The Animal Task Force (ATF) promotes a sustainable and competitive animal production in Europe. We are a public private partnership of experts from knowledge institutes and industry representative organisations from across Europe. We work closely together with EAAP on setting the European agenda for research and innovation in the animal domain.

Towards climate smart European livestock farming

Animal Task Force & EAAP Special Session
Monday 26th Aug. 2019 13:55h - 17:15h

EAAP Annual Meeting 2019 - Ghent, Belgium
International Convention Centre - Theo van Rysselberghe room
The EAAP and Animal Task Force (ATF) Special Session during the EAAP Annual Meeting aims to bring together animal science with practice of animal production and connect researchers, policy-makers, industry representatives and societal organisations. Every year, a different topic is addressed in this half-day session. The outcomes of the session will be discussed with a large panel of European stakeholders during the ATF seminar, in Brussels, on November 6th 2019.

Background

International climate agreements, like COP21, have initiated a new era for climate policies. The livestock sector has potential to contributing to mitigating climate impact. In the EU, the sector accounts for 40% of global agricultural emissions or 7% of total emissions, producing about 2,400 Mt of CO\textsubscript{2} equivalent annually, but also methane and NO\textsubscript{2}. Enteric emissions, emissions from manure and land use change (LUC) due to deforestation for feed production are among the principal contributors.

Thanks to significant efforts, the livestock sector in Europe is starting to contribute to mitigation of climate impacts (SDG 13). R&I, new technologies and relevant incentives to implementation of best practices may enable the livestock sector to come close to CO\textsubscript{2} neutrality for monogastrics and to achieve a 40% reduction for ruminants. Ways to proceed include e.g. implementing mitigation options and enhancing carbon storage under grasslands soils.

Climate targets should be integrated into a holistic approach to avoid trade-offs and foster a sustainable use of resources, preservation of biodiversity and improvement of soil quality. Future solutions need to optimise multiple factors through a systems approach, which takes into account the interplay between the system components.

Aim

The Special Session aims to contribute to:
- Engage a dialogue with various stakeholders;
- Support knowledge development and innovation, foster ownership by farmers and industries;
- Address how research and innovation can help the livestock sector;
- Provide input to European research and innovation agendas and to public policies to secure Europe’s role as a leading global provider of safe and healthy animal-derived products.