Sustainable milk and beef production in Nicaragua: actions and opportunities for an inclusive value chain

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Cattle Sector in Nicaragua
- Major pillar of economy (36% of agricultural exports)
- Increasing demand
- Adapted disease resistant breeds/crosses
- Extensive, low productivity
- Soil degradation and deforestation
- 63% of agriculture GHG emissions

Nicaragua dual purpose cattle value chain part of CRP Livestock and Fish

LivestockPlus
Sustainable intensification: integration of improved forages
- Genetic intensification: superior cultivars
- Ecological intensification: improved agro-ecological practices
- Socio-economic intensification: reinforced institutions and policies

Partners
- Farmers
- Cooperatives
- Solidaridad Network
- National Agricultural University
- Heifer International
- Regional Research Institute CATIE

Perspectives
- Increased Productivity
  - Milk 700 kg → 1400 kg/cow/yr (+100%)
  - Increased live weight gain (+100%)
  - Lower age at first calving (-33%)
  - Reduced calving interval (-20%)
  - Socio-economic intensification
  - More diverse ecosystems
  - Reduced ecological footprint
  - Reduced GHG emissions (-50%)

Further needed
- Emphasis on integrated pasture systems
- Silvopastoral systems
- Dry season feeding (including conservation techniques)
- Good management practices
- Territorial learning alliances

• Investments for cooperatives and small dairy/meat processing enterprises
• Payment for Ecosystem Services, private sector involvement

Funding by Austrian Development Cooperation (ADA) and the Farmer Support Programme of the Netherlands Government is gratefully acknowledged.

http://livestockfish.cgiar.org

References
- LivestockPlus Nicaragua dual purpose cattle value chain part of CRP Livestock and Fish
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