

MORE ABOUT PARALLEL SESSION:  
**THE ROLE OF LIVESTOCK IN ACHIEVING THE SDGS**

The session will be in a format of a round table with four invited speakers. The invited speakers will be:

- **Pierre Gerber**, Senior Livestock Specialist at World Bank/FAO
- **Sipke Joost Himstra**, Director of the Centre for Genetic Resources (CGN), the Netherlands
- **Jan-Willem Straatsma**, Director of Sustainability at FrieslandCampina
- **Koen van Troos**, President of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International.

Livestock production is at a crossroad. While some perceive livestock as a threat, others see livestock as a cornerstone to achieve the SDGs. On the one hand, livestock production contributes to environmental degradation and relies on human-edible feeds. The livestock sector, for example, is responsible for almost 15% of the anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases; is considered a main driver of land use and land use change (e.g. deforestation); and is associated with loss of (agro-)biodiversity. Improvements in livestock productivity, moreover, have been achieved a.o. through use of grains as feed, enabling competition for plant-biomass between livestock and humans and for the resources needed to produce it (e.g. land, water, nutrients, etc.).

Livestock production, on the other hand, has been recognised as a key element to achieve the SDGs. Livestock, for example, is an important source of food, especially when produced on marginal lands or when fed on waste and by-products. Many smallholders around the world depend on livestock for their livelihoods. They play a key role in poverty alleviation and gender equality. The adoption of certain farming practices, moreover, can lead to carbon sequestration and biodiversity preservation (both wildlife and diversity of local breeds).

Livestock production, therefore, is strongly linked to the SDGs, creating inherent synergies and trade-offs between and within SDGs, such as ending hunger (SDG2), alleviating poverty and promoting gender equality (SDG 1 and 5), producing and consuming responsibly (SDG12), acting on climate change (SDG13) and preserving life on earth (SDG 15).

There is urgent need to engage in a constructive debate, involving several stakeholders, about the role of livestock in a sustainable future to achieve the SDGs. It is time to bring together scholars, institutions and companies that work towards balancing the interactions between SDGs in livestock production and to share their views. Hopefully, a first step to create partnerships for impact.

The panel brings together actors related to livestock production and representing different stakeholders, i.e. governmental institutions and funding agencies (FAO/World Bank), companies (FrieslandCampina), research/institution (Centre for Genetic Resources) and non-governmental organisations (Vétérinaires Sans Frontières).

The panel will engage in a constructive discussion facilitated by a chair of the session (the facilitator/chair of the session will be Dr. Raimon Ripoll Bosch –WUR-). The invited speakers will provide their insights into the role of livestock to achieving SDGs by addressing four main questions and topics. Speakers will provide their viewpoint in each question/topic turns (of 4-5 minutes each). Afterwards, there will be time (about 20 minutes) for interaction and discussion among the speakers and between the speakers and the audience.

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The main questions/topics to be addressed will be:

- What are the main contributions of livestock to SDGS and what are the drawbacks (if any) to attain SDGs?

Here, it is expected that speakers will address from their perspective, context and field of expertise whether they foresee a dilemma in the role of livestock in achieving SDGs or mainly contributions and they can provide on or two examples to illustrate their view.

- What are you or your institution/company) doing to balance the different goals?

Speakers will have time here to elaborate on their work and the work of their institution/company towards achieving SDGs. What is their role.

- What are the main challenges you think we face to meet the SDGs through livestock?

Here, a diversity of interventions is expected. Speakers can come up with a variety of responses related to limitations (e.g. methodological, practical, legislation, consumers or knowledge), to synergies and or trade-offs among goals, but also with other domains, sectors or disciplines, or to address what is needed to make real improvement towards SDGs (e.g. financial support, advise, coordination or strategic partnerships).

- Make one statement on "The role of livestock in achieving the SDGs"

The session will be organised as follows:

Introduction of the session by the Chair (5 min.)

Question 1 (16 min. -4 min. per speaker; turn of speakers A, B, C,

D-) Quick Q&A for clarification only (2 min.)

Question 2 (16 min. -4 min. per speaker; turn of speakers B, C, D,

A-) Quick Q&A for clarification only (2 min.)

Question 3 (16 min. -4 min. per speaker; turn of speakers C, D, A, B-)

Quick Q&A for clarification only (2 min.)

Question 4 (8 min. -2 min. per speaker; turn of speakers D, A, B, C-)

General Discussion (20 min.)

In total, the session will last 90 min.

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