



The IMS is a non-profit organization catering exclusively to the requirements of the worldwide meat and livestock sector

IMS Position Paper for COP21 Climate Change Meeting: The meat and livestock industry is tackling climate change

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the **environmental performance** of meat and livestock are **key priorities for the meat and livestock industry**. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, livestock including dairy contributes about 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

We are reducing GHG emissions by adopting **innovative health and husbandry practices and tools** that support **sustainable and environmentally responsible production** of animal protein, utilizing less resources and resulting in less environmental impact. Working together with all our partners in the production chain, we are:

- Improving **animal breeding and health programs** to raise productivity and developing **better animal nutrition** to avoid carbon or nitrogen losses in the atmosphere.
- Promoting **manure management practices to recycle nutrients and energy** and enhance profitability from this natural fertilizer, while reducing ammonia and methane emissions.
- **Preserving the soil** by optimizing grass production, managing grazing land for ruminants, preventing erosion, and avoiding overgrazing, with benefits in carbon sequestration.
- **Significantly reducing deforestation** through sustainable intensification.
- **Utilizing best technologies in meat processing** to optimize resources, significantly reducing the use of water and energy, while at the same time improving working conditions.

Livestock underpins rural society, and we are committed to producing in a sustainable manner. Livestock **uses mainly land not suited for crops** and for which there is no other productive use. Livestock transform the 80% of all feed that is not edible, such as grass, biomass, crop residues and by-products, into high-value food.

Livestock are necessary for **nutrition security and diversity to diets**. Meat and other animal products such as milk and eggs are nutrient-rich and energy-dense, and are excellent sources of protein, vitamins and key micronutrients. Healthy, balanced, diversified diets are crucial to addressing the multiple challenges of malnutrition, which include wasting, stunting, obesity, and anaemia in women of reproductive age.

Globally, livestock contributes 28% of protein in diets. Livestock also produces important **by-products**: power, fiber, medicines, slurry for biogas, and manure to maintain soil fertility, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers. Manure supplies up to 12% of nitrogen for crops and up to 23% in mixed crop–livestock systems in developing countries.

Livestock is an important contributor to global food and nutrition security. Moreover, no other sector is more **crucial to the poor**. FAO estimates 1 billion poor people derive at least part of their livelihood from livestock production.

Members of the International Meat Secretariat around the world are actively engaged in multi-stakeholder actions to design cost effective and fair mitigation strategies tailored to the diversity and complexity of the sector, based on sound science, robust data, and constructive dialogue. Much progress has already been made, and we are committed to a **culture of continuous improvement**.

We are proud to provide high-quality, nutritious and delicious animal protein as an essential part of a healthy, sustainable diet.

5 rue Lespagnol
75020 Paris, France

Phone: +33 (0)1 4493 6020
Fax: +33 (0)1 4493 6001

www.meat-ims.org