



43rd Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Rome, 17 October 2016

Wilfrid Legg
HLPE Project Team Leader
Presentation on behalf of the HLPE

Your Excellencies,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to briefly present the main findings and recommendations of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts report on *Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock?*

Livestock is important and the report aims to provide a balanced assessment of the many roles of livestock in the context of overall sustainable agricultural development. Livestock is a key driver for sustainable agriculture and offers an excellent model for outlining sustainable pathways across a wide diversity of systems and countries.

The livestock account for a very important share of agricultural production, employment and livelihoods in many countries, especially in Africa, are closely linked with crop production, have marked effects (which are both positive and negative) on the environment and natural resources. Animal sourced foods (meat, dairy and eggs) make a significant contribution to food security and nutrition, as shown by the data in this slide. Livestock also generate many co-products, which are crucial in maintaining crop-livestock linkages (such as manure and draught power) and landscapes, socio-economic benefits (such as the store of wealth, and insurance policy), and by products (such as wool and skins).

Concerning natural resources and the environment, livestock is a major user of land and water resources and the livestock food chain is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and of course that was a major point that was being discussed this morning – but it should also be noted, grasslands and trees can also be important sources of carbon sequestration.

FAO projects that, if recent trends continue – the so-called “business as usual” scenario – there will be a need for a significant increase in production to meet higher food demand, mainly in developing countries. But projections are not predictions and of course demand for animal sourced foods may not increase as much if there is a shift to plant-based foods. But with population reaching nearly 10 billion by 2050, and increasing incomes and currently relatively low levels of animal sourced foods’ consumption in developing countries, an increase in livestock production will doubtless be needed.

The conceptual framework proposed in the report illustrates, in a simple way, the main trends, challenges and pathways for sustainable agricultural development that lead to improved food security and nutrition. Sustainable agricultural development is not only an objective in itself but also a necessary condition to ensure food security and nutrition for all, now and in the future. And I would stress again that it’s not sustainable agricultural development as an end in itself, but it’s for the purpose of providing for the food security and nutrition goals.

There are many challenges that are common to all livestock – and indeed all agricultural – systems: such as adapting to climate change, improving the links to and performance of markets, managing natural and economic risks, enhancing the livelihoods of farmers, and dealing with animal diseases. But we have also identified challenges that are mainly specific – or are given a high priority – for each of the 4 livestock systems identified, as shown in this slide and the following slide. It should be stressed that all livestock systems face challenges and the potential to progress towards Sustainable agricultural development does exist for all of those systems.

We developed a common approach to the pathways and Governments and other stakeholders are invited to use the evidence-based common approach outlined here (or strategy) proposed in this report which diagnoses the nature of the challenges; applying operational principles (or criteria) to deal with the challenges – improved resource efficiency, strengthening resilience, and securing social equity and responsibility; and identifying the priorities; and implementing a set of actions consistent with the operational principles, at all stages undertaking evaluations and making adjustments as necessary.

The common approach to pathways requires making choices and trade-offs in addressing multiple challenges in specific contexts and in deciding which policy instruments and actions can best be used to improve sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition.

The three operational principles outlined in this slide have evolved from the classic “economic, environmental, and social” dimensions of sustainability. These stress that improving resource efficiency links the production and environmental aspects, drawing

attention to strengthening resilience of systems, and pointing out that the social aspects include the diversity of both equity and responsibility issues.

So those are the 3 key criterial principles that were developed in this report.

These 3 operational principles are crucial in using a science or evidence-based approach to outline pathways for sustainable agricultural development, but they are not prescriptive as to what Governments and stakeholders should do in every case, and the actual identification of pathways and actions taken to move along the pathways will be context-specific and will be greatly influenced by Governmental and societal priorities. The key elements are highlighted in this and the next 2 slides:

- Strengthening resilience:
 - Adapting to climate change;
 - Managing genetic resources;
 - Strengthening actions to improve animal health; and
 - The wider application of risk management tools.

And

- Securing social equity/responsibility which covers a great range of social issues.

The cross-cutting Recommendations in the report are identified as are those applying to specific livestock systems and countries – and those 4 systems are: smallholder mixed, pastoral, commercial grazing, and intensive. The ones that we felt were most appropriate for the purposes of this report. These are the cross-cutting recommendations.

And the system-specific recommendations, which I'll deal with a little bit more detail, for smallholder-mixed systems they focus particularly on improving livelihoods, access to markets and securing rights; for pastoral systems they focus on access to natural resources, markets and better integration into decision-making processes; for commercial grazing the focus is on improved grassland management; and for intensive systems the focus is on reducing harmful environmental and social effects, and improving animal welfare.

As I said, all of these systems also need to face the challenges that are common to all livestock systems.

Madame chair, that is the brief presentation of the report, thank you very much.