

Session title: A just transition to more sustainable and healthy livestock production systems

5th December 14.00-15.00

Venue: CGIAR-FAO-IFAD pavilion

Description:

Livestock products are vital for fulfilling nutrition requirements of the majority of the world's population and particularly in LMICs. However, livestock emissions need to be reduced if climate change targets are to be reached. The session will describe different approaches to reducing emissions in HICs and LMICs. Emerging technologies will be described together with their limitations. Livestock value chain actors will share good practices in reducing emissions whilst improving the health of the land and livestock and adapting to climate change. The need for an enabling policy environment, incentives and effective reporting for supporting a just transition to more sustainable livestock production systems will be discussed, and examples provided. The session will raise a call for greater investment in livestock system climate change adaptation measures as well as in climate mitigation.

Main messages:

- Emerging technologies and improved mitigation reporting systems can play a key role in reducing the impact of livestock on the climate, particularly in HICs.
- However high cost, limited availability and inappropriateness for extensive non-feed supplemented production systems limit their uptake
- For the majority of farmers around the world livestock emissions mitigation and reduction is best addressed through climate smart livestock production with triple-wins
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships are needed to innovate, develop and scale-up climate-smart agricultural solutions for this.
- For a just transition to more sustainable livestock food systems there is a need to invest in adaptation as well as mitigation.
- Investing in adaptation of livestock production to climate change will also have wins for climate mitigation and health impacts
- Climate change profoundly impacts ecosystems, human and animal health, and agriculture, making the application of a One Health approach essential for comprehending these systemic effects.

Run/structure of the session:

- Welcome by DGs of IICA Dr Manuel Otero and Namukolo Covic (ILRI Ethiopia DG's rep) 3 minutes each.
- 4-minute film of key issues
- Set of panelists on stage and will be asked two questions and then opened up to the floor/participants [can have a moderator identifying most appropriate questions]

- Wrap-up by a representative from a development agency highlighting implications for development investments, including need for more finance in climate adaptation as well as mitigation.

Panelists:

- Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Uruguay
- Meredith Ellis, rancher, Rosston, Texas
- Joeseplat Masanja, East Africa Pastoralist Youth Initiative
- Dr Bernard Bett, Team Lead of One Health Center in Africa
- Rajeshree Joshee, Program Director BAIF, India. www.baif.org.in

Moderator: Fiona Flintan, ILRI

Key resources for the session:

- Breakthrough Agenda report section 6 on reducing livestock emissions: <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/131852>
- Study by the Alliance on livestock investment priorities: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-023-01161-1>

Bios

Meredith Ellis

Meredith Ellis is a 2nd generation rancher on her family ranch in Rosston, Texas. Working alongside her father, GC Ellis, and ranch manager, Mike Knabe, they manage 200 mother cows on 3000 acres of land which Meredith lovingly refers to as her “national park.” She passionately believes in ranching’s ability to provide nutritious food to a growing population while leaving habitat and natural ecosystems intact.

Meredith received her Master degree in Landscape Architecture with a focus on sustainability from the University of New Mexico. She seeks to break down traditional paradigms of ranching, striving to keep nature in balance while relying on science and technology to inform her decision making.

The ranch has been a cooperator with the Noble Research Institute for two decades and currently is involved in their Land Stewardship Program seeking to quantify the benefits that ranchland provides to carbon sequestration, clean water, and biodiversity. Meredith also sits on the board of Noble’s Integrity Beef Alliance, an organization known for its superior cattle through adherence to strict protocols on herd health, responsible management, and genetics. The ranch is a member of the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and American Angus Association.

Rajeshree Joshi

Dr. Rajashree Joshi is a Program Director at BAIF Development Research Foundation (www.baif.org.in), BAIF is an Indian NGO, committed to sustainable rural development for the past five decades. BAIF has successfully introduced many innovative and relevant development solutions across Indian states. Dr Joshi is a social scientist, having completed her Masters in Community Development and a Doctorate in Economics from University of Pune. She thus brings a blend of academician and a practitioner. She is a member of Apex Climate Action Committee formed in BAIF to take up a work on climate action, research, capacity building and forging partnerships. She is also involved in BAIF-led studies focusing on climate change related to vulnerability of smallholder farmers, need for adaptation and mitigation interventions, need for multi sectoral response to climate change. She has keen interest on aspects of gender and climate action. Being a practitioner, she is well versed with several, multi-sectoral and region-specific climate smart technologies, services and practices.

Bernard Bett

Bernard Bett is an infectious disease epidemiologist working with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi. He is the team leader of the One Health Centre in Africa based at ILRI. The Centre implements applied research and capacity building activities on One Health in multiple countries in East and West Africa. Bernard's specific interests are on the transmission patterns of vector-borne zoonotic diseases. He has been involved in multidisciplinary studies that investigate the effects of climate and other multiscale drivers on mosquito- and tick-borne diseases. He has a PhD degree on veterinary epidemiology from the University of Nairobi.

Josephat Masanja

Josephat Masanja, is a dynamic and passionate young agricultural scientist, hails from a pastoral community deeply affected by the ravages of climate change. Born and raised amidst the challenges posed by environmental shifts, Josephat resolved to channel his energy into transforming the pastoral landscape. During his student years, his dedication and innovation earned him the prestigious title of the Best Author of the Year in 2021. This recognition was a result of his impactful Swahili book, "Mkulimali," which advocates for smart agripreneurs among farmers and pastoralist communities in East Africa, aiming to foster sustainable practices and alleviate conflicts.

Josephat is not just an author but also a visionary co-founder of the Africa Youth Pastoralist Initiative. In his role as the East Africa coordinator, he leads efforts to empower pastoralist youth and women to tackle the pressing issue of climate crisis. His leadership has propelled the initiative into successful campaigns and projects, such as promoting sustainable livestock practices and agricultural diversification. Within a remarkably short span, these initiatives have reached over 10,000 households in Tanzania, Kenya, and Ethiopia, making a tangible impact on their livelihoods.

Beyond the confines of written words, Josephat's advocacy extends to the airwaves. His passion for pastoralism has led him to conduct 20 television sessions and 30 radio sessions, both locally

and internationally. Through these platforms, he strives to amplify the voices of pastoralists, bringing their concerns to a global audience. Josephat Masanja stands as a beacon of hope, utilizing his expertise and influence to create meaningful change for the communities he serves.

Namukolo Covic

Namukolo Covic (Zambia) is [ILRI](#) Director General's Representative to Ethiopia, [CGIAR](#) Ethiopia Country Convenor, and CGIAR Regional Director for East and Southern Africa. She has served as a Senior Research Coordinator at the [IFPRI](#) on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) in different African countries.

Her extensive experience straddles the interface of policy, dynamics of agriculture and food systems, and related interventions. She has been involved in numerous activities, collaborating with national governments, regional and continental bodies, and various non-state actors to drive food systems transformation and nutrition initiatives.

Namukolo has worked extensively with the government of Ethiopia and other stakeholders on different fronts of food systems and nutrition, including the development of food-based dietary guidelines and their adaptation to pastoralist settings, and the development of Ethiopia's food systems transformation pathway. She has supported African Union's efforts on linking agriculture and nutrition in the [Africa Union – Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program \(CAADP\)](#). She leads the Governance Working Group of an Independent Expert Group that emerged from the UNFSS.