

## **Second Session of the COAG Sub Committee on Livestock**

### **Written Correspondence Procedure (WCP)**

#### **Agenda item 4.1: Advances in applied methods for adaptation and mitigation to climate change**

##### **Secretariat response to written comments from Members received by 3 July 2024**

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received from Members on agenda item 4.1. Comments were received from the European Union and its 27 Member Nations (Albania, Moldova and Montenegro also align themselves with the statement), Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Switzerland and United States of America.

The Secretariat appreciates the efforts of Members to enhance efficiency and implement technical and innovative solutions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including methane, in the livestock sector, raise awareness on the mitigation and promote recycling and reuse of manure as organic fertilizer and improve carbon sequestration.

FAO welcomes the recommendation to identify, design and implement mitigation and adaptation actions in the livestock sector, including using innovative technologies, genetics and breeding.

FAO welcomes the recommendation to take a balanced and holistic approach to consider the three dimensions of sustainability, including the multifunctionality of the livestock systems. Moreover, FAO recognises the role of livestock in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement while increasing the productivity and incomes of livestock farmers and producers, leveraging technologies and best management practices.

FAO appreciates the recognition of FAO's Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM) as a valuable tool for estimating emissions along the production chain. GLEAM has been developed to estimate the contribution of livestock to biodiversity, water and nitrogen use efficiency. FAO will continue to calibrate the model by comparing its output with real-life data across different livestock systems.

The written comments note that the FAO Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership has developed several guidelines that can be helpful for monitoring and reporting GHG emissions and other environmental impacts at the country level. These guidelines are fully aligned with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and its 2019 refinement.

FAO welcomes the call to continue providing support to Members in developing climate mitigation and adaptation plans and policies, and accessing climate finance, for the livestock sector.

FAO takes note of the encouragement to inform Members about what data is needed for assessing and reporting on GHG emissions. Regarding the climate metrics, FAO is aligned with the decision of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to use the global warming potential (GWP) for GHG reporting and notes also the option of using GWP-star (GWP\*) as a second indicator.

FAO also welcomes the application of social and environmental safeguards to give incentives for systemic approaches, such as agroecology, with synergies between climate and biodiversity.

FAO notes also the interest of Members in the opportunities that participation in carbon markets may offer for the livestock sectors (including to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions), especially as an additional source of income for farmers. The Secretariat welcomes the recommendation that FAO develops a guidance document on the opportunities and risks for Members to participate, as

appropriate and taking into account national contexts, in both compliant and voluntary carbon markets within the livestock sector under the Paris Agreement. FAO would undertake consultation with other organizations and international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, working on the voluntary carbon market to build on existing methodologies during the development of the guidance. FAO welcomes the suggestion to consider all the requirements of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in the guidance, including issues related to the risk of any reversals of emission mitigation or removals during the development of the guidance.