



## GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

### 7<sup>th</sup> Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Meeting Achieving multiple benefits through livestock- based solutions, Addis Ababa, 8-12 May 2017

#### Concept Note

#### Context

Driven by population and economic growth, particularly in emerging and developing economies, the demand for livestock products is expected to increase by about 70% in the coming 30 years. Responding to this astronomical demand presents opportunities for the livestock sector to contribute to global development challenges by promoting a sustained economic growth, inclusive social development and the efficient use of natural resources.

The positive contributions of livestock for sustainable development, food security and nutrition on the one hand and the potential negative impacts of livestock on the environment and on human health continue to be researched and debated worldwide. The publication in 2006 of *Livestock's Long Shadow* created awareness for the impact of livestock on the environment and in particular the role of livestock in greenhouse gas emissions and started a strong and at times emotional debate on merits and demerits of livestock. The State of Food and Agriculture report 2009 on livestock and the publication *Livestock in a Changing Landscape 2010* presented more nuanced views of the livestock sector, emphasising the diversity of drivers, responses and opportunities for solutions. Nevertheless, the role of the livestock sector in sustainable development remained controversial. In 2010, initiated by the Dutch delegation the livestock sector was considered by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) which, in an effort to bring this widely dispersed and diverse sector together around key development challenges, mandated FAO to develop the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (initially called Global Agenda for Action).

The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (The Global Agenda; [www.livestockdialogue.org](http://www.livestockdialogue.org)) recognizes that for livestock to be sustainable, the sector worldwide needs to respond to the growing demand for livestock products and enhance its contribution to food and nutritional security; provide secure livelihoods and economic opportunities for hundreds of millions of pastoralists and smallholder farmers; use natural resources efficiently, address climate change and mitigate other environmental impacts; and enhance human, animal, and environmental health and welfare.

The mission of The Global Agenda is to enhance livestock stakeholders' commitment and investments in support of the UN Agenda 2030 by facilitating dialogue, generating evidence and supporting the adoption of good practices and policies. The Global Agenda functions in an open and consensual way as a multi-stakeholder partnership that actively engages all actors in the livestock sector worldwide (governments, civil society, private sector, donors, academia, non-governmental organizations and multi-lateral organizations) to foster the sustainable development of the rapidly changing livestock sector.

Inevitably, developing a multi-stakeholder partnership across such a diverse sector has required time to reach common alignment, buy-in and modus operandi which can enhance sustainable livestock development. Since 2010 the Global Agenda has matured from an initial focus on environmental issues, broadening to social equity and health issues and now aligning with the sustainable development goals of the Agenda 2030. It has processes in place for stakeholders to engage in implementing and assessing sustainable livestock development as well as enhancing practices and policies as lessons learnt are shared, globally, regionally and nationally.





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#### The 7<sup>th</sup> Multi-Stakeholder Partnership meeting

The time is therefore right, at this 7<sup>th</sup> Multi-Stakeholder Partnership meeting to use the opportunity to reflect on the initiatives that have been undertaken, to highlight the lessons that may be applied to successful sustainable livestock development, to clarify the tools that can be used to assess the sectors' multiple benefits and to identify those areas that still require further work. The five day meeting will thus provide the opportunity to:

- Share and discuss progress made in the development of tools to monitor sustainable livestock sector development
- Articulate the lessons from successful cases of practise change towards sustainable livestock systems
- Identify opportunities and challenges that must be addressed to ensure multiple benefits accrue from sustainable livestock development

The meeting is open to representatives of all relevant sector stakeholder groups, from across the World (those who have not signed the Agenda Consensus participate as observers). The meeting will provide an opportunity for participants to engage in interactive learning sessions to explore tools to measure and guide sustainable livestock development, with case studies, learning tours and a sharefair illustrating practise changes. A policy forum will provide an opportunity for ministerial level deliberations on the role of livestock-based solutions for sustainable development in Africa. Simultaneous translation (English-French-Spanish) will be available.

#### Side meetings

A number of side meetings will take place, taking advantage of the gathering of many livestock specialists from across the World.

- Cluster meetings. The Global Agenda is organised according to seven clusters and there will be an opportunity for existing and potential new members to meet and discuss the functioning and aims of each cluster.
- Guiding group meeting. The guiding group of the Global Agenda is the guidance and decision making body and it will hold a half day meeting.
- Other meetings. Action networks and other groups will convene small side meetings and there will be facilities availed for these on Saturday 13 May.

