

# Future livestock - six recommendations for meeting the climate challenge

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1. Focus on the production process (industrial versus extensive pastoral production), not the product (meat and milk): Take a systems approach, incorporating both costs and benefits and realistic baselines. Avoid generalised global assessments that do not differentiate between systems of production. Instead, rely on evidence-based practices implemented locally within the varied diversity of agroecosystems rather than homogeneously across all systems.
2. Avoid basing policy on simplistic, narrowly framed LCAs: Challenge the assumptions and improve data availability for global assessments, ensuring that analyses are appropriate to highly variable and often mobile extensive systems.
3. Support more research on carbon and nitrogen flows, context-specific emissions and carbon sequestration in extensive livestock systems, including in pastoral areas across the world: Such analyses must encompass differences across times and spaces, reflecting the complex dynamics of carbon and nitrogen cycles in such systems.
4. Develop practical solutions to mitigating GHGs together with livestock keepers, drawing on local knowledge and practices: This can focus both on feeding and manure management systems to reduce methane emissions and mobile grazing to encourage carbon sequestration.
5. Avoid generic recommendations on shifts in diets to address climate change: Focus instead on the rich, northern 'consumption elite', where the problem lies. Aim to level up access to high-quality nutrition addressing issues of distribution and equity, including high-density nutrients from meat and milk, especially for young children and undernourished populations.
6. Beware of elusive promises of quick-fix alternatives, whether of industrially produced meat or milk substitutes or alternative land uses that exclude livestock and people: Understand the political economy of such positions and the interests that they represent, and ask where alternative voices are in the debate. All this means bringing pastoralists and other low-input, extensive livestock producers – and the organisations that represent them – into global debates on climate change and the future of food systems.



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A report and set of briefings warns that the dominant picture of livestock's impacts on climate change has been distorted by faulty assumptions that focus on intensive, industrial farming in rich countries. Millions of people worldwide who depend on extensive livestock production, with relatively lower climate impacts, are being ignored by debates on the future of food.

### Resource type

[Infographic](#)