

atf

animal
task
force

Promoting a sustainable and competitive animal production sector in Europe



Animal Production – a major part of European life

Animal products are a major source of protein and are essential for a healthy and balanced diet. The European livestock and aquaculture sectors contribute €130 billion annually to the European economy, and support food security, the development of rural areas and the maintenance of ecosystem services.



The worldwide demand for animal products is predicted to double over the next decades. This gives European livestock agriculture and aquaculture great opportunities to help meet growing future demands.

The challenges are to do this with more efficient use of scarce resources, to meet consumer and societal expectations and needs, to achieve high animal welfare, optimise environmental impact and deliver a proper income for those working in the animal production sector. The Animal Task Force works to promote these aspirations by supporting innovation and new developments on a sound scientific basis.

Economic value of Europe's animal production sector (2013)

- Annual turnover: € 172 billion
- Accounting for 2.5% of EU employment
- Export: € 10 billion

What is the Animal Task Force?

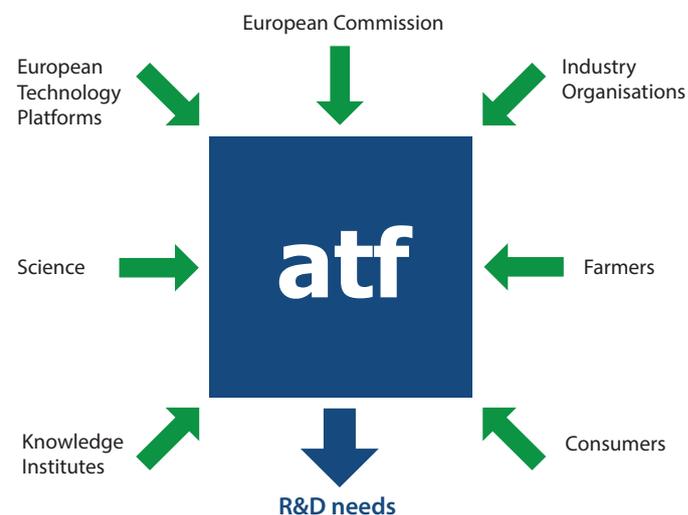
The Animal Task Force (since 2011) is a European Public-Private Platform of research organisations and farmer and industry organisations, working together on a sustainable and competitive European livestock production sector by fostering knowledge development and innovation.

The Animal Task Force unites the different sectors in the European animal production chain, from feed and breeding, to farming and production and processing, with a common objective of promoting research and science which support innovations in the livestock and aquaculture sectors for more efficient, sustainable, socially accepted and economically viable ways to produce safe and healthy high-quality foods.

Our approach is knowledge-based and sector-driven. Our members are representative bodies of Europe's animal production sector and research institutions from EU member states. Together we work to identify the research

and development needs for a sustainable future and link this to a wide variety of EU strategies. We strive for a joint European research agenda and enable our stakeholders to create a shared view on what this agenda should look like. By promoting knowledge exchange and cooperation we serve as a catalyst for new developments and enable the European industry to compete.

As a body encompassing the various aspects of European livestock and aquaculture research, we interact with all relevant institutions in the EU to develop mutual awareness and shared commitments. We serve as an interface between policy-makers, knowledge providers, industry and civil society.



ATF: Working together with different stakeholders

What do we do

- Arrange dialogue on sector innovation with key stakeholders in Europe
- Providing expert input into European research & innovation programmes
- Enhance inter-sectoral cooperation and interstate research & innovation
- Organising seminars and events to interact with stakeholders and wider society.



Research and innovation

Research, development and innovation have made Europe's animal production sector as competitive, balanced and efficient as it is today. But there are still many challenges to overcome. Continued investments in research and innovation in the livestock sector are needed. The Animal Task Force aims to promote the development of new solutions that meet the challenges of ensuring safe and healthy high-quality food, that are resource efficient, diminish or eliminate environmental pressure, are adaptable to climate change, are beneficial to animal health and welfare, contribute to a vibrant biobased economy in ways that are appreciated by society, both today and in the future.



The Animal Task Force strongly recommends support for the livestock sector via the implementation of the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, the European Technology Platforms, the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability', and the Common Agricultural Policy.



'By creating more sustainable and efficient animal production systems with healthy, balanced and robust animals, can we ensure a secure supply of good quality food and 'agri-products' for all, whilst continuing to contribute to a better environment.'



Priority areas for research and innovation

The Animal Task Force has identified three key areas for research and innovation that will support a sustainable and competitive animal production sector:

- Resource efficiency by using limited resources in a sustainable manner, by more robust and efficient animals, optimising feed chains, developing alternative feed resources, making better use of by-products of animal production and alternative feed resources, and increasing the use of IT for precision farming.
- Responsible livestock farming systems by minimising potentially harmful emissions of animal production, improving animal health and welfare, improving more positive contribution to the development of territories and employment, increasing protein and energy autonomy in Europe, and creating resilient, robust and climate-smart animal production systems.
- Healthy livestock and people through prevention and control of diseases, by integrated management of animal health, improvement of the product quality, increase in food and feed safety.

The Animal Task Force also promotes the impact of science in practice, through:

- Knowledge exchange with farmers towards innovation, by active cooperation and knowledge exchange with producers to ensure implementation of new techniques & tools to deliver innovation.



atf

**animal
task
force**

Animal Task Force Secretariat
P.O. Box 76
6700 AB Wageningen
The Netherlands

T: +31 317 412006
F: +31 317 453888
E: info@animaltaskforce.eu
I: www.animaltaskforce.eu
 @AnimalTaskFrc



Partnering European Branch Organizations: FEAP, FEFAC, EFFAB, IFAH-Europe, COPA-COGECA, UECBV, EDA, FEFANA, CEJA,CEMA, FVE