

Recent Publication

Lithuanian native domestic animal breeds

Compiled by Rūta Šveistienė

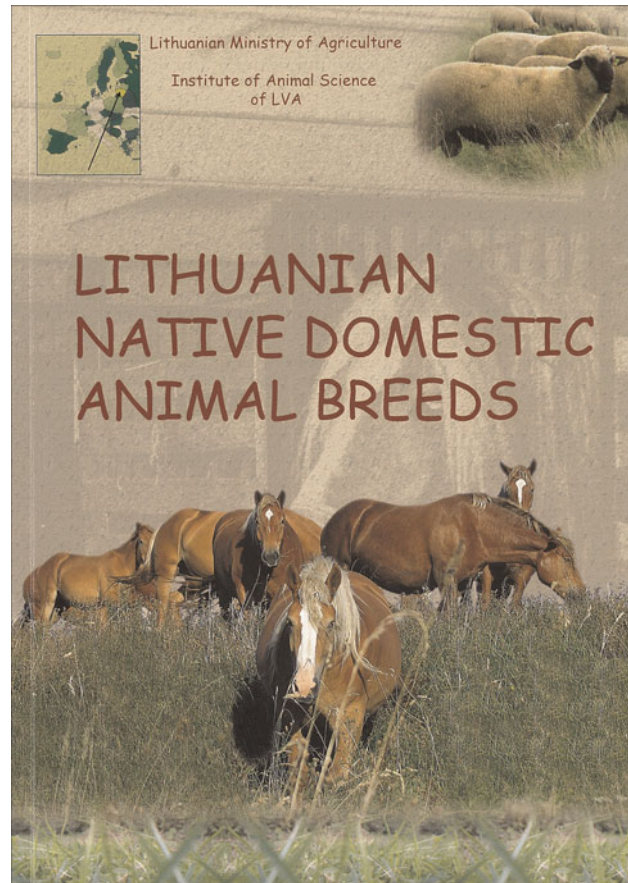
Institute of Animal Science of LVA, Baisogala, Radviliškis
Distr., Lithuania

Published in 2007, 36 pp.

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doi:10.1017/S2078633610001074

This booklet provides an introduction to the eponymous animal genetic resources. A brief overview of the history of animal genetic resources management in Lithuania from the post-First World War period to recent times is followed by short descriptions and histories of individual breeds of horse, cattle, pigs, sheep, goat, goose, dog and bee. Several of these accounts describe factors that have driven native breeds towards extinction, and the steps that have been, or should be, taken to conserve them. The booklet is illustrated throughout with colour photographs.



Recent Publication

FAO. 2010. Breeding strategies for sustainable management of animal genetic resources

FAO Animal Production and Health Guidelines. No. 3.

Rome, pp 155.

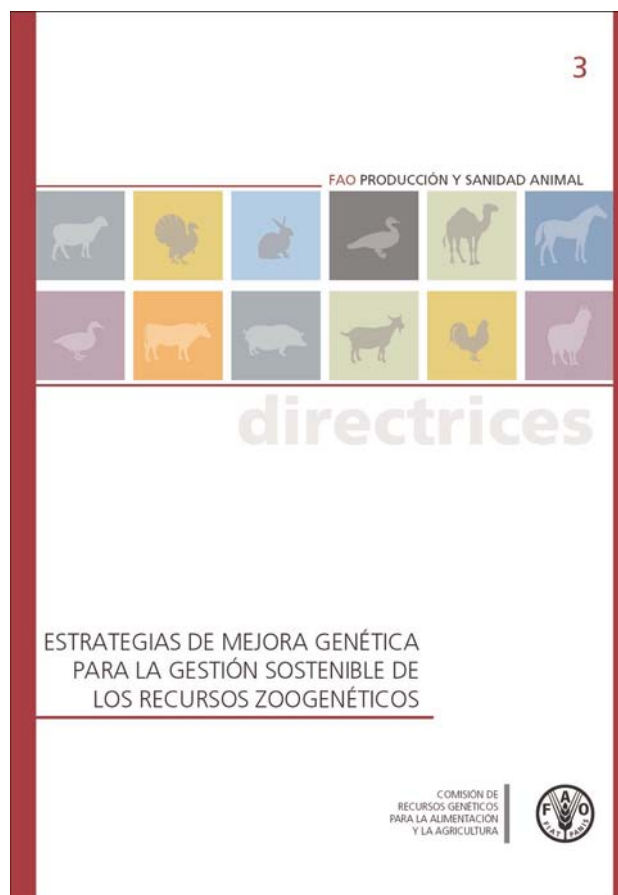
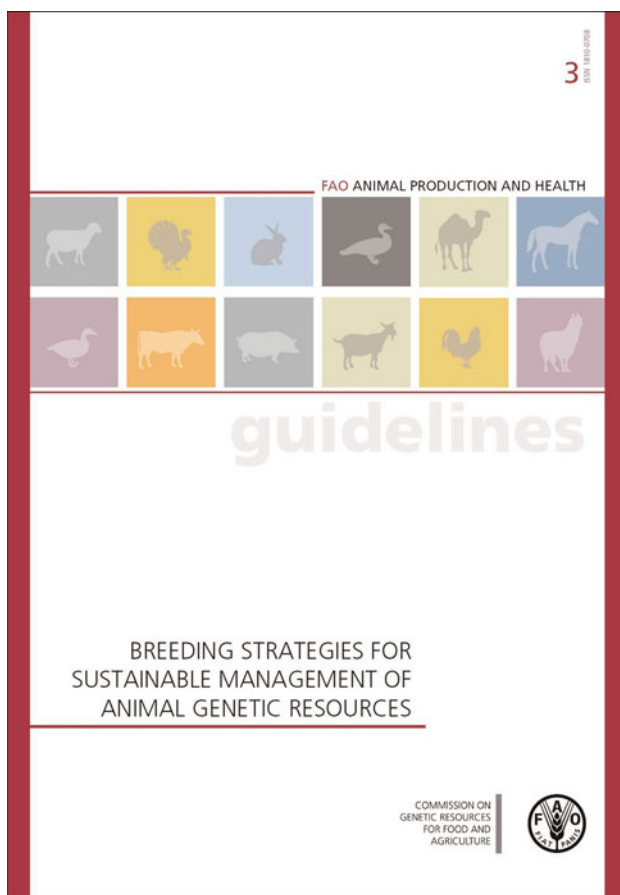
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doi:10.1017/S2078633610001086

The full potential of animal genetic resources is not being realized, particularly in developing countries, and it is recognized that there is a great need to improve the use and development of these resources. This is clearly stated in *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and in the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*, adopted by the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in Interlaken, Switzerland, in September 2007, and subsequently endorsed by all FAO member countries. The *Breeding strategies for sustainable*

management of animal genetic resources, prepared by FAO, are a contribution to meeting these needs. The specific objective of the guidelines is to assist countries to plan and develop effective genetic improvement programmes and to maximize the chances that these programmes will be sustained. The guidelines aim to address policy, operational and technical issues, and how these interplay to shape the outcomes of breeding strategies. Policy-makers and organizations involved in livestock development are the principal target audience. The guidelines adopt a broad scope in order to avoid fragmenting the topic and presenting policy, operational or technical matters in an unconnected way to different groups of users. A comprehensive approach is necessary because the lessons learned from livestock breeding in practice demonstrate that activities must be coordinated and integrated in time and space in order to achieve clarity of direction and efficiency of operation, and that the whole process must be underpinned by a sound understanding of technical issues. The initial sections of the guidelines take a national or regional perspective. Later sections become progressively more targeted towards breeding



organizations and those responsible for implementing specific breeding schemes, both straight-breeding and cross-breeding. Each section outlines a set of tasks that needs to be carried out in order to achieve the desired outcomes. Each of these tasks is further broken down into a series of actions. The last section of the guidelines deals with the evaluation of investment decisions and return on investment in genetic improvement.

The six sections of the guidelines are more-or-less stand-alone elements, and while knowledge of animal breeding theory and quantitative genetics is not a prerequisite for following the guidelines, such knowledge will certainly lead to more appreciation of the material discussed.

The guidelines include 48 boxes, which provide illustrations and case studies, 8 tables and 4 figures.

Recent Publication

LPP, LIFE Network, IUCN–WISP and FAO. 2010. Adding Value to Livestock Diversity-Marketing to promote local breeds and improve livelihoods

FAO Animal Production and Health Paper. No. 168.

Rome, pp 142.

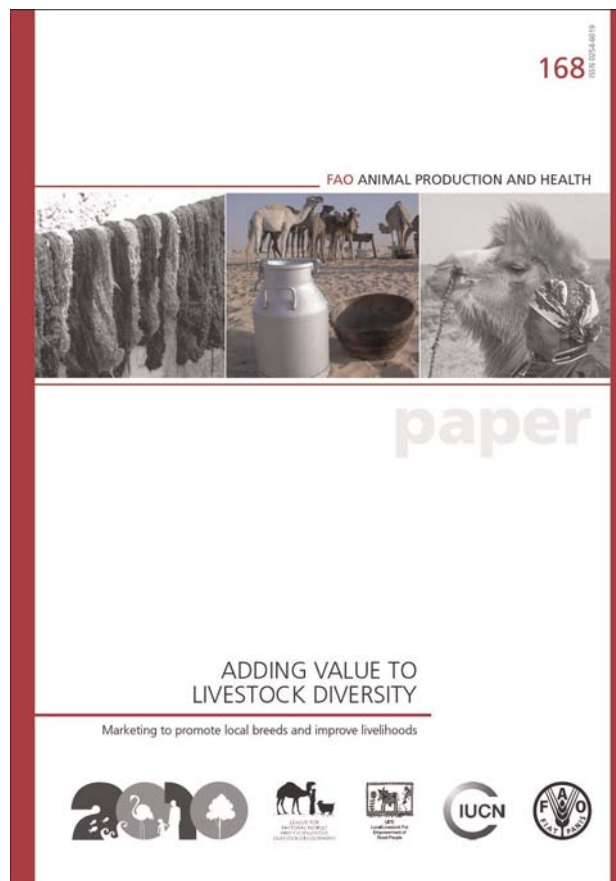
ISBN 978-92-5-106453-5.

Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1283e/i1283e.pdf>
(English version; French and Spanish in preparation)

doi:10.1017/S2078633610001098

Many local breeds and minor species are in decline because they cannot compete with high-yielding specialized breeds. Conserving these local breeds is important as many have unique traits, such as hardiness and disease resistance that are vital for the future of livestock production. One way to ensure the survival these breeds may be to sell their products in high-value specialized markets. This book presents eight examples of the use of such an approach. These case studies are grouped by type of product: (i) wool and cashmere; (ii) meat and hides; and (iii) milk. They cover a range of species (Bactrian camel, dromedaries, goats, and sheep) and seven countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The case studies are followed by a final section that analyses lessons learned. It shows how livestock-keeping communities have kept local breeds in use, while enabling the people who raise them to improve their livelihood.

While local breeds are suited to supplying niche markets – because of cultural factors and the unique characteristics of their products – some of these specificities (e.g. coloured wool) may hinder access to global mass markets. Such products need market development, diversification, market penetration and product development. The case studies describe various types of intervention that contribute to the addition of value – animal production, processing, and organizing and building value chains – with the



main focus on processing and building value chains. The majority of the initiatives described involved a *champion* – a person or organization with a special interest in promoting the enterprise and making sure it worked. The book provides recommendations for those who are already in this business or who want to become involved. It makes nice reading with high degree of practicability.

Recent Publication

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 2010. Pastoralism, Nature Conservation and Development: A Good Practice Guide

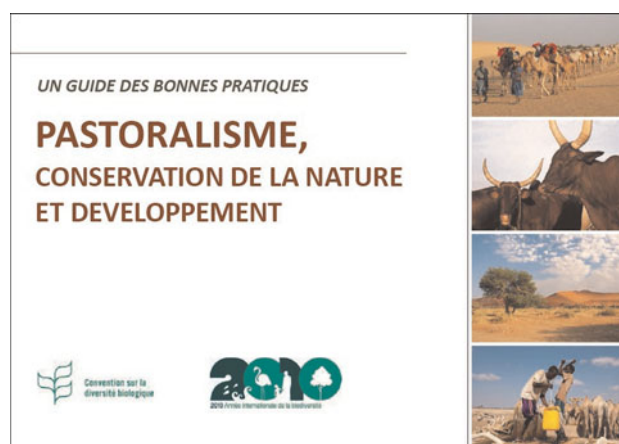
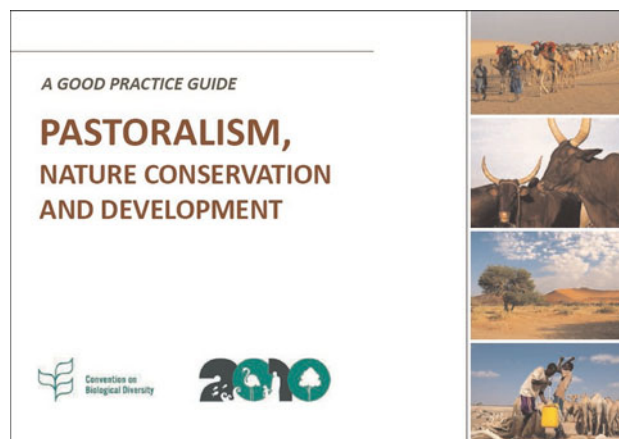
Montreal, 40+iii pages.

ISBN: 92-9225-162-7.

Also Available at: <http://www.cbd.int/development/training/guides/> (in Arabic, English and French)

doi:10.1017/S2078633610001104

This guide addresses the linkages between pastoralism, biodiversity, development and poverty reduction. It aims to raise awareness of tools relevant to the pastoralism sector that have demonstrated benefits for biodiversity and for development. Readers wishing to make use of these tools are provided with numerous supplementary references and sources. The guide describes the role of pastoralism in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in drylands, and the contribution of pastoralism to poverty reduction and development. It presents eight illustrative case studies involving different livestock species in different parts of the world. It highlights the role of public decision-makers and introduces them to policy considerations, management tools, market-based instruments and capacity-building methods that can help augment the social and environmental outcomes of pastoralism. The guide provides examples of good practice in the interface between pastoralism, poverty reduction and biodiversity. It aims to assist Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in establishing national and subnational policies, strategies, plans and projects for the development of pastoralism that consider poverty reduction and the conservation of biodiversity. A CD-ROM attached to the booklet sleeve includes a PDF version of the guide and a summary slide presentation that can be used during training sessions, workshops, strategic planning meetings, etc; users can prepare their own customized presentations by selecting and editing these slides. The guide is highly recommended as reading and training material for stakeholders concerned with pastoralism as a livestock production system, ecology and poverty alleviation.



Recent Publication

Morten Walløe Tvedt and Olivier Rukundo. 2010. Functionality of an ABS Protocol

FNI Report 9/2010, pp 25.

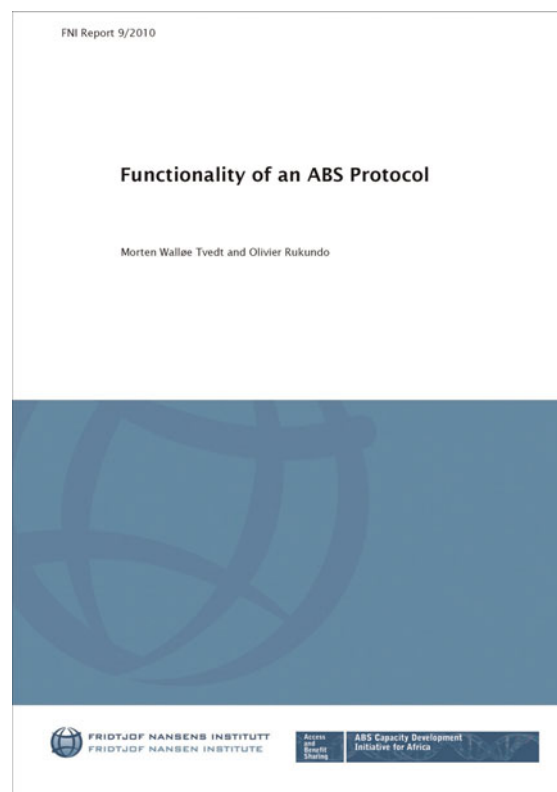
ISBN 978-82-7613-592-3-print version, 978-82-7613-593-0-online version Orders to: Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Postboks 326, N-1326 Lysaker, Norway. Tel: (47) 6711 1900, Fax: (47) 6711 1910 Email: post@fni.no; Also available at <http://www.fni.no/doc&pdf/FNI-R0910.pdf>.

doi:10.1017/S2078633610001116

This report is a contribution from the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI), Norway, as part of a research project on access and benefit sharing (ABS) carried out in cooperation with the multi-donor ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa. The initiative is supported by the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF) and carried out in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The implementation of the Initiative is commissioned by BMZ to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH.

The report is an analysis of the draft Protocol on ABS which came into being after the deliberations of the resumed Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on ABS which took place in July 2010 in Montreal. The report suggests that, as it stands now, the draft protocol contains few elements that clearly serve to create incentives for private or public users to enter into ABS contracts and share benefits that may be created therefrom.

For this reason, the report examines a range of contentious issues where disagreement has prevailed among negotiating parties and regional groups, with a view to providing a legal analysis of the state of the negotiations and with the hope that this can contribute to a better technical understanding of some of the issues at the core of the negotiations and assist in the preparations for the last round of negotiations before the adoption of the protocol. The report endeavours to provide perspectives on where negotiations stand at this juncture. It aims to offer some thoughts as to how certain provisions of the draft protocol can be dealt with in view of ensuring that the protocol will effectively contribute to the fulfillment of the third objective of the CBD. The provisions of the protocol, as they currently stand, will not be conducive to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits unless the wording can be further clarified to ensure that the protocol will be implemented into national legislations and that it



will in fact have legal effect on users of genetic resources. Particular attention is given to issues related to the scope, utilization, and relationship of the prospective protocol with other international instruments.

The functionality of the protocol rests on finding an adequate balance between two imperatives. On the one hand, developing countries often advocate strong compliance mechanisms coupled with clear benefit sharing obligations. This is essentially based on a view that provider-side law and contractual provisions are currently insufficient in dealing with misappropriation and/or misuse. On the other hand, it is not enough to require user-side measures: the protocol must also make those measures reasonable from the perspective of the provider side.

Among issues highlighted in the report are retroactivity and exemptions from the scope of the protocol (e.g. human genetic resources, geographical origin and possibly pathogens). As the CBD has been a binding convention since 1993, states have been obliged to impose benefit-sharing measures for almost 18 years now. The key question with regard to the retroactivity of the protocol is whether it introduces new rules or provides clarification of existing obligations.

The report with its legal tint is an advised reading for CBD negotiators and country delegates.

Recent Publication

FAO. 2009. *The State Of Food And Agriculture 2009 – Livestock in the balance*

ISBN 978-92-5-106215-9;

available at: <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/en/> (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)

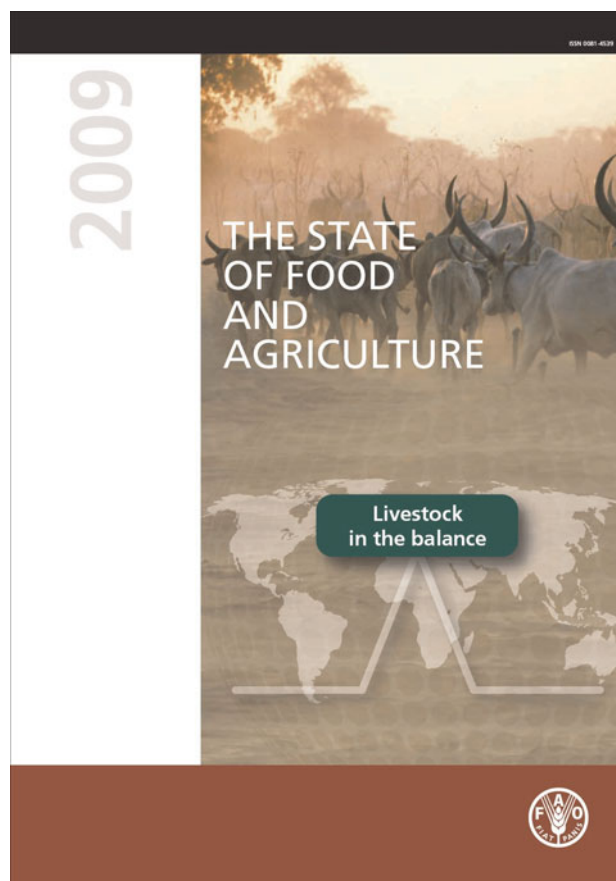
doi:10.1017/S2078633610001128

The latest edition of FAO's flagship publication focuses on livestock and argues that major investments and research efforts, coupled with robust governance are required to ensure that the world's livestock sector responds to a growing demand for animal products and at the same time contributes to poverty reduction, food security, environmental sustainability and human health. The report stresses that livestock is essential to the livelihoods of around one billion poor people. Livestock provides income, high-quality food, fuel, draught power, building material and fertilizer, thus contributing to food security and nutrition. For many small-scale farmers and pastoralists, livestock also provides an important safety net in times of need.

The livestock sector is one of the fastest growing parts of the agricultural economy. Livestock contributes 40 percent of the global value of agricultural production. Globally, livestock contributes 15 percent of total food energy and 25 percent of dietary protein. Products from livestock provide essential micronutrients that are not easily obtained from other plant food products. Rising incomes, population growth and urbanization are the driving forces behind a growing demand for meat products in developing countries. To meet rising demand, global annual meat production is expected to expand from 228 tonnes currently to 463 million tonnes by 2050, with the cattle population estimated to grow from 1.5 billion to 2.6 billion and that of goats and sheep from 1.7 billion to 2.7 billion.

Strong demand for animal food products offers significant opportunities for livestock to contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction. But many smallholders are facing challenges in remaining competitive with larger, more intensive production systems. The report warns that "a widening gulf is emerging between those who can take advantage of growing demand for livestock products and those who cannot." Smallholders should be supported in taking advantage of the opportunities provided by an expanding livestock sector and in managing the risks associated with increasing competition. Broader rural development strategies creating off-farm jobs should help those that may be unable to adapt and compete in a rapidly modernizing sector. The report also highlights the need for "Policy makers to recognize and protect livestock's safety-net function for the very poor".

There is a need to enhance the efficiency of natural-resource use in the sector and to reduce the environmental



footprint of livestock production. The must be to ensure that continued growth in livestock production does not create undue pressure on ecosystems, biodiversity, land and forest resources and water quality and does not contribute to global warming. While some countries have made progress in reducing pollution and deforestation associated with livestock production, many more require appropriate policies and enforcement capacity. Market-based policies, such as taxes and fees for natural-resource use or payments for environmental services, would encourage producers to ensure that livestock production is carried out in a sustainable way. Livestock can play an important role in both adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects on human welfare. To realize the sector's potential to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation based on enhanced capacities to monitor, report and verify emissions from the livestock production new technologies will need to be developed.

Animal diseases pose systemic risks that must be addressed. Since new pathogenic agents will continue to emerge, investments in national animal-health and food safety infrastructure are required. Poor livestock keepers need to be more engaged in disease-control efforts.

As FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf writes in the foreword to the report: "The rapid transition of the livestock sector has been taking place in an institutional void ... The issue of governance is central. Identifying and defining the appropriate role of government, in its broadest sense, is the cornerstone on which

future development of the livestock sector must build." Efforts are needed to ensure that this rapidly growing sector contributes fully to food security and poverty reduction, and that we move – in Dr Diouf's words – "towards a more responsible livestock sector".

Recent Publication

Assessing the environmental impacts of consumption and production: priority products and materials. A Report of the Working Group on the Environmental Impacts of Products and Materials to the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management

E. Hertwich, E. van der Voet, S. Suh, A. Tukker, M. Huijbregts, P. Kazmierczyk, M. Lenzen, J. McNeely and Y. Moriguchi.

United Nations Environment Programme,

Published in 2010, pp. 108.

ISBN: 978-92-807-3084-5.

Available at: http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/documents/pdf/PriorityProductsAndMaterials_Report_Full.pdf

doi:10.1017/S207863361000113X

Habitat change, overexploitation of renewable resources, climate change, and particulate-matter emissions are among the most important environmental problems. These lead to biodiversity losses and negatively affect health (ecological, animal and human). This report, prepared by the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, assesses environmental and resource impacts of production and consumption. It focuses not on the effects of environmental pressure (commonly tied to the extraction and transformation of materials and energy) but on its causes. It describes pressures as consequences of economic activities pursued to satisfy consumption. The report investigates the production-materials-consumption complex. It addresses this fundamental question in two main steps: a review of work assessing the importance of observed pressures and impacts on the Earth's natural system (usually divided into ecological health, human health, and resources provision capability) is followed by an investigation of the causation of these pressures by different economic activities. This work focuses on three main areas: industrial production, i.e. which production processes contribute most to pressures and impacts; final consumption, i.e. which products and consumption categories have the greatest impacts across their life-cycles; and material use, i.e. which materials have the greatest impacts across their life-cycles.

A fundamental question faced by governments worldwide is how different economic activities influence the use of natural resources and the generation of pollution. The report analyses the relative importance of industries (including agriculture), consumption categories and materials across the world and offers a detailed problem description and analysis of the causation of environmental pressures, thus contributing to the knowledge needed for reducing environmental impacts. It indicates where



improvements are necessary, but it does not describe what changes are required or how much they will contribute to improvements.

From available studies and the panel's own analyses, the report concludes that agriculture and food consumption, along with the use of fossil energy carriers, are among the most important drivers of environmental pressures. It further concludes that impacts related to these activities are unlikely to be reduced, but rather enhanced, in a business-as-usual scenario. The study shows that CO₂ emissions are highly correlated with income. Hence, population and economic growth will lead to higher impacts, unless patterns of production and consumption can be changed.

There is a tendency in the report to depict the animal as a culprit for environmental degradation. Examples include the following generalization: "A substantial reduction of environmental impacts would only be possible with a substantial worldwide diet change, away from animal products." While this might be true in many situations, a distinction should be made between livestock production systems where the animal is an enhancing environmental factor and systems where animals may be a detrimental factor; and between countries – the human populations in most developing countries still suffer from diets deficient in the animal protein needed for proper mental and body development, especially among growing children, while other countries face problems associated with the negative effects that excessive consumption of animal products can have on human health.

The report is mainly written to help decision-makers identify priorities from a resources life-cycle perspective.