

## Chapter 18. Good Agricultural Practice and humane and sustainable development

Good Agricultural Practice is an essential part of humane and sustainable development. The purpose of sustainable development is to ensure a good quality of life for **all** people. This includes an adequate supply of healthy and affordable food, fair and reliable incomes and a safe and decent environment.

Quality of life is not just an issue for people. To be fully humane, sustainable development must also ensure quality of life for all sentient creatures including farm animals. Whilst there may be some conflicts between human and animal welfare, fundamentally good attitudes towards animals are often good for healthy production. Furthermore, civilised policies towards animal protection help to create a compassionate and healthy society.

Sustainable development involves achieving a good life for all, now and in the future. There are several aspects to sustainability:

- Environmental and ecological sustainability
- Social, political and cultural sustainability
- Economic sustainability
- Ethical sustainability

Production systems must be designed to minimise environmental impact. There are environmental limits, for example, to the land and water resources

available for production. Policies must take account of social and cultural needs and economic practicalities.

If any of these are missing, development will not be sustainable. For sustainable development to be worthwhile, it must also be ethical and just. What this means depends on values. Compassion in World Farming believes that Good Agricultural Practice and sustainable development must meet the needs of all sentient beings including both people and farm animals. Development must be humane as well as sustainable.

### Summary

Humane and sustainable farming, through Good Agricultural Practice, aims to ensure that the welfare of people, animals and the environment are protected whilst providing ample, quality food for all. Humane and sustainable farming is about:

- Animals – protects their welfare
- People – protects rural livelihoods
- Environment – protects the countryside
- Food – provides safe, quality food
- Food security – ensures sufficient food for the nation
- Sustainability – food for all people, tomorrow as well as today