



COMMISSION ON LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

XVI CODEGALAC

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Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Conclusions

- i. Livestock production in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and related value chains serve as economic and social drivers, are tied to the livelihoods of small-scale producers, promote food security and nutrition, and provide employment and have other multiplier effects on local and regional economies.
- ii. The LAC region faces a complex scenario marked by high and rising food inflation, rising poverty, high levels of income inequality, and growing levels of hunger, food insecurity and obesity.
- iii. Although some progress has been made in the sustainable development of livestock production, the sector continues to face sundry challenges, such as climate change, endemic, emerging and recurrent diseases, soil degradation, water scarcity and social conflicts.
- iv. Animal-source foods (ASF) play a central role in national and local food supplies. Their products are essential for a nutritious, healthy and diverse diet, and are especially relevant in areas where malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are rife.
- v. There are examples of good practices that have contributed to better livestock productivity through interventions in production units, the value chain and related public policies.
- vi. In light of changing global climate scenarios, regenerative livestock farming¹ as a holistic management strategy can aid in environmental recovery and mitigate the effects of climate change. The emphasis on soil health and increased carbon sequestration has yielded positive feedback for environmental health, economic security for producers and nutritional health for consumers.

¹ According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regenerative livestock production is based on the use of ecosystem services and natural processes, which optimizes the use of local renewable resources and minimizes negative externalities. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/faoterm/es/>

- vii. Mixed production systems (such as agroforestry, silvopastoral systems, etc.), coupled with good farm and soil management practices, diversified cultivation of native species or species better adapted to local conditions, are just some of the regenerative practices widely implemented in LAC.
- viii. The prevention and control of animal health threats necessarily involves greater coordination across borders, within government institutions and with producers. The One Health strategy represents an excellent opportunity for the integrated management of agricultural health.
- ix. Biosecurity constitutes a tremendous opportunity for the control and mitigation of transboundary diseases, including those with zoonotic potential.
- x. Small and medium-sized livestock producers often have limited facilities or capacity to comply with sanitary regulations. Moreover, these regulations need to be updated if they are to lead to inclusive regulatory frameworks. This affects the sector's resilience to changes in the global economy, market or climate.
- xi. By developing traceability as a public policy transparency mechanism, producers are able to comply with international and national standards in terms of sustainability, profitability, among others,
- xii. Food security is closely tied to biodiversity for food and agriculture, since it allows people to acquire goods or services to meet their food and nutritional needs, either through direct use or through economic transactions of resources.
- xiii. One of the fundamental pillars of biodiversity are zoogenetic or animal genetic resources, i.e., animal species that are or could be used for food production. The variety of animal genetic resources provides the capacity to adapt to and resist the effects of climate change, emerging diseases, food and water supply constraints, as well as changes in market demands.
- xiv. Properly managed small-scale livestock production systems could be more resilient to prevent and cope more effectively with extreme weather events.
- xv. Organizational processes play a key role in improving access to inputs and support services for agricultural and livestock production, including technical assistance, training, credit, product commercialization and marketing.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Commission Recommendations for the attention of Member Countries

Considering the discussion on challenges raised during the Commission's technical session, the following recommendations were put forward to member countries:

- i. Strengthen mechanisms to recognize and formalize ancestral knowledge, scientific evidence, monitoring and technological innovation, in a coordinated fashion, as basis for the transformation or adaptation of production systems towards more resilient, sustainable and competitive systems.
- ii. Strengthen the work of the States in terms of public certification systems.
- iii. Promote the review and updating of regulatory frameworks and sanitary plans for animal production, especially for small-scale production, and strengthen technical and institutional capacity to support the family sector. Among other benefits, this would give sanitary regulations a consistent legal status in the event of animal health emergencies.
- iv. Implement biosecurity regulations in livestock systems coupled with incentives along each livestock chain.
- v. Promote the integration of the scientific and technological sector with the work of sanitary and production organizations, thereby encouraging knowledge and data generation, technical training and the adoption and standardization of good practices.

- vi. Encourage the adoption of modern information systems as governmental management tools that favor real-time data collection and analysis, risk assessment and rapid health management measures.
- vii. Update national data in the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS), including information on in-situ and ex-situ animal genetic resources, and provide information on breed classifications and priority species for biodiversity and food security. This requires appointing or renewing national animal genetic resources coordinators.
- viii. Promote the establishment and sustainability of associative or cooperative forms of small-scale livestock production that will improve access to inputs, markets, support services, knowledge, bargaining power, etc.
- ix. Facilitate small producers' access to information, technology and technological services through technical assistance for capacity building and the creation of incentives to enable the implementation of practices and technologies that are adapted to their specific needs and circumstances.
- x. Encourage public and private investments for developing small-scale production infrastructure (roads, collection centers, modular slaughterhouses, milk processing plants, etc.), marketing and access to other public goods and support services such as financing, access to credit and technical assistance.

2.2 Commission Recommendations for the attention of FAO

- i. Support countries in generating evidence on the contribution of regenerative livestock or other sustainable livestock strategies (productivity, biodiversity and carbon sequestration indicators, etc.), to promote their implementation on the basis of objective evidence and that can be a relevant input for future strategies, such as the next Amazonian Presidents' Summit on the bioeconomy.
- ii. Facilitate regional dialogue between the public and private sectors to promote the development of joint strategies and projects to improve traceability and access to certifications by producers (large, medium and small).
- iii. Strengthen the communications strategy for sustainable livestock production based on results and experiences that demonstrate the sector's contribution to food and nutrition security, economic development and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- iv. Support the review of national regulatory frameworks on animal health issues as a starting point for updating legislation and policies for the different livestock chains.
- v. Support the strengthening of official veterinary services for the reinforcement of epidemiological surveillance and sanitary regulations on animal diseases prioritized at national and regional levels.
- vi. Improve health emergency management mechanisms and capacity, favoring regional and inter-institutional coordination and collaboration.
- vii. Support the training and continuing education of professionals from official veterinary services and cooperating entities to safeguard animal health in the areas of biosecurity, emergency preparedness and management, use of information systems and new technologies for epidemiological surveillance of diseases and smart risk management, under the One Health strategy led by the WHO-FAO-WOAH-UNEP Quadripartite.
- viii. Training and technical guidance on Dynamic Risk Assessments with a national and regional approach to identify entry vulnerabilities of priority diseases such as African Swine Fever and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and others.
- ix. Technical assistance for the analysis and systematization of the success factors of associative or cooperative models in the production and marketing of small-scale livestock farming products.
- x. Support for training extension workers who can transfer knowledge, best practices and innovations to small-scale livestock producers.

- xi. Support the identification, systematization and implementation of successful experiences (knowledge, best practices, policies, technology, resources, etc.) that favor the sustainable development of small-scale livestock farming, making the role of rural women and youth visible, and that can be replicated and/or considered in other countries and/or territories.
- xii. Support the mobilization of resources from different sources to enable the implementation of actions, strategies and programs to improve associativity, access to markets, credit and progress towards a more resilient, sustainable, inclusive and competitive small-scale livestock production.

2.3 Commission Recommendations to the attention of the FAO Regional Conference

- i. Include in its biannual work program the recommendations of the XVI Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean in matters concerning technical cooperation for the livestock sector.
- ii. Support country efforts to promote dialogue, exchange experiences and mobilize resources from different sources that favor more resilient, sustainable, inclusive and competitive livestock production.

3. Designation of the venue for the XVII Meeting of the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean - CODEGALAC

The Commission welcomed Guatemala's nomination as host country for the XVII Meeting of CODEGALAC, to be held in 2025. The theme of this meeting will be jointly agreed upon by member countries in the near future.

4. Acknowledgments

The Commission thanks the government of Ecuador for hosting and chairing the XVI Meeting of CODEGALAC and for all the support and arrangements it provided to ensure the successful outcome of the meeting. It also thanks the government of Mexico for acting as Vice Chair and the government of Paraguay for acting as rapporteur of this meeting.