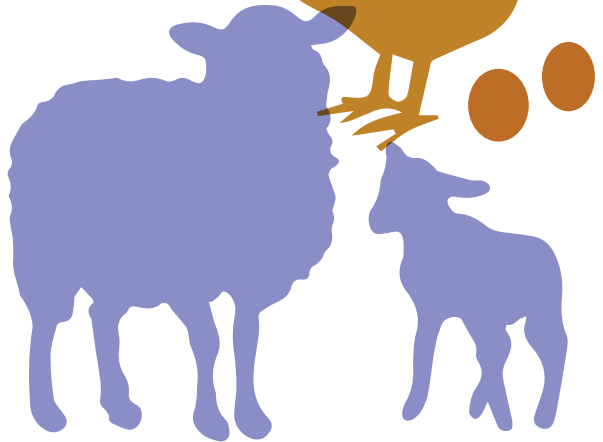
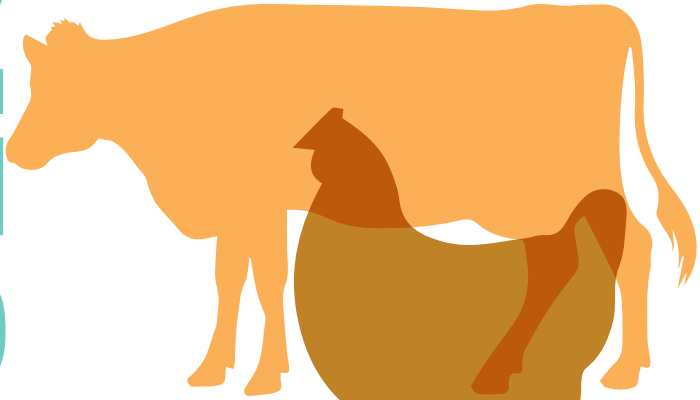
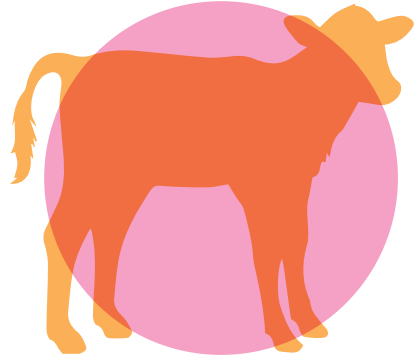


# POLICY

# LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

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Livestock production currently faces a number of global challenges in terms of global food security, food safety, animal diseases and welfare, antimicrobial resistance, economic viability, and expectations related to landscape and environment. On the other hand, the global community acknowledges that livestock farming has an essential role for poverty reduction and the achievement of food security and nutrition. It is highly relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as to the implementation of the 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and to the fulfilment of the universal Human Right to Food.

The global demand for animal proteins is increasing. Therefore, global livestock farming must grow but must also address the global challenges it faces. The World Farmers' Organisation strongly believes in a sustainable growth of livestock production, meeting clear sustainability criteria, making strategic choices, and setting out specific roadmaps. Sustainable growth of livestock farming must be based on the three principles of improving resource efficiency, strengthening resilience and securing social equity and responsibility of livestock production systems. WFO calls all stakeholders with a role in livestock production to take action to reinforce sustainable livestock production. The necessary environment for livestock development, extension and security must be created to reduce poverty and achieve food security and nutrition. If agriculture is to fulfil its wider economic, social and environmental role, with countries able to take account of their domestic concerns and conditions, livestock production should respect a number of guiding principles with respect to the global challenges it faces. Representative of farmers' organisations must therefore be fully consulted in the decisions to enhance sustainable livestock production.

# CHALLENGES IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR

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The current world population of 7.5 billion people is expected to reach 9.2 billion by 2050. According to FAO, an increasing population creates increasing prosperity which in turn can lead to an increasing demand for animal proteins. This prediction is meaningful for the vitality of livestock farming and its future role in food security. Booming demand in the world's most rapidly growing economies for food derived from animals has led to large increases in livestock production, supported by major technological innovations and structural changes in the sector. At the same time, millions of rural people still keep livestock in traditional production systems, where they support livelihoods and household food security.

Livestock farming is under pressure. Despite serious counterstatements in the recent scientific literature, domestic livestock is still assumed to contribute both directly and indirectly to climate change through the emissions of greenhouse gases. Furthermore, it may have an impact on public health by the transmission of diseases from animals to humans and, in highly intensive production systems, it has the potential to contribute to antimicrobial resistance. But at the same time, livestock farming contributes to carbon sequestration in grass and soil, biological diversity and cultural landscapes, and transforms grass to nutritious food for human beings.

The Committee on World Food Security acknowledged during its 43rd Session (17th to 21st October 2016) the essential role of livestock farming for poverty reduction and the achievement of food security and nutrition. It is highly relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as to the implementation of the 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and to the fulfilment of the universal Human Right to Food. The CFS adopted recommendations to achieve sustainable livestock development for food security and nutrition and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in the overall context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the essential role of the small-scale farmers. CFS recommends encouraging the appropriate intake of animal sourced foods that is culturally acceptable, for healthy diets and improved nutrition, including through awareness-raising and education in the context of promoting sustainable agriculture and livestock production in accordance with SDG 12.

The World Farmers' Organisation strongly believes in a sustainable growth of livestock production, meeting clear sustainability criteria, making strategic choices, and setting out specific roadmaps.

# POLICY OBJECTIVES

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WFO is committed to sustainable growth of livestock farming, based on the three principles of improving resource efficiency, strengthening resilience and securing social equity and responsibility of livestock production systems. Sustainable growth should:

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**address the increasing global demand for food;**

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**safeguard the economic viability of the livestock farmers as entrepreneurs;**

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**address volatility in world markets for both resources and livestock products;**

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**consider social expectations of societies and consumers related to landscape and environment;**

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**make more efficient and sustainable use of the vast land areas, marginal for cropping, however well suited for ruminant livestock grazing;**

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**invest in different production types ranging from intensive specialized production to small and large scale extensive farming;**

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**Invest in rural women farmers to ensure the realization of right to food as the women are the main farming guarantee and are also feeding families.**

# WFO CALL

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WFO calls all stakeholders with a role in livestock production on the following action to reinforce sustainable livestock production:

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**National and international policy makers to create the necessary environment for livestock development, extension and security;**

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**Civil Society organizations to support sustainable livestock production as a key to poverty reduction and to achieving food security and nutrition, as stated by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS);**

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**Researchers to provide technological innovations for achieving sustainability.**

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**Small-scale, emerging and large scale farmers and their farmer organizations to engage in sustainable livestock production as the only way forward;**

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**Private Sector to develop and implement policies and tools to facilitate farmers' access to markets and credit to help improve their livelihoods.**

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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**If agriculture is to fulfil its wider economic, social and environmental role, with countries able to take account of their domestic concerns and conditions, livestock production should respect the following Guiding Principles.**

# GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

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Sustainable livestock production should occur on a global level providing an answer to the growing global demand of livestock products where quality will be the lever to world markets. Development of animal agriculture, supported by major technological innovations and structural changes, is necessary where the need of animal products is the highest. Knowledge transfer to these areas is necessary for the development of fledging agricultural sectors which have the potential to contribute to economic growth and more viable rural communities.

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Social expectations of societies, rural communities including rural women and consumers related to landscape and environment all over the world need to be considered. Not only land but also other resources such as water, energy, transport, etc, need to be used with care. An evidence-based, all-in-one and unifying debate on the role of livestock in sustainable development with emphasis on the equilibrium between resources and production is much needed. The role of livestock in maintaining grassland areas across the world must be addressed.

# ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE STANDARDS

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Livestock production should secure strong health and high welfare of the animals. National standards with the objective of securing high animal health welfare should be based on sound science and knowledge, and as a minimum, grounded on internationally agreed standards proposed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Global strategies to prevent and control zoonotic pathogens must be developed to protect public health. Considerable reduction in preventive use of antimicrobials in livestock farming is necessary to safeguard the availability of life-saving drugs. Application of hormones and genetically modified organisms need to be addressed.

# LATTE INDEX

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Livestock products must score high on the LATTE-index: Local, Authentic, Trustworthy, Traceable, and Ethical.

# ECONOMIC VIABILITY

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Sustainable livestock farming should allow livestock farmers all over the world to financially support their families by achieving an acceptable income. It should evolve to an attractive business that provides young professionals sufficient financial security and stability to invest in the future.

# CONSULTATION WITH FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS

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Farmers are critical stakeholders in the global and rural agricultural economy. Representative of farmers' organizations must therefore be fully consulted in the decisions to enhance sustainable livestock production, including those at bilateral and multilateral level.

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