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Farming plays 'important role' in well-being of planet and people

In the wake of recommendations revealed by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero' by 2050, the Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland (LMC) claims that sustainable livestock production must be considered part of the solution.

LMC Chief Executive Ian Stevenson said: "Sustainable livestock production plays a hugely important role in the health and well-being of the planet and its people.

"We have a rapidly growing population around the world and with growth in incomes in developing countries also comes a growth in demand for quality meat protein and other dietary enrichments.

"Almost two thirds of the world's cattle and buffalo are in developing countries but those countries only produce about one third of the world's beef output.

"In Northern Ireland we have productive livestock, which are adequately supplied with abundant quantities of water and grazing lands, ideally placed to convert human inedible grass into high quality human edible protein."

A member of the Greenhouse Gas Implementation Partnership in Northern Ireland, LMC remains committed to help tackle the global issue of climate change.

"We (LMC) recognise that climate change is a global problem which has to be addressed both locally and internationally," Ian continued.

"LMC works closely with industry and government partners on this issue and we are collectively focused on driving efficiency in all agricultural sectors in reducing carbon intensity per kg of output.

"LMC is also an active member of the European Roundtable for Beef Sustainability (ERBS) and one of its key priorities is to decrease the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions in beef production.

“It’s important to recognise the positive role that beef production can contribute to mitigating climate change through implementing reduction strategies and carbon sequestration.”

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