

Statement of the Republic of the Philippines

4th Session of the Livestock Sub-Committee of the Committee on Agriculture, 2026 June 3-5, FAO-HQ Red Room , Rome, Italy

Day 1: 03 June 2026 PM Session

Agenda Item 3.1 Harnessing Value Addition in the Livestock Sector for Inclusive Growth and Employment Generation (COAG: LI/4/2026/3)

Good afternoon Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Philippines thanks the Secretariat and the Animal Production and Health Division for this document on harnessing value addition in the livestock sector for inclusive economic growth and employment generation.

The Philippines recognizes the importance of supporting stakeholders particularly smallholders in harnessing opportunities on all aspects of the livestock value chain, from upstream provision of feed, inputs and services; to on-farm practices in areas like animal management and health and downstream aspects such as processing, marketing and trade, use of animal products as well as consumption of TASF(or terrestrial animal source foods).

Examples of existing initiatives in the Philippines to harness value addition in the poultry and livestock sector are as follows:

Smallholder livestock farmers are organized into clusters and civil society organizations to boost their negotiation power, streamline market access and increase their participation in value-adding activities. The Egg Industry Development Project, provides funds for egg farmers cooperatives and associations to establish cold and dry storage warehouses and specialized processing facilities for value addition of table eggs to manage supply chains and stabilize market costs. Meat processing technology and entrepreneurship training as well as processing equipment including milking machines are also being offered.

Government investment incentives include fiscal and non-fiscal benefits for the meat processing industry designed to modernize agriculture, ensure food safety and expand domestic production.

With regard to processing livestock waste, some examples are :

the promotion of climate-smart infrastructure such as biogas digesters to manage farm waste and generate renewable energy; and the promotion of integrated crop-livestock systems such as using livestock manure for crop fertilizer to sustain soil health and lower input costs.

On livestock by-products, an example is the support provided to local craftsmen in tanning carabao hides into durable, commercially viable leather.

The Philippines' meat processing industry is experiencing resilient growth driven by strong consumer demand for convenience and ready to eat-foods, while it relies heavily on imports. Thus, there's an opportunity to boost local supply , productivity and efficiency to reduce import dependency with tightening global supplies and increasing cost of imported meat. It may be noted though that while traditional canned and processed meats remain popular, there is a rising segment of health-conscious consumers shifting toward alternative, organic and plant-based meat options.

The Philippines welcomes the Secretariat's recommendations for this Sub-Committee in document COAG: LI/4/2026/3 with the following comments:

With regard to the recommendation for FAO to develop knowledge products, toolkits and guidelines on livestock value chain development and livestock value addition, the Philippines would be interested in modern technologies for downstream industries such as for dairy and meat including capacity building, while the current needs are more to further boost local production.

May we also know how this proposal is intended to be implemented? Will it be a tracking and consolidation of available successful technologies and innovations with the private sector, research institutions, other UN organizations such as UNIDO, and multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank and IFAD who undertake value chain analyses and project development for countries including in the livestock value chain? Will the products input into FAO's Agrifood Systems Technologies and Innovations Outlook?

We note that FAO has a 2019 publication on developing sustainable value chains for small-scale livestock producers. Would the Secretariat have an indication of its uptake by stakeholders?

Again thanks to FAO for all its work to support Members' livestock value chains in accordance with our respective national contexts and specificities and we look forward to the Secretariat's response to our comments.

Thank you.