

Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?

July 31, 2016

Comments from the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM)

Please find below the detailed comments from the Private Sector Mechanism Working Group on Livestock regarding the recommendations from the HLPE report.

Overall, we find that the recommendations provide an excellent basis for the decision box and support broadly the document as it stands. In terms of broad structure, we would strongly recommend the addition of a stand-alone recommendation on the role of animal source products for nutrition, healthy diets and added nutritional value. In addition, we would recommend adding a stand-alone recommendation prior to recommendations 11 to 14 to cover cross-cutting recommendations that affect all four production systems. In terms of editing, we provide below a series of brief additions aimed at improving the text further.

NOTA BENE: New or edited text is highlighted in yellow. The rationale for the changes are noted in italic.

Recommendation 1

Addition for bullet a)

a) Use the common approach presented in this report to elaborate, at all appropriate levels, context-specific pathways towards SAD. Such pathways should aim to strengthen synergies and limit trade-offs between the different dimensions of sustainability through improving resource efficiency **and economic sustainability**, strengthening resilience and securing social equity/responsibility. They could draw on initiatives such as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, **the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP)** Partnership, and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. In that respect, in line with SDGs, all stakeholders should support initiatives that involve multi-stakeholders dialogue, consultation and collaboration.

PSM believes that it is important to emphasize the need to improve economic sustainability since systems that are not economically sustainable (as well as socially and environmentally sustainable) will not function in the long-term. We added a reference to LEAP to clarify that the focus is on environmental impacts broadly speaking (not just GHG). Please capitalize the full name of the Global Research Alliance. PSM feels that LEAP should be recommended here as its guidance documents are valuable, practical resources for states and stakeholders and their use should be encouraged.

Recommendation 2

Additions for bullet a)

a) Ensure that their SAD strategies and plans incorporate the integrated approach to FSN advocated by the CFS and **make a quantifiable contribution to** ~~are in line with~~ the SDGs. States should better integrate into their SAD strategies the contributions that livestock systems make to the achievement of FSN **by incorporating specific nutrition criteria in the strategies**. Policies, strategies and programmes need to take into account the interlinkages between different farming systems and their dynamic nature. They should in particular promote crop–livestock integration at a scale and through means that are adapted to the diversity of systems.

PSM believes that in order to achieve FSN there is a need for specific nutrition criteria, such as nutrient density, protein quality and complementarily incorporated in the strategies

Recommendation 3

Addition to bullet a)

a) Foster greater coherence between sustainable agricultural development, food systems, health, social protection, education and nutrition policies and programmes **that are science-based**, as well as between their respective institutions, agencies and ministries.

Recommendation 5

Addition to bullet c)

b) Consider all dimensions of SAD in the development and implementation of standards, **frameworks and schemes** for animal-sourced foods and livestock feed.

Standards are only one way to achieve this and are not always the most appropriate strategy.

Recommendation 6

Addition for bullet a)

a) Develop tools **and policies, compliant with international regulations, to** limit and manage excessive price volatility, including through the use of grain storage facilities, insurance programmes and other public policy instruments and private initiatives. In particular, these tools should address the risks posed by import surges and volatility in feed markets, and the specific vulnerabilities of smallholders.

PSM believes that any new tools should be aligned with international agreed regulations in order to avoid conflicts and duplication.

Recommendation 7

Addition for bullet d)

c) Consider the establishment of dedicated international mechanisms **(that are also supported at a local level)** to realize these objectives;

ADD 2 new bullets :

g). **Support research to better understand the genetic needs for different regions, productions systems and markets. Support genetic evaluation and breeding programs specific to the region.**

h) **Establish associated knowledge programs and tools that educate farmers on best management practice (especially in terms of feeding) for the new genetics.**

Recommendation 8

Proposed new bullet point as a new b):

Improve access to veterinary services; improve veterinary education ; enhance the strength of the veterinary services ; increase the number and quality of extension services workers; implement strong biosecurity and health protection regimes (proactive health planning) to prevent infectious disease problems; implement marketing channel controls for veterinary services (control of the cold chain, counterfeit medicines)

The PSM strongly believes that the lack of access to veterinary services is a significant source of issues for the livestock sector, in particular in the context of controlling diseases. Some countries (it is the case of Mauritania and Sierra Leone for instance) no longer have a single veterinarian. Therefore, strengthening veterinary services, education, para-veterinary services from extension services is fundamental to support farmers in caring for their livestock.

Addition for bullet d)

d) Provide financial and technical support for improved animal health and welfare in agricultural development, including for capacity building programmes, and rural investment.

NEW bullet point

f) Focus needs to be on effective forward and preventative measure (Farm Health Planning) as opposed to reactive measures – Vaccination programs are an excellent example.

PSM recommends to make a strong reference to OIE guidance.

Recommendation 9

Addition for bullet a)

a) Integrate a participatory and end user approach approach when designing an agenda and allocating resources for nutrition research and R&D, and focus on technologies, practices, metrics and institutions needed to improve sustainable nutrition, resource efficiency, strengthen resilience and secure social equity/responsibility in diverse livestock farming systems;

Addition for bullet b)

b) Enable participatory research and development in order to promote the integration of diverse knowledge systems about livestock keeping, including animal breeding and genetics ; new management, veterinary and feed solutions that can increase efficiency and decrease the environmental (including carbon) footprint of the livestock industry

Addition for bullet d)

d) Leverage the potential of information and communication technologies (ICT) in order to gather, share and use information in different livestock systems, ensuring broad access and supported implementation, in particular by women, vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Proposed new bullets as e) f) g) h)

e) Act to reduce waste: support the improvement of infrastructure and cold chain programs to reduce food losses and improve access to markets, reduce waste through recycling and recovering nutrients and energy, Improve efficiency of production through best practices, science and technology.

f) Conduct life cycle assessment along complete food chains to identify options for increasing production efficiency while minimizing negative environmental impacts and excessive use of energy, water, nitrogen, phosphorous and other natural resources;

g) Promote the development of innovative digital technologies such as Big Data and the Internet of Things, and explore how these technologies are evolving and helping livestock agriculture and related businesses to become more agile in dealing with climate change and improving resource use efficiency;

h) Further develop precision livestock farming across the entire food production chain, collecting quantitative and qualitative information to support decision making and improve sustainability.

ADD a new recommendation after #9

10. Encourage the appropriate intake of animal source food for healthy diets and nutrition.

States, IGOs and the private sector should

- a) Develop nutritional education programs providing proper nutritional guidance that further diverse and sustainable diets including the consumption of animal-source food.
 - Avoid overconsumption
 - Increase availability of meat, dairy and eggs in emerging countries and target neighborhoods
 - Increase the programs geared to the first 1000 days and include protein-dense foods
 - Incorporate meat, dairy and eggs into school feeding programs as appropriate

PSM feels that as the report is about the strengthening of sustainable agricultural development for improving food security and nutrition, more emphasize in the recommendations should be put on the essential role that livestock plays in supplying nutritious foods. We do acknowledge that the next CFS HLPE report will focus on food systems and nutrition, nevertheless we would plead for more consideration of nutrition and health in these recommendations. The report highlights the important contribution that animal products bring to optimal nutrition; this should be reflected in the recommendations. A reference to the upcoming nutrition report could very well be added in the recommendation under this new proposed point.

Recommendation 10

Question on b)

- b) Consider ways to improve the monitoring of changes in grasslands and their biodiversity, and to report on their global state;

Why just grasslands seems to narrow.

Addition to bullet c)

c) Make available online an inventory of evidence-based policy measures as well as producer organizations, private sector **initiatives** and other stakeholders actions that contribute to SAD for FSN.

Chapeau for recommendations 11 to 14:

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

States, IGOs and other stakeholders should consider the roles of different livestock systems in all agricultural, food security and nutrition policies and promote SAD-oriented efficiency and sustainability pathways that are adapted to the specificity of each of the systems. **In general, they should support the livestock sector's voluntary actions to improve environmental sustainability and animal welfare in order to increase the sector's contribution to FSN.** In particular, they should:

The livestock sector's voluntary action is mentioned in the report and PSM feels that calling to support these efforts should be part of the recommendations.

NEW RECOMMENDATION

ADD a new recommendation to cover cross-cutting issues that touch upon all four production systems.

a) Ensuring that the working and living conditions of workers, especially women and other vulnerable workers, including temporary and migrant workers, at all stages of production,

transformation and distribution, meet international standards and are protected by domestic laws;

d) Supporting and improving animal health and welfare by promoting good practices and by establishing and enforcing robust standards for different species in intensive systems, building upon the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines and private sector initiatives

Addition in d)

d) Supporting and improving animal health and welfare by promoting good practices and by establishing and enforcing robust standards for the biosecurity and movements of live animals of different species in intensive systems, building upon the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines and private sector initiatives;

The link between live animal trade and infectious diseases has been made in the summary in point 22. We believe that it is important to clearly show the risk that can occur with unregulated trade of live animals, which is distinct from that of products, in the recommendations.

Recommendation 12:

Add new bullet f)

f) Increasing the skills of pastoralists in improving the efficiency of their systems.

Recommendation 13:

Addition in bullet a)

a) Supporting sustainable management of livestock, pastures and feed production systems in order to minimize harmful environmental externalities, including by promoting models of increasing production that preserve biodiversity and ecosystem services and reduce GHG emissions;

Surely all systems are looking to increase production.

Recommendation 14:

We feel that this entire section focuses only on the risks and not the achievements so far and opportunities for continuous improvement. We propose below to move 2 bullet points to a new section and to make some edits in the current text of recommendation 14.

14. ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES OF INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS BY:

Change the title to

14: COMPLEMENT THE MERITS OF INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

The report discusses the merits and challenges of the four livestock systems, but the wording of this title (as opposed to the more positive titles of Recommendations 11, 12 and 13) gives the impression that intensive systems are inherently more likely to cause problems. As the livestock sector strives for continual improvement in all aspects of sustainability regardless of production system, it has proactively undertaken efforts to improve the sustainability of livestock production globally regardless of the size, location, or level of intensification. From that perspective, PSM feels that the recommendations should not make one of the systems seem more problematic than the others. The PSM feels that recommendation 14 implies that intensive systems have more problems/issues. In addition,

all of the points under 14 can apply to all production systems and are not necessarily idiosyncratic to intensive system:

- *Lifecycle assessment is also valuable for the grazing and pastoral systems.*
- *Technical efficiency is also relevant for pastoral and grazing systems.*
- *Animal health and welfare is equally an issue in pastoral and grazing systems.*

We will struggle to provide sufficient high quality, affordable nutrition to a growing world population without the use of intensive livestock systems.

a) Ensuring that the working and living conditions of workers, especially women and other vulnerable workers, including temporary and migrant workers, at all stages of production, transformation and distribution, meet international standards and are protected by domestic laws;

We would recommend moving this bullet to the new cross-cutting section as working and living conditions of workers applies to all production systems and not specifically to intensive livestock systems. Intensive livestock systems are often fully managed by family farms.

- c) *Undertaking lifecycle assessment along the complete food chain to identify options for increasing production while minimizing negative environmental impacts and excessive use of energy, water, nitrogen and other natural resources;*

It would be good to make reference to the LEAP program here. Lifecycle assessments are also relevant to other production systems.

- d) *Improving technical efficiency by monitoring the individual performance of herds and animals;*

This can also apply to the other three production systems.

d) Supporting and improving animal health and welfare by promoting good practices and by establishing and enforcing robust standards for different species in intensive systems, building upon the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines and private sector initiatives;

We would recommend moving this bullet to the new cross-cutting section as animal health and welfare applies to all production systems and not specifically to intensive livestock systems.

e) *Exploring and implementing approaches for the reduction of antimicrobial use in livestock production;*

New bullet e)

Exploring and implementing approaches for the prudent and responsible agents use of antibiotics always according to WHO Global AMR Action Plan, according to label recommendation, under veterinary supervision

PSM feels the wording in this recommendation should be aligned with OIE recommendations, who calls for “prudent and responsible use”. In addition, the enhanced surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and monitoring of use of antibiotics are important. Antibiotic use in animals should be available following a prescription by a veterinarian, but in many developing countries this is a problem, because of the lack of veterinarians. Antibiotics have a role to play in sustainable livestock production by reducing waste and inefficiencies caused by disease, and help provide a safe supply of food from healthy animals. We need to maintain practices that allow the continued use of antibiotics when they are beneficial. It is our moral and legal obligation to the animals in our care to ensure their health and welfare and receive the medicine they need if they get sick.