



Principles of Engagement for Efforts Toward Collaboration on Climate, Trade and Food Systems Events

The livestock sector of the Americas is a global leader in sustainable food production and exports yet is also vulnerable to and experiencing the effects of climate change on productivity, livelihoods, and natural resources, including the livestock-forestry system. At the same time, our sector is one of only a very few that are currently offering immediate proven solutions to mitigate climate change in an efficient and economically viable manner.

We observe that too often policies intended to reduce human environmental impact overlook the sector's positive contributions and fail to adequately consider the diverse circumstances and unique needs of livestock producers in different regions including producers of livestock-forestry regions. Recent global convenings have heightened the need for agricultural producers in the Americas, particularly livestock producers, to join together, engage their government representatives, and work with likeminded organizations to insist that efforts intended to promote more sustainable agri-food systems are driven by science, empirical evidence, avoid ideology, reject one-size-fits all approaches, reflect the realities of food production, encourage sustainable productivity growth, incentivize trade, and put producers first.

Livestock producers in the Americas have been working for years to increase food production while addressing food security and lowering environmental footprint. Further addressing the climate impact of the livestock ecosystem is a priority concern and shared responsibility that requires science-based solutions, innovations, and policies, alongside greater investments.

The lack of incentives together with the rising costs and risks associated with climate change and the investments needed for more sustainable agri-food systems cannot be shouldered by producers alone. Financing must be made available and capital markets created or evolved to incentivize sustainable production and emissions reductions that are accessible, de-risk investment, and facilitate education and communication programs. Partnerships, multisectoral platforms, and other knowledge and innovation exchange must be encouraged. It is critical to show the importance of livestock operations in numerous developing countries with many small and medium farmers.

The undersigned organizations, therefore, recognize that trade is important for the livelihood of our industries as well as consumers around the world and that we play an important role in the economy of our countries. Furthermore, we acknowledge that COP 28 and other future climate and food systems events present important opportunities for collaboration by agricultural stakeholders in the Americas. We, therefore, commit to work together, particularly with our government representatives, to:

1. Encourage the greater cooperation between public and private sector with emphasis in presence of the Ministries and Secretariats of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in climate policy deliberation; with the support from Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and other relevant organizations.
2. Advocate the critical importance of the ecosystem of livestock production in and the major contributions of animal-sourced foods and animal-based products to sustainable agri-food systems.
3. Elevate focus on food and nutrition security in all agri-food systems deliberations and highlight nutritional, social, and economic tradeoffs associated with policy change.
4. Support evidence and science-based decisions that advance sustainable productivity growth, as well as the production of nutritious, safe, and accessible foods.
5. Promote the essential role of trade to achieving more sustainable agri-food systems.
6. Expand access to scientific and technical knowledge and information for livestock producers and policymakers to inform the design and implementation of actions to respond to the impacts of climate change.
7. Strengthen collective efforts to share and promote best practices such as those aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving water management, increasing carbon sequestration and soil health, reducing food loss and waste, and other measures that provide multiple co-benefits.
8. Support greater access to climate funding and market-based incentives for producers in the Americas, including direct incentive to strengthen adaptation, promote mitigation, and scale implementation of science-based practices, technologies, and innovations.
9. Recognize that the great diversity of existing agri-food production systems in the Americas requires solutions adapted to local realities and that any transition must leave behind no sectors or producers.
10. Reject imitation products that are trying to use the nutritional value of our products like dairy and meat to promote nutritional deficient chemical or plant based products.
11. Express our support and hope for a successful outcome of COP 28 and other climate and food systems events that highlight the relevance, contributions and needs of agriculture in the Americas and the value of the livestock sector's contribution to food and nutrition security and sustainable development.

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