



FEFAC RELEASES ITS FIRST ENVIRONMENT REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL COMPOUND FEED AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE EVALUATION AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OF EU LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

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Mr Pedro Corrêa de Barros, FEFAC President, and Mr Ad Hectors, Member of the FEFAC Praesidium in charge of sustainability, presented publicly on 9 September 2009 the first FEFAC Environment Report.

Mr Ad Hectors stressed that “EU compound feed manufacturers are fully aware of the impact of EU livestock production on the environment and the contribution of feed consumption to that impact. A number of initiatives have been taken by compound feed manufacturers, either individually or collectively, at national or European level, to improve the environmental performance of their feed. The FEFAC Environment Report provides an overview of the different angles under which the environmental sustainability of industrial compound feed should be considered, which will be useful not only for EU compound feed manufacturers but also to anyone interested in knowing more about the sustainability of EU feeding systems, including our livestock chain partners, environment organisations and policy makers”.

The 28-pages report¹ investigates the environment impact of feed production and feed use through 3 main topics, i.e. the sustainable management of feed resources (e.g. impact of soybean production, fishmeal & fish oil production and use, valorisation of by-products from the food and biofuel industry), climate change & energy use (methodology for calculation of the carbon foot print and evaluation of the environmental impact of production and consumption of feed, energy use in feed mills, etc.) and feed safety (detoxification of feed resources, preservation of hygiene status through good manufacturing practices). The report also provides examples of initiatives across the EU aiming at gathering information and also at providing operators with tools to improve their environmental performance.

Mr Pedro Corrêa de Barros underlined that “consumers often get the impression that modern livestock production systems are not compatible with climate change objectives. This is simply not true and an increasing number of studies tend to prove this point. The challenge as highlighted by FAO is to manage as well as possible the agricultural resources to ensure food security and be able to supply twice as much animal products as today within the next 40 years at global level, while minimizing impacts on the environment per unit of animal product. I do believe that this may only be achieved through ecologically intensive livestock production systems based on efficient compound feed supply. We have a role to play as FEFAC to share this vision with our chain partners and public authorities, with a view to the International Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen. This Environment Report is our first contribution to the upcoming EU and international debate and the work of the EU Food Chain Round Table on Sustainable Consumption and Production of which FEFAC is a founding member²”.

¹ Available on the FEFAC website at : <http://www.fefac.org/file.pdf?FileID=22145&CacheMode=Fresh>

² The Food Chain SCP Round Table is composed of representative organisations from the entire food chain, from the agro-supply sector to retailers, with the main objective to develop a harmonised environmental impact assessment methodology, to develop tools for consumer communication and to identify actions for further improvement of the environmental performance of the food chain.

The FEFAC “Credo”

- FEFAC believes that products of animal origin form an integral part of the European diet providing key nutritional benefits to the European population. Nutritionally optimised feed meeting the physiological requirements of animals and fish raised for food production purposes are essential to mitigate the environmental impact of production and consumption of animal products.
- The EU compound feed industry is willing to responsibly contribute to the sustainable development of livestock and aquaculture production systems. FEFAC believes that the key drivers for such improvements are:
 1. Promotion of ecologically intensive production systems for farm animals and fish, oriented towards maximization of resources efficiency and minimization of GHG emissions;
 2. Changes in diet patterns and composition for farm animals and fish to significantly reduce the GHG emissions attributed to livestock production systems (e.g. methane);
 3. Improvement of feed efficiency, i.e. the conversion of feed into animal products, in order to control the use of resources and to reduce the loss of nutrients;
 4. Further optimization of use of co-products from the food industry, biomass and non-organic raw materials to alleviate the pressure on natural resources.
- FEFAC and its Member Associations believe they have a role to play in providing feed companies with tools to measure and improve the environmental performance of their products. FEFAC is committed to play a role as spokesman of the EU compound feed industry to facilitate feed chain cross-sector initiatives to develop standardized methodologies to evaluate the carbon foot print and also to contribute to international agreements on sustainable criteria for feed production.

Notes to the editor:

1. FEFAC, the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation, represents 21 national Associations in 20 EU Member States as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Croatia, Serbia and Norway with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 110,000 persons on app. 4,500 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities.
2. Farm animals in the EU-27 consume an estimated 470 million tonnes of feed a year, of which 150 million tonnes are produced by the compound feed manufacturers. Turnover of the European compound feed industry was estimated at €45 billion for 2008.
3. For more information see our web site (www.fefac.eu) or please contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General Tel. +32-2-285.00.50, Fax +32-2-230.57.22, e-mail: fefac@fefac.eu.