



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Concept Note

Regional conference

Sustainable livestock transformation for food systems in Asia and the Pacific

Pan Pacific Hanoi Hotel, 1 Thanh Nien Road, Ba Dinh Ward, Hanoi, Vietnam | 24-25 March 2026

1. Background

Asia—home to nearly 60% of the global population—is experiencing rapid transformation in its agri-food systems. Livestock plays a significant role in regional economies, contributing between 18–30% of agricultural GDP. On the one hand, livestock demand is rising with private sector playing a central role. On the other, livestock systems face challenges related to climate, environmental consideration, shifting consumer demand and land and water pressures. Countries across South and Southeast Asia are seeking evidence-based pathways to make their livestock sectors more efficient, climate-smart, and equitable. Policy fragmentation, limited regional coordination, and gaps between science, practice and investment continue to constrain progress. Meanwhile, the Pacific is also addressing similar challenges, striving to harmonize regional strategies for sustainable livestock development.

This conference is being organized to develop a common agenda for how sustainable livestock systems can support development outcomes and food systems transformation in Asia and the Pacific. The conference aims to bring together government ministries, regional bodies, research institutions, development partners, private-sector actors, producer organizations, and civil society working across the livestock and food systems space.

2. Conference objectives

The two-day regional conference aims to:

- Identify priority challenges and opportunities where coordinated action across countries can accelerate transformation of livestock
- Share sustainable livestock solutions that address key challenges
- Facilitate a dialogue between policymakers, private sector and technical partners to identify entry points for harmonized policies, shared investments, and stronger regional platforms.
- Co-develop recommendations for sustainable livestock transformation in the region

3. Key themes

The workshop focuses on key thematic areas that are central to livestock transformation in Asia and the Pacific, including **food security and nutrition, livelihoods and inclusive economic development, animal health and One Health, and climate action and biodiversity**. Discussions will explore how livestock systems can contribute to improved availability, access and affordability of nutritious foods; strengthen rural livelihoods and resilience, particularly for smallholders and vulnerable groups; address transboundary animal diseases and emerging zoonotic risks through integrated One Health approaches; and support climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity conservation. Together, these themes highlight the need for coordinated research, policy and investment responses that balance productivity, sustainability and resilience across diverse livestock systems in the region.

4. Expected outcomes

- Updated overview of regional livestock challenges and priorities, focusing on sustainable livestock transformation.
- Documented country-specific priorities, bottlenecks, and promising practices advancing One Health for agrifood systems transformation.
- Recommendations for a regional plan of action for sustainable livestock transformation including research, policy, field delivery, and resource mobilization.
- Strengthened stakeholder linkages and partnerships to foster sustainable livestock development.

5. Co-Hosts, Partners, and Participants

The conference expects 150 participants from across Asia and the Pacific but also from Africa and Europe. Delegates will include representatives from government ministries and livestock authorities; national research and extension systems; regional and international organizations; universities and research institutes; development partners; and the private sector.

The conference will be co-hosted by ILRI, FAO, CIRAD, and Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE).

6. Tentative agenda

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Format of Organization</i>	<i>Person(s) in Charge</i>
DAY 1: Building a shared understanding for livestock transformation in Asia and the Pacific – Moderator: Michael Victor, ILRI			
08:00–08:30	Registration		ILRI/FAO/CIRAD
Session 1: Opening – Moderator: ICD			
08:30–08:40	Introduction & Conference Objectives		ICD leader

08:40–09:20	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leader, MAE ● Siboniso Moyo, DDG, ILRI ● ADG, FAO RAP (video recording) ● Olivier Brochet, French Ambassador to Vietnam <p>MoU signing between ILRI and partners (5min)</p>		
Session 2: Setting the scene – regional livestock systems in Asia and the Pacific and global challenges of livestock transformation – Moderator: Felix-FAO			
09:20–09:40	<p>Keynote:</p> <p>Strategic overview of Asia’s Livestock Systems and Global Action Plan for Livestock System Transformation, Food System Transformation in GPA</p>		<p>Shirley Tarawali, ADG, ILRI</p> <p>Thanawat Tiensin, ADG FAO</p>
09:40–10:25	<p>Thematic insights across four livestock priority areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of livestock in Food Security and Nutrition - Livestock contributions to livelihoods - Animal Health & One Health - Climate & Environment <p>Q&A</p>	<p>Four short technical presentations (10 min each)</p>	<p>Scott Newman, FAO</p> <p>Melanie Blanchard, CIRAD</p> <p>Jakob Zinsstag, SwissTPH</p> <p>Anthony Whitbread, ILRI</p>
10:25–10:45	<p>Group photo & Coffee break</p>		<p>All</p>
Session 3: What vision for the region – Country and Regional perspectives on sustainable livestock transformation			

10:45–11:45	- Panel discussion 1: Country perspectives panel to identify challenges, priorities and regional blockages	Panel discussion	Moderator: Boni-ILRI DGs from Livestock Department (1 Pacific, 2 Southeast Asia, 2 South Asia, China)
11:45-12:30	Panel discussion 2: Regional perspective to discuss strategies responding to country challenges	Panel discussion	Moderator: Scott-FAO ASEAN, ASWGL, SAARC, SEARCA, APHCA, PHOVAPS
12:30–14:00	Lunch	Lunch combined with marketplace showcasing initiatives, programs, and solutions	All
Session 4: Market place exchange			
14:00–15:00	Structured marketplace showcasing initiatives, programs, and solutions – towards cataloguing what is happening in regional	Collecting innovative solutions from countries and region – to be used later in an Atlas of livestock transformation solutions	All
15:00–15:30	Coffee break		All
Session 5: What vision for the region – Turning challenges into action			
15:30–15:40	Plenary briefing on objectives and methodology of the session	At plenary meeting hall	Michael Victor, ILRI
15:30–17:45	Parallel sessions around four action areas:	30 pax per session	Session facilitators

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One Health in agrifood systems 2. Climate-smart livestock 3. Livelihoods 4. Role of livestock in Food security and nutrition <p>Prepare report back for day (Coffee served)</p>	<p>Facilitated parallel group discussions in separate rooms (25-30 pax per session) to identify priority actions, roles, and recommendations</p> <p>2 groups in main hall 2 groups in small rooms</p>	
18:00- 21:00	<p>Conference dinner Partnership celebration</p>		All participants
DAY 2: Towards a regional and national action agenda			
09:00–09:30	Recap and overview of Day 1 outcomes	Summary of key messages, challenges, and proposed actions from parallel sessions	Facilitator
Session 6: The role of countries, regional entities and partners in sustainable livestock transformation and impact pathways			
09:30-10:45	Structured breakout discussions	<p>Facilitated group discussions on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National roles and responsibilities 2. Regional coordination and platforms 3. Financing and investment mechanisms 4. Data, knowledge, research, and innovation 	Facilitators and rapporteurs (ILRI, FAO, CIRAD, partners)

		<p>Groups complete standardized templates capturing challenges, roles, and priority actions</p> <p>Explicitly address impact pathways, prioritization of action levers (research, policy, investment), and articulation across regional, national and territorial levels.</p>	
10.45-11.15	Coffee break		
11:15 -12:00	<p>Session 6 (cont.,)</p> <p>Plenary fishbowl discussion and Report back</p>	<p>Interactive plenary discussion with rotating speakers representing countries, regional organizations, and partners; live polling to prioritize key issues</p> <p>Menti exercise to collect input from all participants</p>	Michael Victor, ILRI
12:00-12:45	Panel 3: Investor reflection (IFC/WB/ADB/Ireland, AIIB)		
12:45-14.00	Lunch		
Session 7: World Café around key issues that people want to discuss and report back – networking opportunity			
14.00-15.00	World Café discussions and report-back	<p>Plenary discussion</p> <p>Separate groups would have to go off and start to develop</p>	Michael Victor, ILRI

		some regional statement/Regional agenda Open space for networking and discuss related issues	
15:00–15:15	Coffee Break		
Session 8: Draft recommendations for Sustainable Livestock Transformation in Asia and the Pacific			
15:15–16:15	Presentation and discussion of draft recommendations	Presentation of consolidated recommendations, participant feedback,	ILRI and FAO
Closing session			
16.15-16.45	Information updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APHCA side meeting update - AABCF side meeting update - Asian upcoming livestock events in 2026 Closing remarks		FAO/ APHCA Chair AABCF PI ILRI MAE/ILRI/FAO/CIRAD

26 March: site visit on livestock research at research stations (3 options include: climate and livestock research center, feed and grassland research, and cattle genetic research center), about 40km from Hanoi, all under the Vietnam Institute of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.