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Addressing new challenges and emerging issues in animal sciences and dairy research

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Livestock products demand is projected to grow substantially in the coming decades, driven by increasing populations, economic growth, and rapid urbanization of developing world. By 2030 demand for safe animal protein is expected to increase by 50%. Despite public health and veterinary public health improvements within the past century, human and animal populations remain vulnerable to health threats caused by infectious diseases. A new animal disease occur each year with 1/3 of these diseases posing risk of human transmission. Noticeably one new emerging or re-emerging disease occurs every eight months. Incidences of many new endemic diseases have increased. Out of 1,400 microbes that could cause human infections, more than 60% are also pathogenic for wild or domestic animals (OIE, 2012). These zoonotic agents cause 75% of human emerging infections (OIE, 2012), representing a direct public health issue (OIE, 2012). They also carry an indirect threat since they account for the majority of the 20% losses to livestock sector at the production and work power level. These raise an issue of food security to sustain an increasing demand for animal proteins. By 2020, the livestock sector is expected to represent 50% of the agriculture outputs in value. In developing countries, uncontrolled re-emergence of infectious diseases, increased morbidity and mortality threatens the main asset of families, thus preventing them to escape from poverty. Along with these the unjustified emission of greenhouse gases, raises an environmental issue. Therefore these issues need to be addressed in innovative and dedicated manner.

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