



Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and
Food Quality of The Netherlands

Dialogue on Livestock, Food security & Sustainability

A side event on the occasion of the 22nd session of the committee on agriculture (COAG)

Wednesday 16 June 2010, from 12.00 to 14.15 hours
Iran Room, FAO Headquarters, Rome.

The rapid growth of the livestock sector over the last three decades has been taking place in an institutional void. National and international governance of the sector must be strengthened to balance food security, livelihood, food safety and environmental impacts.

Solving the dilemma of competing objectives and the different priorities between countries is a real challenge. This cannot be realized by individual actors alone. We need an integrated effort at the international level: governments, multilateral organizations and the private sector.

The Netherlands has an important livestock sector and feels a responsibility to stimulate the dialogue on integrated efforts to identify better governance of the livestock sector for food security and food safety, livelihood and environmental impacts. In close cooperation with FAO this side-event has been prepared.

Objective

We want to create mutual understanding of the position of the livestock sector in the different countries as a basis for further cooperation to discuss governance of the livestock sector to improve food security and safety, livelihood and environmental impacts.

At the side event several countries will present their state of the art of livestock agriculture, their main challenges and current policy. Following these presentations an interactive discussion will take place with the participants to find the basis for further activities.

Background

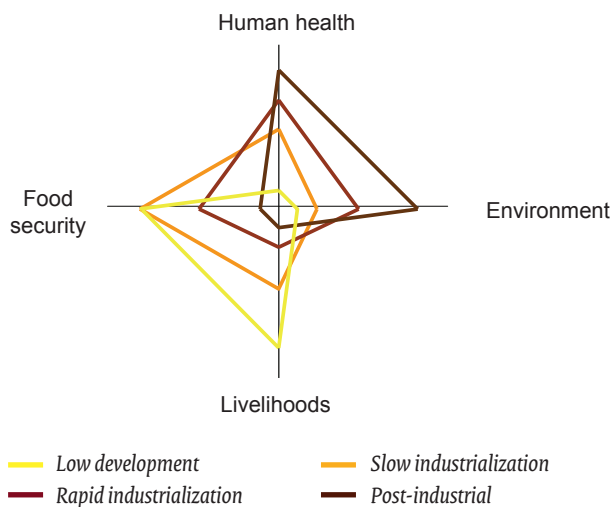
The FAO has put livestock on the public agenda by launching the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA): "Livestock in the Balance". The SOFA provides a comprehensive overview of the livestock sector.

Livestock is a very dynamic sector that has expanded in the past and will expand in the next 40 years, driven by population growth, urbanization and increasing wealth.

The sector is very important in providing food security and providing livelihood for many poor households in many developing countries. Parallel to this, the growing livestock

sector causes an increasing pressure on land, air, water, biodiversity and public human health. In part livestock causes environmental and public health problems but also suffering from it.

Balancing objectives



Different countries and societies have different priorities depending on the food security, the level of economic development and the environmental side effects. The least developed countries emphasize the economic development and poverty alleviation. Emerging countries focus on food security for a growing, urban population and on human health risks. In many OECD countries, food security and economic development are not an issue; they stress the effects of livestock on environment and food safety.

The side event contributes to a citation of the SOFA:
It is important at the international level to recognize the legitimacy of the differences in priorities between countries and to ensure that international policies and agreements do not focus exclusively on the priorities of a narrow group of affluent countries.

Program side event COAG

- 12.00: start of the side event, sandwiches and drinks are available
- 12.15: welcome and introduction by **H.E. Mrs Agnes van Ardenne- van der Hoeven** (Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN Organizations for Food and Agriculture)
- 12.20: Introduction by **Mr Modibo Traoré** (Assistant-Director General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, FAO)
- 12.30: presentation 'state of the art' of the issue by **Mr Theun Vellinga** (scientist Livestock Research, Wageningen University & Research)
- 12.45: country presentations of panel:
 - Mr Berhe Gebreegziabher** (PhD.), Director, Animal and Plant Health, Regulatory Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia)
 - Mr Márcio Portocarrero** (Secretary of Agricultural Development and Cooperatives, Ministry Of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Brazil)
 - Mr Neil Fraser** (Manager, International Liaison, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand)
- 13.30: discussion panel and public led by **Mr Jimmy Smith** (Team Leader Livestock, World Bank)
- 14.00: concluding remarks by **Mr Dilip Rath** (Joint Secretary Dairy Development, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Union Ministry of Agriculture, India)
- 14.15: closure of side event

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