

# Senegal Dairy Genetics: Comparing traditional and new breeds of dairy animals

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**The Senegal Dairy Genetics project is examining the trade-offs between costs and benefits of raising different breeds of cattle in low-input dairy production systems in Senegal.**

The Zebu Gobra is a traditional breed raised by Senegalese livestock keepers for centuries. It has low milk yield, but is well adapted to the harsh environmental conditions of Senegal



Zebu Gobra cattle and their owner grinding millet which will be mixed with milk for the family meal



Young crossbred dairy cattle receiving supplementary feed

Newly introduced breeds – such as the Holstein Friesian, Montbéliard and Guzerat - are crossed with the traditional Senegalese breeds. The crosses have better milk yields, but require additional inputs in terms of health-care, feeding and housing to survive and produce.

**Use of the most appropriate breeds will result in more productive and profitable dairy enterprises, leading to improved food and nutrition security, enhanced livelihoods and environmental sustainability.**