



FACTSHEET **www.meat-ims.org**

WHO IS THE IMS?

The International Meat Secretariat (IMS) represents the global meat and livestock sector as a vital motor of growth and prosperity to meet the future demands for sustainable, high-quality, nutritious and safe animal protein.

The IMS is a non-profit organization that brings together livestock producer associations, national and regional meat associations, meat exporter associations, meat processing companies, government, and corporate partners from all over the world representing over 75% of the global production of cattle, pig, and sheep meat. The IMS is headquartered in Paris and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024.



WHAT IS THE IMS MISSION?

The IMS represents the meat and livestock sector at an international level to promote the sustainable supply of safe, healthy, high-quality and nutritious animal protein, including beef, pig meat and sheep meat and ensure the sector's contribution as an essential part of a healthy, sustainable diet. We also champion the sectors role in maintaining and protecting the environment through the use of sustainable production practice and continuous improvement.

The IMS engages with international standard setting bodies including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) to shape public policy and regulatory standards impacting the agri-food chain.

Through its Expert committees, the IMS champions science-based solutions and policy, the need for continued innovation and better technologies, free and fair trade and sustainable business as key elements to meet the future challenges of a growing global population estimated to be 9 billion people by 2050, with the associated higher demand for high-quality animal proteins.

Finally, through its global conferences and scientific symposiums, the IMS provides a platform for expert dialogue to contribute to international research and facilitate scientific advancements particularly in the fields of sustainability, nutrition and animal welfare.

WHAT ARE THE IMS ACTIVITIES?

- Engage with international and intergovernmental organizations including the WTO, FAO, OECD and WOAH to contribute to a science and evidence -based approach to public policy and international standards, which impact the meat and livestock sector, including on food safety, sustainability, nutrition and animal welfare.
- Host scientific symposiums and global congresses, including the World Meat Congress, focusing on science-based solutions and providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on key issues affecting the international meat and livestock sector.

FAO PARTNERSHIP ON LIVESTOCK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE (LEAP)

The IMS, together with its members, takes an active role in this FAO-led Partnership which includes other private sector partners (dairy, poultry, eggs, and feed), governments, international organizations, academia, and civil society to improve how the environmental impacts of the livestock industry are measured and assessed, an important step to continue to reduce the impact of livestock products on the environment.

GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

The IMS is a part of the Guiding Group of the FAO-led Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) and works together with other stakeholders on three priority areas where improving practices should bring large environmental, economic and social benefits:

- Production efficiency
- Grassland management
- Manure management

Through this work, the IMS aims to catalyze the significant progress the livestock sector has made in increased efficiency over the last years and continue to drive the improvements of the sector's natural resource use.

- Provide a platform for the IMS members to share and exchange knowledge and network, as well as to support Members' organizations through specialized work in the IMS Expert Committees.
- Promote the uptake of published scientific research by national competent bodies to facilitate international trade.
- Publish the yearly IMS-GIRA World Meat Facts Book with global statistics on the production, consumption and international trade of beef, pigmeat, sheepmeat and poultry meat.
- Recognize scientific research excellence through the IMS Prize for Meat Science and Technology and the IMS Meat Science Lecture.



WHAT ARE BENEFITS OF LIVESTOCK?

Livestock plays a vital role in agriculture and is an important contributor to economies around the globe, as well as providing vital nutrients to a growing world population as part of a healthy, sustainable diet.

Meat is an essential source of high quality protein, heme iron and vitamin B12. In addition animals are a crucial link in nutrient cycles in agriculture, returning nutrients to the soil in forms that plants can readily use.

Finally important by-products of livestock include leather and wool while pastures add to the landscape and the biodiversity of our planet.

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

A central challenge is how to meet the future demands for animal proteins safely and sustainably. Given the diversity of livestock production systems around the world, it is important to engage at a global level and provide solutions that work locally to meet the increased demands for animal proteins while ensuring food safety and quality from farm to fork.

The IMS is determined to support a culture of continuous improvement and through its commitment to multi-stakeholder efforts such the FAO-led Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) and the FAO Partnership on Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP), the IMS aims to contribute to the multiple objectives of economic development, climate change mitigation and food security through increased productivity and resource efficiency.

IMS-GIRA WORLD MEAT FACTS BOOK

The IMS in collaboration with GIRA, a leading independent economic research consultancy, publishes the yearly World Meat Facts Book, which contains up-to-date statistics on production, consumption and international trade in meat. The figures are broken down by meat species including beef, sheepmeat, pigmeat and poultrymeat, by region of the world and by principal countries within the regions. The World Meat Facts Book has become the standard reference guide for the livestock and meat industries and is available exclusively to IMS Members.

HOW IS THE IMS ORGANISED?

The IMS is a membership driven organization governed by a General Assembly of members, which is held on the occasion of the World Meat Congress. A representative Board of Directors is elected from the members and day-to-day operations are decided by the elected Executive Council and managed by the Secretary General based in the IMS Secretariat in Paris, France.

The IMS has expert Committees for Beef, Pigmeat, Sheepmeat, as well as for Animal Care, Sustainability, Human Nutrition and Health. The IMS Members also provide experts for the Economic and Marketing Committees of the IMS.

These committees provide expert advice and input into global public policy and scientific research and enhance members' understanding of the issues faced by the meat and livestock sector.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The IMS welcomes membership applications from organizations involved in the meat and livestock sector from around the world. By joining the IMS you will connect with key organizations working together to meet the future demands for sustainable, high-quality, nutritious and safe animal protein and you will be able to:

- Input into the development of international standards impacting our sector and engage with international organizations to shape science and evidence-based public policy.
- Network with your peers from around the world via IMS conferences, scientific symposiums, expert workshops and committees and benefit from knowledge-sharing and scientific exchange.
- Shape the external communications and image of the industry while benefiting from assistance in issue management and policy guidance to support your local engagement efforts.
- Raise your organization's profile, including through leadership positions within the IMS, hosting an IMS event or supporting other activities.
- Receive regular newsletters with insights on relevant issues from around the world, as well as the yearly IMS-GIRA World Meat Facts Book.