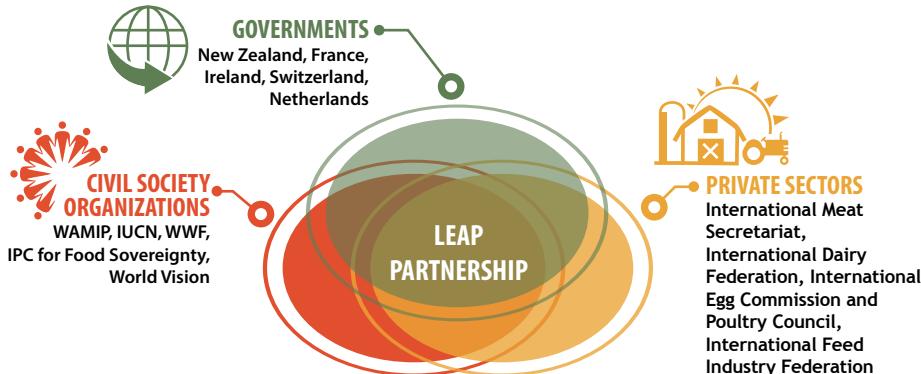
WHO LEADS LEAP?

The Steering Committee provides overall leadership to LEAP and approves the work program. Currently, the Steering Committee is made up of three stakeholder groups representing private sectors, Governments, and Civil Society. Decision-making is made by consensus and the Chair is rotated annually across the three groups.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF FAO?

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is the secretariat and ensures that the work of the LEAP Partnership is based on international best practice.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF LEAP*



* Representatives of the three stakeholder groups may evolve as new organization join the Partnership

“Being the Chair of LEAP is a huge opportunity for civil society to take an active role in making this Partnership deliver real value to small-holder farmers who want to improve their performance. It also means we can contribute our expertise across environmental and development issues, such a biodiversity and diversity of livestock systems.”

Lalji Desai, Secretary General of WAMIP,
Chair of the LEAP Partnership (Year 2)



LIFE-CYCLE THINKING

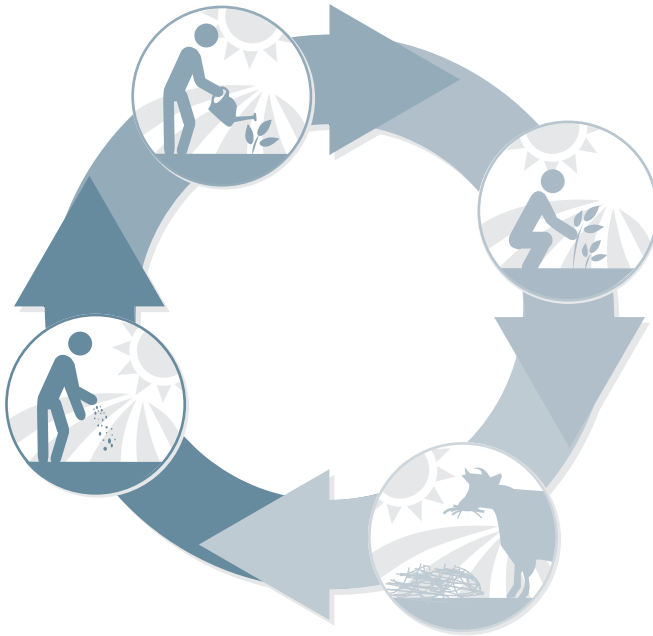
Life-cycle thinking is a fundamental concept underpinning the work of the LEAP Partnership. This approach to development of guidance to measure environmental performance means that all inputs and outputs across the life-cycle stage of investigation are taken into account. Life-cycle thinking also avoids burden shifting – where impacts could be shifted to other parts of the product life-cycle in order to minimize the impact somewhere else. And it promotes greater efficiency in the use of resources.

REVIEW AND CASE STUDIES

Review processes and case studies are built into the program to ensure that the work is scientifically robust and practical for the livestock sector to use and improve environmental performance.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUPS (TAGS)

TAGS are special groups made up of experts drawn from around the world (academia, private sector and NGOs). They are formed to develop the guidance and methodology for measurement of environmental performance. These groups meet 2-3 times a year in-person and carry out work on-line between meetings. Over 30 experts from more than 15 countries contribute to the work so far.



“From the start we saw the need for international collaboration to achieve harmonization of assessment methods for measuring the environmental performance of livestock supply chains. LEAP provides the forum for this important work.”

Paul McKiernan
Head of Climate Change Division
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine,
Government of Ireland



“The feed industry got involved in the LEAP Partnership because we support development of internationally agreed guidance to help the feed industry improve its environmental performance. We are committed to real improvement that is measurable. Given the importance of feed into animal systems, we want to work across the livestock sector to achieve agreement on how and what we measure.”

Frank Mitloehner,
Feed Industry Representative on
the LEAP Steering Committee and
Chair of the LEAP Partnership (Year 1)

2012-2015



- Project plan
- Launch of LEAP (July 2012)

PHASE 1 Common principles and core approaches

- Common principles and elements
- Communication strategy

PHASE 2 Development of GHG/Environmental assessment guidance

- Small Ruminants (goats and sheep) TAG*
- Animal Feeds TAG
- Poultry TAG
- Development of feed database
- Biodiversity methodology review

PHASE 3 Development of GHG/Environmental assessment guidance

- Large Ruminants TAG
- Swine TAG
- Feed database and platform live trial
- Biodiversity TAG
- Water methodology review

PHASE 4 Methodology improvement and wider environmental impacts

- Nutrient use efficiency project
- Water TAG
- Case studies and review
- Data and methodology improvement

PHASE 5 Review and evaluate

- Environmental assessment guidelines published
- Feed database and platform completed
- Evaluation and next steps

* TAG: Technical Advisory Group



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JOIN LEAP

The Partnership is open to all interested organizations or governments and there is no fee to join. You will get firsthand information on activities, get a say at the Annual Meeting, as well as the opportunity to nominate experts to technical committees. You also demonstrate your interest in improving the environmental performance of the livestock sector.

HOW TO JOIN

1. Go to the website:
www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/en/
2. Download the Partnership Agreement
3. Sign the Partnership Agreement and return to the LEAP Partnership by email at livestock-partnership@fao.org

