



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK

First Session

16 - 18 March 2022

The Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

Camillo De Camillis

LEAP Manager

Animal Production and Health Division (NSA)

Tel: (+39) 06 570 56 594

I. Building common ground for evidence-based climate action and environmental improvement

1. The Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership (hereinafter the Partnership) is a multi-stakeholder initiative hosted by FAO. It was launched in 2012 to improve the environmental performance of livestock systems, while ensuring their economic and social viability.
2. The Partnership was an outcome of two consultations with countries, livestock sector representatives and other stakeholders held in 2010 and 2011. Participants agreed that sharing a common understanding about both the negative and positive environmental impacts of livestock systems was a way to help shape and take action in the sector's environmental sustainability pathway. To this end, the Partnership has developed a common, science-based environmental assessment methodology aligned with international standards for evidence-based policy and action.

II. Governance and modus operandi

3. The Partnership has grown in membership. Currently, representatives from 21 Member Nations and one Member Organization¹ are invited to participate in the Steering Committee, along with representatives from ten international private sector organizations and eight civil society and non-governmental organizations. These constituencies have equal footing in the Partnership's decision-making. Collaboration has been established with many FAO units, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Organization for Standardization and other multi-stakeholder initiatives and organizations.²

4. The Partnership contributes to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock as one of its action networks, while maintaining independent governance, separate membership and its own budget.

5. It develops technical guidelines for environmental assessments that rely on technical advisory groups composed of scientific experts nominated by partners, livestock stakeholders and relevant scientific communities. The rigorous stepwise review process involving peers, partners and the public guarantees the soundness and relevancy of the Partnership's products. The engagement of end users in the process ensures that the technical work applies to different scales and geographical contexts.

III. Accelerator for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the FAO Strategic Framework

6. The Partnership deploys its project activities in support of sustainable livestock systems in the context of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and SDG 12, directly contributing to SDG 6, SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15 with co-benefits for SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 7, SDG 8 and SDG 10. In the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, the Partnership accelerates the uptake of eco-friendlier production practices.

7. The Partnership also supports climate action and the achievement of the Paris Agreement with comprehensive methods and metrics. Furthermore, it contributed to the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture road maps through FAO submissions and keynote presentations during a workshop organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,³ and also organized side events at the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

8. Flagged as a smart initiative for the SDGs by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network acknowledged the Partnership as a good practice of how FAO works with its partners on sustainability issues.

IV. Achievements made in 2012–2021

9. More than 350 experts from 54 countries covering all regions have been involved in the development of ten technical guidelines and four technical reports.⁴ The guidelines cover greenhouse gas emissions from feed and livestock systems and address the potential of feed additives to curb

¹ Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Ireland, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland and Uruguay. Observers: Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, the European Union, Hungary, India, Italy, Nigeria, South Africa, Spain and the United States of America.

² For more info about the composition of the LEAP Steering Committee, see: www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/partners/en/.

³ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. No date. Issues related to agriculture. In: *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* [online]. [Cited 18 January 2022]. <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/agriculture>

⁴ FAO LEAP technical documents are available for download from: www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/resources/guidelines/en/.

methane emissions and improve environmental performance. The guidelines also build on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines and rely on both the life cycle assessment framework according to ISO 14040:2006 and ISO 14044:2016 and the latest scientific findings to prevent any shift of burdens from one country to another and from one impact category to another. To this end, the Partnership also developed guidelines on biodiversity, nitrogen and phosphorus losses, soil carbon stocks and water footprints. Together with other initiatives, the Partnership is currently working on methane emission by reviewing sources and sinks, measurement methods, mitigation measures and metrics for informed policymaking and climate action.

10. The Partnership began work on knowledge-sharing about better environmental management practices during Phase 3 of its work programme (2019–2021), setting up the Livestock, Climate and Environment Community of Action⁵ and developing a catalogue that indexes the applications of the FAO LEAP guidelines.⁶ Currently, the catalogue includes 17 submissions ranging from greenhouse gas emission assessments at the country and farm levels to climate solutions and environmental assessments at different scales. To facilitate the application of the FAO LEAP guidelines, the Partnership developed data-collection sheets along with a protocol to design strategies for soil carbon sequestration. A seminar introducing all guidelines was arranged in 2021.⁷ To highlight opportunities for carbon insetting, the Partnership is finalizing a global assessment of soil carbon stocks in grasslands. It is also developing a navigator, which is a web-based tool to ease access to relevant guidance across the guidelines. The Partnership's outputs are disseminated through the Livestock, Climate and Environment Community of Action, a newsletter, social media, webinars, scientific conferences and outreach events.

V. Next steps

11. The Partnership agreed on a new three-year Phase to develop additional guidelines and to mainstream climate action and environmental improvements. The guidelines will cover two or more of the following topics: ecosystem services, resilience and adaptation to climate change; greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and pasture expansion; bioeconomy; leather value chains; and scenario analysis for low-carbon livestock systems. Moreover, the Partnership will complete the development of the navigator, make guidance available in all FAO languages, develop e-learning training courses and arrange regional workshops to support capacity development and stimulate knowledge-sharing and action through national networks.

⁵ FAO. No date. Livestock, Climate and Environment (LCE) Community of Action. In: *FAO* [online]. Rome. [Cited 18 January 2022]. www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/resources/community-of-action/en/.

⁶ FAO. No date. Catalogue of Applications. In: *FAO* [online]. Rome. [Cited 18 January 2022]. www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/applications/en/.

⁷ FAO. No date. LEAP Seminar “Sharing knowledge for climate action and environmental improvement”. In: *FAO* [online]. Rome. [Cited 18 January 2022]. <https://www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/news-and-events/events/webinars/sharing-knowledge-for-climate-action-and-environmental-improvement/en/>.