Dairy Asia: Towards Sustainability

Regional Meeting on Sustainable Dairy Development in Asia – from Concept to Action

(March 23-26, 2015)

Background

Asia has seen a remarkable growth in the production and consumption of milk and milk products over the past decades and has now overtaken the Europe as the world's largest milk producer. However, although domestic production has responded to growing demand, it continues to fall short of aggregate demand and most countries in Asia are confronted with increasing dairy import bills. According to recent OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook estimates the demand for milk and milk products in the region will reach almost 320 million tonnes by the year 2021, which means the region will need to increase milk availability by another 50 million tonnes within this decade.

Two more characteristics of Asia Pacific region are of specific relevance in the context of growing demand for milk and milk products.

- First, the region is home to two thirds of the world's poor and undernourished people. Given that milk is a good source of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals, a daily glass of milk for Asian children can significantly boost their nutritional levels.
- 2. Second, over 80 percent of dairy animals in the region are raised by smallscale farmers who are a critical and unique ingredient in the region's dairy landscape.

The existence of a vibrant smallholder-managed dairy sector combined with a favourable medium term market outlook is good news since the poor generally tend to be much more important in smallholder dairy production than in crop production. Furthermore, animals are typically more equitability distributed than land in many of these areas and dairying is also more labour intensive than crop production and provides a remunerative outlet for family labour. These characteristics imply that growth in smallholder dairy can have a more direct and greater impact in poverty reduction than the same increase in crop production. Thus, if production can match the growth in demand, dairying can emerge as an engine of poverty alleviating growth with all other nutrition related benefits.

At the same time, there are growing concerns about resource scarcity, growing pressure on feed / natural resources, climate change and the need for more equitable development. Farmers worldwide face the challenge of producing more food with fewer resources while also addressing climate change and impacts on ecosystems. The agriculture sector in general is under pressure to increase the efficiency of natural resource use to meet society's growing food and environmental needs. For the dairy sub-sector, this means that the economic agents along the entire dairy value chain must adopt technologies and management practices that can facilitate integration of environmental health, economic profitability and social and economic equity goals.

To discuss and debate these issues, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) together with Animal Production and Health Division (AGA) of FAO, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), Dairy Farming Promotion Organization of Thailand (DPO), Department of Livestock Development, Royal Thai Government, (DLD) and other partners, organized the Regional meeting 'Dairy Asia—Towards Sustainability'' in Bangkok on 21-23 May 2014. The meeting was attended by about 90 participants from over 20 countries comprising stakeholders from governments, national and international research agencies, civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, think tanks, private sector and regional and global networks.

The meeting recognized the growing importance of Asia in the global production and consumption of milk and the changing landscape of dairy sector. In order to guide the dairy sector development in the region and to capitalize on the knowledge and experiences from different countries, the meeting recommended development of a Dairy Development Strategy Framework paper and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform to facilitate regional cooperation and collaboration. There was consensus that such a platform would add substantial value towards promoting ground level action in pursuit of sustainability objectives. The elements of such a platform identification of willing partners, agreement on an organizational structure, commitment of resources, monitoring and accountability mechanism etc.—must however be discovered through an open, voluntary and iterative process. As regards the dairy development strategy, the participants agreed on the following steps

- 1. Preparation of a drafting Regional Dairy Development Strategy document.
- 2. Draft strategy peer review
- 3. Further Consultations--following the peer review, the draft strategy would be shared with other stakeholders. Following stakeholder groups were identified for further consultations
 - a. IDF National Committees
 - b. Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA)
 - c. An e-consultation Dairy Asia websites and Asia Dairy Network
- 4. Finalization of the strategy document December 2014
- 5. Launch of the Strategy document at another multi-stakeholder meeting in early 2015

Following the meeting, a multi-stakeholder drafting group prepared the draft strategic framework paper. The paper was peer reviewed and shared with Dairy Asia meeting participants for comments. Following the first revision, an open econsultation was held during 15-25 October 2014 to invite further comments from the stakeholders at large. With that background, it is proposed to organize a regional meeting on NDDB campus in Anand, Gujarat, India.

Objectives

This meeting will bring together international and national stakeholders with the aim to:

- 1. Endorse and Adopt the Strategic Framework Paper for Sustainable Dairy Development in Asia,
- 2. Prepare an indicative plan of action to operationalize the strategic framework paper
- 3. Discuss and agree on the structure and processes of Dairy Asia platform
- 4. Identify National Focal Institutions for membership of Asia Dairy Network and Dairy Asia platform
- 5. Foster future collaboration between countries by identifying cooperation opportunities, and sharing of knowledge

Outputs

- 1. Strategic Framework for Sustainable Dairy Development in Asia endorsed and adopted
- 2. An indicative priority action plan to operationalize the Strategic Framework discussed and agreed
- 3. Dairy Asia platform structures, processes and rules and procedures prepared and agreed
- 4. Ways for fostering collaboration among countries in the region on dairy development discussed and agreed,

Date and Venue

The meeting will be organized on 23-26 March, 2015 on NDDB campus in Anand, Gujarat.

Participants

Approximately 50-60 participants will be invited for the meeting representing a broad range of stakeholders including senior officials from governments, national and international development agencies, private sector agencies, civil society organizations, donors and development partners, and academic and research institutions.

Tentative program

March 23, 2015

- 17:00 Participant registration
- 17:30 Opening remarks by Chairman, National Dairy Development Board of India
- 17.45 Opening remarks by Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
- 18:00 Keynote Address by Dr Suresh S. Honnappagol , Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Government of India
- 18:30 Keynote Address by Henning Steinfeld, Chief, Livestock Information and Policy Branch, FAO, Rome
- 19.00 Keynote Address (via Skype) by Prof. Margaret Gill, Chair, Integrated Land Use, University of Aberdeen, Scotland and Chair, CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council
- 19.30 Remarks by the Secretary, DAHD&F, Government of India
- 19.45 Dinner hosted by NDDB

March 24, 2015

Session 1:

- 08:45 Meeting objectives/workshop introduction/ ways of working. Further explanation on meeting outline, objectives, process and expected output.
- 08:50 Presentation on the Elements of a Regional Strategy for Sustainable Dairy Development in Asia by Vinod Ahuja
- 09.15 Invited country/stakeholder statements on the strategic framework (5 minutes each)
- 10.15 Open discussion, endorsement of strategic framework and release of a joint communique
- 11.15 Tea/coffee break/press questions etc

Session 2: Session Chair – Ian Wright, Deputy Director General, International Livestock Research Institute

- 11.45 Animal nutrition in 21st century-- beyond the boundaries of feed and feeding Harinder Makkar, FAO, Rome
- 12.15 Technical presentation (TBD)
- 13.00 Lunch

Session 3: Session Chair: Dr. Purvi Mehta-Bhatt, Senior Advisor & Head-Agriculture (South Asia), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

- 14.30 A Presentation on multi stakeholder platforms and possible structure of Dairy Asia Platform by Juergen Hagmann
- 15.00 Questions, comments and discussions
- 15.30 Tea/Coffee break
- 16.00 Stakeholder working groups (public, private, civil society, science, international organizations) What do we expect / want from Dairy Asia; What can we offer to Dairy Asia; Where do we add value and the identification of priority areas
- 19.00 Evening dinner and a Social Event hosted by AMUL

March 25, 2015

Session 4:

- 09:00 Presentation and recap of day 1 outcomes; work plan and process for day 2
- 09:10 Address by Donald Nkrumah, Senior Program Officer, Gates Foundation. Topic: Breeding for sustainable productivity improvement in Asia
- 09.40 Presentations by stakeholder working groups from the previous day group work
- 10.15 Moderated discussion (Moderator: Juergen Hagmann)
- 11.00 Tea/coffee break
- 11:30 Stakeholder working groups on structure, processes, membership, finance, and other admin/governance aspects of Dairy Asia platform
- 13:00 Lunch

Session 5: Session Chair:

- 14:00 Stakeholder group presentations, next steps, immediate actions, further development of Dairy Asia
- 17:00 Closing

March 26, 2015: Field trip