

Dairy Asia: Towards Sustainability
From Concept to Action

Anand
23-26 March 2015

A Joint Communiqué

We, the delegates to the High Level Dairy Asia Meeting on Sustainable Dairy Development, convened jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the National Dairy Development Board of India, the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA) and the Global Agenda of Action for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) from 23-26 March 2015, in Anand, India:

Consider the rapid growth in the demand for milk and milk products an opportunity to make substantial contribution to the national and regional food security, nutrition, rural development and empowerment of women in Asia.

Appreciate that while capitalizing on this opportunity, we need to be conscious about growing pressure on natural resources (land, water and biodiversity), increasing feed scarcity, climate change and the need for more equitable national and regional development.

Stress that the notion of sustainability must be considered in its full complexity encompassing all its pillars—economic, social and ecological; and sustainability must be considered a societal issue.

Recognize that meeting the future challenges requires integrated efforts by a wide range of stakeholders so as to capitalize on the strength of dairy production systems in the region and to minimize the potential negative impact of rapid growth in demand and supply of dairy products.

Agree that the cause of future dairy development in the region would be better served by promoting and adopting technologies and management practices that facilitate integration of economic profitability, social and economic equity, and ecological sustainability goals.

Together, we endorse the **Strategic Framework for Sustainable Dairy Development in Asia** and commit to work towards raising awareness and implementing the strategic objectives outlined in the Framework paper. In this context, we agree to promote measures to

- (i) strengthen advisory and other support on improved animal nutrition, appropriate breeding programs, good animal health support and more efficient nutrient recycling with the objective of increasing efficiency and profitability of the dairy value chain
- (ii) promote fair and efficient markets including institutional structures to integrate small producers in the modern value chain
- (iii) create employment and income generation opportunities, especially for rural women, and promote household food security and rural livelihoods
- (iv) improve dairy food quality and safety including improvement of regulatory and support measures
- (v) enhance consumer awareness to enable them to make more informed choices
- (vi) advocate within our respective countries consideration of school milk programs as part of the national nutrition strategy and programs
- (vii) strengthen stakeholder capacity to cope with production and market risks and for innovation
- (viii) raise the profile of dairy in national and international policy making fora/processes
- (ix) minimize the negative impact on natural resources — land, water and biodiversity; and improve mitigation/adaptation to climate change.

We support strong institutional linkages between research, extension and stakeholders for and promotion of more efficient husbandry practices and environmentally sound interventions. We agree to promote solutions that rely on improving the knowledge base of stakeholders, emphasizing learning-oriented dairy extension systems and encourage the formulation of conducive policies and investment climate in sustainable dairy development in support of food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

We recognize the complexity of future challenges including the diversity across countries. While recognizing the legitimacy of differences in challenges, opportunities and the response mechanisms, we also recognize that these challenges can be better dealt via coordinated joint action among and within all countries in the region. In view of this, we pledge to work together and create regional and national multi-stakeholder partnerships in pursuit of our joint vision.

Our Vision

A Socially and Environmentally responsible Asian Dairy Sector that enhances rural livelihoods, improves nutrition, and contributes to economic prosperity.