# **Accelerating climate action in the livestock sector: opportunities across different systems**

**FAO LEAP partnership side event at the COP 26**

**Wednesday, 03 Nov 2021**

**11:30—12:45 GMT±0**

**Location: Onsite on the Multimedia Studio 1 and virtual**

**Introduction**

Globally, livestock systems are important contributors to healthy diets and improved livelihoods, especially among developing countries. With the increasing occurrence of extreme weather events and rising global temperature due to climate change, focus has shifted to the livestock’s contribution to the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions such as methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), livestock contribute around 14.5% to global anthropogenic GHG emissions, mainly in form of methane, which originates from rumen fermentation and manure management systems. Globally, methane emissions from the livestock sector represent 32% of the total anthropogenic methane sources.

More focus has been placed on methane, a short-lived climate pollutant, to reduce the impact of climate change by 2030. Methane is central at the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) discussions and more countries are joining the Global Methane Pledge, led by the United States of America and the European Union, to slash methane emissions by 30% from 2020 levels by 2030.

The Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership, hosted by FAO, is conducting a comprehensive study to evaluate methane sources in agriculture; reviewing climate change metrics and mitigation strategies to cut methane emissions. Besides methane, the LEAP Partnership has developed guidelines to assess the environmental impacts of livestock systems on climate change, biodiversity, water use, soil carbon, and those tied to nitrogen and phosphorus use.

The FAO LEAP Partnership is a multi-stakeholder initiative, composed of Countries, Private Sector, Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations, that seeks to improve the environmental sustainability of the livestock systems through harmonized methods, metrics and data.

FAO LEAP partners acknowledge that, if managed well, livestock can also contribute to positive environmental impacts.

LEAP leads a coordinated global initiative to accelerate the sustainable development of livestock systems and to support evidence-based climate actions, while contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement objectives.

This event, convened by FAO LEAP partners and entitled “*Accelerating climate action in the livestock sector: opportunities across different systems*”, aims at sharing knowledge about methane assessment and climate solutions. The event will call for greater collaboration among livestock sector actors in raising climate ambitions and fostering healthy ecosystems. The event will present the work of LEAP, including the recently published catalogue of applications, showcasing evidence-based solutions and best practices relating to climate change, soil carbon storage, grassland management, water productivity and biodiversity.

**Draft Agenda**

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| **11.30–11.45** | Opening remarks | *Ms. Maria Helena Semedo (Deputy Director-General, FAO)* |
|  | * *Mr. Tim McAllister (Agriculture Agri-Food Canada, LEAP chair 2021)*
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| **11.45–12.00** | Methane emissions assessment: insights and plans of the FAO technical advisory group | *Ms. Michelle Cain (Cranfield University, UK)* |
| **12.00–12.10** | Q&A |  |
| **12.10–12.15** | The FAO LEAP suite of tools for climate action and environmental improvement | *Mr. Camillo De Camillis (FAO)* |
| **12.15–12.30** | **Panel Discussion:** Accelerating action across production systems | *Mr. Tim McAllister (Agriculture Agri-Food Canada, LEAP chair 2021)**Mr. Hsin Huang (International Meat Secretariat)* *Mr. Frans Timmermans (European Commission, DG CLIMA, tbc)**Ms. Sandra Vijn (WWF International)* |
| **12.30–12.45** | Q&A |  |
| **12.42–12.45** | Closing remarks | *Ms. Shirley Tarawali (Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, ILRI)* |
| **12.45** |  | End of the meeting  |

**Master of ceremony and moderator:** Ms. Caroline Emond (International Dairy Federation)