
Manure: a valuable resource(part 1); Introduction and scope of Manure Management

PROGRAMME webinar February 3:

- Opening address: *Outlining the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and framing the Livestock and Manure Management Component* by Mrs Helena MOLIN VALDÉS, Head of the CCAC Secretariat at the UN Environment Programme in Paris.
- *Setting the scope: Introduction to Integrated Manure Management* and how this is an important element to feed the world. What are the principles that make it work? by Theun VELLINGA, Senior Researcher Livestock Systems and Climate Change at Wageningen UR (University & Research centre) Livestock Research in the Netherlands; and leader of the Livestock and Manure Management project.
- *How to get to practice change?* by Eric KEMP-BENEDICT, Director of the Asian Centre of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) in Bangkok; and partner in the Livestock and Manure Management project.

SUMMARY

In her opening address **Mrs Helena Molin Valdés** stressed the importance of reducing Short-lived Climate Pollutants for the simple reason that they will have an immediate impact within the next decades. Just imagine; reducing the annual loss of life by 2.4 million people – it will be quite an achievement. And it's clear that Agriculture, including Livestock, has an important role to play. However, it's not all that simple and won't come for free, as Theun and Eric have explained.

Theun Vellinga showed the predicted impact of a growing world population and higher worldwide demand for livestock products and its consequences for development of the livestock sector, including the effects on manure production. Manure indeed is a valuable resource because after excretion it still contains many crop nutrients and energy to be harvested as biogas. Applying manure to soils increases the soil's resilience to climate change and enhances crop production, which are essential to enhancing global food security.

Theun also made it clear that integrated manure management is not a "one size fits all". As it comes to improving livestock manure management we can distinguish two types of husbandry systems: the smallholder farms and the large-scale operations, often practically landless and footloose, meaning that fodder and feed production are often at a great distance from location of consumption, making the return of crop nutrients with manure a logistical challenge.

After the scope, set by Theun Vellinga, **Eric Kemp-Benedict** tuned in on the many factors affecting practice change in livestock manure management. Eric elaborated on the site-specific character of manure management practices and policies from a technical and a policy point of view, as well as from the farmer's point of view; and the role different stakeholders can play to get to real practice change. The common thread for livestock operations as well as the enabling environment is knowledge and economics; whether that would be stimulating incentives, like soft credits; or restrictive legislative measures to reduce pollution or health risks.

The discussion revealed the problem that, especially in urban areas, landless systems are accumulating manure. Those landless systems need to find ways to apply manure in crop production systems, for example to transport manure to where the feed for the livestock is produced. Smallholder systems can make simple and low-cost solutions on the farm for proper storage of dung and urine. But it is not only the farmer's problem, it needs a concerted effort of different stakeholders. To engage governments and enhance change, clear and effective techniques should convince that good manure management not only reduces environmental impacts, but also improves nutrient use efficiency and productivity, and people's health and livelihoods.

Click [here](#) to watch the integral live recording of webinar 1.