



FAO partnerships for sustainable livestock sector development

“I am convinced that there can be no freedom from Hunger- there can ultimately be no food security- without the active participation of all actors: international and regional institutions, governments, civil societies and the private sector”

Jose Graziano da Silva, FAO Director General



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One of FAO's greatest strengths is its partnerships. They are the foundation of its effectiveness as a global organization, providing resources and reach the organization cannot achieve on its own.

FAO believes that no institution can succeed alone in the fight against hunger and poverty and is strongly committed to further developing its partnership network. If global development goals are to be achieved, it is essential that key stakeholders, including civil society, cooperatives, member states, intergovernmental organizations, food movements, financial institutions, academia, foundations, and research institutions work together. Partnerships not only enhance FAO's work in agriculture, fishery, forestry and natural resource management, they are vital to its success and crucial to the organization's ability to address the food value chain from farm to fork.

THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR

The livestock sector is vast and diverse. Livestock are immensely important to global food security, health and the environment. The sector contributes to about 43 percent of the world's agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which in some countries accounts for 83 percent of national GDP. Importantly, the livestock sector is also growing rapidly to satisfy a vigorously expanding demand for animal food products. This growth has the potential to achieve important socio-economic benefits, including improved livelihoods, steady economic development, strengthened, higher quality food security and more balanced nutrition requirements. The livestock sector also contributes to resilience, since livestock help people cope with natural disasters and civil strife by providing a source of food, draught power, emergency savings and even transport. However, the expansion of the sector is continuously threatened by biological and abiotic hazards that have the potential to spread along the entire food chain. These include: (i) disease transmission from livestock to humans; (ii) the eroding genetic diversity of livestock populations; (iii) environmental issues and contribution to climate change; (iv) a lack of innovative technologies to support smallholder farmers; and (v) a lack of adequate feed supplies often leading to overgrazing. Partnerships are essential if FAO is to successfully overcome these challenges and support the livestock sector's continuing and vital contribution to global food security.

FAO's activities in the field focus on the provision of technical support and innovation for the capacity development of its Member States to enhance, restore or improve their food security in a sustainable way. FAO focuses mainly on vulnerable smallholder farmers and family farming systems that own between 65 and 75 percent of the world's livestock herds. FAO works to help them create sustainable livelihoods through community-based developmental initiatives.

In line with FAO's new Strategic Objectives (SO), the Animal Production and Health Division (AGA) is enhancing its partnerships to:

- contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (SO1);
- increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner (SO2);
- reduce rural poverty (SO3);
- enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels (SO4); and
- increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises (SO5).

WHY PARTNERSHIPS?

Because of the reach and resources they provide, partnerships will play a key role in helping FAO achieve its new Strategic Objectives. Partnerships do this by benefitting short-, medium- and long-term efforts to pool financial and human resources and leveraging combined skills and knowledge. Partnerships also synergistically increase the efficiency of each stakeholder, helping to foster dialogue and cooperation among all the strategic entities in an activity and create mutually beneficial relationships that accommodate respective interests at global, regional and country levels.

ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Partnerships are extremely important. They ensure the inclusiveness of all interested parties and increase cost-effectiveness. Partnerships also maximize the chances of success by extending the reach and potential impact of a project. Moreover, partnering boost donor confidence by providing additional resources and allowing FAO to reach

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more beneficiaries at any one given time and in a more holistic manner. Partnerships also develop mutual trust and understanding among stakeholders.

HOW DOES AGA PARTNER?

With the exclusion of intergovernmental organizations and Member States, AGA prefers to partner with associations and organizations that have several individual members in order to better serve communities, avoid conflicts of interest and ensure a wide impact. Informal and individual requests for partnership are discouraged.

One of FAO's priorities is to increase successful partnership activities through South-South Cooperation, which allows for an exchange of technical expertise between Member States. Such partnerships have been found to be cost-effective and an efficient channel for transferring best practices.

WHO SHOULD PARTNER?

All stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in achieving FAO's core Strategic Objectives should seek to establish and build partnerships. Any entity that shares FAO's vision of a world free of hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity is invited and welcome to develop or join a partnership to achieve these goals.

WHEN TO PARTNER?

Always! In particular, partnerships should be sought out where vulnerable communities and Member States are looking for a harmonized intervention of key players and may not have the reach, resources or knowledge on their own to achieve their goals. However, when partnering, one should always ensure the benefits outweigh the risks and transaction costs.

WHAT ARE THE CORE VALUES OF THE FAO PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR?

The core values are: transparency, equity, inclusiveness, fairness, efficiency, sustainability, team spirit and impartiality realized through multisector and multidisciplinary approaches that are results-based, demand-driven, pro-poor and people-centric.

WHAT IS FAO'S FOCUS?

FAO's overall goal is to promote and help develop healthy and sustainable food systems to achieve its vision of a world free of hunger. In particular, FAO focuses on strengthening small-scale and family farming systems and relies on partnerships that contribute to improved nutrition, increased sustainable productivity, higher standards of living in rural populations and global economic growth.

HOLDER AND FAMILY FARMING SYSTEMS AND WHY LIVESTOCK ?

More than 75 percent of agricultural products are generated by smallholder and family farming systems. Over 75 percent of poor and vulnerable people rely on livestock-agriculture for their livelihoods. FAO focuses on smallholder farmers to: (i) ensure employment among rural populations; (ii) improve the livelihoods of large communities; and (iii) contribute to income generation.

DOES FAO PARTNER WITH LARGE-SCALE FARMING SYSTEMS? IF SO, WHY?

Yes. FAO partners with large-scale systems when these partnerships benefit small-scale and family farming systems and contribute to FAO's mission. FAO works to create win-win situations for all the partners involved.

WHAT IS FAO/ AGA DOING TO SUSTAIN PARTNERSHIPS?

FAO is developing sustainable activities for partnerships in the area of Livestock Sector Development that stretch across all of the organization's new Strategic Objectives in general.

WITH WHOM TO PARTNER?

FAO is ready to partner with all the key stakeholders working in the Organization's main areas of interest. These stakeholders include the private sector, civil society, intergovernmental organizations, academia, research centres and more.

To ensure transparency, address ethical and legal issues and to avoid possible conflicts of interest, new partnerships are regulated by a specific agreement and possibly a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). These can be established with associations or individual institutions. Such agreements and MOUs are necessary to help FAO avoid

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inappropriate activities and consequences that may jeopardize its integrity and impartiality. Interested parties wishing to develop collaborative activities and partnerships should contact FAO to ask for additional information and clearance by sending an email to: AGA-Director@fao.org.

WHAT IS AN MoU, AND WHEN IS ONE REQUIRED?

An MoU is a time-framed, binding document that formalizes a proven and successful partnership. However, a MoU is not mandatory in order to partner and collaborate with FAO; there are other modalities. For additional information, please contact: AGA-Director@fao.org

OTHER FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAO

In addition to partnerships, FAO supports three other types of formal relationships or status:

Consultative Status – for organizations concerned with matters that cover a substantial part of FAO's field of activity;

Specialized Consultative Status – for organizations concerned with matters that cover a particular part of FAO's field of activity; and

Liaison Status – for organizations concerned with matters that cover a part of FAO's field of activity and are in a position to give practical assistance in that field.

WHICH ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR HAVE A FORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FAO?

The following list details FAO partner organizations in the livestock sector, their status and/or the type of agreement involved:

Private sector and producer organizations:

- International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) (MoU)
- International Dairy Federation (IDF) (MoU in preparation)
- International Meat Secretariat (IMS) (MoU in preparation)
- International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO) (MoU in preparation)
- Animal Transport Association (ATA) (MoU in preparation)
- International Animal Health Federation (IFAH) (MoU)
- World Farmers' Association (WFA) (MoU in preparation at corporate level)

- Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere – (SSAFE) Initiative (MoU)
- International Poultry Council (IPC) (MoU, expired)
- International Egg Commission (IEC) (MoU)
- European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB) (MoU)
- Slow Food International (MoU at corporate level)

Civil societies and specific interest groups:

- World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) Liaison status (MoU in preparation)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Humane Society International (HSI) – Liaison status
- Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) – Liaison status
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty Against Animals (RSPCA)
- The Brooke
- League for Pastoral Peoples (LPP)
- Vier Pfoten
- Animals' Angels
- Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity
- Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicine (GALVmed)

Professional/academic organizations:

- World Veterinary Association (WVA) (MoU)
- Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) (MoU in preparation)
- European Association for Animal Production (EAAP)
- World Poultry Science Association (WPSA)
- University of Minnesota
- International Pig Veterinary Association (IPVS)
- EcoHealth Alliance

Intergovernmental organizations:

- Codex Alimentarius
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- World Bank
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

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- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Multi-stakeholder initiatives:

- Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock

WHAT IS THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN FAO PARTNER?

An FAO partner should be impartial supportive and collaborative. Partnerships must provide comparative advantages to each partner while ensuring the absence of any kind of conflict of interest.

HOW DO PARTNERSHIPS FAIL AND WHY?

There are many reasons why partnerships fail, but some of the most common are because of an inadequately established and agreed on vision, unrealistic objectives, and a lack of commitment or conflict of interest.

WHAT ARE FAO-AGA AND ITS PARTNERS DOING?

FAO-AGA and its partners are working together under the umbrella of a number of different partnership initiatives in different areas of the livestock sector including:

- building a base of scientific knowledge on endemic and emerging diseases, animal genetic diversity, animal welfare, production technologies and environmental impact;
- conducting independent global assessments on food security, climate change, endemic and emerging diseases and animal genetic resources;
- enabling dialogue for consensus building and developing global initiatives (e.g. the Sustainable Livestock Agenda and One Health as well as public-private dialogues);
- providing an intergovernmental forum for policy-making on animal genetic resources;
- guiding the development of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources;
- guiding stakeholders in developing and implementing livestock policies;

- assisting members to meet international obligations and agreements and comply with international standards;
- building institutions and governance;
- building capacity and providing technical expertise;
- strengthening cooperation with relevant international organizations; and
- responding to emergencies and increasing resilience.

WHAT IS FAO'S MAIN MESSAGE ON PARTNERSHIPS?

Partnerships are not merely a fundraising platform. They are also a key mechanism to achieve shared goals and manage collective duties. Partnerships must benefit communities on the ground and work toward the ultimate goals of eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and reducing poverty.

For further information on FAO partnerships see also:
<http://www.fao.org/partnerships/en/>