

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PODCAST “CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK”

Male: “Do you know how climate change can affect us in the future? Climate change is a set of disturbances caused by the increase in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. These gases are mainly carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons”.

Female: “Global warming forces alterations in the patterns of rains, droughts, cyclones and cold and hot waves. According to this expert, agriculture and livestock, two sectors that we depend on for food, will be deeply affected”.

Expert: “It is influencing the increase in temperatures, both strong summer heat waves and increasingly temperate winters which may cause frost later and evidently these frosts can do extensive damage to crops”.

Female: “It may seem like a contradiction, but agriculture and livestock also pollute and represent a third of greenhouse emissions, therefore, play a key role in finding a balance between respect for the environment and our own food security”.

Male: “But how is climate change affecting the development of agriculture and livestock?”.

Female: “The FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, has been blunt: climate change is already affecting food production and harvesting, as droughts and torrential rains are more common. Phenomena of this kind ruin crops. In addition, the rise of the level of the waters will salt and flood coastal lands that will be useless for their cultivation”.

Male: “We should clarify that, on the one hand, agricultural tasks can contribute to the storage of carbon in soils and plants, which absorb CO₂ and remove it from the atmosphere. It is estimated that forests and agricultural land can eliminate 9% of total greenhouse gas emissions”.

Female: “But the opposite may also occur, as agricultural activities release the carbon stored in the soil through harvesting, the drying up of wetlands, and deforestation”.

Male: “In total, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries have almost doubled in the last 50 years and could continue to increase”.

Female: “In this section, we want to highlight an anecdote: the bovine animals are the species responsible for the largest amount of greenhouse gas emissions, around 65%. Cattle as a whole, accounts for a quarter of methane emissions”.

Male: “Can you imagine a world without water? Surely you get an idea of how difficult life is without the so-called liquid element. Without water, it is impossible to grow crops. With climate change, essential foods such as wheat, rice and maize will be affected. This will increase the global population suffering from chronic hunger, which now exceeds 800 million people”.

Male: “Agriculture accounts for 70 percent of all water consumed on Earth, a figure that reaches 95 percent in developing countries. The FAO predicts that water demand will continue to rise by 2050. If

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climate change produces torrential rain and drought in traditional growing areas, how can we meet the needs of human consumption? The same will happen with livestock, how do we feed them if pastures and water are scarce?”.

Female: “Finding the solutions to tackle these problems is a challenge, because by the year 2050, a world population of 9.6 billion people must be fed. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions can also be achieved in agriculture and livestock with technological changes, improving varieties, growing procedures and increasing yield of crops”.

Male: “A first step would be to grow the most suitable type for each climate and sell seasonal products to local merchants, to favor the local economy and reduce CO2 emissions from transport. Consider that the natural resources that sustain agriculture, such as land and water, are increasingly scarce and are more threatened by the degradation of nature”.

Male: “On the other hand, food production systems currently consume 30 percent of the energy available around the world. Seventy percent of this energy is consumed when food has already left the farm, that is, in transportation, processing, packaging, storage and sale”.

Female: “It is also vital to avoid wasting food, since a third of what we produce is lost or thrown away, and with 38 percent of the energy consumed in its production and marketing”.

Male: “Agriculture and livestock are two sides of the same coin: victims and causes of climate change. We must achieve its sustainability, and this depends on the efforts of humanity. Care for land and livestock are essential for the future of many generations. It is a question of strengthening the local economy, of kilometer zero and the use of ecological products, that have followed the development process respectful with the environment”.

