

International Livestock Research Institute

Policies, value chains and livelihoods



ILRI corporate report highlights 2015–2016

Policies, value chains and livelihoods

Support for policy analysis and development guides the prioritization of livestock investments

Inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches transforming livestock value chains provide pathways out of poverty for men and women smallholder farmers

Training in market-oriented interventions brings concrete benefits to livestock value chain actors and poor consumers of animal-source foods

Science into practice

Reduced input prices and access to capital are key to increasing smallholder beef efficiencies

Research in Botswana revealed the importance of reducing input prices to increasing technical efficiency rates and profit margins of smallholder livestock and crop–livestock farmers, with current levels below 60% of potential. Recommendations include helping livestock keepers gain greater access to croplands so their animals can feed on crop residues and to off-farm employment as a way of acquiring investment capital. For instance, a 1% decrease in feed costs would help boost technical efficiency and profit margins by 20% and 26%, respectively.

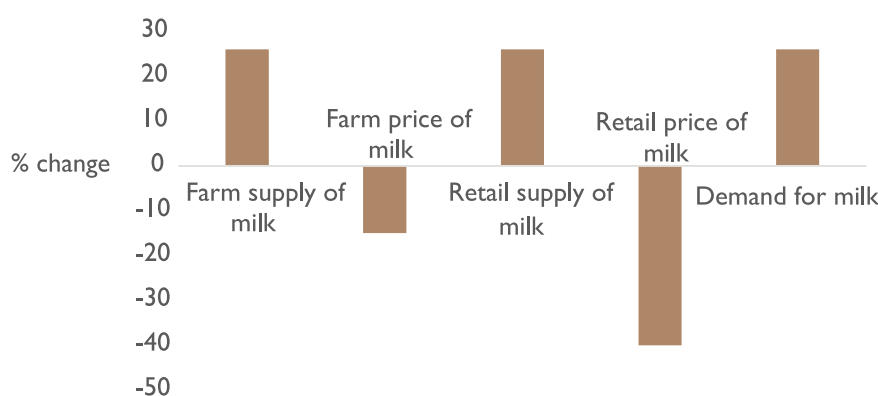
Gendered understandings of ownership of and control over resources offer pathways to increased equity, livestock productivity and food security

Pro-poor interventions targeting equitable increases in livestock productivity and food security stand a greater chance of success by leveraging gendered understandings of livestock ownership and decision-making. Research found that understanding of ‘joint ownership’ of and control over resources meant very different things to smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Tanzania. The term ‘joint ownership’ meant ‘shared labour tasks’ in Ethiopia, ‘shared legal rights’ in Tanzania, and ‘legal rights of the household head in conjunction with informal rights of other household members’ in Nicaragua. Interventions which fail to take this into account may face barriers in enhancing gender-equal control over resources, a cornerstone of sustainable growth.

Ex ante value chain analysis demonstrates benefits of policy proposals to consumers and producers of milk

Research showed that the multi-stakeholder Tanzania Livestock Modernization Initiative to decrease cattle prices, increase herd sizes and improve milk quality would make both consumers and producers better off by almost USD 3 million a year. The expected increase in milk supply would offset at least half the country’s estimated annual milk deficit and these measures alone would increase per capita milk consumption to levels recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations within a generation.

Impact of implementation of ILRI proposed dairy policy interventions



Evidence-based decision-making

Government support on prioritization of livestock investment paying off

Providing technical support to the Ethiopian government's high-level analysis of its livestock sector has begun to bear fruit for smallholder farmers in the country. Following the publication of the findings of the Ethiopia livestock master plan—identifying a roadmap of priority investments in animal feed, genetics and health in the sector—development partners began planning multi-million investments in supporting many of the key recommendations from the research.

Significant progress in transforming the Uganda pig value chain

Systematic engagement in the pig value chain—providing technical support, training and facilitating the involvement of key stakeholders—has sown the seeds for the transformation of the sub-sector, in particular by catalysing new public and private sector investments. Animal health and food safety standards have been improved, and seven cooperatives offering farmers marketing opportunities and cheaper access to inputs and services have been established. Engagement with multi-stakeholder platforms led to the Ugandan authorities making policy revisions that strengthen pig feed quality standards. A private company, Fresh Cuts, has expanded pig production and processing and the National Livestock Resources Research Institute has prioritized pigs in its research portfolio.

Interventions in the Tanzania dairy value chain bring about 20% rise in milk revenues of smallholder farmers

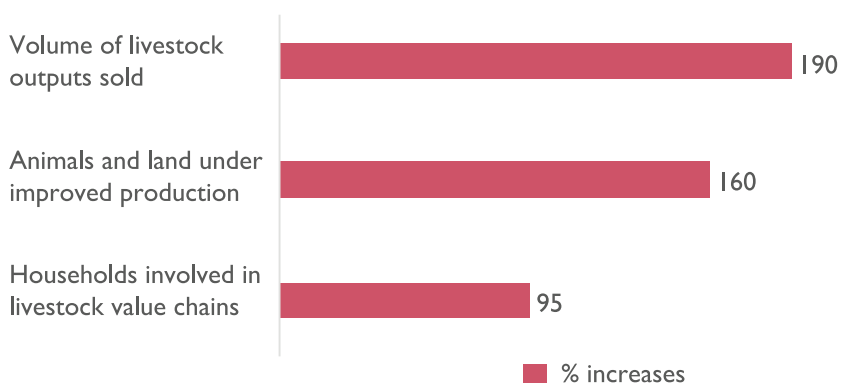
Preliminary evidence from a dairy market hub approach undertaken in four districts in northern and eastern Tanzania indicates a 20% rise in milk revenues for the farmers involved, as well as long-term national effects on policy development. Substantial increases, up to 47%, in the percentage of smallholder farmers involved in dairy groups were recorded, where training on cattle husbandry and dairy business management was provided. In addition, the MoreMilkiT project played a central role in setting up Tanzania's Dairy Development Forum, which has been taken over by local stakeholders and has catalysed the establishment of several local and regional public-private dairy platforms.

Capacity development

Mentoring and training support begins to transform Ethiopia livestock value chains

Since 2013, the Livestock and irrigation value chains for Ethiopian smallholders (LIVES) project has provided research and mentoring support and short-term training to nearly 25,000 public sector staff and value chain actors in adopting market-oriented interventions, of which nearly 25% were women. As a result, the number of households involved in livestock value chains, the number of animals and land under improved production and the volume of outputs sold have risen by 95%, 160% and 190% respectively.

Changes in the Ethiopian livestock value following capacity development



Key research

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Key partners for the work reported here

African Union New Partnership for Africa's Development

• Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement • Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme • Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa • Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit • Emory University • Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research • Heifer International • Farm Input Promotions Africa • Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations • Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines • Indian Council of Agricultural Research • Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development • Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam • International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas • International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics • International Food Policy Research Institute • International Potato Center • International Water Management Institute • Ministres of Livestock and Fisheries of Ethiopia and Tanzania • Philippine Council for Agricultural, Aquatic, and Natural Resource Research and Development • Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands • Sokoine University of Agriculture • Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture • Tanzania Dairy Board • Tanzania Livestock Research Institute • TechnoServe • Terra Nuova • Vietnam National Agricultural University

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ILRI thanks all donors and organizations which globally supported its work through their contributions to the [CGIAR system](#)

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