

PRO-POOR LIVESTOCK POLICY INITIATIVE

In 2001, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations launched an initiative to facilitate and support the formulation and implementation of policies and institutional changes that have a positive impact on the livelihoods of a large number of the world's poor. In view of the critical role played by livestock in supporting and sustaining their livelihoods, the initiative has a distinct focus on livestock.

The basic rationale of this Initiative derives from the realization that the technology oriented projects in the livestock sector and related sectors have failed to deliver significant improvements in the livelihoods of the poor, and that an enabling institutional and policy environment is indispensable for enhancing the impact and sustainability of pro-poor interventions. Positive steps would include:

- ❖ efficient, fair and equitable access to input and output markets;
- ❖ improved access to livestock services;
- ❖ Development of grass-root organizations that increase the negotiating power of marginalized groups.

The initiative is supported by the Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Facility (PPLPF) based at FAO headquarters in Rome, and will be complemented by "regional hubs" in South Asia, South-East Asia, the Horn of Africa, West Africa and the Andean region.

PPLP MISSION

The Initiative will contribute to poverty reduction through the formulation of international and national livestock policies that will ensure equitable, safe and clean livestock farming.

With the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals by the entire United Nations membership, the global community formally subscribed to reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half between 1990 and 2015.

Achieving this target will only be possible if three essential requirements can be met:

- ❖ Economic growth must be substantially faster than population growth;
- ❖ Economic growth must be focused on the poor; and
- ❖ The vulnerability of poor people to shocks such as disease and drought must be reduced.

A key challenge is therefore to identify and promote income opportunities that may lead to significant economic growth for the poor. Such opportunities are limited. One sector where they do exist is Livestock.

PPLP THE CENTRAL FACILITY

Rationale

Livestock ownership currently supports or sustains the livelihoods of an estimated 700 million rural poor. For many of these rural poor, livestock provide a small but steady stream of food and income, help raise whole farm productivity and are often the only way of increasing assets and diversifying risks. In addition, livestock have an important role in improving the nutritional status of low-income households, confer status, are of cultural importance and create employment opportunities beyond the immediate household.

Driven by human population growth, increasing urbanization and rising incomes, the demand for, and production of, livestock and livestock products in developing countries is predicted to double over the next 20 years. Major trends in livestock production, which particularly affect rural, small-scale livestock producers are:

- ❖ Increasing pressure on common grazing and water resources.
- ❖ A shift in livestock production from a local, multi-purpose activity to an increasingly market-oriented and vertically-integrated business.
- ❖ Strong growth of industrial production units reliant on the use of cereal based feeds close to urban centres

While these trends give cause for concern, the projected growth in livestock offers a unique opportunity: a rapidly growing market, in which many rural people already have experience and from which they could benefit without the need for substantial additional resources.

Unfortunately, in many countries the livestock sector is heavily distorted in favour of large-scale producers and the opportunities for broad-based poverty reduction through livestock can only be fully exploited within a policy environment, which reduces existing financial, technical and cultural barriers faced by small-scale livestock keepers, and which at the same time reduces their risks and vulnerability.

The PPLP Initiative will therefore, through strategic alliances that capitalize on the comparative advantage of the FAO and different partner organizations, encourage and facilitate conceptual shifts in policy objectives that:

- ❖ Create and strengthen the capacity of the poor to act for themselves.
- ❖ Engage the poor as partners sharing rights and responsibilities.
- ❖ Create incentives for the poor to mobilize resources.
- ❖ Help catalyze the formation of people's organization.
- ❖ Protect the assets of the poor to reduce their vulnerability.

Role of the Central Facility

A central Pro-poor Livestock Policy Facility, funded by the UK Department for International Development, has been established at the FAO headquarters with the responsibility of guiding and co-ordinating the Initiative's regional activities and with the ambition to become a point of reference for pro-poor livestock policy development.

With the goal of enhancing the contribution livestock and the livestock sector can make to poverty reduction, the Central Facility, in close collaboration with regional initiatives, will:

- ❖ Generate a portfolio of livestock-related interventions for the reduction of poverty through policy and institutional change;
- ❖ Increase the awareness and realization of the potential contribution of livestock and the livestock sector to poverty alleviation;
- ❖ Develop effective systems of livestock policy information generation, exchange and analysis, as well as decision-support and monitoring and evaluation tools; and
- ❖ Establish mechanisms for effective stakeholder representation in the negotiation of policies and institutional changes that better support the livestock-related component of poor people's livelihoods

PPLPI REGIONAL HUBS

Within the framework of the overall Initiative, the Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Facility (PPLPF) will attempt to establish a number of regional hubs with the aim of linking local concerns to global action on the one hand whilst improving the understanding of the impact of global action on local conditions.

The ultimate objective of the regional hubs is the formulation, adoption and implementation of policies at appropriate level (local, national, regional) that best promote equitable, safe and clean livestock keeping.

Five geographical regions have tentatively been selected as pilot areas for a first phase of the project, namely: **South-East Asia, South Asia, East Africa, West Africa and Andean Region.**

In collaboration with the Central Facility, the regional hubs will perform the following specific roles:

- ❖ Identification of policy issues that impact directly on ultimate beneficiaries, i.e. poor livestock keepers.
- ❖ Enhancement of local capacity for policy analysis, formulation and negotiation.
- ❖ Fostering the policy dialogue aimed at the promotion of pro-poor livestock policies at regional and national levels.
- ❖ Establishment of partnerships with relevant regional and national organizations.

For the initiative to achieve its objectives, partnerships with other organizations will form a key element of the implementation process. There are numerous agencies, research institutions, NGOs and civil society organizations involved in the livestock sector, many of which have important advantages and strengths. Through the establishment of strategic and mutually beneficial alliances, the initiative intends to minimise duplication of efforts and channel the pool of expertise and experience in the global livestock sector towards the goal of poverty reduction.

Andean Region

In close collaboration with the headquarter based PPLPF, the regional hub will provide unbiased information and advice to various stakeholders and provide negotiation platforms so as to strengthen local, national and regional decision making processes surrounding the livestock-poverty interface.

The Andean hub will initially cover Bolivia, Ecuador and Perú. The Consortium for the Sustainable Development of Andean Ecorregion (CONDESAN) is the regional institution chosen to drive the process required for the design and establishment of the regional hub.

An important element of the work program of the Andean hub, when established, will comprise of policy-oriented research and analyses in priority policy areas targeted towards the specific needs and characteristics of the poor in this region.

The Andean component of the PPLPI pro-actively seeks to build alliances with research institutions, government agencies, private sector, NGOs, and civil society organizations in the countries covered to build on their strengths and to provide a pool of expertise and experience in the livestock sector in this region towards the goal of poverty reduction.

East Africa

The East African Hub will provide unbiased information and advice to strengthen and facilitate processes and mechanisms for the formulation and promotion of policy and institutional reforms that reduce existing financial, technical, and social and cultural barriers, that increase competitiveness, and that reduce risks and vulnerability of livestock-dependent poor in the region.

Activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the headquarter-based PPLPF, and initially cover Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union (AU/IBAR) in Nairobi, is the contracted organization driving the design and establishment of the regional hub.

The East African Hub will encourage activities that bring together the stakeholders across the region to discuss and resolve issues that impede cooperation and pro-poor policy making. This will facilitate creation of appropriate policy environments to foster a long-term process of informed policy making including the development of market mechanisms in the sector. In support of these activities, the hub will also carry out policy-oriented research and analyses in a number of stakeholder identified thematic areas to address the specific needs and characteristics of livestock-dependent poor in this region.

South Asia

In close collaboration with the headquarter based PPLPF, the regional hub will provide unbiased information and advice to various stakeholders so as to strengthen the decision making processes surrounding the livestock-poverty interface. The South Asia hub will initially cover Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.

An important element of the South Asia work program will comprise of policy-oriented research and analyses in priority policy areas targeted towards the specific needs and characteristics of the poor in this region.

The South Asia component of the PPLPI pro-actively seeks to build alliances with research institutions, government agencies, private sector, NGOs, and civil society organizations in the countries covered to build on their strengths and to provide a pool of expertise and experience in the livestock sector in this region towards the goal of poverty reduction. The South Asia hub furthermore seeks to foster strong linkages between the organizations and individuals not located in the region but concerned about livestock-poverty interface in South Asia.

South East Asia

In close collaboration with the headquarter-based PPLPF, the South-East Asia hub endeavours to provide unbiased information and advice to various stakeholders so as to strengthen the negotiation and decision making processes surrounding the livestock-poverty interface. Initially, the South-East Asia hub envisages to cover Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, which together harbour around 45 million rural poor.

An important element of the work program of the South-East Asia hub will comprise of policy-oriented research and analyses in priority policy areas targeted towards the specific needs and characteristics of the poor in this region. As other regional hubs, the South-East Asia component of the PPLPI pro-actively seeks to build alliances with research institutions, government agencies, private sector, NGOs, and civil society organizations in the countries covered to build on their strengths and to provide a pool of expertise and experience in the livestock sector in this region towards the common goal of poverty reduction.

The South-East Asia hub furthermore seeks to foster strong linkages between the organizations and individuals not located in the region but nevertheless concerned about developments and the livestock-poverty interface in South-East Asia.

West Africa

The objective of the West African hub is to serve as a regional entity that provides relevant, timely and un-biased information to facilitate the formulation, adoption and implementation of equitable (fairly distributed), safe (public health risks managed) and clean (environmentally sound and sustainable) livestock farming policies at local, national and regional level.

In first instance the following countries in West Africa have been included in the hub: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea- Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

The activities of the hub will focus on understanding poor livestock farmers' survival/livelihood strategies, identify constraints and opportunities for poor-livestock farmers to improve their livelihoods (access to resources especially land, water, animals and credit as well as opportunities such as regarding marketing, value adding, etc.) as well as understanding the present policy making processes.

In close collaboration with the headquarter based PPLPF, the regional hub will provide negotiating platforms, strengthen and facilitate the formulation and promotion of policy and institutional reforms to increase competitiveness and reduce risks and vulnerability of livestock-dependent poor in the region.

The regional hub will establish close linkages with research institutions, government agencies, private sector, NGOs, and civil society organizations in the countries covered to build on their strengths and to provide a pool of expertise and experience in the livestock sector in this region towards the common goal of poverty reduction.

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