DAIRY ASIA
Annual Report 2017
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Message from the Chair

While dairy’s role in providing nourishment is well known, the dairy sector contributes more than just tasty goodness.

The dairy sector has a huge role to play in contributing to economic development, food security and poverty alleviation in the region.

As you are aware the 2030 Agenda for “Sustainable Development” adopted by UN Member States in September 2015, promotes inclusive economic growth, social advancement and environmental protection. The core ideas are represented in 17 SDGs. In almost all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the dairy sector has significant role to play, the most important being No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health & Well Being.

Recognizing this, Dairy Asia has developed a sustainability framework as a key tool to coordinate and align actions by identifying 10 strategic objectives for sustainable dairy sector development.

As I see it, we need to meet rising demand for dairy products by sustainable increases in milk productivity and farm profitability and by integrating small-scale producers in the modern value chain. We need to also protect and enhance human health by improving dairy food quality and safety and by enabling consumers to make informed choices on the benefits and risks of dairy products as part of the diet.

Overall our efforts should be in direction of enhancing resilience and adaptability of dairy systems by strengthening stakeholder capacity to cope with market and production risks and for greater innovation.

I am convinced that Dairy Asia as a platform will create synergy in enhancing the achievement of above goals through networking and knowledge sharing not only among member nations but across the globe as well.

Let us hope that we will be able to make significant contribution in positioning dairying as an instrument of equitable socio-economic development and environmental stewardship in Asia and the Pacific region.

Sangram R. Chaudhary
Chair
Dairy Asia Steering Committee
Eliminating hunger and malnutrition in Asia will take a strong alliance of public and private sectors, farmers, research and academic institutions, NGOs, social movements, community-based organizations and foundations.

The multi-stakeholder partnership Dairy Asia was initiated exactly out of this need to collaborate and join forces.

And now in its second year of operation the partnership has some impressive achievements to its credit. The report shows that actions took place at all levels, from sharing plans to developing strategies together, to taking action and making progress on the ground. From working in isolation to the collaboration of institutions in and between countries. From sharing knowledge to driving research and development, to publishing a working paper series.

I want to give recognitions to all members for their continuous efforts to build a strong and sustainable Asian dairy sector. And I want to congratulate the platform for its role in facilitating this development: Connecting diverse stakeholders and building robust networks, providing tools and guidelines to develop strategies, giving exposure to successful projects and models for sustainable dairy development, sharing information and providing space for experts to collaborate.

But we also need to acknowledge that multi-stakeholder partnerships come with their own challenges to sustain them and Dairy Asia is no different.

To operate a support team that drives the development of the platform, leads communications and administration will take long term financial commitment of partners. For the platform to strive and evolve everyone will need to bring something to the table, may it be financial, human or material resources including also our own time. At the same time we also need to keep questioning the way we operate and find new approaches to strengthen and add value to this partnership. What are the needs of the members and how can Dairy Asia to fulfil this need?

That being said, I am very pleased to see the way Dairy Asia’s process has gone so far and remain hopeful for its future. And I would recommend and invite everyone to join this excellent initiative.

Kundhavi Kadiresan
Assistant Director General and
Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
FAO
The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, established 2011, is a multi-stakeholder partnership mechanism with the aim to catalyze and guide the sustainable development of the global livestock sector. It provides a platform addressing comprehensively the sectors’ multiple challenges towards sustainable development by catalyzing the global dialogue into local practice change, focusing on innovation, capacity building, and incentive systems and enabling environments. The achievements of the Global Agenda have proven that multi-stakeholder partnerships are a powerful cooperation approach to support the implementation of SDGs on issues related to livestock.

The vision of the Global Agenda is to enhance the contribution of the livestock sector to sustainable development. Its mission is to enhance livestock stakeholders’ commitment, investments and adoption of good practices and policies in support of the UN Agenda 2030 and its goal is to facilitate dialogue, generate evidence and support the adoption of good practices and policies in favor of the UN Agenda 2030 targets and objectives related to livestock. The sector’s sustainability can only be improved effectively through concerted action by all stakeholder groups. Given the public good nature of the sector’s environmental, social and economic challenges and its increasing economic integration, collective global action is essential.

The Global Agenda is proud to have Dairy Asia as one of our many Action Networks. The vision of Dairy Asia is well aligned with the vision of the Global Agenda.

I congratulate Dairy Asia for the successful creation of this comprehensive platform. A platform offering multiple opportunities for its members to share and exchange best practices and a platform which is instrumental to document the potential of small scale dairying for sustainable rural development in the three dimensions of economic, social and environmental impact.

Fritz Schneider
Chair
Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock
Statement from the Secretariat

The Asian dairy sector is rich in social and technical innovations. Sharing experiences and lessons around these innovations can be a powerful source of change.

Milk production has been among the most celebrated success stories in Asia. This success story has been written by millions of small farmers scattered across the region. The region now produces close to 40 percent of the global milk production compared to less than 20 percent just three decades ago.

But dairy is more than just about producing and selling milk. Dairy is about supporting poor peoples’ livelihoods. Dairy is about nutrition and cognitive development of children. Dairy is about empowerment of women and the marginalized. And Dairy is about unleashing the potential for rural economic growth.

The projected growing consumer demand for milk and dairy development in the region provide an excellent opportunity to boost the local dairy sector to strengthen food security, alleviate poverty alleviation and contribute to overall social equity.

While the sector faces challenges it is also rich in social and technical innovations. Sharing experiences and lessons around these innovations can be a powerful source of change in support of sustainability agenda. This requires joining hands. And that is what defines the spirit of Dairy Asia. Linkages established since the launch of Dairy Asia are already spurring partnerships and collaborations. And we need many more. We must work together to bring changes to the lives of people who struggle day in and day out to make their ends meet; and I urge all the members of Dairy Asia to give their hundred percent for putting the Asian Dairy sector on the path of economic, social and ecological sustainability.

Vinod Ahuja
Policy Officer
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
The Asian landscape: Challenges and prospects for dairy

Bustling Asia. Home to megacities. Over the past two decades the Asian region has achieved huge economic gains, doubling the gross domestic product of the region and halving the prevalence of undernourishment. Despite these achievements, the region still has a daunting agenda ahead of it. With only 35% of the world’s arable land, the region is home to almost 60% of the global population. About 800 million people or 18% of the Asian population still live under extreme poverty and almost 500 million or 12% are undernourished. A third of all children under five years of age are stunted and a tenth wasted.

The agricultural sector is under pressure to meet society’s growing food and environmental needs. Today’s farmers face the challenge of producing more food with less resources available and at the same time address climate change and impacts on ecosystems. Investing in a sustainable agricultural sector is therefore no longer a question of choice. It is the only option.

The Asian dairy sector is uniquely positioned to help the region achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Agenda 2030.

**Nutrition.** Milk is an excellent source of protein, energy, lipids and a number of macro and micronutrients including calcium, magnesium, selenium, riboflavin, vitamins B5 and B12, which are essential to reduce hunger and malnutrition particularly amongst the most vulnerable (e.g. pregnant women and children). Most countries with dietary guidelines recommend dairy as a component in a balanced diet.

Cows and buffaloes can convert materials that are not edible to humans to high quality protein and essential macro and micronutrients. Thus by shifting feed production away from arable land towards pasture unsuitable for crops, dairy has the potential to add to the total Asian food production.

**Economic value.** Today, milk is one of most produced and valuable agricultural commodities in Asia and the sector is growing fast. By 2014, the region’s milk production had touched 307 million tonnes - 39 per cent of global production, compared to 15% in 1960. The total value of Asian dairy production exceeded US $133 billion and 7.5% of Asian agricultural value added.

**Livelihoods.** Beyond increasing food production dairy animals play a vital role in supporting and protecting livelihoods. According to some estimates for every 100 litres of milk produced locally, up to five off-farm jobs are created in related industries like collection, processing and distribution. In Asia about 80% of the milk volume is produced by smallholder farmers. To them the animals are a regular source of food and cash and a store of wealth. Dairy animals also generate dung, which is valuable as fertilizer, fuel and construction material, and can be also marketed and animal traction. Ownership of dairy animals can support the empowerment of women as they are easily more accessible than land or other physical and financial assets and since women have traditionally vested roles as cattle raisers and milk sellers in many Asian countries.

**Environment.** While dairy farming is associated with some negative environmental effects, these can be reduced by supporting the adoption of new methods and practices (i.e. feed, manure management, animal health and husbandry, etc.). As demand for dairy products will rise in the future, it is imperative that mitigation efforts are made within the sector.
Dairy Asia

While the challenges are numerous and there are no off-the-shelf technological and institutional solutions that can be applied in all different contexts, the region certainly has a number of successful models and initiatives that can serve as sources of lessons for formulating future strategies and programmes for dairy development. To capture the lessons and good practices and coordinate action on the ground to facilitate the transition towards a more sustainable sector however remains a challenge. How do we address the challenge? A network of dairy agents asked themselves the very same question and as a response Dairy Asia was born: A multi-stakeholder platform of partners committed to visioning and building a sustainable dairy sector in Asia. Partners work together and align actions to accelerate the movement towards more sustainable practices.

The common platform provides space for dialogue and the exchange of knowledge and experiences and encourages collaboration amongst and within member countries. Technical working groups of experts perform collaborative R&D. A sustainability framework guides the development of strategic directions and helps stakeholders align their actions.

The efforts in the member countries are led by key partner institutions in the countries, called the National Focal Points. Current member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. While the platform is rooted in the region, it also has a global outreach through its linkages with global knowledge partners and similar global platforms.

The Secretariat of the platform is currently situated at the FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand.
The Sustainability Framework

To be sustainable, dairy sector growth needs to support livelihoods, contribute to enhancing economic and social well-being, protect public health from any health threats generated by animals or produce, sustain natural resources and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The members of Dairy Asia sought to develop a common framework for the Asian dairy sector while recognizing that no single strategy within this framework could fully address the various dimensions of sustainability and cater to the highly diverse Asian dairy sector. The members identified a number of strategic objectives to work towards, which are closely aligned to 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals - an evidence of the dairy’s vast contribution towards achieving the UN 2030 Agenda.

Together, these objectives form a guiding framework for stakeholders: a map to collectively decide on priority action areas to work on together as well as a compilation of recommended actions that can be pursued individually or collectively to achieve the strategic objectives.

**Vision:**
A socially and environmentally responsible Asian Dairy Sector that enhances rural livelihoods, improves nutrition and contributes to economic prosperity.

**Strategic objectives**

1. **Meet rising demand for dairy products by sustainable increases in milk productivity and farm profitability.**

   *Examples of recommended actions:*
   - Improve the genetic stock of dairy cattle
   - Augment feed resources, improve feeding practices and enhance overall nutrient management
   - Improve farm-level management and husbandry practices, including better health management of dairy animals

2. **Integrate small-scale producers in the modern value chain through promotion of fair and efficient markets.**

   *Examples of recommended actions:*
   - Strengthen incentives for farmers to deliver milk
   - Create fair and transparent pricing systems
   - Encourage collective action and structures such as cooperatives, producer companies and dairy hubs

3. **Protect and enhance human health by improving dairy food quality and safety and by enabling consumers to make informed choices on the benefits and risks of dairy products as part of the diet.**

   *Examples of recommended actions:*
   - Promote and certify Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices
   - Establish payment schemes incentivizing high quality milk production
   - Improve laboratory infrastructure

4. **Enhance resilience and adaptability of dairy systems by strengthening stakeholder capacity to cope with production and market risks and enhancing innovation.**

   *Examples of recommended actions:*
   - Improve credit accessibility
   - Provide broader access to market information
   - Establish early-warning systems for natural hazards
5. Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems by minimizing the dairy sector’s environmental footprint.

**Examples of recommended actions:**
- Create legislation to prevent discharge of dairy farm manure (including liquids) to surface waters
- Adopt a standard water footprint methodology which would allow benchmarking and consistent comparisons across time and across countries and regions of the world
- Develop pilot and demonstration farms to introduce best practices

6. Combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions along the dairy chain.

**Examples of recommended actions:**
- Balance feed ratios using more digestible feed materials
- Promote anaerobic manure digester technology to recover methane gas for use as renewable energy, i.e. biogas installation

7. Enhance levels of education through school milk programmes and transfer of knowledge and best practices to all actors involved in the dairy chain.

**Examples of recommended actions:**
- Link school milk programmes to local dairy communities
- Create farmer field schools
- Encourage advisory services promoting farmer-to-farmer transfer of technologies and knowledge

8. Promote gender equality by ensuring women receive proper recognition for their work in dairy production, processing and marketing and by encouraging women in leadership positions.

**Examples of recommended actions:**
- Provide extension services and training directed to women, women support groups and women cooperatives
- Link women to rural finance institutions
- Promote women’s leadership roles throughout the value chain

9. Improve access to clean affordable energy through promotion of biogas from dairy systems.

**Examples of recommended actions:**
- Establish demonstration farms illustrating anaerobic manure digester technology
- Enhance access to rural financial institutions

10. Strengthen the means of implementation by building national, regional and global platforms for dairy development.

**Examples of recommended actions:**
- Coordinate joint action among all key stakeholders at various levels
- Monitor, evaluate and continuously improve sustainability performance
National dairy sector priorities across the region

Under the auspices of Dairy Asia, diverse groups of stakeholders met in each member country to collectively identify key country-specific working areas to support sustainable dairy sector growth. Using the Dairy Asia Sustainability Framework as a guide, they agreed to pursue a number of strategic objectives (SOs) as priority action areas. A tally of the selection (see Table 1 below) shows that member countries predominantly chose to focus on the following SOs:

1. Improve milk productivity and farm profitability (11 countries)
2. Integrate small-scale producers into the modern value chain (9 countries)
3. Protect and enhance human health (6 countries)
4. Enhance levels of education (8 countries)

### Mapping the national priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Objective</th>
<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>Bhutan</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Mongolia</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
<th>Nepal</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Improve milk productivity and farm profitability</td>
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<td>2. Integrate small-scale producers in the modern value chain</td>
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<td>3. Protect and enhance human health</td>
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<td>4. Enhance resilience and adaptability of dairy systems</td>
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<td>5. Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems</td>
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<td>6. Combat climate change</td>
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<td>7. Enhance levels of education</td>
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<td>8. Promote gender equality</td>
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<td>9. Improve access to clean affordable energy</td>
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<td>10. Build national, regional and global platforms</td>
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Country activities in 2017

Improve milk productivity and farm profitability

Focus on breeds
To improve milk productivity, the majority of member countries focused on activities to increase and upgrade their genetic stocks. Geneticists worked with nucleus herds and the improved genotypes were then disseminated through artificial insemination. The Philippine governmental agency, the National Dairy Authority, used sexed semen to further increase efficiency. Several countries expanded their infrastructure by building more semen stations (Bhutan - 4, Bangladesh - 7, Myanmar - 1) and rural storage facilities.

In the first half year of 2017, the government of Bangladesh had trained over a thousand staff through various projects to conduct the inseminations, developed manuals and awarded certificates.

Focus on feed
Member countries introduced new fodder varieties, including higher yielding grasses and promoted the cultivation of crops such as sorghum, alfalfa and maize. Governments and related agencies distributed the new seeds and established nurseries. The National Dairy Development Boards of Nepal and India focused on exploiting local varieties as feed sources.

Finding the right mix of protein, energy, vitamins and minerals in feed is crucial for improving milk productivity. Extension workers, demonstrations farms and farmer field schools provided trainings to farmers about optimal feed mixtures as well as cultivation and harvest of fodder, production of silage and urea molasses and feed husbandry practices.

Another approach taken by the governments of Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka, was to encourage farmers groups and cooperatives to produce ready-to-use mixed rations for their members.

Examples of efforts made by countries throughout the first half of 2017 to improve feed quality:
- Development of over 600 acres of fodder plantations in Bhutan
- Establishment of 29 feed centres producing total mixed rations throughout Thailand
- Distribution of Mulato II, Cayman and Mombasa fodder grass seeds in the Philippines
- Trainings on silage production to extension workers and subsequently over 500 farmers in Myanmar
**Focus on capacity building**

Different groups of stakeholders organized on-site training and capacity building programmes to extension workers, technicians, farmers and local volunteers on various focus areas including animal husbandry, feed production, artificial insemination, veterinary services and data collection. In training centres, farmer field schools and model farms, producers gained hands-on experiences.

**Examples of trainings and capacity programmes:**
- The government of Bangladesh trained 60 veterinary surgeons.
- In Nepal over 1 000 small scale farmers, milk handlers and producers were trained by the government, the National Dairy Development Board and HEIFER International.
- A training centre in Thailand taught dairy processing technology to Thai as well as foreign small-scale producers. In 2017 about 250 Thais, Burmese and Bhutanese entrepreneurs joined the trainings.

**Integrate small-scale producers into the modern value chain**

**Focus on creating collectives**

Member countries have encouraged dairy farmers to form dairy groups—cooperatives, producer groups, self-help groups, common interest groups or associations. Forming collectives increases the bargaining power of farmers, secures market to sell produce, creates investment opportunities through bundling assets and facilitates access to inputs and services. Collectives are a common feature in the Asian dairy landscape. In Indonesia 97% of the milk produced nationally is generated by collectives where the average farmer has only about 2-4 animals. In India, under the guidance of the National Dairy Development Board, about 6 000 new dairy cooperatives alone were formed between March 2016 and 2017 reaching a cumulative of 177 000 groups with a total of 16 000 million members.

Besides cooperatives, governments had also supported the formation of common interest groups to share know-how. In the first half of 2017 the government of Bangladesh supported the development of 3 467 common interest groups. Small dairy clusters are promoted in Myanmar to share farm management technology during monthly meetings.

To further support dairy cooperatives, unions and associations to link to markets the Afghan government has just established a National Dairy Association. And in both, the Philippines and Bhutan, studies have been issued to review value chains and find entry points of interventions to further support smallholder farmers.

To aid smallholder farmers and incentivize the formation of collectives, some countries (i.e. Bangladesh, Philippines and Nepal) provided soft loans with subsidized interest rates and subsidized insurance to collectives.

**Focus on empowering women**

Several countries put focus on women ensuring that they prominently participate in dairy affairs and have a voice in decision making. Strong women groups were formed in India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan, with India supporting as of 2017 more than 30 000 all-women dairy cooperatives, consisting of more than 5 million empowered women members.
Protect and enhance human health

Focus on disease control
One target of most governmental agencies has been to control diseases and improve overall animal health. Throughout the year they held several de-worming and vaccination campaigns and run programmes to treat mastitis.

One innovative approach was taken in Thailand where dairy companies, cooperatives, state cooperative and the government joined hands to provide dairy extension services through collectively run Herd Health Units. In the first half of 2017 about 36 units were established and more than 100 veterinarians and animal husbandry scientists were recruited.

Focus on safety standards, milk labelling and facilities inspection
Members have been developing and reviewing their milk safety standards. The government of Myanmar recently launched a standard for raw milk and the government of Nepal prepared an action plan together with dairy entrepreneurs to launch a standard while the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China reviewed and amended its national raw milk and dairy product standards.

Besides national standards, labels signify their own standards. India’s concept of “Quality Mark” is a continuing endeavour to improve quality and food safety aspects of milk and milk products. It involves pre-assessment of dairy units, followed by detailed inspection and display of the ‘Quality Mark’ on packages to enhance and ensure consumer confidence on the products. In Thailand two processing plants were certified as ‘Lanna High Quality Milk’, a label that certifies high quality standards as well as a geographic location: The north of Thailand, formal kingdom of Lan Na. And a few other processing plants in Thailand were certified as organic.

To ensure admission to these standards several member countries ran milk sampling campaigns and promoted inspections at collection centres. In 2016 the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture sampled more than 26,000 raw milk batches at 11,000 raw milk collection stations and 8,200 transportation trucks. Myanmar and Bangladesh are building laboratories to test milk quality.
Focus on pricing schemes
Several member countries (Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand) formulated incentive payment schemes for milk. Milk collecting centres paid out premiums to farmers based on protein and fat content in milk as well as somatic cell count, an indication for the number of bacteria present in the milk. In Thailand dairy farmers also received premiums for following Good Agricultural Practices.

Enhance levels of education
Focus on school milk programmes
School milk programmes were implemented in nearly all Dairy Asia countries to assist children to obtain the necessary nutrients to overcome undernutrition and stunting. In the process, it was expected that school children’s education would be enhanced.

Programmes of nationwide scope are found in China, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. The remaining countries implemented sub-national programmes; Indonesia discontinued its school milk programme, while Afghanistan expects to launch its first school milk programme in 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Year started</th>
<th>Name of project/programme</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Linking school milk with smallholder dairy</td>
<td>17 primary schools</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<td>National school milk</td>
<td>Nationwide</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>Dood Sanjeevani</td>
<td>Gujarat state</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>School Lunch</td>
<td>Nationwide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
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<td>School milk</td>
<td>Katmandu Valley</td>
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<td>Local milk feeding</td>
<td>Selected localities</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>School milk programme</td>
<td>Nationwide (selected)</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>School milk programme</td>
<td>Nationwide</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>National school milk</td>
<td>Nationwide</td>
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</table>
National Multi-stakeholders' Meetings, January - March 2017

Dairy Asia supported 12 national multi-stakeholder meetings in each country in 2017. The purpose of these meetings was to establish multi-stakeholder groups in the countries, to advocate Dairy Asia, to re-confirm the role of the national focal points, discuss the Dairy Asia Sustainability Framework and identify priority action areas. The stakeholders together prioritized key strategic objectives that each country wanted to pursue and explored opportunities for further collaboration.

Dairy Asia National Focal Point and Steering Committee meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 9-10 March 2017

The National Focal Points and the Steering Committee met to discuss the main sustainability challenges they face and together develop a work plan.

Highlights:
- Presentations of sustainability challenges in member countries
- Introduction of the technical working group on dairy genetics
- Delineation and Consolidation of the roles of National Focal Points, Steering Committee, Technical Working Groups and Secretariat
- Development of a work plan for 2017
Dairy Asia multi-stakeholder platform meeting, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 6-10 November 2017

This meeting, attended by over 150 participants, was convened to take stock of the progress made in the Dairy Asia member countries, facilitate sharing of experiences and lessons, identify new opportunities for collaboration and develop a roadmap for Dairy Asia over the next 5 years.

The meeting included panel discussions on dairy-related topics, three plenary presentations and technical presentations on Climate Smart Livestock and school milk programme in Asia. A large exhibition showed progress made in the countries and an interactive poster session highlighted successful projects of introducing more sustainable practices in the dairy sector. In interactive group sessions, participants developed a roadmap for Dairy Asia.

Using flip charts, the participants compiled and presented reflections and analyses on platform needs and recommended actions. Strong discussion points have been fund sourcing, membership drive, communication, technical working groups and knowledge products to be pursued. In the closing session the plenary identified a list of recommended actions to be pursued over the next year to ensure a stronger and more collaborative platform. Ultimately the responsibility to develop the platform further lies in the hand of its members.

In this meeting the platform also introduced for the first time the Dairy Asia Sustainability Award which was to be conferred to the winning project introducing sustainable dairy practices that had exhibited high standards of excellence and depth of impact. A winner was chosen from among the five finalists presented during the meeting.
Dairy Asia presence in regional and global meetings

Collaboration between DPO Thailand and MDA Myanmar. Dairy Asia supported the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Mineral Mixture Supply and Technical Collaborations between the Dairy Farming Promotion Organization of Thailand (DPO) and Myanmar Dairy Association (MDA) on 30 January 2017. Co-signatories were DPO Director Narongrit Wongsuwan and MDA Chairman Khin Hlaing. DPO offered to supply mineral mixture priced at cost to MDA and to provide services and training on dairy cattle feeding.

VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 15-17 March, 2017. Dairy Asia supported the VIV Asia, a biennial international trade show on livestock from feed to food for Asia at the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Center. Dairy Asia occupied one exhibition booth. The side-event DairyTech Conference Asia organized sharing sessions showcasing sustainable dairying. Dairy Asia provided visitors with some learning opportunities about the DA partnership and further relevant information during the open forum.

Sustainable Agricultural Initiative (SAI) Conference in Beijing, 24-26 April, 2017. Dairy Asia, in partnership with Dairy Association of China (the Chinese National Focal Point), presented to 140 global food and drink industry delegates the Dairy Asia regional activities in the region and in China.

Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock 7th Multi-stakeholder Partnership Meeting, Addis Ababa, 8-12 May, 2017. Dairy Asia presented to 300 participants the platform as a case study for livestock-based solutions. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the initiatives undertaken, highlighted applicable lessons and tools for sustainable livestock development. Dr Fritz Schneider, Chairperson of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, congratulated the Dairy Asia platform for its contribution to GASL.
“Livestock is central to some of the major challenges the world faces today; and how we deal with these challenges will have significant implications on the wellbeing of future generations.”

Ms Xiaojie Fan, FAO Representative in Myanmar
Publications and Studies

In 2016, Dairy Asia produced three working papers:
1) “Evolving appropriate institutional structures for sustainable dairying: Experiences from India and selected Asian countries”
2) “Dairy economics and policy: Focus on Asia”
3) “Dairy value chain assessment for Yangon and Mandalay region, Myanmar”.

Following the above inaugural working papers, Daisy Asia produced in 2017 three more working papers.

Working Paper 4: “Genetic improvement of dairy animals in Asia - Strategies for developing effective and sustained breeding programmes”

Dairy geneticists Kamlesh Trivedi and David Steane surveyed the genetic dairy stock available and past and current strategies towards genetic improvement in six member countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia and Thailand.

Key findings:
- Genetic improvement is a key factor in future dairy production, although management and nutrition will have more rapid effects in the short term than by genetic change.
- The genetic strategies in Asia are highly variable, thus achieving very variable genetic change rates. Genetic change is relatively slow but growing.
- Defining breeding goals requires broader consultations with all parties about the future. Developing a breeding structure depends on the extent of AI infrastructure, comprehensive information systems, evaluation systems and standards in place.
- While the use of genomics in dairy breeding has increased dramatically in many countries, this has not been the case in Asia. Undoubtedly there will be clear benefits from increasing the potential genetic change by the use of genomics, the use of embryo transfer (ET) and in vitro fertilization (IVF).

Working paper 5: “Dairy and climate change interface with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region: An Exploratory review”

Mohammad A. Jabbar and Vinod Ahuja reviewed and explored available evidence on livestock sector contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation as well as adaptation measures being pursued in order to identify options for development of a sustainable dairy sector.

Key findings:
- Livestock sector is often blamed for a significant contribution to global warming through emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) - carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.
- Studies on livestock sector have used life-cycle assessment approach covering the entire supply chain from feed production to retail, hence assessed emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.
- At the global level, emission intensity for milk is several times higher in developing countries compared to developed countries mainly due to differences in yield. However, in national and sample-based herd-level studies, emission intensity is only marginally higher in developing countries.
- In the developing countries, dairy sector interventions are mostly focused on improving productivity. Conscious efforts to mitigate GHG emissions are few if at all.
- Given low-yield levels, developing countries have opportunities to increase yield and reduce emission intensity.
Working paper 6: “Review of School Milk Experience in Asia and the Pacific Region”

Dairy Asia commissioned Roehl Briones to undertake a review of the school milk programmes in Asia, highlighting the status of milk consumption and child undernutrition. The paper review was presented to the Dairy Asia Multi-stakeholder Platform Meeting on 6-10 November 2017 in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.

Key findings:
- With few exceptions, per capita availability of milk in developing Asia is still far below that in wealthy countries in the West.
- Most Asian countries are closer to self-sufficiency in per capita milk supply.
- School milk accounts for a significant proportion of the demand for liquid milk. Support for local dairy industry is an underlying motivation for many school milk programmes.
- School milk programmes show significant positive effects of school meals on nutritional status and educational outcomes of children.
- Cost of school feeding varies widely; some lower cost examples have had positive effects on nutrient intake and educational outcomes.

2017 Dairy Asia Newsletters

Dairy Asia produced bi-monthly issues of the Dairy Asia newsletter during the year. The newsletters were avenues for informing platform members and a wider audience on recent Dairy Asia and joint partnership activities and events, abstracts of interesting publications and success stories, and practice changes in Asia and the world.
Dairy Asia Sustainability Award

Dairy Asia recognizes that sustainable transformation of the Asian dairy sector can only be achieved through more sustainable practices that overcome local adoption barriers and upscale existing best practices.

Dairy Asia conferred the first Dairy Asia Sustainability Award in 2017 to recognize successful changes in practices that make dairy systems more sustainable, both on- and off-farm. The Award provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the contributions of Dairy Asia’s member countries to the growing wealth of knowledge in dairy, give visibility to success stories from Dairy Asia’s partners and inspire others.

The award has been developed in collaboration with the global organization “Dairy Sustainability Framework”. And the winner of the 2017 award has also been invited by the “Dairy Sustainability Framework” to attend the organization’s members meeting in Korea later in 2018 to present their work to the membership. This gives their work a wider exposure and also gives the winner the opportunity to connect with colleagues from other dairy regions.

NDDB India’s Ration Balancing Programme wins award

During the Dairy Asia Multi-stakeholder Platform meeting in Naypyitaw on November 9, 2017, Dairy Asia presented the first Dairy Asia Sustainability Award to the NDDB for the implementation of the Ration Balancing Programme (RBP) in India. Dr Rajesh Kumar received the momento on behalf of NDDB.

The winning programme involved village-based local resource persons who provide advisory services on optimal feed mixes for dairy cattle in local languages based on locally available feed resources directly to farmers, covering 2.4 million animals in more than 30,000 villages. The trained resource persons used a software, named “Information Network on Animal Productivity and Health (INAPH)”, to determine the feed requirements to meet the animals’ appropriate nutrient levels, physiological status and milk production level.

Implementing agencies provided the needed technical support, training, village selection, input provision and monitoring. A data library of feed used is generated through laboratory testing. Mid-term reviews interpret generated data and recommend corrective measures.

Visible impact: Milk production and corresponding income increased; women were acknowledged as great contributors to the programme; and the socio-economic status of villagers had improved.
We have traversed a path few have dared to. We are continuing on a path still fewer have the courage to follow. We must pursue the path even fewer can dream to pursue. Yet, we must, because we hold in trust the aims and aspirations of millions of our countrymen.

Dr. Verghese Kurien
Inspiring stories from the region

Bangladesh: From rickshaw driver to dairy king

Abul Hossain, a rickshaw driver with just one cow is a great example of someone supported by the Bangladesh Dairy Enhancement Project (BDEP). With the help of BDEP, he learned about farm management, sheltering, the importance of not tethering cows and feeding management. He began feeding his cows chopped maize fodder provided by BDEP and saw milk production rise from 7 to 11 litres. So Abdul took out a BDT300 000 (US$ 3 635) loan to invest in new animals and sold his milk to the local chilling centre. He thought of leaving his job as a rickshaw driver to dedicate himself full-time to dairying. Today he owns seven cows, three of which are expecting calves. These produce 50 litres of milk a day, boosting Abul’s income by BDT 3 000 ($US 36). He is already paying off his loans and reinvested his milk profits to extend his farm. His dairy income has allowed him to improve his home, send his children to school and enjoy a new status in the community.

Bhutan: Construction of bio-gas digester plants for eco-friendly energy

Bio-gas technology was introduced into the Samtse district in 2013 and, despite the ubiquity of LPG gas and electricity, bio-gas has become popular among local people. It is seen as more eco-friendly, requires only an initial investment and needs only low maintenance. In addition, there are abundant raw materials, thanks to the flourishing dairy sector. So far, 678 bio-gas plants have been constructed in Bhutan with Samtse being the leading district in project implementation and construction. To further promote this useful form of energy, the District Authorities of Samtse have encouraged 25 masons to train in plant construction and to form a bio-gas cooperative to spread word of this eco-friendly energy.
India: A Village-Based Milk Procurement System (VBMPS) established - Ujjain Milk Union in Madhaya Pradesh

Female workers in Harniya Khedi, a village in the Ujjain Milk Union, came together in 2016 to form a Dairy Cooperative Society. This has boosted regional milk production from 7 to over 100 litres a day and led to the formation of a village self-help group. The members now pool their milk, using group power to ensure fair prices. Before the dairy cooperative society was formed, farmers were forced to sell their high quality milk at low prices. The DCS has enhanced the socio-economic status of local women. Initially, in order to encourage participation of women, the officials of the milk union held sessions on Clean Milk Production (CMP), education and the role of women in the functioning of the dairy cooperatives. In response, local women seized the opportunity to improve their situation. They established a strong system of management, with meetings conducted on a monthly basis and attended by union officials.

Members of this village cooperative movement are now better informed on many aspects of scientific animal husbandry. The women’s active role in the DCS has improved their standing in the village and has been beneficial for their families, thanks to extra income and a more certain future.

Thailand: Synergy of dairy extension services for better milk production

One of the priorities on the development of dairy sector in Thailand is to increase milk yield and improve milk quality. Since 2013, the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) has established 36 Herd Health Units (HHUs). Each HHU consists of 2-3 veterinarians and animal husbandry scientists who have received special training on dairy herd health management. The tasks of HHUs are to educate farmers on farming management and deliver better heard health services in order to improve productivity and milk quality. In addition, HHUs have also worked closely with dairy extension staff of Thai Dairy Industries Association (TDIA), key dairy processing companies, and dairy cooperatives in Thailand as part of public-private partnership programme. Data recording system at the farm level has been developed and strengthened. Eventually farmers will be able to keep record of their farms and enter all individual data of their cows on the mobile application which has been developed. It is expected that all the efforts will result in increased milk production, more efficient production systems and improved milk quality benefitting the farmers.
Looking ahead

Dairy Asia is a new platform and good planning and member commitment is crucial to its success. For a young regional platform, it has several achievements to its credit and has earned respect and legitimacy from National Focal Points and country stakeholders. Dairy Asia is increasingly recognized as a hub for regional dairy knowledge and action.

For 2018 and beyond, Dairy Asia has prioritized the following major thrusts:

**Dairy knowledge networking.** Dairy Asia will endeavour to establish additional technical working groups, link with research institutes and universities and individual experts, develop regional knowledge products and encourage knowledge sharing.

**Quality and safety Standards.** In partnership with professional institutions and global knowledge partners, Dairy Asia will compile and provide guidance with regard to standards and operating procedures based on the experiences of developed countries as well as the innovations and best practices by Asian regional dairy leaders.

**Fund raising.** National focal points are encouraged to touch base with local partners and stakeholders who are committed, able and willing to financially support joint activities. The regional platform envisions to invite international development partners, social investors and corporations to join and support Dairy Asia.

**Membership drive and champions.** Dairy Asia will further broaden its platform at both the regional and national levels. It will prepare communication products with National Focal Points and country stakeholders to further reach out to the private sector, development partners, consumer groups, academic and research institutes. In its call for champions on dairy focus areas, a number of National Focal Points, Steering Committee members and other stakeholders committed to champion specific working areas. At the same time, Dairy Asia will open windows of opportunity for individual and collective stakeholders in each country and at the regional platform level to contribute to the platform.

**Awards.** As a follow-up to the well-appreciated inaugural conferment of the Dairy Asia Sustainability Award, the platform will further explore opportunities to highlight and upscale good practices.

With these thrusts and directions, Dairy Asia hopes to strengthen the network and accelerate action on the ground in 2018 and beyond.
Organizational Structure and Linkages

Dairy Asia is a multi-stakeholder platform. The internal structure of the platform consists of i) National Focal Points, ii) a Steering Committee, iii) Technical Working Groups and iv) the Secretariat. This structure allows for semi-autonomous working, building on the strengths of all member countries and creating opportunities towards more coordinated action in pursuit of all the member countries’ common vision and strategic objectives. Dairy Asia likewise maintains collaboration and linkage with Global Knowledge Partners and Sponsors from both within and outside the region.

Meet the National Focal Points (NFPs)
The NFPs are key institutions in the national dairy sectors which at the regional platform level represent their respective countries and coordinate country stakeholders’ participation. Each NFP also organizes human, material and financial support to Dairy Asia in-country activities, and acts as a communication link and action leader between the regional platform Dairy Asia and country stakeholders. The NFPs are represented by designated officers to Dairy Asia.

Afghanistan
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Government of Afghanistan
Located in Kabul
The Ministry is managing Afghanistan’s agricultural, irrigation and livestock policy including private sector facilitation, information management, infrastructure development, extension work, research, and disaster response and disease control.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:
Tawheed Ali Azeemi
Livestock Services Director
Email: tawheerdn@gmail.com

Bangladesh
Department of Livestock Services, Government of Bangladesh
Located in Dhaka
The Department of Livestock Services is a government organization under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. The department provides targeted veterinary and husbandry services to farmers and facilitates private sector development in the livestock sector.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:
Ainul Haque
Director General
Email: dgdis16@gmail.com, ahaquedls@yahoo.com
Bhutan  
**Department of Livestock, Government of Bhutan**  
Located in Thimphu

The Department of Livestock is a governmental body with the mandates to develop policies, strategies and guidelines, ensure efficient delivery of livestock services, develop capacities of all programmes and agencies including human resources, mobilize resources for livestock development, plan, co-ordinate, monitor, and evaluate the overall livestock development, and liaise with international and national stakeholders in areas of livestock.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:  
**Tashi Samdup**  
Director General  
E-mail: tashi_samdup2001@yahoo.com

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China  
**Dairy Association of China (DAC)**  
Located in Beijing

The association is an independent, social and non-profit corporate organization consisting of enterprises, agencies, organizations or institutions involved in dairy sector development. DAC’s functions are to organize national conferences, promote the national school milk programme, implement government projects, provide information services, and organize regular meetings of the governors, experts and entrepreneurs.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:  
**Zhao Wei**  
Deputy Director, International Department  
E-mail: wayjow@gmail.com; intl@dac.org.cn

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India  
**National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**  
Located in Anand, Gujarat

NDDB is a corporate entity established to promote, finance and support producer-owned and controlled organizations. NDDB’s programmes and activities seek to strengthen farmer cooperatives and support national policies that are favorable to the growth of such institutions. Fundamental to NDDB’s efforts are cooperative principles and cooperative strategies.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:  
**Sangram R Chaudhary**  
Executive Director  
Email: sangram@nddb.coop

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Indonesia  
**Indonesian Center for Animal Research and Development**  
Located in Bogor

The national centre covers a broad spectrum of research areas along the value chain including livestock breeding, reproduction, post-harvest handling, forage and feedstuffs, veterinary sciences, pharmacology, livestock germplasm of fodder crops and microorganism.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:  
**Atien Priyanti**  
Director  
E-mail: atienpriyanti@yahoo.com

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Mongolia  
**Department of Coordination for Food Production Policy Implementation, Government of Mongolia**  
Located in Ulaanbaatar

The department is a governmental body of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry with the mandates to develop policies, strategies and guidelines and to ensure efficient delivery of services to international and national stakeholders in areas of food production.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:  
**Sarandagina Narantungalag**  
Officer-in-Charge of Dairy Industry  
Email: sdagina2000@yahoo.com

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Myanmar  
**Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Government of Myanmar**  
Located in Naypyitaw

The department is a governmental body of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development promoting livestock health and production.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:  
**Ye Tun Win**  
Director General  
Email: ytwvet84@googlemail.com
Nepal
National Dairy Development Board
Based in Lalitpur

NDDB was established as an apex-level policy making body mandated to oversee dairy development activities by assisting in dairy policy formulation and planning, maintaining coordination between all the private and public sector dairy entities, organizing activities for farmers’ cooperatives and undertaking studies and researches for dairy development.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:

Babu Kaji Panta
Deputy Executive Director
Email: nddbnepal@mail.com; bkpant2009@gmail.com

The Philippines
National Dairy Authority
Located in Manila

The agency is linked to the Department of Agriculture and mandated to ensure accelerated dairy industry development through policy direction and programme implementation. It focuses its efforts on achieving milk sufficiency and providing technical services.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:

Marilyn B. Mabale
Administrator
E-mail: mbm_dairy@yahoo.com.ph

Sri Lanka
Department of Animal Production and Health
Located in Peradeniya

The department is a state organization under the Ministry of Livestock and Rural Community Development which is responsible for providing technical leadership to the livestock industry and its stakeholders in Sri Lanka.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:

Nimal Samaranayake
Deputy Director
Animal Breeding Division
E-mail: Nimalsamaranayake@yahoo.com

Thailand
Department of Livestock Development, Government of Thailand
Located in Bangkok

The department is situated under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives as a National Veterinary Authority of Thailand. The DLD is responsible for animal health, animal production and livestock extension, food safety of animal-derived products, veterinary public health, animal welfare, environmental impact of livestock farms and international animal health matters including disease control and eradication, quarantine, disease reporting, import-export controls, health certification, and monitoring of animal farms and slaughterhouses.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:

Thanawat Tiensin
Assistant Director General
Email: ttiensin@gmail.com

Vietnam
Vietnam Dairy Association
Located in Ho Chi Minh

VDA facilitates relationship among its members, represents and protects their rights and interests, and promotes a strong dairy market, sustainable livelihood and higher living standards for its members.

Designated officer to Dairy Asia:

Vu Ngoc Quynh
Secretary General
Email: vungocquynh@vda.org.vn
Meet the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is composed of five National Focal Points and five Global Knowledge Partners. As the name suggests, the main function of the committee is to guide the development of the platform and the execution of its activities. Other functions are to advocate for the platform, stimulate regional and global partnerships and participation, approve the annual work plan and budget, and mobilize financial and other resources.

Chair

Sangram R Chaudhary
Executive Director, National Dairy Development Board of India
Email: sangram@nddb.coop

Rozak Mirza Astira
Director Operational
E-mail: rozakmastira@gmail.com, rozakmastira189@gmail.com

Tawheed Ali Azeemi
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Email: tawheedn@gmail.com

Zhao Wei
Deputy Director, International Department
E-mail: wayjow@gmail.com; intl@dac.org.cn

Ye Tun Win
Chairman, Animal Health and Production Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Email: ytwvet84@googlemail.com

Vice-chair

Thanawat Tiensin
Assistant Director General, Department of Livestock Development, Government of Thailand
Email: ttiensin@gmail.com

Steve Staal
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Fritz Schneider
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Henning Steinfeld
Chief, Livestock Information, Sector Analysis and Policy Branch, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Email: henning.steinfeld@fao.org
Meet the partners

**Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA)**
APHCA was established in 1975 as an advisory body to the FAO. It currently has 18 member countries in the Asia-Pacific region with the mission of enhancing the level of nutrition and standards of living of livestock keepers, livestock producers and livestock value-chain actors through equitable, sustainable and safe livestock sector development. It conducts information generation, guidance and coordinated joint action.

**Dairy Sustainability Framework (DSF)**
The DSF is an industry-led umbrella mechanism for organizations from throughout the whole dairy value chain to map and connect their existing and future sustainability activities with other similar organizations in a globally recognized, coordinated and pre-competitive way. The DSF monitors the progress of each member’s activities and reports on the dairy sector’s aggregate continuous sustainability improvement.

Dairy Asia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the DSF and identified a number of collaborative activities. Two members of the Dairy Asia Steering Committee also sit on the governing board of the DSF and in turn, the development director of the DSF is a member in the Dairy Asia Steering Committee. Through this close alignment Dairy Asia benefits from global efforts and DSF board can ensure that the development of the initiative encapsulates the needs of Asia.

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**
FAO is a specialized agency of the UN with 194 member states that works with governments and partners in over 130 countries and leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Its goal is to achieve food security for all and provide access to enough high-quality food to lead active and healthy lives. FAO activities consist of the following main working areas: Putting information within reach, supporting the transition to sustainable agriculture, strengthening political will and sharing policy expertise, bolstering public-private collaboration and supporting countries prevent and mitigate risks.

**International Dairy Federation (IDF)**
IDF represents the global dairy sector and provides a global source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders in the value chain. It is a recognized international authority which contributes actively to the development of science-based standards for the dairy sector. Members are national associations and other stakeholders organized in national committees.

**International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN)**
IFCN – the Dairy Research Network – is a global knowledge organization that provides comparable dairy economic data. Core competences lie in dairy sector and farm economic analysis, cost monitoring and forecasts. IFCN cooperates with research partners in over 100 countries and over 100 agribusiness partners worldwide.

**International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)**
ILRI works to improve food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through research for better and more sustainable use of livestock by working at the crossroads of livestock and poverty, bringing high-quality science and capacity-building to bear on poverty reduction and sustainable development. It is a member of the Consortium of CGIAR Centers, focused on developing regions (East, Southern, and West Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and China). It works in partnerships with organizations in livestock research, training, and policy and technical information.
The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock

The Global Agenda is a global partnership uniting public and private sectors, producers, research and academic institutions, NGOs, social movements, community-based organizations and foundations around the world committed to the sustainable development of the livestock sector. The platform builds consensus and catalyzes practice change through the facilitation of dialogue, consultation and joint analysis.

It simultaneously addresses the following issues:

Global food security and health: The sector is critical to human health and global food and nutritional security. The Agenda promotes an inclusive approach to managing disease threats at the animal-human-environment interface that involves all sector stakeholders at every level in the development and implementation of animal-disease and food-safety programmes.

Equity and growth: Livestock is essential to the livelihoods of an estimated one billion poor. The Agenda supports a viable growth in value chains that have access to all necessary resources and services, and in which the poor can find secure livelihoods and participate in growing markets or take up other opportunities outside the sector.

Resources and climate: Livestock production based mainly on materials not competing with direct use as human food, and incentives and rewards for environmental stewardship will allow the sector to transition to existing and new resource use efficient ways of production and a greater contribution to climate change mitigation.

Seeking to become a key implementing mechanism in promoting sustainable livestock sector development, the Agenda has structured itself along a number of action networks and focus areas. Dairy Asia being one of them. Aligning to the Global Agenda helps Dairy Asia to teach about good models and practices and reach actors outside the Asian region and in turn learn from the lessons, tools and methodologies developed by other action networks.

Over the past years, the Global Agenda has provided guidance to the conceptual development of Dairy Asia, including functions and structure and contributed financially to support specific activities.
Technical Working Groups (TWG)

After a series of meetings beginning in 2016, Dairy Asia aimed at establishing Technical Working Groups (TWGs), whose core functions are i) to provide member countries with necessary technical information on specific dairy focus areas, ii) recommend policy directions to the Dairy Asia regional and national platforms, and iii) initiate activities to further expand knowledge and actions (such as conducting joint researches, establishing standard operating procedures, and assisting in organizing training and capacity building programmes).

For the first Dairy Asia Technical Working Group focusing on Animal Genetics, Dairy Asia invited each member country to nominate a technical expert as prospective TWG member. The countries of Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam responded positively. In a meeting called for the purpose, the group elected Kamlesh Trivedi (India) as chair.

In coordination with the Secretariat, the TWG discussed and agreed upon membership, governance, communication and resource structures as well as the technical requirements, the expected time commitment for TWG members and meeting schedules. International experts may be invited by the TWG to join the research teams.

Meet the Dairy Asia Secretariat

The Secretariat coordinates the Dairy Asia’s organizational-level decision making and provides the liaison function between and among the various arms of the regional and national platforms. Its functions are to implement Dairy Asia regional platform decisions, assist the Steering Committee in developing strategies based on regional platform decisions for long-term sustainable growth of the platform, process documentation, strengthen member relations, organize meetings and activities, process annual budget, plan and projects and manage financial resources, provide communication infrastructure and products including website maintenance, coordinate activities of the Technical Working Groups and provide administrative and logistics support, as required.

The Secretariat is currently located at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

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