

To: Dr. Agnes Kalibata, United Nations Special Envoy, 2021 Food Systems Summit  
CC: Action Track Chairs and Vice Chairs, FSS secretariat  
Subject: Food Systems Summit and Animal-Sourced Foods

18 February 2021

Dear Dr. Kalibata,

As representatives of the global livestock sector, we write to you to highlight our shared objectives for the Food Systems Summit and desire for greater collaboration. Our sector comprises hundreds of millions of farmers, ranchers, producers, and processors around the world who collectively provide most of the world's animal products. We recognize and embrace our role in helping secure access to nutritious food for all. **We are eager to help deliver the FSS goals and would like to meet you to discuss the solutions our sectors offer.**

The livestock sector is engaging in the ongoing FSS process and we commend you on your leadership. We support the Summit's goal of delivering progress on the SDGs, and **we would like to work together to create a more balanced approach to livestock and animal products that can help achieve this objective.**

We believe animal agriculture is at the heart of the UN's call to '*build back better*' and plays a vital role in sustainable food systems that deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits.

**Social:** Animal-sourced foods [provide](#) 18% of global calories and 39% of protein intake. Due to its nutrient density, it is an important nutrition source for the [2 billion](#) suffering from 'hidden hunger' and the [141 million](#) children who experience stunting. Livestock produce these calories primarily by eating foods that are inedible to people such as grasses, crop residues and by-products, which is why the FAO has [said](#) animals like cattle "contribute directly to global food security." Furthermore, with [2/3rds](#) of the world's agricultural lands being permanent meadows and pastures, livestock offer a way to produce food in areas that would otherwise be unproductive.

**Economic:** [1 in 6](#) people worldwide depend on animal agriculture for their livelihood, creating a sector that contributes [US\\$1.27 trillion](#) to global economies and [40%](#) of agricultural GDP. Livestock offer a form of resilient financial security and during drought, flood, or conflict it is relocatable. With women representing 66% of the world's poor livestock keepers, this directly supports the [UN's goal](#) of strengthening their resilience.

**Environment:** We recognize that animal products cannot come at the expense of our environment, and livestock is already part of the solution. The IPCC estimates that livestock contributes [5%](#) of direct GHG emissions, and farmers are working to reduce it further. Industrialized nations have reduced land use for livestock by [20%](#) in recent decades while doubling production, thanks to innovations in areas such as animal feed, animal health, genetics and more. The FAO estimates livestock emissions can fall a further [30%](#) through increased adoption of best practices and technologies. Livestock are also central to regenerative agriculture, and their integration with cropping systems provides both environmental and nutritional gains.

**The FSS can drive positive change by ensuring that the voice of those that contribute to better nutrition, more sustainable production, and better livelihoods through animal products, is heard and well-represented.**

It is concerning to see the promotion of diets or strategies in the FSS that minimize the important role of animal agriculture, despite the scientific evidence of their value to nutrition, economic and social outcomes. Meeting the food needs of future generations in a nature-positive manner requires evidence-based approaches that embraces innovation and collaboration across governments, private sector, and civil society.

**We encourage the FSS to foster a collaborative, inclusive approach that:**

- Recognizes animal products play a positive role and to ensure producers have a voice in the summit,
- Understands the importance of animal products to the livelihoods, diets, and health of billions,
- Facilitates game-changing recommendations that maximize the value of animal agriculture to economies, diets, and environment while creating opportunities for women and youth,
- Drives investment in innovations that enhance the relationship between livestock and the environment.

Delivering transformational change is a significant challenge, but the animal agriculture sector has deep wells of knowledge that can help. We are engaged in the FSS through the Summit Dialogues, the World Business Council for Sustainability Development, the Private Sector Mechanism, and the individual Action Tracks, and have contributed '*game changing ideas*'.

Our sectors are eager to work with you and Action Track Leaders to help the FSS deliver a blueprint for nutritious diets and resilient production, built upon a foundation of science and innovation. We hope you may propose a date for a virtual call.

Sincerely,



**Mr. Guillaume Roué**  
President  
International Meat Secretariat  
[www.meat-ims.org/home/](http://www.meat-ims.org/home/)  
[hsin.huang@meat-ims.org](mailto:hsin.huang@meat-ims.org)



**Mr. Robin Horel**  
President  
International Poultry Council  
[www.internationalpoultrycouncil.org](http://www.internationalpoultrycouncil.org)  
[nicolo@internationalpoultrycouncil.org](mailto:nicolo@internationalpoultrycouncil.org)



**Mr. Donald Moore**  
Executive Director  
Global Dairy Platform  
[www.globaldairyplatform.com](http://www.globaldairyplatform.com)  
[Donald.Moore@globaldairyplatform.com](mailto:Donald.Moore@globaldairyplatform.com)



**Mr. Piercristiano Brazzale**  
President  
International Dairy Federation  
[www.fil-idf.org](http://www.fil-idf.org)  
[CEmond@fil-idf.org](mailto:CEmond@fil-idf.org)



**Mr. Ruairaidh Petre**  
Executive Director  
Global Roundtable Sustainable Beef  
[www.grsbeef.org](http://www.grsbeef.org)  
[ruairaidh.petre@grsbeef.org](mailto:ruairaidh.petre@grsbeef.org)



**Mr. Suresh Chitturi**  
Chairman  
International Egg Commission  
[www.internationalegg.com](http://www.internationalegg.com)  
[julian@internationalegg.com](mailto:julian@internationalegg.com)



**Dr. Daniel Bercovici**  
Chairman  
International Feed Industry Federation  
[www.ifif.org](http://www.ifif.org)  
[alexandra.athayde@ifif.org](mailto:alexandra.athayde@ifif.org)



**Dr. Martin Alm**  
President  
World Renderers Organization  
[www.worldrenderers.com](http://www.worldrenderers.com)  
[president@worldrenderers.net](mailto:president@worldrenderers.net)



**Mr. Carel du Marchie Sarvaas**  
Executive Director  
HealthforAnimals (animal health)  
[www.healthforanimals.org](http://www.healthforanimals.org)  
[carel@healthforanimals.org](mailto:carel@healthforanimals.org)

<sup>i</sup> Further discussion of IPCC livestock emissions data is available from FAO researchers here: <https://news.trust.org/item/20180918083629-d2wf0>  
The relevant chapter in the IPCC report is [here](#).