

A dairy forum for the Asia-Pacific Region: Why and how?

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Structure of the paper

- A brief **background analysis** to remind that stakeholders in the dairy sector in Asia-Pacific region had in the past recognized the need for a forum/alliance/platform for joint action for learning and mutual benefit
- A **review of selected existing platforms** to see what lessons of relevance could be learned for organizing a dairy platform in Asia-Pacific
- **Highlight a list of issues** to provoke thoughts about issues and options to be considered for organizing a platform

Background

A region with different dairy tradition

- Strong tradition of production and consumption in South Asia
- Emerging dairy consumption pattern in SE Asia and increasing import
- Significant differences in production and marketing systems, extension and research capacity, policy and regulatory environments

FAO-APHCA interests in smallholder dairy development

- Longstanding interests to support dairy development
- Various initiatives to provide guidance and facilitate sharing of experiences of successful models:
 - 2007 Chiang Mai conference
 - 2008 two workshops in Bangkok
 - 2011 APHCA review and redefined scope
 - 2013 FAO global framework for sustainable food and agriculture giving new emphasis on sustainability
 - 2014 Bangkok conference with Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock

Broad lessons:

Dairy development efforts in the region need to recognize emerging trends and issues.

- Paradox in the dairy market – strong demand growth with income, urbanization and population growth but incidence of widespread mal- and under-nutrition in South Asia that can be addressed with dairy
- Predominance of smallholder production, informal market and emerging large processors in some countries
- Concerns about economic, social and environmental sustainability in the face of scarcity of resources

Broad lessons (contd)

- Non-equivalent perspectives of diversity of stakeholders across the region yet the need for coordinated joint action
- FAORAP and APHCA's supporting roles and capacities are inadequate to meet the challenge,
- So, a formal forum of stakeholders across the region required to facilitate exchange of information and experiences for their common benefit.

Review of three regional platforms :

APHCA, APARRI, APRACA

- APHCA is a statutory body under FAORAP, so only governments are members, other two are FAO initiated neutral nonprofit associations with membership open to government, NGO and private institutions; some regular, others associate members
- APHCA can create subsidiary body to perform certain function, others can't but they can create alliance or partnerships
- All three managed by an Executive Committee elected by members but composition, tenure and functions vary to some extent
 - APHCA – annually, chair, Vice chair, past chair, 3 members
 - AAPARI – Bi annual, Char, Vice, Ex Secretary, 8 members
 - APRACA- every 3 yrs, Ciar, VC, 13 members, secretary and other officials

Review of regional platforms (contd)

- All three impose membership fee at varying rates, and voluntary donations and donor funds for projects
- APHCA Secretariat is partly financed by FAORAP, Secretariats of other two are housed in FAORAP but not financed.

Review of some global platforms: GASL, IDF, GDP, GDAA, IFCN, IFAMA

- **Scope** – GASL covers all aspects of livestock, others except IFAMA focused on dairy, IFAMA covers the entire food and agribusiness industry including dairy
- **Objectives and activity focus vary widely:**
 - **GASL** – economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability with focus on reducing efficiency gap, protecting rangelands and reducing waste of manure
 - **IDF** – best global source of expertise and knowledge about the dairy sector and work on technical, economic and market issues
 - **GDP** – focus on the consumer and promote the nutritional value of milk and milk fat

Review of global platforms (contd.)

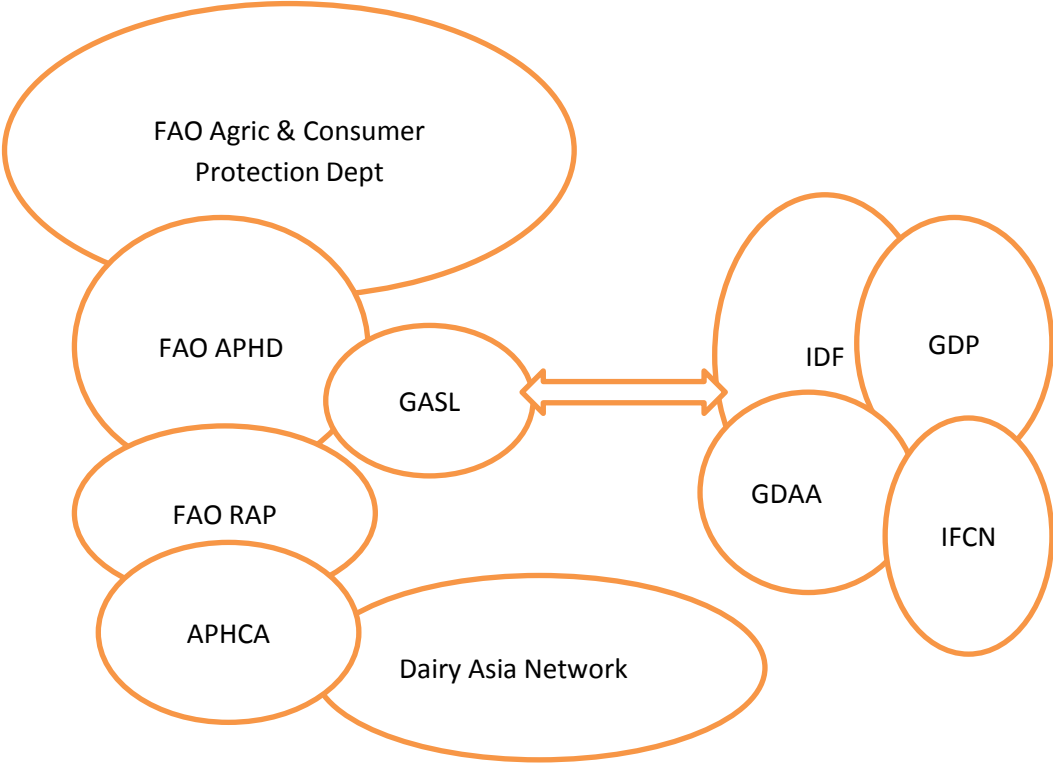
Objectives and scope contd:

- **GDAA** – focus on sustainable dairy development based on 11 criteria covering environment, natural resources, social and economic issues
- **IFCN** – comparison of competitiveness across countries and production systems along with some market and policy analysis
- **IFAMA** – bring together stakeholders to act as a catalyst and clearing house for ideas, talent and research agenda to respond to an innovative global food and agribusiness systems

Membership

- All six platforms are open to voluntary membership of a variety of relevant stakeholders though some include more variety and geographic spread than others.
- Some major stakeholders in the global livestock and dairy industry are members or partners or sponsors of nearly all the platforms (Figure 1) while others may have participation in one or two specific platforms.
- Some like IDF is a federation of national committees while IFCN is primarily a private business with a network of partners and clients.
- Some have only fee paying voting members, others have paying regular and nonpaying associate or affiliate members
- Generally poor membership from developing world, especially Asia, so active participation is limited except in sponsored conferences/workshops

Figure 1. Linkage among some global organizations and platforms



Governance and management

- All the platforms have some form of Executive body supported by one or two or several special purpose groups or committees.
- Some have built in mechanism to ensure representation of different constituencies, others do not have that though effort is made to do so
- Developing country representation and voice in governance and management poor or lacking

Financing Mechanism and Sustainability

- Some platforms have become self-financing and self sustaining, others are partly dependent on donations and donor funds as member subscription is inadequate to pursue full range of functions
- Collaborative work is another way of raising fund and sharing costs.
- Platforms sponsored by industry stakeholders sponsor their functions one way or another as they address their own problems and issues

Issues to be considered for organizing a dairy platform/alliance/forum for Asia-Pacific

- Goal and purpose
- Priority activity areas to achieve goal and purpose
- Stakeholders and members
- Governance and management options
 - Legal status, host country/institution
 - Management structure and representation
 - Decision making process, feedback and accountability
 - Funding mechanism
- Constitution or statute of operation

Conclusion

It is up to the stakeholders in the dairy sector in the region to discuss and decide what they want to do, why and how. Unless it is designed and owned by them, chances of its success and sustainability will remain questionable.

Thanks for your attention