



“There is a need to encourage a major shift from current industrial agriculture to transformative activities such as conservation agriculture (agroecology).”

Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food: 2015

Fair Food **& Farming:**



THE WAY FORWARD



Policies that provide nutritious food, preserve and enhance natural resources and promote good animal welfare

The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES) 2016 report calls for “a necessary shift from ‘industrial agriculture’ to diversified agro-ecological systems”

This is because industrial agriculture and Western diets are unsustainable, they are damaging our health, and the intensive monocropping required to produce ever-increasing amounts of animal feed is undermining core resources – soil, water and biodiversity – on which sustainable agriculture depends. The cost of these negative externalities are currently unaccounted for in the cost of ‘cheap’ animal sourced food (ASF).

- **Industrial agriculture will put several 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) out of reach.** The SDGs aim to reverse land degradation (15.3), improve soil quality (2.4), tackle pollution and overuse of water (6.3 & 6.4), halt biodiversity loss (15) and deforestation (15.2) and maintain ecosystems (15).
- **Feeding human-edible grain to intensively produced livestock threatens human food security.** The 2016 EU Food Secure Project concluded we already produce enough food to feed both the current AND expected 2050 population. Currently we feed much of it to intensive livestock. The OECD and FAO (2015) illustrate the problem: “Within developing regions almost 60% of total cereal was consumed by humans as food between 2012-14 in contrast with the developed world, where food use accounted for only 10% of cereal use”.
- **Even worse, for every 100 calories fed to animals in the form of human-edible crops we receive on average just 17-30 calories as meat and milk.** Compassion in World Farming calculates that approximately two-thirds of human-edible grain fed to animals in the developed world is wasted this way.
- **High consumption of ASF leads to human health problems such as some cancers, heart disease and other non-communicable diseases.** Factory farming fosters another threat, antimicrobial resistance. “The high density of animals in intensive systems, along with their genetic homogeneity, exposure to stress and the use of antimicrobials to mask poor husbandry foster disease emergence in these systems” (Jones *et al.*, 2013) and is a major contributor to the problem of antimicrobial resistance (HLPE, 2016).



The Solution

Putting animals back on land (and into their ecological niche)

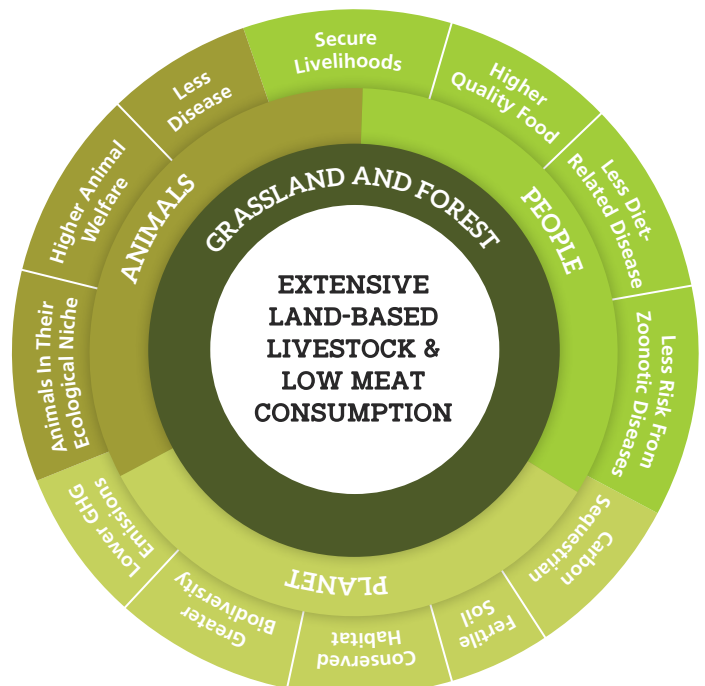
Replace factory farming with pasture- and land-based farming of animals to high animal welfare and environmental standards, producing 'better' animal sourced food.

Animals reared in land-based farming systems such as pastoralism, silvopastoralism, mixed rotational farming and pasture-fed free range provide more nutritious food in ways that are better for the environment, and animal welfare whilst safeguarding future food supplies.

Ruminants consume feed that is non-edible by humans (in particular grass) and recycled waste; the requirement for human-edible protein feed in animal rations is lower for ruminants than monogastrics (Revell, 2015).

This is reinforced in research funded by UNFAO, stating rather than being fed on human-edible cereals, the role of livestock should be "to use resources that cannot otherwise be used for food production" such as grasslands, crop residues, food waste and by-products. (Schader *et al.*, 2015).

An agro-ecological approach has been recognised in legislation in France as "the way to implement the transition towards agricultural practices that ensure both a better environmental and better performance of the agricultural sector" (HLPE, 2016). When coupled with reduced consumption in the developed world and carbon sequestration from permanent pasture systems, SDGs will be more achievable, with negative effects on climate change ameliorated.



Creating a New Food Culture

The current food culture gives great weight to factors such as low prices and convenience. There is no part of this culture that invites consumers to think about how low-cost meat, eggs and milk are produced. A new food culture must be created which cares about the nutritional quality of food and values farming methods that protect the environment and animals.

Compassion in World Farming calls on the UN and Governments to adopt the following core objective and the pledges aimed at achieving that objective:



Core objective: pasture & land-based farming

Replace factory farming with pasture- and land-based farming of animals to high animal welfare and environmental standards

1 ENCOURAGE LESS AND BETTER MEAT AND DAIRY CONSUMPTION

Consumption of less and better meat and dairy from pasture-fed, free-range and mixed, rotational farming methods would give us healthier lives, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help restore the environment, make it easier to feed the growing world population and enable us to improve animal welfare. Targets should be set with strategies in place to measure progress. These reduction targets do not apply in countries with low consumption levels. They should aim for a balanced intake of animal foods and should not adopt unhealthy Western diets.

• HONEST LABELLING

Introduce mandatory labelling of meat and dairy products as to farming method to facilitate consumer choice.

• BETTER PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Public procurement should only use meat, milk and eggs that have been produced humanely and sustainably.

2 REDUCE GRAIN-RELIANT LIVESTOCK FEEDING

A move to land-based farming should be accompanied by a reduction in the use of human-edible crops for animal feed as this is an inefficient and environmentally damaging way of feeding people.

• SUPPORT SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

They should be helped to improve the health and nutrition of their animals thereby increasing their productivity. Industrial livestock production should be avoided as it outcompetes and undermines smallholder farmers.



3 REDUCE ANTIBIOTIC USE

End the routine preventive use of antibiotics to suppress the diseases that are inevitable when animals are kept in crowded, stressful conditions. This should be accompanied by a switch to higher-welfare farming systems less reliant on antibiotics.

4 GETTING PRICES RIGHT – INTERNALISING NEGATIVE EXTERNALITIES

Ensure subsidies and tax measures support small-scale farmers and promote a move to pasture and land-based animal farming.

- FISCAL POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD

5 INTRODUCE HIGH STANDARDS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Phase out cruel factory farming systems including cages and crates and promote extensive systems with high welfare potential such as mixed, rotational farming; pasture fed; and, pastoralism.

Public Information & education is crucial

Governments should develop programmes to increase public awareness of the implications of different livestock farming methods and consumption levels for human health, the environment, food security, climate change and animal welfare. SDG 12.8 requires people “to have the relevant information and awareness for ... lifestyles in harmony with nature”.

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