SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND DIGITALIZATION ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Location: Palais des Nations, Geneva

Date: 29 August 2024

Time: 15:00-18:00 (CEST

Background and context

Consumers are increasingly asking to know how the food they eat is produced. Enabling access to such information requires recording, tracking, and labelling how animals were raised, what they were fed, and how they were treated along the value chain. The recording and sharing of such information also offer opportunities for price-differentiation of meat products. With enhanced digitalization of meat supply chains, the possibilities of recording, tracing and transferring such information are increasing. This roundtable discussion will discuss three interrelated issues: (a) animal raising claims, (b) animal welfare, with a focus on post-farm-gate, and (c) digitalization of meat trade processes.

Agenda

15:00 – 16:00   Animal raising claims

Animal-raising claims refer to information regarding how animals were raised, the kind of feed they were raised on, use of antibiotics, etc. Recording and ensuring the traceability of animal raising claims are needed both for enabling providing credible information to consumers, and for price-differentiation. In this session, delegates will share information on the use of animal raising claims and related certification processes in their countries.

Questions for moderated roundtable discussion:

- What claims are consumers looking for?
- Which parameters are not yet well reflected in raising claims?
- What are the options for introducing more granularity?
- How does certification of claims work in different settings?
- What are the emerging claims on the horizon impacting consumers purchasing habits?

15:00 – 16:00   Animal welfare

Ensuring animal welfare is critical both on farm, and during transportation and slaughter. While existing animal welfare standards generally cover on-farm activities well, there are fewer standards for post-farm-gate operations. This session will share knowledge of existing animal welfare standards and discuss potential need for additional guidelines, with a focus on post-farm gate operations.

Questions for moderated roundtable discussion:

- What are consumers looking for in relation to the management of welfare at meat processing establishments?
- What species of animals does it cover / not cover?
- What systems are there for monitoring animal welfare at meat processing establishments?
- What are the key measurable criteria for assessing animal welfare at a meat processing establishment?

- How do animal welfare certification models work for meat processing establishments?

- What are the benefits of developing a baseline animal welfare standard/ guideline to be held by the specialised section?

15:00 – 16:00	Digitalization of meat trade processes

The expanding digitalization of supply chains offers improved possibilities of recording, tracing data relating to how meat was produced and handled, facilitating trade in meat products. This session will share experiences of tools used for digitizing meat supply chains, and discuss the need for additional tools data or processes to facilitate trade in meat supply chains.

Questions for moderated roundtable discussion:

- What Government / Industry / commercial systems currently exist within international trade that allow for the electronic movement and traceability of meat product information? Are there any emerging systems currently being looked at?

- What standards underpin electronic traceability systems currently being used?

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