

CFS Policy Convergence Process on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Livestock

Comments from Switzerland

General comments

- The proposal prepared by the HLPE represents a good basis for the negotiation of the decision box. We particularly welcome the typology of farming systems proposed even though it does not clearly address the medium sized mixed systems that integrate crops as well as dairy and meat cattle fed in part on grass. We also notice that some important findings of the report are not or insufficiently reflected in the recommendations (eg, youth or crop – livestock interaction).
- Livestock is one of the major users of resources (water, land, climate) and it has an important impact on the environment, along with the impacts of feedcrop agriculture required for the livestock sector. As such, global livestock's impact needs to be seriously addressed through decisive measures at all levels, from local to global, from private to public and from technical to political. The report should therefore also address the link between livestock and related feed production, including by raising questions such as: Could local feed production be developed and represent a viable alternative to feed import?
- The recommendations are still too general and disconnected from other processes. They need to be more specific and practical, in particular when relevant to build upon, link to and support existing globally recognized mechanisms such as Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – One Health – Global Agenda Sustainable livestock (GASL) – Global Research Alliance (GRA) – Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP) - Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD IS) – Multistakeholder Feed Safety Partnership - Codex Alimentarius.
- The importance of animal health and welfare should be stated more clearly as they are associated with other major issues (i.e: spread of diseases, antibiotic resistance). As such, they are important to ensure a sustainable agricultural development (SAD) for food security and nutrition (FSN). As well transport of living animals and slaughtering should also be addressed.
- More emphasis should be given to the linkages with SDG/Agenda 2030 – possibly through a reference to the 2016 Panama Declaration of GASL.
- More emphasis should also be given to the importance of the multistakeholder inclusive approach at global level for the development of context specific pathways such as GASL and GRA.
- There should be a stronger recognition of existing initiatives and mechanisms for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing of Animal Genetic resources such as the 2007 Global Plan of Action endorsed by FAO or DAD-IS for the global monitoring and surveillance of implementation of target 2.5 of Agenda 2030.

Per paragraph

- Par.1. Sustainability approach needs to be completed. The proposed definition of Sustainable agricultural development considers three criteria (improve resource efficiency, strengthen resilience and secure social equity). Those criteria could be completed with the protection and preservation of natural resources. Indeed, improving resource efficiency is very important but does not necessarily prevent environmental degradation while this issue is critical considering that the livestock sector both contribute and suffer from it.

- Par. 20 of the report addressing Youth should be reflected in the recommendations ("Many agricultural systems face a serious demographic challenges in failing to attract and maintain the interest of young people". There is also a need for a cross cutting recommendation dealing with education, training and capacity building of livestock producers.
- We would also recommend a stronger reference to innovation, including local innovation to support SAD based on agroecological practices relevant for livestock sector such as organic production, sustainable intensification as well as contribution of livestock to circular economy (for example waste/manure management)
- Typologies of Specific livestock systems. To avoid misunderstanding, the content of the 2nd paragraph of chapter 1.3 of the report should be reflected in the chapeau of the part of the recommendations dealing with specific livestock systems (before rec 11-14)

Specific comments regarding recommendations

- Better link 1st sentence of par, 32 with Recs 1 and 2. In para 32, "appropriate technologies for sustainable agriculture need to be made available for all farming systems and be tailored to particular circumstances and contexts" - this is both a strength and a weakness of the report, because it (rightly) recognizes the need to consider context, but makes a statement that is too general to be of practical use.
- **Rec 1** should give stronger recommendation to the need for consultation, collaboration and multistakeholder processes (like GASL) and also the role of FAO as facilitator of such processes at global level. It could also be useful to make a clear link here with SDG 17. Reference should also be made to international agreed policy framework such as the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources as a reference for the elaboration of context specific pathways. This global and regional approach needs to be reflected in national actions which can place it in national resource, economic and capability contexts.
- In **Rec 2** we would add a reference to incentives for ecosystem services. "*They should also promote incentives for ecosystems services, especially in pastoral and commercial grazing systems that provide habitat and regulating ecosystem services*"
- **Rec 3** Mention also "biodiversity, water and soil conservation" as a sector for policy coherence. It would be also worthwhile in the context of fostering coherence to specifically refer to the principles set out in 2014 FAO Common Vision for sustainable food and agriculture.
- **Rec 4** should state the need to reinforce the participation of women in the decision making processes linked to SAD for FSN. Under e) delete the part "taking account of their productive and reproductive roles and replace it with "taking account of the need to support parents to combine family and work responsibilities."
- **Rec 5** should mention existing international norms and standards such as Codex or OIE.
- **Rec 6** should name the development of local feed supply as another mean to limit and manage excessive price volatility, together with the use of grain storage facilities.
- **Rec 7.** Why is there a specific reference to Food producers under this recommendation? Be more specific under a) b) c) by referring to the 2007 Global Plan of Action for Animal genetic resources and invite States to implement it!
d) should be reformulated since those consideration already took place in particular in relation with the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Reference should be made to the 2016 ABS elements developed by the CGRFA and States should be invited to use them!
- **Rec 8** need a reference to AMR since it is relevant for all livestock systems as well as to the need of reinforcing national veterinary systems.
- **Rec 9** Stronger reference to innovation in particular local innovation for all livestock systems. Introduce an invitation to support GRA and LEAP.

- **Rec 10** need for a reference for states to contribute to DAD-IS as well as the 1st State of the World on biodiversity for food and agriculture as the instrument for the monitoring of grassland "and rangeland"
- **Rec 12.** What is this "unique" role? Are the other systems not unique? Under a) add "recognizing and valorizing the provisions of habitats and regulatory ecosystems services provided by pastoralists and their locally adapted breeds"
- **Rec 14.** The challenges outlined here are not "specific" to intensive systems. b), c), and d) could all usefully apply to the other systems.