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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels, 4 February 2013

### **EUFETEC shares the Vision and the Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda of the EU feed sector**

**EUFETEC, the European FEed TEchnology Center, released today its Vision and its Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda. This document highlights the key role of animal nutrition in conjunction with genetics and animal health to tackle the 3 key challenges faced by the EU livestock sector within the next 20 years, i.e. i) Optimisation of nutrient resource efficiency, ii) Healthy animals for healthy humans and iii) Socially responsible livestock farming. It sets targets for improvement in these three areas and identifies the priority Research and Innovation needs to meet these targets.**

The EUFETEC Chairperson, Mia Eeckhout from the Gent Feed Technology Centre (GeFeTeC, Belgium), stated that “the livestock sector shall produce tomorrow more with less while guaranteeing a high level of safety and quality. This may only be achieved if sufficient resources are allocated to research, in particular animal nutrition. Among the various disciplines of livestock science, which also includes animal breeding and animal health, only the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the animal nutrition sector was missing. I’m proud to announce that this gap is now filled thanks to the commitment of both the feed knowledge providers and the feed industry.”

Patrick Vanden Avenne, President of FEFAC, the European Feed Manufacturers’ Federation, stressed that “Most of the challenges for the livestock sector have a clear feed dimension:

- “Resource efficiency” in the livestock sector is about how to convert feed resources in the most efficient way.
- “Healthy animals” is about how to feed nutrients to animals under optimal management to resist disease.
- “Socially responsible livestock farming” from a nutrition perspective is how to minimise the negative impact of livestock farming on the environment through e.g. precision feeding and GHG mitigation strategies, taking into consideration the existing legal standards on e.g. animal welfare.

The first way to address these challenges is to transfer knowledge into practical solutions for the farmers in order to optimise their ability to deliver against the objectives. Raising the efficiency of less efficient farmers to the level of the best must be a primary target. The second way to address the challenges is to develop innovative technological solutions to improve knowledge further, for example, the nutritional interaction with, and between, other factors such as genetics, animal health & animal welfare, environmental footprint etc. This vision shared by the EU feed industry as a whole is the cornerstone of the EUFETEC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda”

Mia Eeckhout added that “investment in research and innovation in the animal nutrition sector has shown its efficiency overtime. The EUFETEC SRIA illustrates the huge progress that shall and can still be achieved to allow the livestock sector to improve its sustainability and resilience. Existing synergies between all stakeholders of the livestock chain is so that progress in one sector can be enhanced via expanding know how and experience in other sectors.

The 12-pages “Vision and SRIA” can be downloaded at [www.eufetec.eu](http://www.eufetec.eu).

**Note to editors:**

EUFETEC was created in 2008. The international partners of EUFETEC are:

- 1) Representatives of the feed industry: BEMEFA (Compound Feed Industry Association - Belgium), FRANA (Feed Additive Federation - Belgium), CESFAC (Compound Feed Industry Association - Spain), FEFAC (European Feed Manufacturers' Federation) and FEFANA (European Feed Additives & Premixtures Association).
- 2) Representatives of the academic community: University Association Ghent (UAG - Belgium) / Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO – Belgium), Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR - The Netherlands), Sacred Heart Catholic University of Piacenza (Institute of Food Science and Nutrition - Italy) and University of Nottingham (United Kingdom)
- 3) Representative of research centres: Tecaliman (Centre Technique de l'Alimentation Animale – France).

EUFETEC's mission is primarily to foster research in the feed sector.

EUFETEC is member of the Animal Task Force (ATF), together with other European Technology and Innovation Platforms dedicated to Animal Health (ETP-GAH), Animal Breeding (FABRE) and Aquaculture (EATiP).

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