

Second Session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members

Agenda item 2.4: Mainstreaming gender, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people in vulnerable situations into the livestock sector

	Comments (all were provided in English)
New Zealand Monday, 1 July 2024, 6:22 PM	New Zealand fully supports the recommendations of this paper.
Canada Monday, 1 July 2024, 11:46 PM	<p>Dear members of the Sub-Committee on Livestock,</p> <p>Canada would like to thank the Secretariat for the documents provided for this agenda item.</p> <p>We strongly support the recommendation that FAO continue to mainstream gender, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people in vulnerable situations to ensure their systematic consideration in livestock technical and policy programmes, allocating adequate resources for implementation, and strengthening staff capacity. These groups will make important contributions to animal production systems to ensure that the World meets the demands for proteins by 2050. In the last years/decades, Canada worked intensively to increase the participation of underrepresented and marginalized groups in the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sectors. Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) governments incorporated guiding principles to address barriers to participation and consider the needs of groups such as Indigenous Peoples, youth, and women. Progress has been made, but we still need to continue the work to maintain the momentum.</p> <p>Canada supports the call on Members to ensure that systematic consideration is given to gender, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people in vulnerable situations in their livestock sector development. Our FPT governments are continuing to seek improvements in program accessibility, reduce barriers to sector participation and enhance data collection. Indigenous-, sole women-, and youth-operated farms in Canada tend to be smaller operations than men-only farms. For example, in 2021, of the farms in the smallest revenue class (less than \$10K CDN in gross revenues), 48% had women operators (either exclusively or along with men operators) compared to 52% that were operated by men only. In contrast, of the farms in the largest revenue class (gross revenues of \$2M CDN and over), 33% had women operators (either exclusively or along with men operators) compared to 67% that were operated by men only. Progress has been noted, but the work to open accessibility for these underrepresented is not done for us yet.</p> <p>Canada supports the call on Members to document good case studies and proven approaches to the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, diverse genders, the youth, and people in vulnerable situations in the livestock sectors. Canada is happy to share some experiences with programs or initiatives to promote the inclusion of these groups in agriculture. Here are some of them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, AAFC has noted an increased interest in revitalizing Indigenous livestock practices. Our On-Farm Climate Action Fund provided financial support for research projects on rotational grazing. • Many Indigenous communities have begun efforts to revive bison herds and traditional practices associated with the livestock, with the assistance of the FTP governments. Also,

	<p>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada developed a living lab called "Bridge to Land Water Sky Living Lab" and it has a research component that focuses on livestock/bison.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For women, Farm Credit Canada's "FCC Women Entrepreneur Program" empowers and enables women's participation in agriculture. This is part of broader efforts to recognize the pivotal role women play in Canadian agriculture. • External stakeholders have established a conference, a magazine, as well as provincial formal and informal organizations to bring women in agriculture together for activities like relationship building and skill building to enhance their participation. • Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council recently announced funding received through AAFC's AgriDiversity program for a National Women in Agriculture and Agri-Food Network Project to advance research, collaboration, and knowledge mobilization. • AAFC established the Canadian Agricultural Youth Council as a consultative body to ensure the perspectives of youth in agriculture are well-understood and directly inform AAFC's approach to sectoral priorities. • Youth and young farmers are the future of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. Many programs were created to help them build their dreams of having an involvement in Canadian agriculture, including the livestock sector. <p>Persistent barriers still exist in Canada for these underrepresented groups. Canada believes that every stakeholder needs to work together to ensure equity among all Canadians, one step at a time.</p>
<p>Switzerland</p> <p>Tuesday, 2 July 2024, 11:29 AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switzerland thanks the Secretariat for the preparation of the document COAG/LI/2024/5. • We welcome, that FAO is paying particular attention to "gender", "youth", "indigenous peoples" and "people in vulnerable situations" in livestock farming, in order to address the structural barriers, they face in the livestock sector. • Systematic mainstreaming and consideration in technical and policy programmes, the allocation of adequate resources for implementation and the strengthening of staff capacities are key. • It will be important that FAO addresses gender, youth, indigenous peoples and people in vulnerable situations in the “Sustainable Livestock Transformation Framework” (SLTF) and the “Global Plan of Action on Livestock” (GPAL). • FAO should also consider the Committee on World Food Security’s’ policy recommendations on “Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition” and other relevant CFS instruments in its SLTF and the GPAL drafting. • Finally, we would like to see an addition in the third point of the suggested actions. The Sub-Committee is invited to recommend to COAG that not only members but also FAO document good case studies and proven approaches of inclusion of gender, youth, indigenous peoples and people in vulnerable situations in the livestock sector.
<p>United States of America</p>	<p>Inclusive FAO programming is necessary to achieve FAO’s mandate of a world free from hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. This why the United States encourages FAO to continue to mainstream gender, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and people in vulnerable situations to ensure their systematic</p>

<p>Tuesday, 2 July 2024, 3:51 PM</p>	<p>inclusion in livestock technical and policy programs. We call on FAO to allocate adequate resources for implementation and to strengthen staff capacity for this work.</p> <p>We emphasize the importance of providing women with the equitable access to resources, training, finances, and technology. This is why the United States is proud to have led efforts to declare 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, which will be implemented by FAO. Strengthening and empowering women farmers is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>The United States commends the high quality of FAO gender-related reporting including “The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems”, and the “Unjust Climate report”, which is the first attempt to quantify the impact of climate change on the rural poor, women, and youth. Good data is key for inclusive livestock planning and for achieving equitable outcomes. Therefore, the United States encourages FAO to strengthen the collection of disaggregated data including by gender to enhance understanding of the challenges faced by rural poor, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and women in food systems and to close existing gaps.</p>
<p>Malaysia Wednesday, 3 July 2024, 7:45 AM</p>	<p>Malaysia provides equal opportunities to all Malaysians regardless of gender, youth, indigenous peoples or people in vulnerable situations to venture into the livestock sector. There is no recognised barrier that sets the mentioned group apart from the rest. The high demand on resources of protein from the livestock sector forced Malaysia not to segregate any group that are involved in the industry.</p>
<p>Philippines Wednesday, 3 July 2024, 8:45 AM</p>	<p>page 3, item no. 7:</p> <p>Gender and Development promotes a holistic and inclusive approach to development to create an equitable and just society for all genders. GAD played a part in greater awareness and inclusion of gender perspectives in the development practices and policies. However, challenges to the complexity of addressing intersectional inequality, persistent gender stereotypes, and resistance to change, among others are the issues that still have to be addressed. Provision of GAD awareness seminars and training can be of help. Thus, it is suggested to assess GAD awareness level and use the assessment result as a basis in the designing of intervention programs for target countries.</p> <p>page 4, paragraph 8, line 17:</p> <p>Due to the challenges faced by women in terms of safety and harassment, setting good policies and procedures for reporting cases of harassment is critical.</p> <p>Animal distribution programs among other interventions aimed at improving access of women to land, inputs, assets, services, and financial resources must also be considered in addition to their limited time.</p> <p>page 4 item no. 10:</p> <p>To address the low interest of the increasing number of youth in rural areas, there is a need to make agriculture and veterinary medicine appealing to them. There is a need to modify the veterinary and agriculture curriculum in such a way that we are developing future agripreneurs, not just merely food producers. Veterinarian and agriculture students must also be given more exposure to actual field work by allowing them to work with the government in addressing animal health issues, i.e. ASF and AI emergency response. Offering more scholarships for agriculture and veterinary medicine courses and training can also be a good way to encourage them.</p> <p>Innovative specific programs for involving youths like entrepreneurship skills training should be formulated.</p>

	<p>page 5, paragraph 14, line 32:</p> <p>Training for livestock professionals in cultural competence and participatory approaches is essential. This training should be developed in consultation with Indigenous communities to ensure relevance and respect for traditional practices.</p> <p>page 6, item nos. 17:</p> <p>Emergency response often focuses on humans due to limited funds for emergency shelters and provision of basic needs. Most of the time, livestock/poultry that survived the calamities are being sacrificed, either sold or consumed, to help them get through, and since no facilities are available to accommodate this livestock. Aid in addressing these challenges can be considered in the future, especially for those animals that can be raised by women.</p> <p>It is proposed to craft policies or guidelines in establishing livestock evacuation centers with inputs from geohazard mapping, climate change agencies, and other disaster risk reduction management offices.</p> <p>page 6, item no. 20 and 21:</p> <p>Rabbit is the commodity being popularized as an alternative protein source in the Philippines right now. Product development and conduct of hands-on training are the activities undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Rabbit Producers' Association.</p> <p>page 7 item no. 25:</p> <p>It is interesting to know what are the behavioral change methodologies mentioned. Perhaps, these can also be applied to the Philippines, if not yet existing.</p>
<p>European Union</p> <p>Wednesday, 3 July 2024, 6:34 PM</p>	<p>Mr Chair,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am honoured to write on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. 2. Albania, Moldova and Montenegro align themselves with this statement. 3. We welcome the fact that the report considers the diversity of livestock production systems and acknowledges that the livelihood and resilience of Indigenous Peoples and people in vulnerable situations should be addressed by transforming livestock systems. 4. We want to emphasise that inclusiveness in the livestock sector should be improved. Therefore we agree that it is of crucial importance to understand the sources of discrimination in the sector such as gender, ethnicity, class, illness, disability, migration status. 5. By improving the position of women, of youth, Indigenous Peoples and people in vulnerable situations in livestock farming, taking into account the three pillars of sustainability on an equal footing and building on local priorities, a large group can be reached given the numbers of marginalised people employed in this sector. 6. Women are central to the livestock sector, and it has the opportunity to strengthen them financially. We must recognise their active role as farmers, producers, peasants, family farmers, pastoralists, processors, traders, wage workers, smallholders and entrepreneurs throughout food systems and value chains, and as consumers and providers for their families, as well as the fact that the proper functioning of the sector depends on their enormous contributions. Unfortunately, their efforts are poorly recognised and their opportunities as commercial partners are minimal. We recall the CFS

	<p>Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition in this regard.</p> <p>7. Generational renewal and attracting youth to the livestock sector is a huge ongoing challenge. We recognise the employment issues surrounding the sector, including long working hours, poor income guarantees, poor perception of the sector and the appeal of the urban lifestyle. Policy should focus on more flexible entry conditions, as well as on continued education and continuous support, recognising the difficulties of these professional activities and the fact that substantial long term investments need to be made. We recall the Committee on World Food Security’s Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in this regard.</p> <p>8. Indigenous Peoples face discrimination and unequal treatment, amongst other reasons because of insecure tenure rights. We want to emphasise our recognition of the extensive knowledge of Indigenous Peoples on livestock health and management and encourage initiatives that ensure the dissemination and uptake of this knowledge. We recall the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, which can assist Members to strengthen the legal recognition and allocation of tenure rights and duties for Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>9. Moreover, as a result of discrimination on the basis of identity characteristics, people can become vulnerable for a variety of reasons, such as displacement through conflict or climate disasters, illness, disabilities, etc. In such situations, livestock can play an essential role in providing income and high-quality food, so emergency responses and measures are necessary in this regard.</p> <p>10. In addition to the necessary practical arrangements and actions, such as data collection, etc., there is a strong need for behavioural and societal change and increased awareness of the position of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people in vulnerable situations historically marginalised. We must recognise that, without improvements to their position, achieving equitable and sustainable livestock value chains will be impossible.</p> <p>Thank you, Mr Chair.</p>
<p>Australia Monday, 8 July 2024, 6:25 PM</p>	<p>Australia thanks FAO for preparing this paper. Australia is committed to policies which mainstream gender, youth, First Nations Peoples and people in vulnerable situations to ensure their vital role in the livestock sector, and continues to support opportunities for marginalised people, including communities, organisations, and businesses, to participate in the climate and agriculture agenda more broadly.</p> <p>Federal and State governments in Australia are establishing collaborative partnerships with local First Nations communities to ensure their voices are integrated into policymaking. We recognise the wealth of knowledge and insight that First Nations people can bring to the livestock sector, and have integrated this into key programmes such as the Smart Farms Managing Herds project (2021-23). This initiative sought to address herd management of unmanaged cattle and buffalo on Australia’s vast northern Indigenous estates, while also supporting economic development, landscape restoration and protection of cultural and environmental assets. Australia would be glad to elaborate on this, and other relevant case studies, at an appropriate opportunity.</p> <p>Australia supports FAO’s programmes aimed at encouraging participation in the livestock sector, and we appreciate the links made with the sustainable livestock transformation agenda. We encourage FAO to ensure that the programmes’ efficacy is well documented, and to provide Members with relevant updates as they are available.</p>