



INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ROLE OF ANIMALS

Rationale:

About a billion people in the world are food-insecure (1), unable to obtain enough food every day, creating a serious humanitarian and national security problem. The solution for this enormous and complex problem must include increased food production both globally and in the countries with greatest food insecurity.

Important aspects of the issue include:

- Global food security is impossible without global food sufficiency.
- With increasing populations and purchasing power in developing countries, demand for animal products will increase dramatically during coming decades.
- Crop yields and animal efficiency are substantially lower in developing countries than in developed ones, providing opportunity for rapid improvement.
- Past success shows that necessary increases in food production require significant public investments in research, extension and education.
- Public research and educational funding directed to food production has diminished during recent decades (2).
- Agricultural development involves not only farming technology, but also infrastructure such as roads, supply and marketing chains, banking, legal systems and others.
- Livestock benefit smallholders in resource-poor regions by utilizing non-food biomass, as a source of essential nutrients and as a cash reserve

Policy Statement:

The Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) strongly supports all efforts to enhance international agricultural development to promote global food security, and emphasizes that animal production must be an integral component of developing agricultural systems.

Policy Objectives:

- Promote awareness of the food situation in developing countries among the U.S. population to build support for international agricultural development.
- Provide targeted development programs and locally-relevant research, extension and education to support food systems, including livestock production.
- Address the impacts of climate change on agriculture, including livestock production, and the environmental sustainability of food production systems.
- Increase the supply of animal products to improve the nutritional status and health of people in the developing world.

References:

1. FAO, 2009. <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/i0876e/i0876e.pdf>. Accessed February 22, 2011.
2. Eicher, 2009. Rev. B us. Econ. LIV.3:238-257.

Adopted by the FASS Board of Directors on May 5, 2011

For more information, please contact FASSPolicyStatements@assoqh.org