The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock aims to create a well-nourished, equitable and environmentally healthy world through livestock research for development. It provides research-based solutions to help smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists transition to sustainable, resilient livelihoods and to productive enterprises that will help feed future generations by making meat, milk and eggs more available and affordable across the developing world.

To increase the productivity and profitability of livestock agri-food systems in sustainable ways, the research program will:

- Enhance livestock-mediated livelihoods and resilience to risk among smallholder and pastoral communities while enhancing rural and urban consumer access to animal-source foods.

- Develop livestock breeds more appropriate to developing-country people, agri-business and environments and make them widely available and affordable.

- Improve livestock health and the delivery of animal health services to smallholder farmers and herders.

- Improve animal nutrition by identifying, testing and delivering superior feed and forage strategies and options suitting small-scale livestock keepers.

- Reduce the environmental footprint of livestock production while ensuring that livestock systems in target countries are able to adapt to global environmental changes.
By 2022, the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock (LIVESTOCK) will reach, directly or indirectly, 18 million people in poor (<$1.9 / day) households and poor livestock-keeping households and will help 4 million people lift themselves out of poverty (SLO 1.2).

The beneficiaries of this work are in the CRP's four priority countries—Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam—as well as in Bangladesh, Colombia, Kenya, Nicaragua, Nigeria and Pakistan. To achieve these targets, the CRP is working together with most of the other CGIAR CRPs, particularly in CGIAR Country Collaboration countries.

Two of the key targets for LIVESTOCK are the adoption of its technologies by 6.5 million livestock-keepers (SLO 1.1) and improved milk, meat and egg productivity, with an average 4.2% increase across species and environments (SLO 2.1).

Together with the CGIAR research programs on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) and Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM), LIVESTOCK aims to improve the minimum dietary requirements of 11.5 million people (SLO 2.2).

The environmental focus of LIVESTOCK is to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by livestock kept by smallholders in 7 countries (SLO 3.2) while also, together with the CRPs focusing on climate change, policies and water issues, restoring to health 13.5 hectares of degraded lands.

Impacts by 2022

Work under the former Livestock & Fish CRP to transform livestock value chains for smallholders has led to:

1) Growing the contributions of the pig value chain in Uganda;
2) Scaling viable community-based sheep and goat breeding programs in Ethiopia;
3) Developing inclusive dairy business models and hubs in Tanzania and other parts of East Africa; and
4) Strengthening gender capacities to support more equitable livestock value chains.

LIVESTOCK’s technology development work has led to:

1) Exploiting ‘climate-smart’ Brachiaria grasses that have increased crop yields, increased overall farm profits and delivered environmental benefits;
2) Scaling out and developing vaccines for East Coast fever of cattle; and
3) Improving decision making tools for investments leading to more environmentally sustainable outcomes.
Where We Work

The program works to improve livestock genetics, nutrition and health, livestock interactions with the environment, and the benefits livestock bring to women as well as men via improved assets, livelihoods and markets and greater access to affordable and safe animal-source foods.

The program integrates technologies with institutional innovations to address the drivers of livestock productivity – health, genetics and feed – within specific environmental and socio-economic contexts. Its solution-driven approach brings development partners and a wide range of stakeholders into design and testing to ensure relevance and ownership and facilitate taking the solutions to scale.

The approach is geared to two main types of livestock system development:

1) Facilitating a transition from smallholder livestock keeping and informal markets to more productive and higher-value professional agri-business opportunities for both women and men; and

2) Strengthening the resilience of livestock-based livelihoods by protecting and enhancing other critical roles that livestock play where intensification may not be possible, including the critical roles of animals in mixed crop-and-livestock, pastoral and backyard food production systems.

Inclusive sustainable intensification (value chain) sites in Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam. Resilient livestock systems sites in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Tunisia and Vietnam

Sites pending further assessment: Burkina Faso and India and sites in Central Asia and Southern Africa
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The Program brings together five core partners: 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 Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), which works on small ruminants and dryland systems; the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), with expertise particularly in animal health and genetics; and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which connects research into development and innovation and scaling processes.

The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock targets smallholder households and informal markets to increase income and create added-value and employment.

The Program also seeks to provide increased supplies and access to animal-source food for both rural and urban poor.

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