

Frequently-Asked Questions about the Livestock and Fish Program

What is the focus of the program?

It is one of 16 CGIAR Research Programs aiming to reduce rural poverty, improve food security, nutrition and health, and sustainably manage resources in the developing world. This program aims to increase the productivity of small-scale livestock and fish systems in sustainable ways, making meat, milk and fish more available and affordable to poor consumers across the developing world.

The program is motivated by the fact that there is a large and increasing demand for animal source foods which play an important role in achieving food and nutrition security and which constitute a large, untapped opportunity for smallholders to raise their income through meeting this demand.

Why are animal source foods important to achieving food and nutrition security?

Animal source foods provide essential micronutrients and vitamins that often are not supplied by a plant based diet alone, especially for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, infants and young children. This is particularly the case during the first 2-3 years (*'the first 1000 days'*) in the life of a child. We collaborate with other CGIAR Research programs on this, including the program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health.

What challenges does the program address?

It seeks to address two big challenges.... First, many poor people across the world, especially women and children, eat very little meat, milk and fish. This exacerbates nutrient deficiencies, poor physical and cognitive development for children, and poor health and livelihood outcomes for adults. **How can their food intake and diets be improved, resulting in more healthy and productive lives?** Second, the productivity and economic efficiency of small-scale livestock and fish production and marketing systems in developing countries generally lags far behind those in other parts of the world. **How can we sustainably increase their productivity, efficiency and effectiveness in order to benefit producers and consumers towards more food secure futures?**

How is the program addressing these challenges?

The program has adopted an integrated 'solution-driven research with development' approach that aims to transform selected high-potential farm-to-table food chains through institutional and technological interventions by working together with key partners and stakeholders.

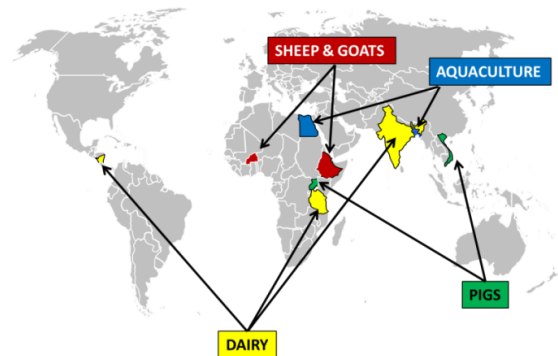
<http://livestockfish.cgiar.org>

What does the approach comprise?

- **A whole value chain (farm-to-table) approach:** It applies a whole value chain concept (from producing, processing, selling and consuming meat, milk and fish) as an organizing framework.
- **Focus, focus, focus:** It works on a few selected livestock and fish systems with potential to generate lessons and outcomes that will transform these systems and can be applied elsewhere.
- **Working through genuine partnerships:** It aims to engage intimately with a range of development partners in each food chain right from the outset.
- **Research for impact:** It adopts an approach with the end goal in mind (*'more meat, milk and fish by and for the poor'*) that increases the likelihood that technology development through basic research on feeds, genetics and health will be adopted and have impacts.
- **Aiming for impact at scale:** Working in a few selected food chains allows for more full engagement with partners in each chain to identify appropriate intervention packages, and generate the evidence that they work (or don't work). This evidence is used to promote successful interventions and attract investments to take them to scale.

Where is the program working?

Research is based around 9 value chains in different countries: smallholder dairy in Tanzania and India, small and medium-scale aquaculture in Egypt and Bangladesh, small ruminants in Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, smallholder pigs in Vietnam and Uganda and dual-purpose cattle in Nicaragua. These were selected based on their high potential for pro-poor transformational improvement – from the producer to the consumer.



What technologies will be developed?

Improving productivity on the farm will largely be through work on productivity drivers - animal health, breeding and genetics, and feeds.

Which other issues are addressed?

The program works on value chain development which provides the demand-driven context for technology development; on gender, so the strategies provide benefits to all; on targeting sustainable interventions and impact assessment to improve program effectiveness; and on cross-cutting capacity development, communication, and partnerships.

Who is involved?

The program brings together the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) with a mandate on livestock, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) which works on forages, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) which works on small ruminants, and WorldFish with a mandate on aquaculture, and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) which provides expertise particularly in animal health and genetics.

