

## Production of animal origin feed. Current events and perspectives

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The worldwide animal husbandry production is a big, dynamic and strongly growing sector. This takes place in an environment in which most of the common assets are threatened:

- The sustenance of the life of poor sectors and food safety
- Natural resources and environment
- Animal and human health

Obviously, this situation requires sector policies, institutions and better rules for facing conflicts and disadvantages of the development of the sector.

Compared to the 60's, the global consumption of eggs has grown five times, the meat consumption has increased more than three times and the milk consumption has doubled.

The tendency of an increase of the per capita consumption of animal origin feed is shown in every continent, except in Oceania. However, there are significant differences in the rise of meat production in different continents. Compared to the 60's, in which the levels of production were lower than 10 millions of tons, the production reached 110 millions of tons in the Southeast and East of Asia during 2010. In Latin America and the Caribbean it increased to almost 40 millions of tons, while in Africa it remained under the 10 millions of tons. Among the categories, the non-ruminants were the most prominent, with a multiple growth compared to that of ruminants. Specially, the rise of the poultry production has been outstanding, with production levels ten times higher in 2010 than in 1960.

Milk production has increased mainly in South Asia. It rose from some 30 millions of tons in 1960 to almost 150 millions of tons in 2010.

The demand of animal origin feed keeps growing, and it is expected an additional growth of 70% for 2050, compared to 2010, for feeding a population of 9.000 millions in 2050, from which the 70% will live in urban areas. A strong increase in the demand of poultry meat is expected, for instance, in Central America, the Andean countries, north of Africa and the Western, South, Southeastern and Eastern of Asia, while the milk consumption is going to grow mainly in South Asia. The growing demand for animal origin feed obviously has to do with the economical growth and with the incomes of the population. There is a very strong correlation between the consumption of animal origin protein and

the level of economical income.

However, from the point of view of the producer, it is also shown a great relevance of the animal production for the sustenance of the life of poor sectors and the food safety. In many cases, cattle are the life insurance of poor farmers. There are 800 millions of poor small cattle producers all over the world, which constitutes the 60% of the rural families. For them, cattle have several functions, not only as productive factor. Feed from animal origin provide 15% of the caloric value of feed and 30% of proteins. Specific policies, training and institutional support, investments and technological innovations are required to support these small cattle producers. The specific role of cattle as insurance for these small producers has to be recognized, but, a diversification towards other productive and income fields has to be provided in order to reduce the risks, for instance, of the climatic change.

This leads to recognize the environmental importance of the animal husbandry sector. The animal production occupies 30 % of the land, 80 % of the agricultural lands and 8 % of the water, and emits the 14.5 % of all the greenhouse effect gases. This situation requires a special attention to the environmental problems caused by distortions in the markets and wrong incentives for developing the production. Regulation contexts based on market instruments, including taxes and payments for environmental services as positive incentives, are required. It is important to encourage technologies that improve the efficiency of the use of resources and reduce the environmental mark, for example, with certification instruments and approval declaration of the products.

Another aspect of great attention is animal health. This is not only because of its economical and productive impact on the maintenance of producer families and markets, but also because of its growing interrelation with human health, causing epidemics, pandemics and other diseases caused by feed. In this sense, animal health already has a direct relation with the human welfare, mainly in times of a growing concentration of urban and productive centers. Likewise, the health programs have to reflect human and animal health, include poor and small producers, handle the location and integration of productive centers and establish systems of early alert.

Every development carries a balance of objectives, between the economical support and the food safety,

the environment integrity and the human health. Among the objectives, it is noticed that the established priorities depend mostly on the development level of a country, particularly on the economical power. In low development levels, the priorities are obviously directed towards survival, food safety and levels of poverty. With an increasing development level, it is noticed a higher attention to human health and environmental integrity, while the attention to poverty and food safety

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loses its priority. Actually, for the development of a sustainable society, it is necessary to reach higher levels in the removal of hunger and poverty, and increase the environmental and human health, which is a very difficult challenge.

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