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## **FEED INDUSTRY JOINS NEW FAO PARTNERSHIP EFFORT TO HARMONIZE MEASUREMENT OF LIVESTOCK'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

**Common indicators and guidelines for environmental assessments will lead to shared understanding of livestock's environmental impact and better policymaking**

**4 July 2012, Rome** –The International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF), together with the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) and the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC), has joined a new UN FAO-led partnership to improve how the environmental impacts of the livestock industry are measured and assessed. “This is a vital and necessary first step in improving the sustainability of this important food production sector,” says Professor Frank Mitloehner from the University of California, Davis, representing the feed industry, who has been elected as the Chairman of this partnership for the first year.

Livestock raising and the consumption of animal products make a crucial contribution to the economic and nutritional wellbeing of millions of people around the world – particularly in developing countries. Yet the need to improve environmental performance of the livestock sector will continue as the FAO estimates that demand for livestock products will continue to intensify over the decades to come. Meat consumption is projected to rise nearly 73 percent by 2050; dairy consumption will grow 58 percent over current levels.

On starting his one-year Chairmanship, Professor Mitloehner highlighted that “the FAO offer to facilitate dialogue among the private sector, governments and NGO's as an important step to bring together all available expertise on the latest advances in LCA research”. Professor Mitloehner believes “this will help bring about a robust, harmonized methodological approach on measuring GHG emission linked to livestock production, which would be a tremendous step forward in helping feed companies to develop credible and consistent LCA calculation tools.”

“How to feed the world sustainably in 2050 is one of the central challenges we face, and it is vital that we continue to improve the efficiency of the use of natural resources and to better our performance in terms of sustainability across the whole feed and food chain”, said Mario Sergio Cutait, IFIF Chairman. Mr. Cutait added “The FAO-led partnership to improve how the environmental impacts of the livestock industry are measured and assessed is an important step to tackle this challenge, and only by working together with all partners in the feed and food chain can we meet the demands of 60% more food by 2050 and do so sustainably.”

FEFAC President Patrick Vanden Avenne highlights the “research benefits of this partnership could lead to changed diet patterns and composition for farm animals and fish reducing further GHG emissions attributed to livestock production”. Mr. Vanden Avenne recalled that “the global feed industry has already achieved enormous progress in reducing feed conversion rates for the production of meat, milk, eggs and fish, but that there was still great potential to reduce nutrient losses the in/out protein ratio” through improved feed processing and better use of special feed ingredients, like additives and other products”.

AFIA's President and CEO, Joel Newman, underlined that the “feed industry proposal to set up an LCA database for the most important feed ingredients used in animal nutrition, will provide a key

contribution to improve the overall data quality in present LCA analysis.” Mr Newman added “all consortium partners look forward to contribute to this important task, which addresses one of the current ‘weak links’ in LCA reports on GHG emissions from the livestock sector.”

Currently, many different methods are being used to measure and assess the environmental impacts of animal raising, making it difficult to compare results and set priorities for the continuous improvement of environmental performance along supply chains.

### **Working together to agree on an harmonized framework to foster sustainable development of the sector.**

The Feed Industry will work with the FAO and other governmental, private sector, and nongovernmental partners on a number of fronts to strengthen the science of environmental benchmarking of livestock supply chains. Activities planned for the initial three-year phase of the project include:

- Establishing science-based methods and guidelines on how to quantify livestock’s carbon footprint, covering various types of livestock operations and rearing systems;
- Creating a database of greenhouse gas emission factors generated for the production of different kinds of animal feed – feed production and use offer significant opportunities for reducing livestock emissions.
- Developing a methodology for measuring other important environmental pressures, such as water consumption and nutrient losses.
- Initiating a communications campaign to promote use of the partnership’s methodologies and findings.

### **About IFIF**

The International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) is made up of national and regional feed associations, feed related organizations, and corporate members from around the globe, representing over 80% of the feed production worldwide. IFIF provides a unified leadership and coordinating role in order to contribute to the sustainable supply of safe, healthy feed and therefore food. For more information on IFIF please visit [www.iff.org](http://www.iff.org) or contact Alexandra de Athayde, Executive Director, at [executive.director@ifif.org](mailto:executive.director@ifif.org).

### **About AFIA**

The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) represents the business, legislative and regulatory interests of the U.S. animal feed industry and its suppliers. AFIA also is the recognized leader on international industry developments. Members include more than 500 domestic and international companies and state, regional and national associations. Member-companies are livestock feed and pet food manufacturers, integrators, pharmaceutical companies, ingredient suppliers, equipment manufacturers and companies which supply other products, services and supplies to feed manufacturers. For more information on AFIA please visit [www.afia.org](http://www.afia.org) or contact Joel Newman, President & CEO, at [afia@afia.org](mailto:afia@afia.org).

### **About FEFAC**

FEFAC, the European Compound Feed Manufacturers’ Federation, represents 22 national Associations in 21 EU Member States as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Norway, Croatia, Serbia and Russia with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 110,000 persons at approximately 4,000 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few other employment opportunities. For more information on FEFAC please visit [www.fefac.eu](http://www.fefac.eu) or contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General, at [fefac@fefac.eu](mailto:fefac@fefac.eu).

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