

# Towards Sustainable Feed & Food – Working Together at International Level



Synopsis: In 2015 compound feed production will likely reach close to 1 billion tonnes worldwide and the FAO estimates that by 2050 the demand for food will grow by 60%. This poses significant opportunities and challenges for the entire agri-food chain and International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) believes that only by working together at international level and focusing on innovation and capacity-building can our sector provide sustainable, safe, nutritious and affordable food for a growing world population.

In 2015 compound feed production will likely reach close to 1 billion tonnes worldwide. This numerical milestone is a marker, not only for the achievements of our industry, but also for the opportunities as well as for the challenges we all face in the future.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that by 2050 the demand for food will grow by 60% and that between 2010 and 2050 production of animal proteins is expected to grow by around 1.7% per year, with meat production projected to rise by nearly 58%, aquaculture by 90% and dairy by 55%. This already marks a growth factor of almost two, however if we were to extrapolate the growth rates of the last forty years forward to 2050, this would in theory quadruple the needs.

This should be good news for the feed industry and our partners along the agri-food chain. However such growth comes with significant challenges and it is vital that our sector, as well as the wider agricultural chain, can meet these demands in a sustainable, safe and affordable manner, while maintaining consumer trust and confidence in the food supply chain.

This challenge is a global one and (International Feed Industry Federation) IFIF is a global organisation. Our members are made up of national and regional feed associations, feed-related organisations and corporations, which represent over 80% of worldwide animal compound feed production. IFIF's vision is to provide a unified voice and leadership to represent and promote the global feed industry as an essential participant in the food chain that provides sustainable, safe, nutritious and affordable food for a growing world population.

However the challenge is also a common one, and we cannot meet the higher demand for animal proteins like beef, poultry and fish on our own. The Animal Health industry is a vital component and partner along the chain, and IFIF believes that only by working together with all stakeholders in the feed and food chain can we meet these future demands safely and sustainably. This includes engagement with governments, international

organisations such as the FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as well as close cooperation with the private sector and non-governmental groups, such as the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH), the International Dairy Federation (IDF), the International Egg Commission (IEC), the International Meat Secretariat (IMS), and the International Poultry Council (IPC)

To support our industry on the road to the future, IFIF's work is centred on three strategic pillars, including sustainability, regulatory matters and international standards, and supporting education and sharing of best practices.

One key part of IFIF's mission is to continue to support and encourage the sustainable development of animal production. To this end we work with our members and chain partners to measure and improve the environmental performance of the livestock production chain.

## The Specialty Feed Ingredients Sustainability Project (SFIS)

IFIF, together with the EU Association of Specialty Feed Ingredients and their Mixtures (FEFANA) and a consortium of international companies and associations, launched the Specialty Feed Ingredients Sustainability Project (SFIS) to measure and establish the role of specialty feed ingredients (SFIs) on the environmental impact of livestock production. The study undertook a life cycle assessment (LCA) in conformity with the ISO 14040/44 standards in order to analyse the cradle-to-farm gate environmental performance of pig and broiler production with and without specialty feed ingredients supplementation and to provide credible scientific evidence for informed decision-making in areas related to the environmental impact of specialty feed ingredients.

The SFIS analysis examined the use of low-protein diets (nitrogen) and phytase (P) in pigs and poultry. The overall results of the study demonstrate that the use of SFIs in animal diets reduces the consumption of basic feed ingredients. Furthermore the study demonstrates that the use of SFIs results in clear reductions of the Global Warming Potential (GWP), as well as the eutrophication and acidification potential during livestock production.

It became clear that the use of SFIs in animal nutrition provides concrete benefits to the environmental impact of animal production, for example reducing the excretion of certain nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, improving the performance of the animals, and reducing the feed consumption or allowing the use of locally-based or unusual feed materials.

The results of the study were validated by an independent scientific council made up of global experts in the fields of LCA methodology and animal nutrition to ensure scientifically robust inputs in the analysis and prepare the ground for a future peer-reviewed publication of the project. This study should have a direct positive impact on the future environmental footprint of the feed and food chain. In addition to the positive results, the study also points towards future developments, such as improved feed conversion driven by advancing technologies in animal feeding through using SFIs.

### **LEAP and the Development of Global Feed LCA Guidelines**

IFIF, together with the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) and the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC), is a founding member of the FAO-led Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP), which aims to improve how the environmental impacts of the livestock industry are measured and assessed, an important step to reduce the impact of livestock products on the environment. In less than two years, the LEAP partners were able to develop a methodology that will introduce a harmonised, science-based, practical and international approach to the assessment of the environmental performance of feed supply chains, while taking into account the specificity of the diverse production systems that exist globally. These ground-breaking global LCA Guidelines, published in April 2015, are an essential step to help reduce the impact of livestock products on the environment.

The LEAP/FAO Feed LCA Guidelines reflect a common vision among partners, including the FAO, national governments, private sector organisations, and NGOs. The Guidelines carry an international scientific consensus based on the input of twenty international experts in the drafting process and a thorough international public review, which took place ahead of their official release.

The Guidelines represent a significant milestone for the global feed industry and will enable consistent and credible environmental assessments with a view to reducing the environmental footprint of livestock products. Based on this, IFIF will continue to work with partners on the agri-feed chain to develop practical tools for feed and livestock producers to assist them in further reducing the environmental footprint of their activities.

### **The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock**

IFIF is a founding partner of the FAO-led Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, a partnership of livestock sector stakeholders supported by the FAO and committed to the sustainable development of the sector. Together the partners develop and implement initiatives to support growth, which contributes to socially desirable objectives. The Global Agenda brings together the public and private sector, producers, researchers and academia, civil society, NGOs, and inter-governmental organisations.

IFIF is a Member of the Guiding Group of the Global Agenda, and has signed the Global Agenda Consensus and actively inputs in the work of the Agenda. IFIF has supported the development of the initiative since its beginnings in 2010 and is working with other Agenda partners on 'closing the efficiency gap', in order to stimulate the application of existing, but not widely used, technologies and to transfer and adapt resource-efficient technologies.

### **Supporting Standards and Facilitating Trade**

Another key part of IFIF's mission is to support worldwide trade and ensure that future demands for feed and food can be met efficiently. IFIF works to promote a balanced regulatory framework to support a fair global playing field to facilitate market access and support the competitiveness of the feed and livestock industries.

Engagement with international institutions is vital for this and IFIF collaborates with the FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international bodies to help set international regulatory standards for the whole feed chain, and to support fair trade.

IFIF has a strong collaborative relationship with the FAO dating back many years, and IFIF and the FAO Animal Production and Health Division organise the annual International Feed Regulators Meeting (IFRM). The IFRM continues as a successful joint effort to bring together government officers, intergovernmental organisations, academia and feed and food companies and organisations from around the world to discuss key issues of relevance, including mutual recognition and global feed safety standards. This important meeting also provides an opportunity for professionals belonging to feed public and private sectors from across the globe to exchange their thoughts and discuss concrete ideas for providing safe and affordable feed and food around the world.

As animal health is also a vital component of the feed chain, IFIF holds a cooperation agreement with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The two organisations work together with regard to the prevention and management of infectious diseases, including zoonotic disease, as well as the support for the development, updating and implementation of OIE standards and guidelines.

Finally, feed safety is relevant to Codex Alimentarius work as it impacts on the safety of food. IFIF is a Codex Alimentarius-recognised NGO and was actively involved in the development of the Codex Code of Practice of Good Animal Feeding, as well as a member of the ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding (TF AF). Codex work on animal feed continues in individual committees (within their mandate) and the participation of IFIF feed experts in Codex work contributes to keeping feed safety on the Codex agenda.

### Facilitating Dialogue and Supporting Capacity-building

To further strengthen the sustainability of the feed and food chain, IFIF supports producers and regulators around the world with a good practices manual and training workshops.

Recognising that feed safety cannot be attained by one single action or by an individual player and in response to several low-income countries' request for capacity development, IFIF works to deliver capacity development workshops at regional level. IFIF also encourages countries, particularly in the developing world, to use the IFIF FAO '*Manual of Good Practices for the Feed Industry*' as a guidance document to increase safety and feed quality at the production level, both for industrial production and on-farm mixing. Its overall objective is to develop the capacities of the relevant stakeholders to ensure the production and supply of safe feed. IFIF, together with the FAO, developed and published the feed manual based on the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. Supported by the Standards and Trade and Development Facility (STDF) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the feed manual is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish.

Finally, IFIF aims to facilitate meaningful dialogue around the issues of policy, education and technology as our industry participates in the production of a safe, nutritious, sustainable and affordable global food supply. To this end, IFIF promotes science-based solutions and information-sharing for the feed industry by facilitating global forums, such as the Global Feed & Food Congress (GFFC).

The GFFC is a major milestone in the IFIF FAO collaboration and brings together leading representatives from the whole feed and food chain, including from industry, government, academia and civil society to discuss critical issues facing the feed and food chain. Sustainability will be one of the key issues at the upcoming 5th Global Feed & Food Congress, which will be held in Antalya, Turkey on 18-20 April 2016.

The 5<sup>th</sup> GFFC theme 'Equity and Prosperity for All' links to the global challenge to provide safe, affordable and sustainable animal protein sources to feed 9 billion people by 2050. Over 1,200 delegates from around the world will join sessions covering the whole feed manufacturing and food processing value chain including Sustainability, Markets & Trade, Feed & Food Safety, Regulations & Standards, Animal Nutrition and Innovation and R&D. I invite you to already mark the 5<sup>th</sup> GFFC in your calendar and hope you will all be able to join us for this important event.

### Looking Ahead – The Agri-chain Must Act

For the past years our industry and the wider agri-food chain has discussed the challenges of 2050. Much has been achieved through a focus on efficiency, increased production and sustainability and we must continue

to do more. Already there are seven billion people on the planet and in the future we need to produce more food with fewer resources. This requires technology and a platform for cooperation. More than that, more food must be affordable and available to the one billion who today do not have enough.

The global food industry, which includes the feed industry, is a large segmented chain: from agriculture and animal genetics, to seeds, fertilisers, agrochemicals, animal health, feed additives, pre-mixers, compound feeds, on-farm mixers, coops, all the way to aquaculture farming, poultry and swine integrators to the pet food industry.

We should work together and speak with one voice to consumers and to governments, who also influence our value chains with factors such as trade controls and subsidies. In particular, the importance of undertaking efforts on environmental performance is highlighted by the ongoing international negotiations on climate change reductions, which will culminate at the upcoming 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015 in Paris.

In meeting these challenges and addressing these future demands, I believe sustainability and animal welfare are not optional, and I know this reflects many consumers' concerns and wishes. At the same time, we have to be open towards innovation and technology, which will be the basis of producing more and better food over the next 40 years.

I invite you to visit our website [www.ifif.org](http://www.ifif.org) for more information about IFIF, and I look forward to working with many of you in the vital animal health sector in the next years. I know that together we can contribute to the sustainable supply of safe, healthy feed and, therefore, food of animal origin.



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Ms de Athayde has extensive agriculture and international experience representing the industry with governments and businesses. She previously held positions within the Monsanto Company Corporate Affairs Department in Brazil, the US and Europe. She has also worked for the Brazilian Government as Adviser to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and as Adviser to the Foreign Trade Secretary.

Ms de Athayde holds an International Executive M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh, USA and a B.A. degree in International Relations from York University in Canada. She is based in Wiehl, Germany.  
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