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GFLI Launch Event Summary

On 12 November at 16.30 CET the Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) officially launched its database and tool during a virtual launch event. The digital conference attracted almost 200 participants from all over the world, including scientists and representatives of various industries, NGOs, media outlets and governmental agencies. The aim of the GFLI launch event was to announce the availability of the updated database and tool via GFLI's website, and share the Institute's vision for growth over the next years in order to fully support the feed and livestock sectors in our shared mission to achieve more sustainable, lower environmental impact animal protein production.

Former GFLI Board Chair Greg Downing opened the presentation pointing out some highlights of what has been achieved since the establishment of the Institute as a legal entity in September 2019. GFLI began in response to the increasing call to monitor emissions from feed due to the urgent need to reduce GHG emissions globally. The reality is that the feed and livestock sectors MUST have access to reliable feed datasets in order to enable accurate and comparable calculations. The Feed Sector agreed that the best way forward would be to convert this challenge into an opportunity and to support the proactive processes already in place, namely FAO-LEAP and EU-PEF. GFLI's methodological foundation relies heavily on these two initiatives, and GFLI aims to provide the high-quality data required by the feed and livestock sectors in order to make use of LEAP and PEF guidelines. Ultimately, GFLI data allows for benchmarking, continuous improvement and the ability to communicate accurate information to stakeholders. Additionally, GFLI's LCI tool (GFLI FeedPrint International) provides insight into the data that enables identification of areas of concern as well as ways to make improvements.

The GFLI database is freely accessible from the GFLI website and now comes with improved meta data, which provides insight into how the data is collected and where it comes from, as well as better Data Quality Rating (DQR) information. The database includes more than 900 datasets from Europe and North America with a lot more data on the way, which will increase the database's sectoral and geographical coverage (e.g. fish feed, rendering products, feed additives, Brazilian crops and US processed feed ingredients). Data quality and integrity is assured by an external review process. The GFLI methodology and procedures guidance documents have been revised and updated under the supervision of the GFLI Technical Management Committee (TMC).

Tom Battagliese (TMC Chair) explained that the mission of the TMC is to safeguard the Global Standard. The TMC is the technical backbone of the Institute, therefore all technical aspects of the methodology, procedures, data and data quality go to the TMC for review, development and ongoing improvement and implementation. The TMC also coordinates with GFLI's technical consultants and provides recommendations to the GFLI Board. Mr. Battagliese noted that the TMC is currently establishing the Institute's Scientific Advisory Council, which will allow GFLI to engage with experts from outside the feed sector in order to enhance the technical foundation of the Institute and help promote alignment and complementarity with FAO-LEAP, EU-PEF and other relevant methodologies and initiatives." Our goal is to have the GFLI database recognized as the global reference for Feed LCA data by the public and private sectors, LCA researchers, industry, and governmental bodies."

GFLI invited four panelists to share their unique perspectives about the feed and livestock sector's collective advance towards achieving more sustainable livestock production.

Dr. Camillo De Camillis, LEAP Manager at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), presented the overall objective of LEAP3, which is "To support the

livestock sector and its supply chains towards improving the sustainability of production practices through the application of LEAP guidelines.” He explained how LEAP works to safeguard best practices in data collection through the LEAP guidelines, and introduced new initiatives such as the Data Library and the discussion forum: “Livestock, Climate and Environment”. Dr. De Camillis noted that GFLI is well-suited to contribute to LEAP’s efforts through the use of its database by feed and livestock sector stakeholders, as well as by participating in these new initiatives.

Dr. Wolfgang Trunk, Policy Officer at the European Commission (DG SANTE), provided insight into the European Green Deal, which sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal, with its ambition to create a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. One of the actions in the Farm to Fork Strategy is to ensure sustainable food production. Dr. Trunk outlined the 2030 targets (not legally-binding) for sustainable food production and concrete actions intended to support achieving these goals. Part of these efforts include regulating claims about the environmental footprint of feed. Several policy options are envisaged to establish an EU methodology for green claims in the labelling legislation, which implies that several other issues such as data availability, verification framework and enforcement are addressed. GFLI is well-positioned to support the Commission’s work in this area through public access to its PEF-compliant database and invited to further participate in the upcoming stakeholder consultations for this legislative process.

Dr. Martin Alm, President of the World Renderers Organization (WRO) and Technical Director of the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association (EFPRA) discussed the importance of rendered by-products in sustainable feeding. Dr. Alm demonstrated the sustainability of feed grade rendered products by presenting data on the carbon footprint of these products versus vegetable alternatives. The inclusion of EFPRA’s datasets in the GFLI database will provide valuable support to efforts of the Rendering Sector to recognize and valorize the resources with the lowest environmental impacts.

Mr. Roberto Betancourt, Board Member of SINDIRAÇÕES (Brazilian Feed Industry Association), represented GFLI’s newest member. He discussed Brazil’s role in improving available data and explained why SINDIRAÇÕES has become a GFLI member. “The Brazilian Feed Industry’s integration into GFLI is an opportunity to improve our feed database via global acceptance and integration. The generic data currently available on Brazilian soybean meal and other ingredients show 2-3 times higher emissions than our high-quality technical data. GFLI is allowing Brazil to invest in data collection by providing the assurance of a fair and technical review.”

Nick Major, GFLI’s newly elected Chair of the Board, wrapped-up the event and emphasized that the Institute’s focus going forward will be on the continual expansion and improvement of the GFLI database. “The database is there for everybody to use while we also look toward the next level regarding licensing the disaggregated unit process data.” He welcomed anyone interested in joining GFLI as a member, creating a strategic partnership, or requesting data-in or data-out projects to contact the GFLI Secretariat or any member of the Board of Directors.