

Is Industrialised Livestock the New Coal?

Key Takeaways

*A deep dive into the world of Animal
Agriculture and Just Transition*



PANELISTS

IS INDUSTRIALISED LIVESTOCK THE NEW COAL?



Vositha Wijenayake
Executive Director
SLYCAN Trust



Rashmit Arora
Agricultural Economist
The Transformation Project



Emily Hickson
Head of Advocacy
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Dr Marco Sprigmann
Senior Researcher
University of Oxford



Dr Simone Lovera
Executive Director
Global Forest Coalition



Carina Millstone
Executive Director
Feedback Global

Is industrialized livestock the New Coal?



SIDE SESSION

A deep dive into the world of animal agriculture and Just Transition.

Organizer: 50 by 40

While the concept of Just Transition is already commonplace in the energy sector, animal agriculture is not receiving the attention it deserves as a key climate change mitigation factor.

Animal agriculture is arguably one of the biggest issues of our time. Responsible for at least 14.5% of all GHG emissions worldwide, it exacerbates the climate emergency, water crisis, gender divide, biodiversity loss and food related health disorders.

Why is animal agriculture still not pitted alongside other carbon-intensive industries as a major climate change contributor? Is animal agriculture an exceptional sector which needs a different approach? How do we ensure an equitable transition to fair, healthy and sustainable food systems for all? Can lessons from a just energy transition help guide the path for the New Coal?

Join in as we talk through these pertinent questions with our diverse panelists, identifying pathways towards a new food system.

25 November | 15:00 – 16:30 CET

“Given the importance of shifting the food system to meet the Paris Agreement and to feeding a growing global population, engaging in a Just Transition for livestock production is crucial and urgent.”

Lasse Bruun, Executive Director of 50by40



QUICK SUMMARY

- The event was affiliated with [EAT@Home](#) and hosted by 50by40 on Wednesday, 25 November 2020
- **6** panelists shared their expertise and perspectives
- **129** participants from a wide array of sectors joined the event
- The discussion generated **34** questions with a total number of **99** likes

What were
the main topics?



AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

☰ Active poll



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#50by40

Why isn't Just Transition widely applied to animal agriculture, considering its climate change mitigation potential?

053

The lack of research on the animal agriculture as a climate change mitigation strategy



The impact of animal agriculture on climate change is still contested by key lobby groups



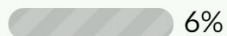
Animal agriculture is considered exceptional sector and can't be compared with other highly polluting industries



Fear of transition by various stakeholders - what to do with stranded assets?



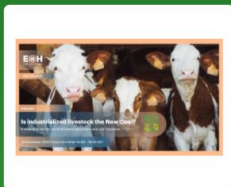
Animal agriculture is less industrialised and centralised



AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT



Top questions (29)



Sebastian

15 👍

Red meat production+consumption is in many countries of huge socio-cultural value, eg. family barbecues in Argentina. How to start a cultural transformation?



Daan

11 👍

Investment firms and banks invest billions in animal protein every year. How can they be persuaded to divest most effectively, and by which party?



Inge Vander Horst

10 👍

How does animal agriculture fit into a regenerative agriculture model as a way to address climate change while providing adequate quantities of protein?

Latest question



Nayomie

1 👍

But Regenerative Agriculture is making it into Policy and the UN why are they being allowed to continue with this narrative?

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KEY PANELISTS | DR MARCO SPRINGMANN, Senior Researcher at University of Oxford



The importance of decreasing livestock and how it is instrumental to planetary and human health.



- ★ The cancer agency of the World Health Organization has declared processed meat carcinogenic and unprocessed red meat likely carcinogenic to humans based on strong mechanistic evidence. There is no good reason why any school or workplace canteens should serve known carcinogens.
- ★ A reform of agricultural subsidies is urgently needed to support a transition towards healthier and more sustainable food systems. Coupling a portion of subsidies to the production of foods with beneficial health and environmental characteristics can improve both planetary and public health without impacting economic welfare.

KEY PANELISTS | VOSITHA WIJENAYAKE, Executive Director at SLYCAN Trust



Just transition in developing countries through the lens of risk management, small holder farmers, capacity building for transition and aspects of inclusion.



- ★ Achieving Just Transition is a collective effort towards sustainable consumption and production. In developing countries, it is extremely important that policies and measures towards Just Transition take into account food security, and nutritional security.
- ★ Climate impacts on food systems contribute to migration. People's ability to pick up a new job when they're moving away will need capacity building, and skills development, especially in countries where levels of vulnerability are higher.

KEY PANELISTS | RASHMIT ARORA, Agricultural Economist at The Transformation Project



Just Transition in action: how does the Farm Transformation help farmers to transition to a better food system and why do farmers seek to transition in the first place.



- ★ Agricultural emissions largely stem from the supply system. However, as a rule of economics, supply follows demand, so changing demand is key.
- ★ This has been happening in some countries: we are seeing an increase in demand for plant based ingredients and products, so the supply system will need to follow. A Just Transition is necessary to ensure that the stakeholders most at-risk in this restructuring of the food system are empowered to be part of the change and not seen as a sunk cost.

KEY PANELISTS | EMILY HICKSON, Head of Advocacy at The B Team



Key barriers and wins in shifting from fossil fuels based economy to renewable energy and its applicability to agriculture.



- ★ Workforce Transition, or transition of jobs from the energy sector was a pivotal aspect of the Just Transition within the energy sector. This required three key steps a) social dialogue on a decarbonisation plan b) planning and engagement with the workforce and c) enactment of the plan.
- ★ The second important thing is to build pressure for such a transition – there needs to be strong signalling from big business to catalyse work on this issue.

KEY PANELISTS | CARINA MILLSTONE, Executive Director at Feedback Global



Civil society response to industrialised livestock and what it can learn from fossil fuel/ coal activists, reflections on divestment campaigning.



- ★ Industrial meat is the most resource intensive way to produce protein, just as coal is the most resource intensive way to produce energy. Both industries are linear, extractive and scar the land and its custodians.
- ★ Unlike in the energy sector, the scope for individual action in the transition to plant-rich diets is huge and can be very empowering- we can all start eating less meat with ease, today.
- ★ Industrial meat is as incompatible with climate change mitigation as fossil fuels- we can learn a lot from the fossil fuel divestment and defunding movements, and call for finance to stop backing industrial meat corporations.

KEY PANELISTS | DR SIMONE LOVERA, Executive Director at Global Forest Coalition



How to engage smallholder farmers in the Just Transition and aspects of working with indigenous and forest communities.



- ★ Public support for agro-business, including incentives, blended finance and public-private partnerships are major obstacles to a Just Transition.
- ★ Threats and violence against environmental defenders and other rights holders make fair and equitable Multi-Stakeholder processes impossible.

SOCIAL BUZZ

50
by
40

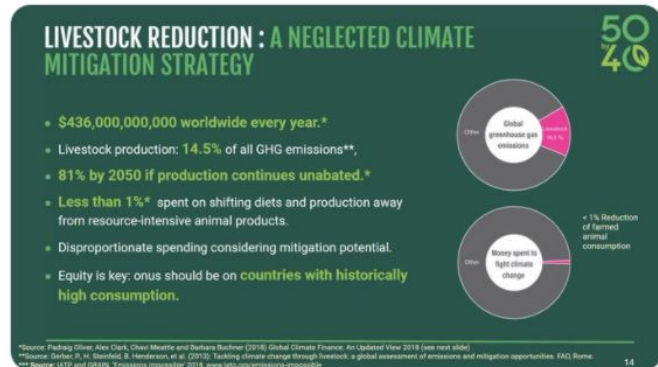


Nicholas Carter @NicholasDCarter · 2h

Less than 1% of finance for climate change goes towards reducing farmed animal consumption.

This is despite animal agriculture responsible for at least 14.5% of GHGs (much higher if factoring in land carbon sinks and the actual impact of ruminant CH₄).

[#JustLivestockTransition](#)



50by40_org



bruunlasse @bruunlasse · 1h

The entire [#JustLivestockTransition](#) event hosted by [@50by40](#), which just ended, was an amazingly informative and lively discussion. Please see the tag for insight from each panelist, and more. Thank you to all who joined. [@EATforum](#) [EAT@Home](#) [#FoodSystems](#) [50by40.org/is-industriali...](#) ✓



50by40_org @50by40 · 3h

Difference between coal and #AnimalAg ? Coal is *priced for* #ClimateChange impact, and animal ag is NOT. The best way to address would be to tax meat at the point of consumption. Coal is taxed at the source - Dr. Marco Springmann @UniofOxford #JustLivestockTransition @EATforum



50 by 40 - Is industrialized livestock the New Co... - Shared screen with speaker view

JUST TRANSITION IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

“Transitions to environmentally and socially sustainable economies can become **a strong driver** of job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty reduction.”

- International Labour Organisation

A Shift To Plant-Based Diets Would Create 19 Million Jobs In Latin America & The Caribbean

European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions

Ministers agree to buy out pig farmers who want to quit: AD

EFFAT meat sector report: poor conditions to blame for spread of Covid-19

The cabinet will announce plans to cut the number of pigs in the Netherlands from 12 million to 10.5 million when it outlines measures to meet climate targets on Friday, the AD reported.

00:15:22 / 01:35:36

Speed



GET IN TOUCH



@50by40
#JustLivestockTransition



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50by40 is setting up a Just Transition Task Force dedicated to making Just Transition within livestock production a key strategy in the global efforts to build resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems. Please reach out to us if you wish to learn more.



- ★ 'Is Industrialised Livestock the New Coal?' – EAT@Home panel discussion
- ★ A Just Transition within Livestock Production – Global FSD event

THANK YOU!

