



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Call for resource mobilization for the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock

The issue

The livestock sector, a key driver to sustainable agriculture, makes a critical contribution to food security and nutrition by providing nutrient-dense foods and to poverty alleviation by providing employment and income. However, the sector faces challenges related to animal health and environmental issues. While the livestock sector contributes directly or indirectly to each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), challenges related to animal health and environmental issues makes this contribution complex, where the achievement of some goals could conflict with the accomplishment of others, requiring careful planning, implementation and monitoring.

To assist members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to address this complexity, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), at its 27th session in October 2020, established the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock (the Sub-Committee), with the mandate to discuss and build consensus on livestock issues and priorities and advise FAO's Governing Bodies.

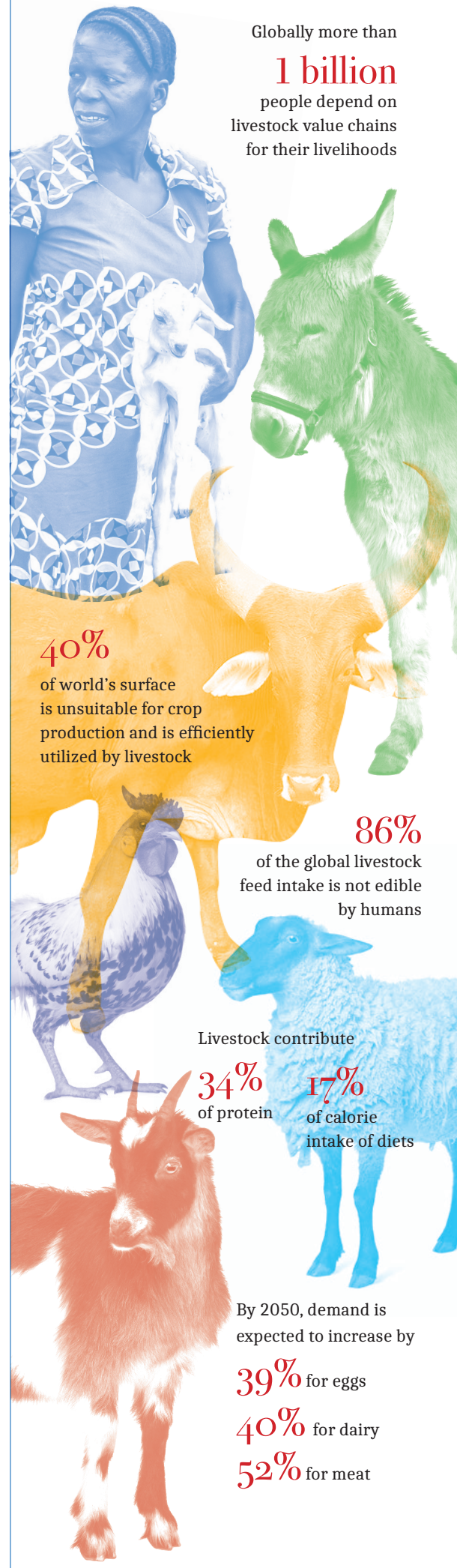
Extra-budgetary resources are needed to organize the Sub-Committee sessions and implement its activities. For this reason, FAO is calling for contributions from resource partners.

The action

A multi-donor project has been set up to enable interested resource partners to support the implementation of the Sub-Committee's programme of work developed under the guidance of COAG. The project will support:

- organizing the Sub-Committee sessions as well as regional and global technical consultations aimed at building common positions on the agenda items;
- enabling the participation of high-level technical representatives from least developed countries;
- facilitating the preparation of assessments, guidelines, and other policy and technical documents, including the global assessment of the contribution of livestock to food security, sustainable food systems, nutrition and healthy diets requested by COAG at its 27th Session.

Globally more than
1 billion
people depend on
livestock value chains
for their livelihoods



40%
of world's surface
is unsuitable for crop
production and is efficiently
utilized by livestock

86%
of the global livestock
feed intake is not edible
by humans

Livestock contribute
34% of protein
17% of calorie
intake of diets

By 2050, demand is
expected to increase by
39% for eggs
40% for dairy
52% for meat

Expected results

- The Sub-Committee sessions are held according to the schedule defined by COAG.
- FAO's programmes relevant to the livestock sector are guided and monitored.
- Regional and global technical workshops are convened to discuss livestock trends and issues and build common positions on the Sub-Committee agenda items.
- The global assessment of the contribution of livestock to food security, sustainable food systems, nutrition and healthy diets is produced.
- Technical documents, guidelines, assessments and studies are submitted to the Sub-Committee for review and endorsement.

Partnership

The activities funded through this project will engage a wide range of stakeholders including United Nations Organizations, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank Group, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and partnerships, such as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, and the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership. Academia, research institutes, the private sector and civil society organizations will also be involved.

Why invest?

By setting up the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock, COAG members expressed the need for an intergovernmental forum that specifically deals with all livestock-related issues holistically. Investing in this project will operationalize the Sub-Committee and ensure that it achieves its objectives. It will also support complementary activities contributing to the global and regional high-level technical and policy dialogue.

For more information, please contact the secretariat of the Sub-Committee.

*“For a large part of the **10%** of the world's population who live in extreme poverty, livestock are the main source of income, employment and livelihood.”*

QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General

Duration: 4 years

Scope: Global

Budget: USD 1.9 million

Tangible targets:

2 sessions of the Sub-Committee

5 regions have built common positions on the Sub-Committee agenda items

140 high-level experts representing least developed countries have participated in consultations and sessions

1 global assessment on livestock sector and nutrition

6 technical documents on key livestock themes

SDG contribution:



The livestock sector: opportunities and challenges

Livestock play a crucial role in the nutrition, food security and livelihoods of billions of people across the world. The nutrients provided by eggs, milk and meat are vital in countries where malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are prevalent. The socio-economic role of livestock is fundamental in many communities, particularly for those of small-scale farmers and pastoralists. Livestock provides many ecosystem services, including the maintenance of soil fertility and health. The livestock sector is a key provider of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, especially for rural youth and women.

However, the sector faces a number of challenges, including its environmental impact, transboundary animal diseases and overuse of antimicrobials. The challenges are compounded by unequal access to productive assets, knowledge and innovations and markets, often marginalizing small-scale producers.

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