

Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?

July 1, 2016

Comments from the International Dairy Federation (IDF)

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19		The following recommendations have been elaborated building upon the main findings of the report on <i>Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock?</i> They aim to strengthen the contributions of the livestock sector to sustainable agricultural development (SAD) for food security and nutrition (FSN). They are directed at different categories of stakeholders as appropriate: states, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), the private sector and civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. They should:	IDF feels that as the report is about the strengthening of sustainable agricultural development for improving food security and nutrition, more emphasize should be put on the essential role that livestock plays in supplying nutritious foods. We do acknowledge that the next CFS HLPE report will focus on food systems and nutrition, nevertheless we would plead for more consideration of nutrition and health in these recommendations. The report highlights the important contribution that animal products bring to optimal nutrition; this should be reflected in the recommendations.
		1. ELABORATE CONTEXT-SPECIFIC PATHWAYS TO SAD FOR FSN	
		States and other stakeholders should:	
19		a) Use the common approach presented in this report to elaborate, at all appropriate levels, context-specific pathways towards SAD. Such pathways should aim to strengthen synergies and limit trade-offs between the different dimensions of sustainability through improving resource efficiency and economic sustainability , strengthening resilience and securing social equity/responsibility. They could draw on initiatives such as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership , and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases . In that respect, in line with SDGs, all stakeholders should support initiatives that involve multi-stakeholders dialogue, consultation and collaboration	IDF believes that it is important to emphasize the need to improve economic sustainability since systems that are not economically sustainable (as well as socially and environmentally sustainable) will not function in the long-term. To clarify that the focus is on environmental impacts broadly speaking (not just GHG), please capitalize the full name of the Global Research Alliance. Also, IDF feels that LEAP should be recommended here as its guidance documents are valuable, practical resources for states and stakeholders and their use should be encouraged.
		2. STRENGTHEN INTEGRATION OF LIVESTOCK IN NATIONAL SAD STRATEGIES	
		States should:	

19	<p>a) Ensure that their SAD strategies and plans incorporate the integrated approach to FSN advocated by the CFS and are in line with the SDGs. States should better integrate into their SAD strategies the contributions that livestock systems make to the achievement of FSN <u>by incorporation of specific nutrition criteria in the strategies</u>. Policies, strategies and programmes need to take into account the interlinkages between different farming systems and their dynamic nature. They should in particular promote crop–livestock integration at a scale and through means that are adapted to the diversity of systems.</p>	IDF believes that in order to achieve FSN there is a need to have specific nutrition criteria, such as nutrient density, protein quality and complementarily incorporated in the strategies.
	6. LIMIT AND MANAGE EXCESSIVE PRICE VOLATILITY	
	States, producer organizations and other stakeholders should:	
20	<p>a) Develop tools, <u>compliant with international regulations</u>, to limit and manage excessive price volatility, including through the use of grain storage facilities, insurance programmes and other public policy instruments and private initiatives. In particular, these tools should address the risks posed by import surges and volatility in feed markets, and the specific vulnerabilities of smallholders</p>	IDF believes that any new tools should be aligned with international agreed regulations in order to avoid conflicts and duplication.
	9. PROMOTE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	
	States and IGOs should:	
21	<p>a) Integrate a participatory approach when designing an agenda and allocating resources for <u>nutrition research and R&D</u>, and focus on technologies, practices, metrics and institutions needed to improve <u>sustainable nutrition</u>, resource efficiency, strengthen resilience and secure social equity/responsibility in diverse livestock farming systems;</p>	IDF believes that in addition to the promotion of research and development in farming practices, nutritional research should also be considered.
21	<p>b) Enable participatory research in order to promote the integration of diverse knowledge systems about livestock keeping, including animal breeding <u>and genetics</u>;</p>	
	<p><u>e) Conduct life cycle assessment along complete food chains to identify options for increasing production efficiency while minimizing negative environmental impacts and excessive use of energy, water, nitrogen, phosphorous and other natural resources;</u></p>	This point is made in the report, and IDF feels that it is sufficiently important that it deserves to be highlighted in the recommendations.
	<p><u>f) Promote the development of innovative digital technologies such as Big Data and the Internet of Things, and explore how these technologies are evolving and helping livestock agriculture and related businesses to become more agile in dealing with climate change and improving resource use efficiency;</u></p>	This point is made in the report, and IDF feels that it is sufficiently important that it deserves to be highlighted in the recommendations.

	<u>g) Further develop precision livestock farming across the entire food production chain, collecting quantitative and qualitative information to support decision making and improve sustainability.</u>	This point is made in the report, and IDF feels that it is sufficiently important that it deserves to be highlighted in the recommendations.
	RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS	
22	States, IGOs and other stakeholders should consider the roles of different livestock systems in all agricultural, food security and nutrition policies and promote SAD-oriented efficiency and sustainability pathways that are adapted to the specificity of each of the systems. <u>In general, they should support the livestock sector’s voluntary actions to improve environmental sustainability and animal welfare in order to increase the sector’s contribution to FSN.</u> In particular, they should:	The livestock sector’s voluntary action is mentioned in the report and IDF feels that calling to support these efforts should be part of the recommendations.
23	<u>14. ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES COMPLEMENT THE MERITS OF INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS BY</u>	The report discusses the merits and challenges of the four livestock systems, but the wording of this title (as opposed to the more positive titles of Recommendations 11, 12 and 13) gives the impression that intensive systems are inherently more likely to cause problems. As the dairy sector strives for continual improvement in all aspects of sustainability regardless of production system, it has proactively undertaken efforts to improve the sustainability of dairy production globally regardless of size, location, or level of intensification. From that perspective, IDF feels that the wording of the recommendations should not make one of the systems seem <i>inherently</i> more problematic than the others.
23	Supporting and improving animal health and welfare by promoting good practices and by establishing and enforcing robust standards <u>for biosecurity, including movements of live animals of</u> for different species in intensive systems, building upon the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines and private sector initiatives;	The link between live animal trade and infectious diseases has been made in the summary in point 22. We believe that it is important to clearly show the risk that can occur with unregulated trade of live animals, which is distinct from that of products, in the recommendations. We would include robust standards for biosecurity, as biosecurity is the process of farmers reducing risks to their business by limiting the likelihood of introducing and spreading animal diseases.
23	e) Exploring and implementing approaches for the reduction <u>prudent and responsible use</u> of antimicrobial <u>agents</u> use in livestock production	IDF feels the wording in this recommendation should be aligned with the OIE recommendations, who call for “prudent and responsible use”