**FACT CHECK 1: Livestock and Livelihoods**

It is commonly said that 1BN people around the world depend on livestock for their livelihoods, but this figure is extremely outdated.

- Based on publications 22 years old.
- With data that was 27 years old.
- Data calculated 19 years ago.
- Changing key variables:
  - The definition of poverty
  - World population
  - More recent calculations are widely divergent
- No accurate figure exists currently.

**References**

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**FACT CHECK 2: Livestock and Economy**

FAOSTAT data suggests livestock in low income countries contributes less to total agricultural production than the commonly quoted 40%. However, as many important benefits are overlooked, GDP is unlikely to demonstrate the true value of livestock.

**References**

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**FACT CHECK 3: Livestock and Zoonotic Disease**

Livestock’s negative environmental impact, particularly greenhouse gas emissions, is a hot topic of discussion.

The detail and variation behind global averages are often not communicated or considered. For instance it is important to remember that total sector emissions depends on the type of livestock produced and consumed, and the efficiency of production.

The kg of emissions associated with each kg of protein (emissions intensity, Ei) varies by both species (suggesting mitigation potential through consumption habits), and by production system (suggesting mitigation potential through improved productivity, or the closing of yield gaps). Varying production efficiency should be part of the livestock debate.

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**FACT CHECK 4: Disease Eradication**

As well as varying by livestock commodity, protein emission intensity varies by region. Efficiency of production is key to this variation.

**References**

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**FACT CHECK 5: Livestock and Climate Change**

Livestock’s negative environmental impact, particularly greenhouse gas emissions, is a hot topic of discussion.

The detail and variation behind global averages are often not communicated or considered. For instance it is important to remember that total sector emissions depends on the type of livestock produced and consumed, and the efficiency of production.

The kg of emissions associated with each kg of protein (emissions intensity, Ei) varies by both species (suggesting mitigation potential through consumption habits), and by production system (suggesting mitigation potential through improved productivity, or the closing of yield gaps). Varying production efficiency should be part of the livestock debate.

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**FACT CHECK 6: Livestock Multi-functionality**

Livestock facts, relating to economy, society and environment, are regularly used in academic and popular forum discussions, and can guide decisions. However, fact origins, calculations and context are often not recognised or appreciated.

LD4D Livestock Fact Check investigates the provenance of popular livestock facts. The objective is to ensure discussions and decisions are well informed with appropriately interpreted facts; with gaps in knowledge and assumptions recognised. The series of fact checks will promote discussion amongst livestock data stakeholders.

**References**

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**FACT CHECK 7: Disease Production Burdens**

The Livestock Fact Check series was launched in June 2018 by LD4D secretariat SEBI (Supporting Evidence Based Interventions). We thank all our LD4D collaborators.

Every effort has been made to trace and report information accurately. We welcome comments, advice or questions (email: ld4d@ed.ac.uk)

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**FACT CHECK 8: Livestock Yield Gaps**

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