

Report of FAO, ILRI, OIE and GASL on action taken to respond to the Communiqué of Ministers of the 2018 GFFA

Introduction: The United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) welcome the attention given by the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) to “Shaping the future of livestock”. These organisations agree that concrete action must be taken by all stakeholders and that international cooperation is necessary in order to make livestock production and animal husbandry more sustainable, responsible and efficient.

FAO, OIE, ILRI and GASL are fully committed to the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. They work separately and together to ensure the livestock sector plays its vital role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable practices and policies that support food security and healthy nutrition, enhance livelihoods and opportunities for economic growth, improve animal health and welfare and address climate and natural resource use.

Institutional and collaborative efforts to promote sustainable livestock systems through policy and standard setting processes, knowledge generation and provision and multi-stakeholder collaboration are summarised below along with ways forward to strengthen these efforts.

FAO is a specialized UN agency committed to eliminate hunger in the context of sustainable development. FAO’s vision is “A world free from hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner”. FAO’s core functions include: a) to facilitate and support countries in the development and implementation of normative and standard-setting instruments; b) to assemble, analyze, monitor and improve access to data and information on food and agriculture; c) to facilitate, promote and support policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels; d) to advise and support capacity development; e) to support the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices; f) to facilitate partnerships for food security and nutrition, agriculture and rural development; and g) to advocate and communicate at national, regional and global levels in areas of FAO’s mandate.

FAO engagement in GASL is based on guidance provided in 2010 from its Committee on Agriculture (COAG). With GASL, it engages as a convener, as an intergovernmental stakeholder, as a programmatic collaborator and provides operational support. FAO fosters practice change through a dense network of decentralized offices, promoting improved approaches at local, national and regional level. FAO released the comprehensive assessment “Transforming the livestock sector through the Sustainable Development Goals” in 2018, and is developing tools and approaches that optimize the positive outcomes from livestock and mitigate possible trade-offs.

OIE has received from its 182 members countries the mandate to improve animal health and welfare worldwide, by ensuring transparency on the global situation regarding animal diseases, [developing international standards](#) to facilitate safe trade and promoting international solidarity. OIE believes that an inter-sectorial, multi-stakeholders approach facilitates the understanding of success factors to shape the future towards more sustainable, responsible and efficient livestock production.

That’s why, for example, the [2018 OIE Global conference on Anti-Microbial Resistance \(AMR\)](#), gathered high level representatives of animal health sectors globally, to promote the implementation of standards at a range of levels, from farm to global, and to communicate on good practices. The tripartite partnership with FAO and WHO signed a memorandum of understanding in May to better address AMR and other key topics such as zoonosis.

Implementation of the [OIE global strategy on animal welfare](#) was discussed during a global forum involving stakeholders such as production industries and non-governmental associations. The **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)** is currently being modernized to streamline the follow of animal disease information and to integrate all useful data. These developments were designed on the basis a multi-stakeholder consultation and developments are overseen by a Strategic Advisory Committee. Finally, guidelines on [Public Private Partnerships \(PPPs\)](#) are currently being developed

following an OIE expert consultation. These guidelines will speak to both private and public sectors at strategic, executive and implementation levels.

ILRI is the only one of 15 CGIAR research centres with a livestock mandate. ILRI's research aims to improve food and nutritional security and to reduce poverty in developing countries through research for efficient, safe and sustainable use of livestock, ensuring better lives through livestock. By conducting research with 'the end in mind' the research outputs, capacity development and engagement with global decision makers targets the SDGs and thus, the four GFFA priority areas. ILRI works with partners such as the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to conduct research and provide evidence, and with those at the interface of research and development, such as FAO and OIE, to ensure research results are taken to scale, resulting in development outcomes and impacts. ILRI is a member of GASL and serves on its Guiding Group as well as the task force that was instrumental in articulating how the GASL agenda aligns with and contributes to the four priority themes identified at GFFA 2018. ILRI has worked to raise the profile of the livestock sector to contribute to sustainable development through engagement with UN SDG processes, making available a website for key livestock information (www.whylivestockmatter.org), facilitating sharing information amongst livestock sector actors and providing a public, searchable repository of outputs <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/1>.

GASL is a multi-stakeholder partnership committed to sustainable livestock development, addressing social, economic, environmental and health perspectives. Making use of the Communiqué of Ministers of the 2018 GFFA, GASL has re-focussed its actions by basing its 2019-2021 Action Plan on the four GFFA priority areas: food and nutrition security, livelihoods and economic growths, animal health and welfare, climate and natural resource use. During its 8th multi-stakeholder partnership meeting in Mongolia, GASL debated on the role of multi-stakeholder processes within these priority areas and identified key issues. There are a number of areas where GASL will work during the next three years. These include the role of livestock in sustainable food systems and in nutrition security; fostering policies in support of farmers at all scale for economically viable transformation; and generation of evidence on the implications of foodborne, zoonotic and livestock diseases. GASL will focus on the following three major outcomes:

- **Facilitating dialogue.** GASL facilitates dialogue that improves consensus on sustainable livestock development issues among GASL partners and other stakeholders.
- **Assembling and communicating evidence.** GASL partners and stakeholders offer tools and evidence as inputs into the dialogue process to arrive at practices, policies, strategies and frameworks in support of sustainable livestock development.
- **Advocating practice and policy change.** GASL advocates practice and policy change through multi-stakeholder processes towards the adoption of good practices and policies at global, regional, national and local levels.

The focus on these outcomes is in line with the Panama declaration of GASL (2016) where GASL recognized the SDGs as the overarching reference frame and confirmed its commitment to continue its multi-stakeholder processes towards sustainable livestock sector development. The Panama declaration is echoed in others such as the Rotterdam declaration of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) World Dairy Summit in 2016.

Way forward: The international organizations with a global mandate in livestock underline the current and potential impact of innovations, especially those derived from digital applications, on the evolution of livestock systems worldwide and their contribution towards the SDGs (UN Agenda 2030).

FAO, ILRI and OIE will continue to work together and offer expertise in their respective areas. GASL will continue to provide a multi-stakeholder partnership platform where the international organizations meet and debate with a multitude of stakeholder towards the adoption of good practices and policies at global, regional, national and local levels.

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