

## Draft Strategy note - Livestock

### 1. Analysis of needs and FAO's comparative advantage

Over the past three decades there has been rapid global expansion of production and consumption of animal products, a process which sometimes is termed the *Livestock Revolution*. The sector provides currently 43% of global agricultural output in value terms. While traditional livestock systems contribute to the livelihoods of 70% of the world's rural poor, increasingly emerging large-scale operations with sophisticated technology, based on internationally sourced feed and animal genetics, cater for the rapidly growing markets for meat, milk and eggs. The "middle-ground", i.e. mid-size market-oriented family farms, while still growing in importance in many places, are gradually squeezed out of markets and are particularly vulnerable to animal disease shocks. This growing systems dichotomy characterizes the sector increasingly and requires careful public governance.

The vigorous livestock sector growth and its concomitant structural changes have resulted in a range of very significant challenges and opportunities which require comprehensive governance by the international community. They relate to the role of the global livestock sector in food security and nutrition, economic development and rural poverty alleviation; in the accelerated (re)emergence of diseases affecting both animals and humans; and in affecting the environment, the climate and the natural resources used in animal production, including animal genetic diversity. The sector, which claims one third of global crop land for feed grain production, contributes to but is also affected by grain price increases; in addition, competition for land is growing, prices - not only of feed grain, but also of water, energy and labour - are increasing, and extensive pasture-based livestock production (26 percent of the ice-free terrestrial surface globally) is being challenged by the vagaries of climate change and socio-economic pressures.

Comparative Advantages for FAO to address the governance of these challenges and opportunities:

- Knowledge and neutrality in assessing and managing livestock implications on society, public health, the economy and the environment [IEE, para 453: "FAO's ... work on policies with respect to the poor and the environment has influenced global thinking in these areas"]
- Acting from an inter-governmental platform, FAO has a privileged role in the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (e.g. HPAI/H5N1; global eradication of Rinderpest),
- Recognized (CGRFA/CBD) global leadership in improving the use and conservation of animal genetic resources,
- Expertise in addressing livestock sector issues from a cross-sectoral angle, including at the interface between livestock and other land uses (crop production, forestry, fisheries, wildlife),
- Professional expertise in decentralized offices to facilitate direct support to member countries,
- Secretariat of international standard setting bodies (e.g. CODEX), commissions (e.g. EU-FMD, APHCA, CODEGALAC) and programmes (e.g. EMPRES, GREP, PAAT) supporting the global livestock sector.

### 2. Overall vision and major objectives

In line with the three global goals of the Organization, FAO's vision for its Livestock Programme is to support Governments shape their livestock sector to contribute to food security and public health through the supply of safe, healthy and high-quality food, to poverty alleviation and broad-based economic development, while safeguarding environmental sustainability and agricultural biodiversity. The objectives of FAO's Livestock Programme are (i) to base policy decisions on livestock sector management on accurate information and analysis and on stakeholder participation at all levels, (ii) to enhance the contribution of livestock to national development through increased political attention, capacity building and targeted investments, and (iii) to base the use of land, water, biological resources and air in livestock production on criteria of sustainable resource management.

### 3. Expected main outcomes (and beneficiaries)

FAO's Livestock Sector Strategy pursues four integrated outcomes which are supported in an inter-disciplinary approach, facilitated by a unified, structurally delayed programme, and using collaborative arrangements with UN and non-UN (OIE, CGIAR), and public and private sector partners. The IEE-recommended programmatic integration of animal health activities with OIE is pursued in the context of the formally agreed (2004) Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) under implementation in all regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Near East, Europe) with regional and global secretariats and Steering Committees managing and supervising implementation of joint programmes respectively.

Outcomes	Outputs contributing to achieving outcomes
1. Governments use the expanding livestock sector as a growth engine for rural economic development and poverty alleviation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor livestock-related livelihoods protected in areas with little market development opportunities beyond local demand (social protection programmes, community-based livestock services, emergency contingency plans)</li> <li>• Conditions for livestock sector growth created in areas with some degree of market-access [(market, services, institutional and investment policies, private-public partnerships (PPP))]</li> <li>• Livestock growth managed in areas with rapidly growing markets (integrated development plans, including social, health and environmental / natural resources management).</li> </ul>
2. Governments, in international collaboration, manage animal diseases and animal-related human health threats successfully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge improved of the accelerating animal disease emergence and their evolution for much enhanced disease prevention and early warning;</li> <li>• Disease control and management by governments improved in regional and international coordination, based on increased investments made in national animal health systems equipped with the necessary technical and animal health policy instruments and with skilled human resources;</li> <li>• Socio-economic, cultural, structural and developmental dimensions fully considered in national animal health and veterinary public health policies.</li> </ul>
3. Governments protect and enhance use of natural resources and the environment for livestock production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources implemented at national and regional levels for sustainable use and conservation of these resources;</li> <li>• Environmental footprint of the livestock sector reduced through the application of technological and policy measures oriented by both sustainability and efficiency criteria and by supporting investments.</li> </ul>
4. Greater national capacity for livestock sector development built and sustained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investments by countries in livestock sector development guided by multiple-objective needs assessments (socio-economic/gender; health, natural resources)</li> <li>• Prevention and preparedness plans available and supported by governments to guide both animal disease emergency and natural and man-made disaster management where livestock is involved;</li> <li>• FAO's <i>Options and Implications Papers</i> addressing topical livestock sector issues and <i>Best Practices</i> as source of information provided and used in capacity building of livestock personnel.</li> </ul>

#### Target Audience

FAO's Livestock Programme addresses decision makers in governments, private sector, NGOs and donor agencies; professionals in academia, research and development, and in the private sector; producers, processors and consumers of animal products.

#### **4. Implementation issues (programme delivery features)**

*Provision of knowledge and information and advocacy:* FAO's Livestock Programme provides information and analysis on relevant aspects of livestock production, animal health, livestock and land use, and livestock biodiversity. It assesses livestock trends and issues with attention to technology, policies and institutions.

*Policy support and capacity building:* FAO's Livestock Programme assists member countries and the livestock community in informed decision-making on managing the livestock sector. Information, sector analysis and policy decision making support is the Livestock Programme's main contribution to building the development capacity within the targeted livestock community.

*A neutral forum and support to standard setting and international initiatives:* Various aspects of the livestock sector, e.g. diseases, food safety, animal biodiversity, livestock resource use and environmental protection are subject to international negotiations requiring intergovernmental action for which FAO's Livestock Programme provides advice and guidance.

*Support to Member Countries and emergency operations:* Assistance to member countries is provided through the established network of FAO's decentralised offices, whereby priorities are set by the *National Medium Term Policy Frameworks* (NMTPF) and the evolving *One UN* initiative. Direct support to Member Countries is provided in the event of major animal disease outbreaks.

*Membership guidance:* FAO's Livestock Programme is supported and guided by inter-governmental fora dealing with livestock issues (e.g. COAG, CGRFA, regional Commissions).