LEAP Partnership: Introduction, Achievements, and Action plan

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Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership

The LEAP Partnership is a multi-stakeholder initiative committed to improving the environmental performance of livestock supply chains, while considering both economic and social viability of the sector.

- Steering Committee: equal say
- Secretariat hosted at FAO
- Participation is open and voluntary: members recognize the objective and principles of LEAP
LEAP Partnership in a nutshell

International, Multi-stakeholder, Partnership on:

- Committed to improving livestock supply chains
- Environmental sustainability considering both economic and social viability of the sector.
- Multi-criteria approach
- Life-cycle thinking and life cycle assessment (LCA)

LEAP “products”:

- Science-based consensus environmental assessment and reporting guidelines
- Reference Data

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Livestock Production Matters

- Food security
- Global Assets
- Long market chain
- 9 billion people
- Environmental impact
- Demand for livestock products
Specificities of the sector require dedicated attention

- Environmental issues
  - GHG emissions, acidification, eutrophication, biodiversity, etc
- Natural processes are difficult to control and measure (e.g. accounting of nutrient flows)
- Diverse farming systems
- Long supply chains with many actors
  - multiple products and functions
Activities

- **LEAP** develops comprehensive guidance and methodology for understanding the environmental performance of livestock supply chains to shape evidence-based policy measures and business strategies.

"What gets measured, gets managed"

- Peter Drucker
LEAP Achievements

- LEAP Partnership program 2012 - 2015, has been developing consensus environmental assessment tools:
  - 6 Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)
  - 300 experts from all world regions
  - 6 Technical Guidance documents
  - 1 Global database for 5 main feed crops
Global Conference on Sustainable Beef, Banff Springs, Canada

October 6, 2016

Small Ruminants

Poultry

Feed

Feed Crops Database

Methodological notes

Large ruminants

Biodiversity
2016 Public Review

Pig supply

Reply to comments by Cowspiracy
LEAP work programme 2016-2018, known as **LEAP+**, is supporting the consolidation of LEAP1 guidelines through **road testing**, **additional technical guidance documents**, and **review**.
Ongoing Activities
LEAP+
Road Testing

To evaluate the applicability of LEAP guidelines

To get feedback on the clarity of recommendations

To identify gaps in recommendations and barriers preventing application and endorsement
LEAP+
Broadening Scope

Broadening the scope of LEAP and taking a major step towards sustainability by contributing to the development of guidelines on integrated sustainability assessments.

- Nutrient cycling
- Water Footprinting
- Soil Carbon Changes
- Feed Additives
- Biodiversity
- Eco-toxicity
Nutrient Cycles Accounting TAG
Origin of “New N and P”

**N**
- Biological N fixation by legumes
  - Haber-Bosch reaction
  - High energy

**P**
- P Ore mining
  - P mine in Togo
  - Release of accumulated soil P
Nutrient Cycles Accounting TAG

To propose methods and metrics to assess nutrient use performance along regional and global livestock supply chains

To identify hotspots as entry point for improvement options

To estimation of the global share of livestock in total nutrient losses
Water Footprinting TAG

Water is an essential production input for feed and livestock supply chains

- Increasingly scarce resource
- Availability varies widely over temporal and spatial scales
- Climate change
- Increased competition with other users
Water Footprinting TAG - Finding a balance
Water Footprinting TAG

To evaluate the credibility of water footprint methods and methods when these are applied in livestock supply chains

To propose methods and metrics to assess water footprinting assessments appropriate for both regional and global livestock supply chains

To identify hotspots as entry point for improvement options
Soil Carbon Stock Changes TAG

Grassland covers almost 40% terrestrial land

High potential to store Carbon
- Mitigate climate change - Carbon credits

Soil carbon storage is influenced by several factors
- Soil type - Climate - Agriculture mgmt. practices