Global Livestock Contributions to Achieving the SDGs

The global livestock sector comprises over 1.3 billion farmers, ranchers and producers around the world who collectively provide most of the world's animal products – milk, meat, eggs and other products. These range from smallholders to larger operations that contribute to supplying nutritious food and economic opportunities for the wider community.

Animal agriculture is at the heart of the UN's call to 'build back better' and plays a vital role in sustainable food production that provides the social, economic, and environmental benefits necessary to meet the SDGs.

Social

Animal-sourced foods provide 18% of global calories and 39% of protein intake. Due to its nutrient density, it is an important nutrition source for the 2 billion suffering from 'hidden hunger' and the 141 million children who experience stunting.

Livestock produce these calories primarily by eating foods that are inedible to people such as grasses, crop residues and by-products, which is why the FAO has said animals like cattle *'contribute directly to global food security.'*

With 2/3rds of the world's agricultural lands being permanent meadows and pastures, livestock also offer a way to produce food in areas that would otherwise be unproductive. This will help strengthen food security as urban centers grow and our population rises to almost 10 billion by 2050.

Economic

1 in 6 people worldwide depend on animal agriculture for their livelihood, creating a sector that contributes US$1.27 trillion to global economies and 40% of agricultural GDP. The FAO calls livestock *'the world's third most important source of income"* and *'an asset for economic resilience and income'*.

Over the next decade, FAO and OECD project a further 14% increase of overall meat, milk, egg, aqua production and consumption.

Livestock offer a form of financial security and during drought, flood, or conflict it is relocatable. With women representing 66% of the world's poor livestock keepers, this directly supports the UN's goal of strengthening their resilience.

Environmental

Animal products cannot come at the expense of the environment, and livestock is already part of the solution. The IPCC estimates that livestock contributes 5% of direct GHG emissions, and farmers are working to reduce it further through new technologies such as innovation in animal nutrition, digital monitoring, new vaccines and more.

In fact, industrialized nations have reduced land use for livestock by 20% in recent decades while doubling production, thanks to innovation in areas such as animal nutrition, animal health, and genetics. The FAO estimates livestock emissions can fall a further 30% through increased adoption of best practices and technologies. Livestock are also central to regenerative agriculture, and their integration with cropping systems provides both environmental and nutritional gains.

The UN has called the SDGs the 'blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, and the collective contributions of the livestock sector are helping to deliver on this vision.

Livestock sector efforts are coordinated at global level by international groups representing the building blocks of the value chain. Each group, and the people and organizations they represent, are taking actions towards a more sustainable future.

DAIRY. Dairy products provide much needed nutritional value to billions of consumers. Dairy contributes to all the UN SDGs, particularly to SDGs Zero Hunger, Zero Poverty, Good Health and Wellbeing, and Gender Equality. The Dairy Declaration of Rotterdam is a unique and strong commitment to sustainable development by the global dairy sector.

To better assess the impact of dairy systems around the world, IDF and GDP together with the UN FAO and the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), have recently published several research papers demonstrating dairy's role in achieving the SDGs and delivered new initiatives including Net Zero, Pathways to Low Carbon Dairy; Dairy Nourishes Africa; and Dairy Sustainability Framework.

The sector is represented by two organisations: The **International Dairy Federation** (IDF), the leading source of scientific and technical expertise for stakeholders of the dairy chain, composed of 43 member countries representing 75% of world milk production.

The **Global Dairy Platform** (GDP) is a not-for-profit industry association representing more than 95 leading cooperatives, companies, associations, scientific bodies, and other partners, with operations in more than 150 countries and collectively produces approximately 33% of all the world's milk.

EGGS. There are over 2 million egg farmers globally, with over 800,000 in China alone. The egg sector directly supports millions of families around the world, advancing equitable livelihoods in rural communities. In low- and middle-income countries, women represent a large proportion of egg farmers and they rely upon their farms to provide food for their families, and income to send their children to school. Eggs are a nutrition powerhouse, containing most of the vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants required, and are recognized for their role in healthy balanced diets.

The sector is represented by the **International Egg Commission** (IEC), a not-for-profit organization, representing egg farmers, national egg associations, egg graders and producers of egg products.

MEAT. Dietary guidelines recommend consumption of meat in appropriate amounts as part of a healthy, balanced diet and lifestyle. The industry champions science-based solutions and policies, continued innovation and better technologies, free and fair trade, and sustainable business as key elements to meet the challenge of growing demand.

The sector is working with its partners to set ambitious goals around reducing emissions, improving land use and animal welfare. To help achieve these goals, best practices are championed to facilitate knowledge exchange and foster a collaborative, science-based approach. The aim is a more environmentally responsible, more economically resilient, and more socially beneficial industry.

The sector is represented by the **International Meat Secretariat** (IMS) a non-profit that brings together producers, national/regional associations, exporters, processors, governments, and corporate partners. Members are in countries that represent about 75% of the global production of cattle, pig, and sheep meat.

The **Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef** (GRSB) is a global network powering progress in sustainable beef. Across its global roundtable and 12 regional roundtables, GRSB have over 500 members, in 24 countries. Collectively, members are responsible for more than two thirds of cross-border beef trade.

POULTRY. Poultry provides highly digestible proteins of good nutritional quality, with necessary vitamins and minerals for billions of people in all countries. The sector signed the Declaration of Sao Paulo with the FAO In 2019 with a view to focus on key sustainable development goals by the total poultry meat sector. This document outlines the 5 SDGs (Zero Hunger; Good Health; Quality Education; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and Climate Action) where the poultry industry can have a real impact.

The sector is represented by the **International Poultry Council** (IPC), a global Association representing the poultry meat value chain worldwide. With its 31 Country Members and 54 Associate Members, IPC's members represent more than 88% of the world poultry meat production and 95% of the global poultry meat trade.

FEED. Animal nutrition, through innovation and efficiency, is and has been an essential part of the solution to make the livestock production chain more sustainable. The role of animal nutrition is to ensure animal resilience and productivity, producing more with less, optimizing environmental resources, applicable to farmers in developed countries, as well for smallholder farmers in developing countries.

One of IFIF's key missions is to support and encourage the sustainable development of animal production and foster animal nutrition innovation and efficiency. IFIF supports and encourages the development and use of science-based global guidance to measure, benchmark and improve environmental performance and sustainability of animal production.

The **International Feed Industry Federation** (IFIF) represents the global animal feed industry as an essential participant in the food chain that provides sustainable, safe, nutritious, and affordable food for a growing world population.

IFIF members represent over 80% of total animal feed production worldwide, including national and regional feed associations from Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America. One of IFIF's key missions is to support the sustainable development of animal production and IFIF strives to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

RENDERING. Renderers convert animal tissue into usable materials. Local renderers reduce the use of (imported) vegetable proteins and oils, meaning lower demand for use. Renderers add value to farmers by avoiding the wastage of highly valuable raw materials. Products are used for many different markets as sustainably as possible. New innovations create better performing products with less energy use. Renderers contribute to the SDGs Zero Hunger, Good health and Well Being, Clean Water and Sanitation and Decent Work and Economic Growth.

The **World Renderers Organization** (WRO) represents the international rendering community. WRO encourages a science-based regulatory framework that permits the maximum utilization of rendered animal products in a safe and sustainable manner.

ANIMAL HEALTH. From smallholders to large-scale, conventional to organic, developed to developing world — farms of all sizes and type rely upon animal health products to protect the well-being of their animals. These tools safeguard livestock against disease and the livelihood of the farmer. And with 20% of livestock still lost to disease each year, increasing adoption and improving care can accelerate efforts on key SDGs such as Zero Hunger, Responsible Consumption and Production, No Poverty, and more.

The sector is represented by HealthforAnimals (global animal health association), bringing together developers of veterinary health products such as vaccines, parasiticides, antibiotics, nutrition supplements, diagnostics, digital technologies, and other products.

Building on the specific initiatives taken by farmers and others, most of the livestock sectors are active in leading global sustainability initiatives like Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) and Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP).

The livestock sector can help accelerate efforts to achieve the SDGs and deliver a healthier future for all. The sector is eager to work with international institutions and others to help achieve nutritious diets and resilient production built upon a foundation of science and innovation. The livestock sector invites others to work together to achieve this goal.

IMS International Meat Secretariat

International Poultry Council

Global Dairy Platform

FIL IDF Fédération Internationale du Lait · International Dairy Federation

Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef

IEC International Egg Commission

IFIF Feed the world

WRO World Renderers Organization

HealthforAnimals global animal health association