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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных
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Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS

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REVIEW OF SYMPOSIUM RECOMMENDATIONS: PROPOSED FAO AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ACTION

STATEMENT ON MITIGATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Recognizing that:

Livestock serves a primary and growing role in the agricultural economy, is a major source of livelihood for many of the world's poor, provides about one-third of humanity's protein intake, and demand for livestock products is predicted to double by 2050;

Livestock production worldwide contributes, along with other sectors, to total anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, including methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions from enteric fermentation and manure management, indirect emissions from manure storage, application and deposition, transportation, the on-farm use of fossil fuels, land use conversion for livestock grazing, and emissions related to the production of feed and pasture;

The technical potential for mitigating GHG emissions from livestock production varies among systems and includes, among other practices: the capturing and burning of methane from manure management systems, improving manure application techniques, fertilizer efficiency, rumen fermentation efficiency, feed and feeding practices, livestock genetics, herd health and fertility, and land-use efficiency of livestock and of feed crop production;

Many actions to mitigate GHG emissions from livestock have economic and environmental co-benefits including reduced pressure on natural resources, reduced water and air pollution, and greater farm productivity;

Benefits and trade-offs of policies and measures to mitigate GHG emissions from livestock vary widely across and within countries and production systems, and there is a wide variation across countries in capacities to develop, enact, and enforce mitigation policies;

Uncoordinated policies and measures may have detrimental impacts on production, trade, and undermine the effectiveness of mitigation efforts;

Recognizing also that,

Climate change will impact livestock production and there is a need for the sector to adapt. There are many important synergies between adaptation and mitigation;

And,

There remain large research and information gaps that must be bridged, communicated and discussed within the international community.

The IGG members recommend that:

1. Member nations promote internationally coordinated actions, including through the UNFCCC processes, that support the mitigation of greenhouse gases related to livestock production. Within the context of international climate change efforts, and commensurate with the international commitments and the capacities of individual countries, such actions include:
 - a. promotion of research and development of new mitigation technologies and practices;
 - b. promotion of effective and enhanced means for financing, deploying, diffusing and transferring technologies to mitigate emissions through enhanced international cooperation, relevant international organizations and research centres;
 - c. strengthening capacities to monitor, report and verify emissions from livestock production, according to agreed international guidelines.
2. Individual member nations take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from livestock production and increase carbon sequestration through, inter alia:
 - a. appropriate policies and measures;
 - b. research, development and adoption of new technologies and practices;
 - c. enhancement of capacities to monitor, report and verify GHG emissions and removals in livestock production systems;

and, to the extent possible, that these steps should:

- d. maximize environmental and economic co-benefits;
 - e. enhance livestock efficiency and productivity;
 - f. maintain the financial wellbeing of livestock producers;
 - g. exploit synergies between adaptation and mitigation.
3. Given the global nature of climate change, the international policy framework governing climate change, the potentially important implications of mitigation policies for the wellbeing of the world's poor and for the environment, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:
- a. monitors changes in livestock production and land use change and agriculture-related greenhouse gas emissions and removals;
 - b. monitors the implications of climate change for animal health and production;
 - c. collaborates with the IPCC to improve the methodologies for quantifying GHG emissions and removals related to livestock production;
 - d. undertakes and publishes analyses of mitigation and adaptation policies that involve livestock production, grasslands, and feed crop production in terms of their effects on production, agricultural income, trade, food consumption, poverty and the environment, as well as on GHG reduction;
 - e. provides technical support and capacity building to Member Countries;
 - f. supports the diffusion and transfer of technologies to mitigate emissions and increase carbon sequestration.