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Продовольственная и
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Organización
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para la
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y la
Alimentación

THIRTY-FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Panama City, Panama, 26 to 30 April 2010

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. According to its statutes, the functions of the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGALAC) are to recommend animal production and health policies to its members; to plan and promote measures for animal production and the control of animal diseases; to determine, in consultation with interested members, the nature and scope of assistance they need in running their national livestock development programmes; and to provide support to regional programmes.
2. Membership of the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Commission is to be made up of those entitled Member Nations and Associate Members that notify the Director-General of their desire to be considered as members.
3. At its last session, the Commission prioritized discussion of three thematic areas: a) animal health and food safety and their impact on trade of livestock products; b) development of sustainable livestock systems with an emphasis on livestock and environment interactions and on the utilization and conservation of animal genetic resources; and c) building of institutional capacity to enhance sustainability and competitiveness of regional livestock production, in the context of the new international trade agreements. The topic of sustainable livestock production was given priority by the countries of the Southern Cone Chapter.
4. The Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean held its Tenth Session (Southern Cone Chapter) in Brasilia from 17 to 19 September 2008, and in Quito from 25 to 27 November 2009 (Andean Chapter) at the kind invitation of the Governments of Brazil and Ecuador respectively. The session was attended by 50 participants, including representatives of countries and FAO Headquarters and observers from non-governmental organizations.
5. A summary of the main findings and recommendations of the tenth session of the Southern Cone and Andean Chapters of CODEGALAC, based on the work of the *ad hoc* group on livestock and environment, is given in paragraphs 6 to 23.

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Main findings and recommendations of the Commission in the most recent period

The Commission:

6. Underlined the serious problem of degradation of natural resources and pastures in strategic ecoregions due mainly to an increased livestock population and deforestation. The agroecosystems with highest productivity in the Southern Cone are under extensive environmental and socio-economic risk because of the degradation of natural resources (land, water, air and biodiversity) and the expansion of unsustainable livestock and cropping systems. The regions most vulnerable to the advance of the livestock and cropping frontier are the ecosystems of the Amazon biomass in Brazil, the Gran Chaco in Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia, the region outside the Pampas in Argentina and the arid and semi-arid lands of Argentina and Chile. In the Andean region, the mountain and foothill ecosystems indicate high levels of soil and pasture degradation and increasing rates of deforestation.
7. Considered the high risks from failure to act against degradation of natural resources and pastures in a timely manner, emphasizing the advance of pasture degradation to phases that were either irreversible or more costly to restore.
8. Indicated that market pressures were move the agricultural frontier into areas of greater environmental vulnerability, which could lead to more deforestation, soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, reduction of water resources and greater exposure to climate change.
9. Agreed on the need to increase public and private investment in research and technological development institutions and to promote their greater involvement in and commitment to developing sustainable livestock, agro-pastoral and agro-silvo-pastoral production systems. There was also an urgent need to develop and harmonize policies and mechanisms to deal with this situation, under a framework of reference that would guide and facilitate decision-making and the design of instruments and programmes for sustainable livestock development.
10. Recommended that national governments, with support from national institutions and FAO, develop reference documents on strategic topics to promote stakeholder awareness and the funding of programmes and projects for livestock development and the sustainable intensification of production.
11. Recommended that further work be conducted on identifying areas of major risk and vulnerability to resource degradation and climate change, in particular areas with a high concentration of small livestock producers and vulnerable communities that require greater support for sustainable livestock development, within the framework of rural development, food security and poverty reduction programmes.
12. Recommended the strengthening of national systems of education, extension, technical assistance and technology transfer in order to enhance producer access to technology, and especially small producer access to the value chain.
13. Recommended further research, with an emphasis on the social, organizational and management aspects of technology, on bottlenecks associated with the low take-up of available technologies for sustainable livestock development and sustainable intensification of production in different regions and agroecosystems.
14. Recommended that greater efforts be made to forge public and private partnerships, with greater involvement of producer associations in the financing and implementation of sustainable livestock development and intensification programmes, and that related experiences of producers and civil society be documented throughout the production and agroindustrial chains.

15. Recommended promoting greater coordination among players in the production chain to disseminate good livestock practices, with an emphasis on publicizing and applying sustainable practices and on monitoring indicators of sustainability in livestock, agro-pastoral and agro-silvo-pastoral production systems.
16. Recommended continuing to support regional programmes of prevention, control and eradication of transboundary diseases with an emphasis on foot-and-mouth disease, including the updating of the Hemispheric Plan of Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA) and the strengthening of programmes for the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the Andean countries. The Andean Chapter of the Commission stressed the need to support programmes of eradication of classical swine fever and other diseases with high impact on small livestock production systems and high risk to public health, such as brucellosis.
17. Adopted the report of the technical secretariat and noted the similarities in the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Livestock and Environment in Santiago, Chile, with the recommendations of the Expert Workshop on Recovery of Pastures and Sustainable Intensification of Production.
18. Recommended consolidating the CODEGALAC national hubs in order to support management so that, under each focal point, countries could develop the national chapter of the Commission by creating a network of institutions and persons in public and private sectors with strategic livestock roles, including representatives of ministries of agriculture, environment and trade and affiliated institutions, and representatives of the private sector, trade and producer associations, agroindustry, etc.
19. Requested support from FAO in formulating a regional framework of action with four major components: raising public awareness; technological information, dissemination and management of know-how; building and strengthening of capacity; monitoring and development of indicators of sustainability of strategic agro-ecosystems and livestock, agro-pastoral and agro-silvo-pastoral production systems. This framework of reference was considered fundamental for supporting the formulation of national plans of action and policy-making on livestock development, sustainable rural development, public and private investment in technological development, technology information and transfer, and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals relating to environmental protection, food security and poverty reduction.
20. Requested support from FAO to promote, facilitate and strengthen South-South cooperation in thematic areas related to livestock development, with an emphasis on the recovery of degraded lands and the sustainable intensification of production in livestock, agro-pastoral and agro-silvo-pastoral systems in the region's strategic ecosystems: the 'Cerrado-Llanos' wooded and open savannah (Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela), the Amazon (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru); Gran Chaco, (Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia); the humid Pampa (Argentina, Uruguay, southern Brazil); arid and semi-arid areas (Argentina, Chile); and the cold Altiplano (Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru).
21. Requested support from FAO for the creation of an information portal on sustainable livestock production and climate change, which would be hosted by the FAO-RLC web page and whose design, data input and application would involve countries and members of the *ad hoc* Group on Livestock and Environment with coordination from FAO-RLC.
22. Agreed to the formulation of a proposal by the Southern Cone research centres participating in the Commission meeting in Brasilia for a technical, economic and environmental evaluation of technologies available for the recovery of degraded land and the sustainable intensification of agro-pastoral production in regional strategic agroecosystems.
23. Requested that FAO design reference frameworks to support the raising of awareness of policy-makers, producers and the general public on the issues of sustainable livestock production, sustainable intensification of production in the region and payment for environmental services in livestock systems. It also requested FAO support for the mobilization

of international donor resources to strengthen family livestock production systems and for livestock and climate change projects in the region, including support for actions of mitigation and adaptation.

24. Acknowledged the importance of CODEGALAC as a country-led mechanism that served to facilitate the exchange of experiences and to promote technical cooperation and regional management in topic areas associated with sustainable livestock development, and thanked FAO, through the technical secretariat, for its support in maintaining this body and strengthening its actions in all regions.