

# Feeding Strategies for Ruminant Animals and National Feed Assessments in Support of Sustainable Dairy Development in Asia

Bangkok  
27-29 April 2015

## Background

Consumption of milk and milk products has grown rapidly in Asia making it the strongest growing region for dairy product consumption during the last three decades. Asian consumers have generated nearly half of the global dairy product demand over the past three decades. Recent OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook estimates that the demand for milk and milk products in the region will reach almost 320 million tonnes by the year 2021. This means the region will need to increase milk availability, either by production gains and/or imports, by another 50 million tonnes within this decade.

The traditional smallholder production systems remain dominant in the region and contribute substantial portion of national and regional milk production. These systems rely on farm produced and low-cost feed rations, family labour and remain a source of food security, nutrition, livelihood support and risk mitigation for millions of rural households.

This growth and the associated changes in the production structure are happening at a time when concerns about resource scarcity, climate change and the need for equitable economic development are becoming more and more important. In this changing landscape, meeting future challenges of food and nutrition security requires substantial investment in improved ruminant feeding efficiencies in view of growing pressure on natural resources and rising feed prices.

In view of the foregoing, FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) in partnership with AGAS is organizing the Regional meeting "Feeding Strategies for Ruminant Animals and National Feed Assessments in Support of Sustainable Dairy Development in Asia" in Bangkok on 27-29 April 2015.

## Participants

Approximately 20-25 participants will be invited for the meeting. This will include renowned experts and selected practitioners in the field of dairy nutrition and feed resource management.

## Objectives

This meeting will bring together the selected experts and stakeholders to articulate and recommend future research directions for informing strategies and programs to augment the availability of feed and fodder and to increase the efficiency of their utilization in smallholder dairy systems. The meeting would also consider future research areas towards the development of local feed resources and promotion of ration balancing programs, adoption of technology and techniques for fodder storage, and the use of genomic tools for breeding food crops with higher digestibility of straw and stover.

## Outputs

This meeting will bring together selected experts and stakeholders with the aim to produce the following:

1. A review of the state of knowledge of nutrition impacts on performance and product quality of dairy animals
2. A prioritized list of research topics to enhance the efficiency of local feed resources utilization in smallholder dairy systems
3. Overview of on-going relevant research in ASEAN region and modalities of enhancing research collaboration

## Date and Venue

The meeting will be organized on 27-29 April, 2015 in Bangkok

## Tentative Program

### April 27, 2015

- 09.00 Participant registration
- 09.30 Opening remarks by Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
- 09:45 Meeting objectives/workshop introduction/ ways of working. Further explanation on meeting outline, objectives, process and expected output
- 10:15 Tea/Coffee Break
- 10:45 Harinder Makkar: Animal nutrition at the cross-roads of farm productivity, economics and the environment
- 11.15 Questions and discussion
- 11.40 Nutrition-reproduction interactions in Asian dairy context
- 12.10 Questions and discussion
- 12.30 Lunch break
- 14:00 Frank Dunshea: Impact of feed and feeding on animal product quality and safety
- 14:30 Questions and discussion
- 14.50 MR Garg: Nutritional strategies to manipulate immunity, reproductive efficiency and milk composition of dairy animals
- 15:20 Questions and discussion
- 15.40 Tea/Coffee Break
- 16.00 Clive Philips: Impact of nutrition on animal health and welfare of dairy animals
- 16.30 Questions and discussion
- 17.00 Closing the day's proceedings

### April 28, 2015

Presentations on future areas of research focus by resource persons followed by group discussion.

- 9.00—9.45 Nutrition-Environment interactions
- 09.45—10.30 Nutrition-Animal product safety and quality interactions
- 10.30—11.00 Tea/Coffee break
- 11.00—11.45 Nutrition-Reproduction interactions
- 11.45—12.30 Nutrition-animal health and welfare integrations
- 12.30—13.00 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 13.00 Lunch break
- 14.30 Presentation of feed assessment summary sheet followed by discussions (six countries; 30 minutes each including discussion)
- 17.00 Overall discussion on summary sheet and planning for next day proceedings: 30 min

**April 29, 2015**

- 9.00—10.30 Working groups to work on feed assessment summary sheet
- 10.30—11.00 Tea/Coffee
- 11.00—13.00 Presentation of template for annual feed assessment (template to be sent in advance and the participants come prepared. Also identify data gaps and overall challenges, if any for its completion annually)
- 13.00—14.00 Lunch
- 14.00—16.30 Work on completion/refinement of annual feed assessment template, identification of responsibilities for future work discussion and way forward
- 16.30 Closing