



## **Statement from the Dr Karen Smyth, Centre for Supporting Evidence Based Intervention in Livestock (SEBI-L)**

[SEBI-Livestock](#) on behalf of the [Livestock Data for Decisions](#) (LD4D) network commends the CFS Policy Recommendations and recognize the crucial role that data can play in advancing food security and better nutrition. Reliable and accessible data can improve our understanding of complex food systems and facilitate decision-making to address challenges. However, as highlighted by the CFS, significant gaps in Food Security and Nutrition data persist and there is limited coordination and harmonization in data collection and analysis. We need to develop more effective data systems at the local, national and international levels. We must also make data more widely accessible by presenting it in user friendly formats that enable their use by decision makers. Most importantly, we need to better understand decision makers' needs in order to produce relevant data and tools.

Animal-source foods play a key role in the provision of scarce and vital nutrients in low- and middle-income settings. They also support the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of poor households and represent around 25% of agricultural GDP. Livestock production is therefore crucial to boost food security, nutrition, national economic growth and smallholder incomes. However in order to unlock its full potential we need data to inform gender-sensitive investments in inputs, infrastructure and markets. The quality, availability and accessibility of data will also determine how well we understand the relationships between social, economic, and environmental impacts of livestock.

Unfortunately, the livestock community faces significant data challenges, and data gaps are compounded by a lack of consistency and reliability. For example, most countries in Africa lack the minimum agricultural data to monitor national trends and the data behind even the most fundamental indicators, such as livestock population, are questioned. Furthermore, the gap between data suppliers and decision makers makes it difficult to generate timely usable data that meet specific decision-making needs.

The LD4D network, managed by SEBI-Livestock, aims to drive informed decision making through better use of existing data and analysis. We are a community that brings together a wide range of stakeholders including academia, multilaterals, governments, and private sector to identify data challenges and develop innovative demand driven solutions. We aim to close the gap between data and decisions by promoting more collaboration and understanding of the needs of livestock decision makers at different levels. We will continue our efforts to improve data systems to support the important link between livestock, smallholder livelihoods, food security and nutrition.