




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Global Youth Dialogue

on Sustainable Livestock  
Transformation

25-27 September 2023

In collaboration with 



## Global Youth Statement on Sustainable Livestock Transformation

We, young actors of the livestock sector from across regions, seeking to transform the livestock systems which we will leave as a legacy for future generations, gathered here in Rome for the Global Youth Dialogue on Sustainable Livestock Transformation, have come to articulate our shared vision on this critical and foundational sector.

As youth, we are the present and the future and we are faced with great challenges in the livestock sector. The impacts of global challenges on livestock production systems are becoming increasingly pronounced, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. Solutions can only be developed by seeking opportunities at the global and local levels. We should consider the One Health approach<sup>1</sup> in balance with the need for economically viable livestock production.

Through our consultations at this landmark event, we have developed recommendations for all levels of policy and decision-makers guided by both traditional knowledge and modern scientific understanding. We are pleased and proud to present the outcomes of our Dialogue.

We believe in an inclusive and multi-stakeholder dialogue for a joint development of a consensual vision that considers the diversity of livestock systems across the world.

We urge global leaders and relevant stakeholders to engage with youth and include their aspirations for the sustainable transformation of the livestock sector. We are agents of change unlocking ways forward for global food security, safety and nutrition, where diverse cultural heritage, the environment and future generations all thrive within our planetary boundaries.

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<sup>1</sup> One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the ecosystems.

## General recommendations

- We urge that governments and decision makers prioritize and adopt holistic, science-based, producer-driven inclusive approaches for sustainable livestock transformation that consider all elements of the livestock value chain, particularly youth.
- We recommend meaningful engagement of young livestock actors in cross-sector multi-stakeholder partnerships to amplify and implement the ideas of youth.
- We recommend that governments and other decision makers align with the principles of intergenerational and gender equity, ensuring the full and effective participation of young people in decision making at all levels.
- We urgently call for policy and financial support targeting young livestock stakeholders to enable them to play their crucial role in the sustainable livestock transformation.
- We recommend that governments encourage more youth to enter and remain in agricultural professions to meet livestock production needs of the future including, improved access to land and other natural resources.
- We advocate for recognizing the potential of youth to leverage technology, science, modern and traditional knowledge for sustainable livestock transformation.
- We call for increased and better focused investment for scaling up and rolling out innovations developed by youth in the livestock sector at all levels.
- We recommend that youth are integrated into existing platforms for knowledge sharing, mentorship programmes and leadership opportunities.
- We ask for recurrent youth discussions to follow up and an official youth position in the Sub-Committee on Livestock of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG).

## Social sustainability

- We recommend that governments, private sector, civil society and development organizations recognize and preserve indigenous and pastoralist knowledge and livelihoods which should be conveyed across generations.
- We call for increased and continuous investment in education and vocational training equipping youth with skills and knowledge that enable them to join and innovate in the sector including communication training.
- We recommend to increase awareness for consumers about the role of livestock producers, animal source foods and their nutritional value, animal welfare and sustainable livestock systems for a better understanding of the livestock sector.

## Economic sustainability

- We call for improved access to, and development of, capital, infrastructure, land, finance and insurance, input and output markets, and social protection to help young farmers and pastoralists, especially youth and marginalized communities to establish sustainable businesses.
- We call on governments to assist youth-led organizations and enterprises to foster rural and green job opportunities and livelihoods to develop and sustain local economies.
- We ask for policies and investments to improve the livelihoods and financial sustainability of all livestock farmers and systems.

## Environmental sustainability

- We call on global leaders and decision-makers to acknowledge that climate change and increasing frequencies of natural disasters exacerbate the inequalities in the livestock sector. We require urgent action to defend the livelihoods of people and communities depending on the livestock sector worldwide.
- We call for the recognition of the contribution of livestock production systems to ecosystem services and the environment. We must also recognize and promote the sustainable transformation of the global livestock industry to play a key part on mitigating the impact of climate change.
- We call for upscaling climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions according to the different livestock production systems and contexts by supporting young livestock actors to adapt and adopt sustainable practices and climate-smart technologies.

We commit to continue the Global Youth Network on Sustainable Livestock Transformation guided by values of inclusivity and equity for all. We pledge with our intrinsic motivation, energy, creativity and with a sense of community to care for and protect our livestock sector and our natural resources.