



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE

Summary of workshop on topic 2(e)

Improved livestock management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others

The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) is a landmark decision that was reached at the UN Climate Conference (COP23) in November 2017 on the next steps for agriculture within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The decision officially recognizes the unique role that agriculture can play in tackling climate change while considering the vulnerability of the sector to climate change and approaches to achieve food security.

OVERVIEW

Livestock management systems are very diverse around the world and contribute significantly to food security and the global economy. While livestock is vulnerable to direct and indirect climate change impacts due to its dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources, livestock management systems also contribute to climate change and a range of environmental issues (greenhouse gas [GHG] emissions, biodiversity loss, nitrate pollution, and increased incidence of zoonotic diseases). As the demand for food and animal products is expected to grow in the future, the negative externalities generated by the sector will increase proportionally unless changes are made to improve livestock management systems.¹

Key facts and figures

- 1.7 billion people worldwide depend on livestock systems, which provide 33 percent of the protein consumed in human diets and account for 40 percent of global agricultural gross domestic product (GDP).**
- Climate change across the world has severely impacted 200–500 million pastoralists.**
- Absolute methane and nitrous oxide emissions from livestock rose by around 15–20 percent from 1990 to 2017, with enteric fermentation being the most significant source.**
- Meeting the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement will be difficult without reducing emissions from livestock.**

¹ This document provides a summary of discussions which took place at the UNFCCC workshop on topic 2(e) in November 2020. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO but only aim to facilitate knowledge sharing and support decision-making in the frame of the KJWA process. All the facts, figures, opinions or statements presented below are issued from the UNFCCC workshop report: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2021_01_adv.pdf Presentations and recordings of the meeting are available here: <https://unfccc.int/event/koronivia-workshop-on-improved-livestock-management-systems>

KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Livestock in national adaptation and mitigation strategies

Improving livestock management systems in the context of a changing climate is a real challenge and targeted support is required to transform the sector while safeguarding food security. Parties agree to continue to exchange ideas with a view to implementing policies at the regional and national level.

Potential entry points for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

- Recognizing that properly managed livestock systems contribute to global food and nutrition security, livelihoods, nutrient cycling and carbon storage, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and landscape design and maintenance.
- Developing adaptation and mitigation strategies that are context-specific in order to effectively evaluate local circumstances, needs and priorities for implementing scientifically supported action.

Implementation of practices to reinforce adaptation, resilience and mitigation

Various practices have been put forward during the UNFCCC KJWA workshops, such as optimizing breeding or grazing intensity, applying new technologies (methane inhibitors, vaccines and feed additives), and recoupling livestock and cropland systems for carbon sequestration and enhanced manure and nutrient management. Also, the role of genetic resources is fundamental in animal health, robustness, productivity and overall resilience.

Potential entry points for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

- Acknowledging the benefits of identified practices, and the need to disseminate them among farmers.
- Facilitating the development and implementation of climate-resilient livestock technologies.
- Acknowledging that the reinforcement of animal health is a "no-regrets" option for KJWA.

Increase knowledge sharing and capacity building of farmers

Collaboration should be encouraged towards more productive and resilient livestock systems, as well as knowledge about their socio-economic and environmental benefits: more efficient feed conversion, higher biodiversity, enhanced carbon sinks, lower emission intensity per unit of product, better animal welfare, and diversified income for farmers. Also, integrating crop and livestock reduces on-farm waste and the dependency on external inputs or energy sources.



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Potential entry points for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

- Recognizing the role of farmers and guaranteeing adequate capacity building, access to finance, and land tenure rights to encourage long-term investment in improving practices.
- Advocating for policies and measures taking into consideration gender, youth, and traditional knowledge.

Access to finance

In spite of the numerous activities implemented by financial institutions, the actual percentage of funding allocated to livestock-related climate action specifically is often unknown. Key challenges include the multisector dimension of livestock management, the lack of accountability and limited information about co-benefits. Moreover, some Parties underlined that indicators used by financial entities are not appropriate for livestock systems and should be adapted.

Potential entry point for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

Creating an enabling environment that allows donor agencies, institutions and financing entities to mobilize dedicated means of implementation for livestock projects, including climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

Measurement and monitoring

Many countries do not have reliable data and suitable monitoring methodologies for setting targets and guiding climate action in the livestock sector. The focus should be on building and improving data systems and developing national GHG inventories based on advanced tier methodologies for quantifying emissions and measuring mitigation effects.

Potential entry point for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

Improving data collection and monitoring of livestock resilience and GHG emissions, including through provision of guidance on how to accurately capture livestock-related emissions and removals in national GHG inventories.

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Thanks to the financial support of



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture