Introduction

• The development of a competitive beef value chain for accessing formal and specialized national and international markets is among the principal goals of the Colombian agricultural development plans.
• Cattle production in Colombia is very diverse in terms of climatic conditions, agro-ecological zones, farm sizes and production systems.
• This is influencing the nature of the aligned value chains and their potential for development and for accessing more sophisticated markets.
• Therefore, it is important to conduct in-depth value chain analyses and to identify the most important bottlenecks for sustainable development.

Location

Patia and Mercaderes Municipalities, Cauca Department, Colombia

Results

Objective

Through an in-depth value chain analysis, applying semi-structured surveys, personal interviews and workshops with direct and indirect value chain actors, this research contributes to:

• Showing a complete map of the value chain, focusing on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for each group of stakeholders as well as for the value chain itself, and the external factors influencing the chain.
• Identifying the major bottlenecks and possible strategies for achieving a stronger, sustainable and more market-oriented development of the beef value chain.

Materials & Methods

Literature review and expert consultation.

Participatory workshops with producers to validate the baseline.

Personal interviews and semi-structured surveys with other direct and indirect actors of the beef value chain.

Conclusions

• The stakeholders of the beef value chain must share an articulated vision, fostering the production, transformation, commercialization and consumption of products based on sustainable production.
• Policy makers should base their guidelines and controls taking into account the characteristics of the cattle regions to formulate a legal framework that promotes a sustainable beef value chain.
• Infrastructure for the production, processing, mobilization and sales of products derived from cattle needs to be improved.
• Technical assistance and financial services need to align their priorities to the development plans for sustainable beef value chains.
• The supply of inputs necessary for sustainable production (e.g. forage seeds) needs to be improved.

Acknowledgements

This work was done as part of the Program of development and use of forage resources in sustainable systems of bovine production for the department of Cauca - University of Cauca - Research Group NUTRIFACA. This work was funded by the Sistema General de Regalías (SGR), Colombia. We acknowledge the support of the Cauca Regional Government. This work was undertaken as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

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This work was undertaken as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

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Poster presented at: TROPENTAG 2017