Refocusing livestock agricultural research for development to address food and nutritional security challenges

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Overview

• Our approach to date

• Changing context, adapting focus

• Implications for our research
ILRI’s approach to date

• CGIAR livestock research-for-development (AR4D) led and implemented by:
  – ILCA International Livestock Centre for Africa (1974-94)
  – ILRAD International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases (1973-94)
  – ILRI International Livestock Research Institute (1994-present)

• Recognition of the complex role of livestock in addressing the challenges of poverty

• Framed as 3 Pathways out of Poverty
  – Securing assets of the poor to reduce vulnerability
  – Increasing productivity to improve livelihoods
  – Improving market access for the poor to increase incomes
Achievements supporting the 3 Pathways out of Poverty

• **Securing assets** of the poor to reduce vulnerability
  – Improving survival of livestock through more knowledge on immunology, especially bovine
  – Enhancing resilience in pastoralist systems, e.g. the livestock-wildlife interface, emerging disease threats to people

• **Increasing productivity** to improve livelihoods
  – Early work on draught power
  – Better use of feed resources, e.g. dual purpose food crops, improved forages

• **Improving market access** for the poor to increase incomes
  – Producer groups to achieve economies of scale
  – Addressing transboundary disease and food safety concerns
ILRI’s Theory of Change

• Improving productivity sustainably on-farm and links to market
• ...increases income, animal-source food available on-farm, and/or assets to manage risk
• ...reduces poverty and improve nutritional well-being of poor livestock-keeping households

• Productivity-driven, focus on poor livestock keepers

• Difficult challenge: how to encourage uptake when there are few or limited incentives
Changing context

More recent
• 2007 food price scare
• 2050 challenge of feeding 9-10 billion: will it put the poor at risk?

Other underlying drivers
• Rising demand for animal-source foods: the Livestock Revolution
• Decline of command-and-control parastatal systems and the shift to more private sector-oriented provision of services and market channels
• A range of animal-source food supply chains, with many getting longer
• Farming systems morphing into value chain frameworks

➢ Increased focus on food security
Different Theory of Change emerging

• Evolving Theory of Change
  – Improving productivity sustainably on-farm and in inclusive and efficient value chains
  – ...improves access to affordable animal-source food, while creating income opportunities for small-scale operators
  – ...improves nutritional well-being of poor households generally while reducing poverty among the poor in the value chain

• Increasing supply for poor consumers becomes important

➢ Implications for our research?
Turning around our priorities

From focus on production by poor livestock keepers ...

To designing agri-food systems that improve access to nutritionally critical animal-source foods
But raises two fundamental questions

*Do the poor feed the poor?*

*Can the poor produce more?*
Do the poor feed the poor?

• Yes, varying on commodity and location
  – Milk in Africa and South Asia
    • Low-income consumers in East Africa buy nearly all of their milk raw which comes from smallholders who produce over 85% of milk supplies
  – Pigmeat in South East Asia
    • Over 80% of pork still produced by smallholders in Vietnam, and sold to low-income consumers through wet markets
  – Beef, mutton, goat meat in Africa and South Asia
    • Low-income consumers buy in local wet markets and small butcheries sourced from smallholder or pastoral herds
  – Poultry in Africa, South and South East Asia
    • Industrial systems supplying a large share for urban poor, but rural consumers still relying on local small-scale systems

• But supply chains are becoming diversified and complex
Can the poor produce more?

**Meat**
(kg output/kg biomass/yr)

- **Africa**: 0.06 in 1980, 0.06 in 2005
- **Latin America**: 0.08 in 1980, 0.11 in 2005
- **South Asia**: 0.03 in 1980, 0.04 in 2005
- **Industrialized**: 0.17 in 1980, 0.2 in 2005

**Milk**
(kg/cow/yr)

- **Africa**: 411397 in 1980, 1021 in 2005
- **Latin America**: 1380 in 1980, 517 in 2005
- **South Asia**: 904 in 1980, 904 in 2005
- **Industrialized**: 6350 in 1980, 4226 in 2005
Looking forward to next 20 years

• Will consumer and value chain perspective sharpen our understanding of:
  – What is needed and appropriate?
  – Incentives to uptake and intensification?

• The experiment has begun!
  ➢ CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish
    o ‘More meat, milk and fish by and for the poor’

• New capacities and new partners
CGIAR is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food secure future. The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish aims to increase the productivity of small-scale livestock and fish systems in sustainable ways, making meat, milk and fish more available and affordable across the developing world.