



TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL DIETS

Agroecology Applied to Animal Production

SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL DIETS FRAMEWORK

FAO is testing the concept of *sustainable animal diets* (StAnD). The concept is based on the *three-P dimensions* of sustainability (*Planet, People and Profit*) to which a fourth dimension was added: Ethic.

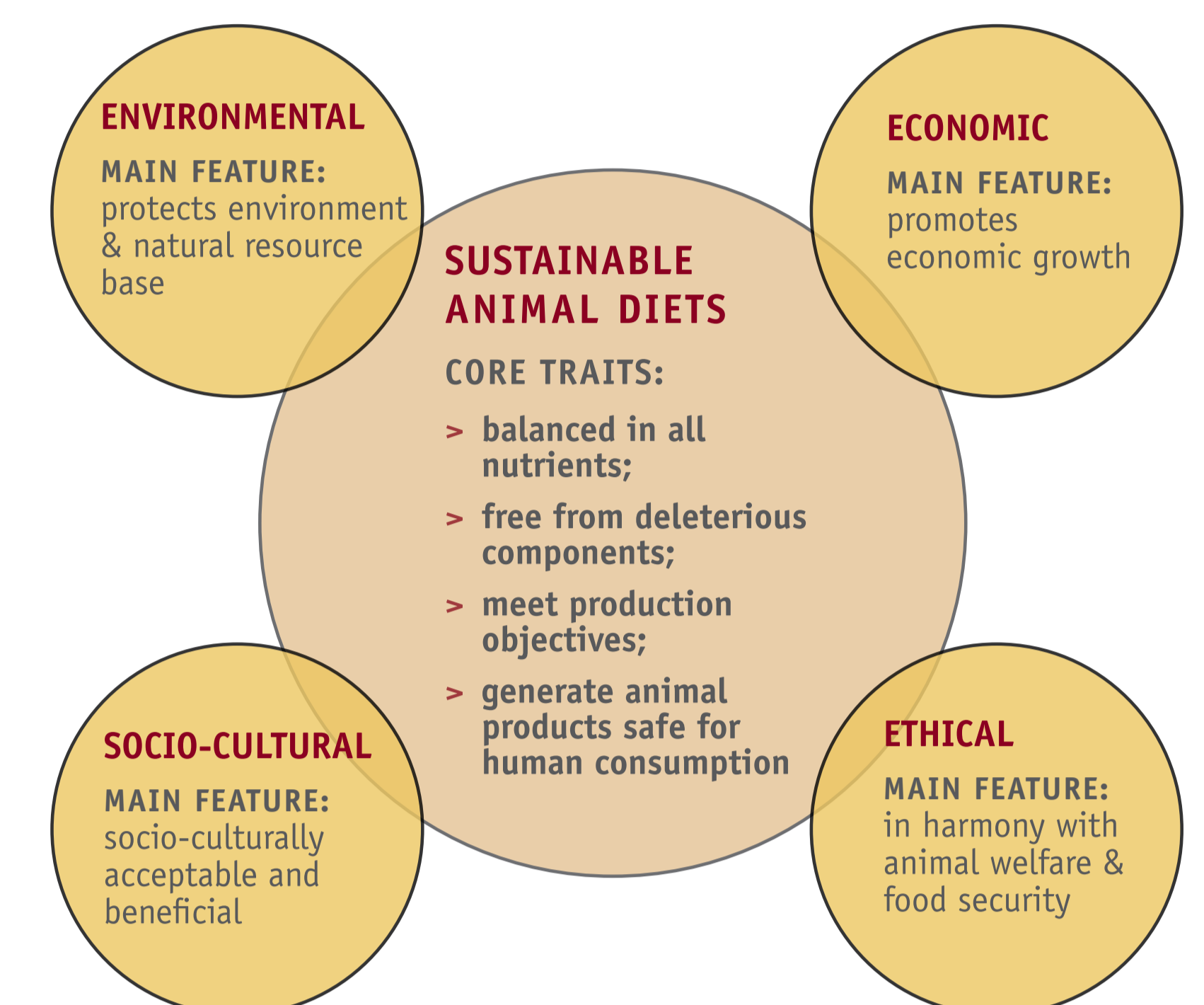
ANIMAL FEEDING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Animal feed and feeding has an impact on all aspects of animal production – productivity, health and welfare, product quality and safety, rural incomes, land use, water pollution, greenhouse gas emission and overall profitability of livestock operation.

The growing competition between food and feed as well as high input requirements – energy, land, water and labour – for feed production are threats to society as well as they are threats to the livestock sector.

There is a need to revisit the way in which feed is produced, procured and fed. The further development and implementation of the StAnD concept will be an important step forward.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL DIET

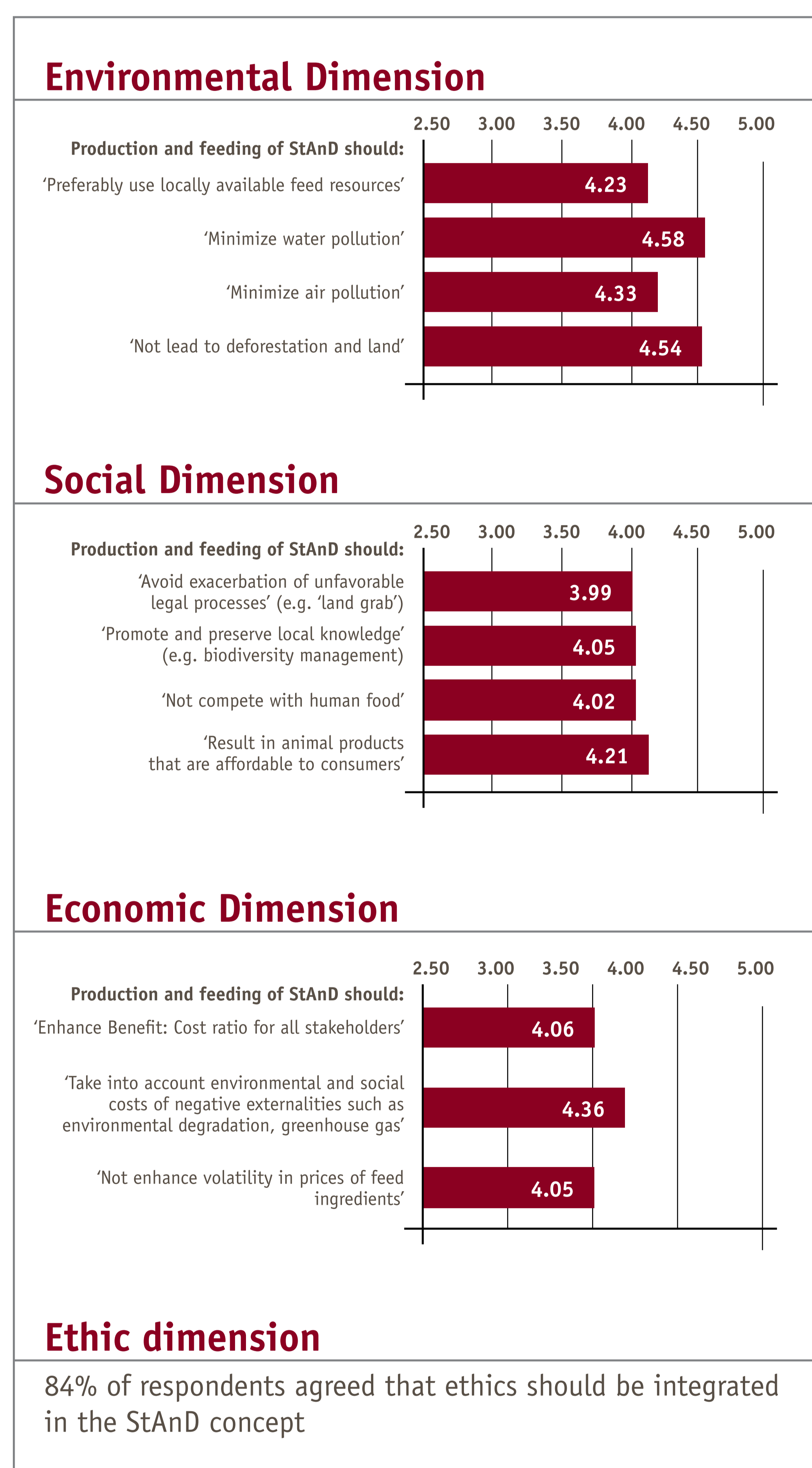


STAKEHOLDERS SURVEY

FAO conducted a survey, using a questionnaire. Options for implementation of a concept of StAnD were prioritized.

The questionnaire was returned by 1 195 respondents: 67% from academia, 9% from NGOs, 15% from the livestock-sector industry, 7% consultants and 2% from international organizations.

Distribution of respondents by region: Europe 28.3%; Latin America/Caribbean 15.4%; Sub-Saharan Africa 18.4%; South Asia 10.5%, North America 7.6%; North Africa/Middle East 5.3%; East or Southeast Asia 9.5%; Oceania 4.9%.



MAIN FINDINGS

The figures on left highlight those factors that stakeholders propose to prioritize when addressing sustainability in animal feeding.

The rating scale is from 1 = not important to 5 = extremely important. The higher the score, the higher is the ranking in terms of importance.

Cross-cutting factors

The following factors featured prominently in the views of respondents:

- > Addressing issues related to the re-use of food waste should be given high priority;
- > Incentives should be given to promote production and use of Sustainable Animal Diets;
- > The concept of StAnD should consider options to decrease grain use in animal diets.

Suggestions for sectors that can lead the implementation process

- > Scientific community
- > Farmers and farmers associations
- > Regulatory bodies
- > Industry

Suggestions on modes for the implementation

- > Make consumers aware of potential benefits
- > Develop guidelines / good practices for StAnDs
- > Seek broad stakeholder engagement

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

The StAnD concept embraces broad principles of agroecology encompassing environment, socio-economic and ethic dimensions to provide sustainability to agroecosystems.

The survey has:

- > Prioritized various elements, and identified both the sectors that can lead the process and the options to put the concept in practice

The survey is also a starting point for developing:

- > A global framework for multi-criteria evaluation of feed resources, based on the sustainability dimensions that also integrate agroecology principles;
- > A basis for monitoring R&D priorities of R&D institutions and donors, and to align them to the needs of producers;
- > A framework to identify future R&D priorities, driven by agroecology and sustainability principles.

The further development of the concept and its implementation will be important steps towards enhancing the sustainability of agroecosystems.

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