

## Workshop 2

### The role of livestock in climate change: current knowledge and open questions

Facilitator: Fritz Schneider, SHL, Zollikofen, Switzerland

Fritz Schneider as the moderator of the afternoon workshops gave another insight into major drivers of change and trends in global agriculture and livestock systems. With reference to a current Swiss meat advertisement, Schneider started with *food for thought*. What should be on the plate: 'Schweizer Fleisch ... alles andere ist Beilage' or 'Alles andere ... und als Beilage Fleisch'? In line with the speakers of the morning session, Schneider clearly demonstrated that demand for meat is increasing greatly on a global scale. Drivers such as higher income, population growth, and urbanization, are resulting in increasing meat consumption, a trend that puts great pressure on the Earth's ecological system. But we have to keep in mind that livestock do not always compete with alternative land uses, so that substitution does not always make sense nor is it even viable.

Schneider structured the open discussion into 3 main areas: (1) Completion of knowledge (Collection of comments, additions, and questions); (2) What can we do to reduce the impact of livestock on climate; (3) Realistic next steps.

Out of the broad range of issues, the floor discussion concentrated on the following:

**Intensification:** As a strategic principle, intensification has become essential, but it has to be guided by policy principles: *getting the prices right, polluters pay/providers get, livestock/ecosystem balance; institutions for environmental stewardship*. Today's farmers are pushed to intensify beyond capacity and they need support. Even if it is difficult to support them with financial compensation or subsidies (for example within the Clean Development Mechanism), some positive experience exists (for example from the LEAD pilot project in Costa Rica). If we pursue a livelihood approach, improvements and intensification of livestock systems on rangeland is still possible. Yet such livestock systems have nearly reached their production limits for a global market. Intensification and increase in production is more promising in the mixed and landless meat production (pork and poultry) system.

**Regulations/prices:** Do we need regulations and what kind of regulations can influence consumption patterns? Comparison with the organic beef market or car taxation shows that regulations and prices do not necessarily change production systems. On the other hand, it is possible that (some) people choose to consume less meat (health?). Thus, participants broadly acknowledged that awareness creation and 'correct pricing' are part of the game, but they did not discuss it in detail. Including externalities in the price of products is common sense. But participants did not reach an agreement on the role and kind of regulations, suggesting that more knowledge/research is necessary.

#### **Finding synergies between agriculture, food security and CC mitigation:**

Actors such as individuals/families; livestock keepers; governments (also BLW; SDC, SECO, BAFU); research; specialized groups; UN organizations (FAO, IFAD etc.); and the private sector – all have a specific role to play, but for developing synergies the focus should be on real **interaction and exchange with other actors**. It is crucial to develop a range of choices that allows small-scale farmers to integrate (or exclude) livestock in their farming systems in an economically beneficial way, as well as to develop exit strategies for livestock keepers who

realize that they cannot compete in the market. Their rationale must be understood (livestock keeping for banking/status/multipurpose strategies) within their socio-cultural background. A **systemic approach** is necessary in order to identify synergetic options beneficial for the livelihoods of smallholders and livestock keepers, for food security issues and CC mitigation. The **need for research** came up in nearly all aspects of this discussion, not only with regard to quantification (levels of productivity, inclusion of GHG emission into productivity calculation etc.), but also in relation to the matter of 'measuring sustainability'. On the other hand, knowledge is often available but not applied (a general problem not only in development cooperation). There is a **need for extension** of knowledge/techniques. In regard to CC mitigation, morning speakers ascribed a high potential to the livestock system, as within agriculture livestock is a major driver of CC (18% of GHG emissions from agriculture / CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents). But many questions arose about how this potential can be made use of. Do available data reveal how reduced meat consumption would influence CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents?

### **Realistic next steps for Swiss players**

- In each project action, make sure you capitalize (use!) existing experience.
- Coordinate; interact with other programs and actions.
- Get serious about real Public Private Partnerships
- Awareness raising activities are essential (Governance)
- Make specific efforts to spread the Livestock in a Changing Landscape publication
- The global livestock sector needs rules (as trade rules, production guidelines, best practices, and codes of conduct)

### Additional sources:

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