

LIVESTOCK'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rationale:

Despite gains in recent decades, approximately 795 million people worldwide are food-insecure¹, lacking access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food to enable normal growth and development, and an active and healthy life. Current projections indicate that the world population will exceed 9.6 billion by 2050, requiring a doubling of agricultural production. Predicted meat demand would exceed 2010 production levels by 73 percent^{2,3} as a result of increasing population, urbanization, and increasing affluence in many countries. At these projected rates of demand, food security presents critical challenges associated with national security, humanitarian, and environmental concerns. Global solutions for food and nutrient security require improvements in sustainable production and distribution of animal source foods – in developing countries, as well as in all other livestock-producing regions.

The livestock sector currently contributes 40 percent of the global agricultural gross domestic product², and provides 28 percent of the dietary protein consumed worldwide⁴. Nutrient dense animal source foods contribute essential micronutrients, and represent a critical component of human nutrition and food security. Livestock resources also offer opportunity for the world's poor, as much of the increasing animal protein demand must be met by production improvements in developing countries. An estimated 1 billion poor people derive at least part of their livelihood from livestock, often because they have no other options⁴. Worldwide, more than 500 million individual or family farms produce about 80 percent of the value of world's food supply. About 72 percent of these farms are controlled by small holder farmers and livestock keepers with farms less than 2.5 acres (1 hectare) in size³. Investment in international agricultural development is an important target for improved production efficiencies as a means to reduce hunger, improve livelihoods of the world's poor, and increase worldwide food security.

Policy Statement:

The American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) strongly supports efforts to enhance agricultural development internationally. The production of animal source foods and byproducts is a necessary and integral component of both developed and developing agricultural systems to support global food and nutrient security, sustain livelihoods, and enhance health and wellbeing. Improvement of sustainable livestock production capacity worldwide is required for global food security.

Policy Objectives:

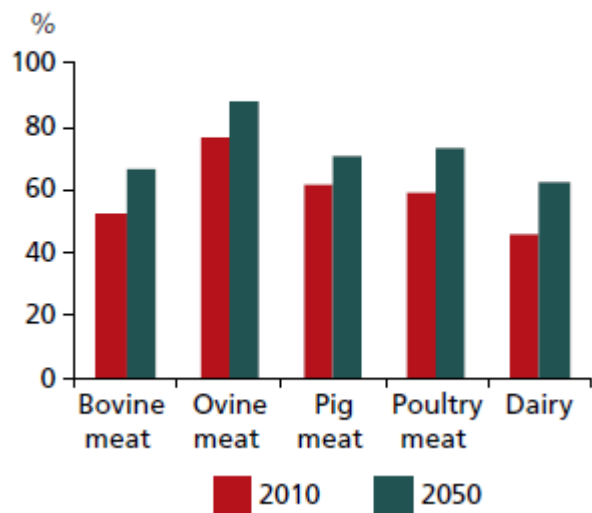
- ASAS endorses engagement in the international livestock sector for growth and improved efficiency and quality in production of animal source foods, in order to meet increasing demand, reduce poverty and malnutrition, and ensure food security in both developing and developed countries.
- Private and public sector investment in targeted development programs and locally-relevant research, extension and education is necessary to support food systems, economic growth, and human and animal health.
- For current and future protein demand to be met, international agricultural capacity building must include development of sustainable livestock systems that enable increased production of animal source foods, protect environmental resources, and buffer communities against environmental, economic, or political shocks.
- Increased investment in livestock-related research and development funding is necessary to catalyze innovation and new solutions for increased production of animal source foods with limited existing resources and variable climate conditions.

References:

1. FAO, IFAD and WFP. 2015. The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015. Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress. Rome, FAO. <http://www.fao.org/3/a4ef2d16-70a7-460a-a9ac-2a65a533269a/i4646e.pdf>
2. FAO. 2011. World Livestock 2011: Livestock in Food Security. Rome, FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2373e/i2373e.pdf>
3. FAO. 2014. The State of Food and Agriculture: Innovation in family farming. Rome, FAO. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4040e.pdf>
4. Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. 2014. Towards Sustainable Livestock discussion document. http://www.livestockdialogue.org/fileadmin/templates/res_livestock/docs/2014_Colombia/2014_Towards_Sustainable_Livestock-dec.pdf

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PERCENT OF TOTAL CONSUMPTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Projected increase in meat consumption in developing countries.

Figure from page 92 (Table 16) of:

FAO. 2011. World Livestock 2011: Livestock in Food Security. Rome, FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2373e/i2373e.pdf>