

Livestock, Livelihoods and Climate Change

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COP 15
Copenhagen

December 11, 2009



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Livestock Sector Intensifying as Climate Change is, Too

- Globalization, search for new markets
- Growing affluence, urbanization; “modernity” of meat
- Global South: meat production up 3 X in past 25 years (exports, too)
- Rapid transformation of industry, cuisine, livelihoods (gender impacts)



To Climate, Agriculture Matters

- Estimated **ONE-THIRD** of all human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs) are the result of agriculture and changes in land-use related to the production of crops *and* farmed animals



Climate and Livestock

- UN: Livestock operations (meat, dairy, eggs) emit nearly **ONE-FIFTH** (18%) of human-caused GHGs
- More GHGs than from **all world's transportation systems combined (14%)**
- Almost = GHGs from **forest loss/degradation (20%)**
- New research (*World Watch*): **51% of GHGs from livestock**; 60 billion farmed animals consumed/year



Signs of Stress

- Industrial ag. is resource-intense – fossil fuels (GHGs), water; grain = land, water, forests
- Deforestation, degradation, desertification; water deficits up
- Hunger risk/reality
- Climate impacts: small-scale farmers and pastoralists on front lines...adaptation: livelihoods?



Bottom Lines

- At what price? Food insecurity, forest loss, soil erosion, even conflict (e.g., Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya...also Brazil, India, China)
- “Climate space” and resources for development, now and in future: issues of equity, food security
- 120 billion farmed animals by 2050? Projections aren't destiny....
- Get on climate (and other) agendas

Reaching Limits

“It’s going to be almost impossible to feed future generations the kind of diet we have now in western Europe and North America.”

- Stockholm World Water Institute, 2004

