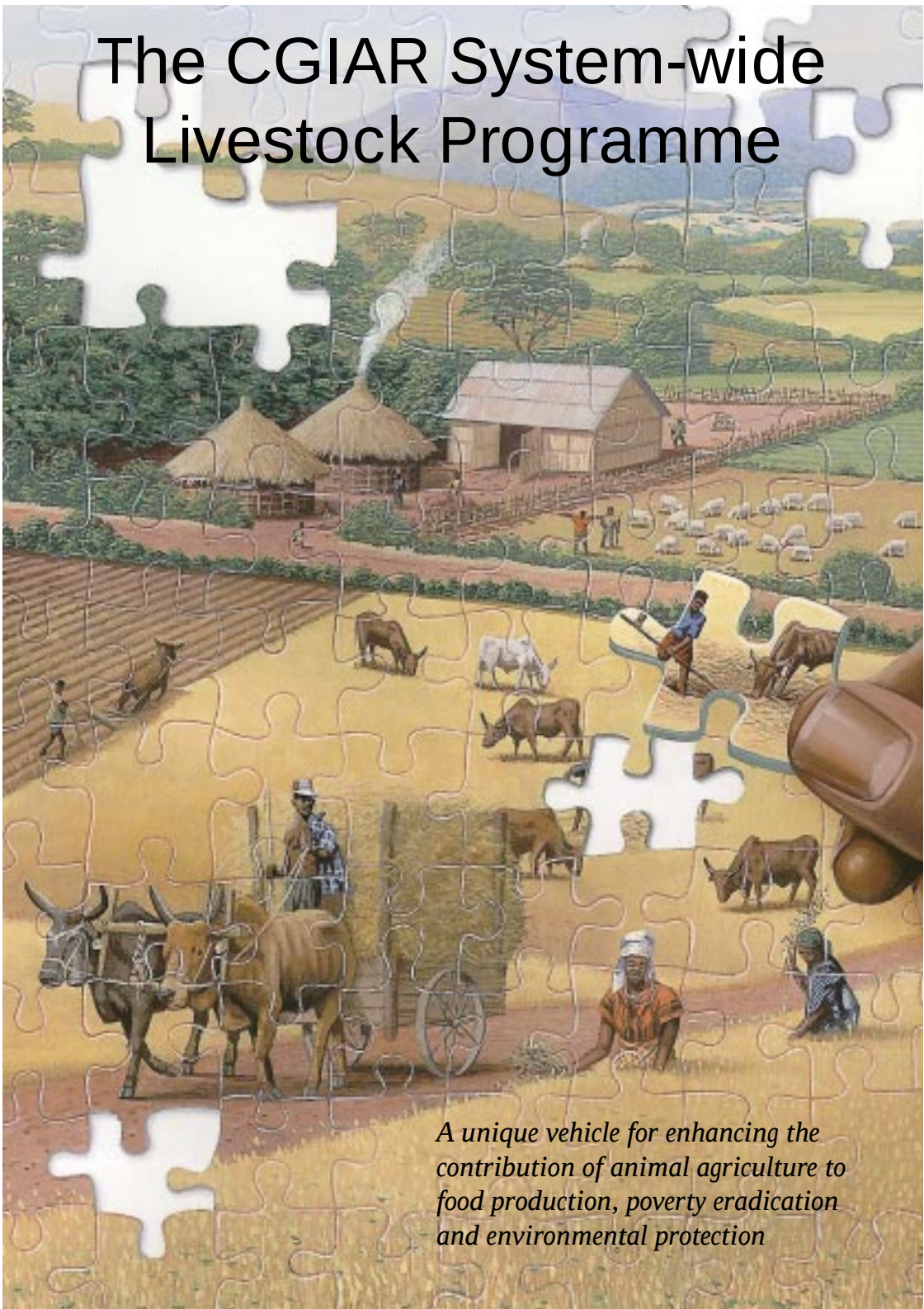


The CGIAR System-wide Livestock Programme



A unique vehicle for enhancing the contribution of animal agriculture to food production, poverty eradication and environmental protection

Why we're needed

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) supports a global system of 16 international centres whose objectives are to improve food security, eradicate poverty and protect the environment in developing countries.

The system's crop-oriented centres have considerable expertise in developing new cereal and legume varieties to meet human food needs, but are less familiar with the feed requirements of livestock, which depend heavily on the residues of these crops. This is no minor academic quibble but a limitation that radically constrains the adoption of new technology. In West Asia-North Africa, for instance, research has shown that many more farmers are willing to adopt improved barley varieties when these have higher yields of straw, which the farmers need to feed their flocks of sheep and goats. Similar opportunities to boost adoption rates exist for several of the world's other major food crops.

The CGIAR centres also conduct research on the management of natural resources. Through their manure, livestock make a vital contribution to soil structure and fertility, especially in countries where few farmers can afford commercial fertilisers. Livestock also provide farmers with an economic incentive to adopt resource-

conserving technologies such as browse trees and herbaceous legumes. And livestock husbandry is a factor that critically affects the conservation of soil and water resources at the plot, farm and watershed levels. Considerations such as these mean that a livestock perspective is often essential to the success of natural resource management research.

Both the availability of livestock feeds and the management of natural resources are affected by government policies towards agriculture—a third area of research common to most CGIAR centres. Needed are new policy options that will bring the benefits of livestock production to poor people while simultaneously protecting the environment.

A small additional effort to encourage the centres and their partners to pay more attention to livestock feed requirements in their crop improvement programmes, to build a livestock perspective into their natural resource management research and to identify and share relevant policy options could, therefore, add considerable value to donors' existing investments in the CGIAR's research. The System-wide Livestock Programme (SLP) is that "small additional effort".



What we do

Established by the CGIAR in 1995, the SLP is one of several system-wide programmes that add value to individual centres' activities by linking them. It aims to:

- Develop a shared approach to livestock feed and natural resource management research among the centres and their partners
- Encourage the centres' crop improvement programmes to produce genetic materials with a better balance between food and feed production
- Develop and promote the use of standardised methods for livestock-related research
- Encourage research with benefits that can be transferred across regions
- Identify policy and institutional measures conducive to improved livestock production
- Facilitate the exchange of livestock-related information, materials and methods.



How we work

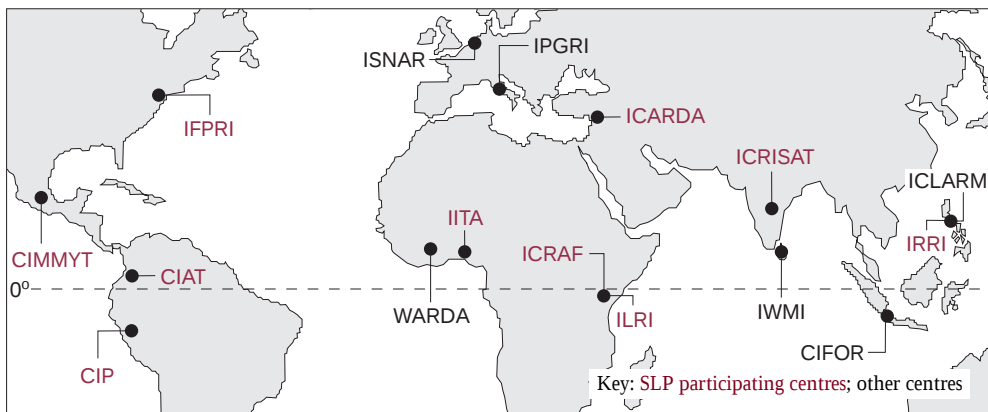
The SLP is convened by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). Nine other centres participate (see map).

Each centre works with national and regional partners, including research institutes, universities, non-government organisations and policy making bodies. Most also coordinate or participate in ecoregional consortia—groups of institutions working together to tackle the interwoven problems of poverty, hunger and resource degradation in a particular environment. Through the participating centres, the SLP collaborates with these partners and consortia.

A designated SLP contact person at each centre works with colleagues at the centre and with regional and national partners, as well as keeping in touch with SLP representatives at other participating centres. The SLP is thus a decentralised team—an ideal organisational form for the programme's task of thinking globally but acting locally on livestock feed and natural resource management issues.

The SLP is a cost-effective investment for donors because it makes key inputs to existing activities, serving as a catalyst to ensure or enhance impact. A matrix in which research themes are plotted against regions aids research planning and the targeting of inputs.





CIAT: Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical; CIFOR: Center for International Forestry Research; CIMMYT: Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo; CIP: Centro Internacional de la Papa; ICARDA: International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas; ICLARM: International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management; ICRAF: International Centre for Research in Agroforestry; ICRISAT: International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics; IFPRI: International Food Policy Research Institute; IITA: International Institute of Tropical Agriculture; ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute; IPGRI: International Plant Genetic Resources Institute; IRRI: International Rice Research Institute; ISNAR: International Service for National Agricultural Research; IWMI: International Water Management Institute; WARDA: West Africa Rice Development Association.

Research themes	Regions			
	Latin America*	South/Southeast Asia	West/Central Asia-North Africa**	Sub-Saharan Africa
Impact assessment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Increasing feed quantity, quality and utilisation				
• Improving feed quality of food crop residues		✓	✓	✓
• Integrating legumes into cropping systems				✓
• Integrating leguminous trees and shrubs into production systems	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Improving utilisation of existing feed resources	✓	✓	✓	✓
Improving system productivity and sustainability through integrated natural resource management				
• Understanding and predicting systems evolution	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Developing alternative land use strategies		✓		✓
• Improving nutrient supply and utilisation	✓	✓		✓
Identifying policies to improve feed availability and natural resources management				
• Analysing feed supply and demand	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Understanding constraints to technology adoption		✓		✓

* Includes the Caribbean

** Includes the Caucasus

Project development

The SLP has a rigorous process for developing project proposals with a high potential for impact.

Centres or groups of centres get together with regional and national partners to identify priorities, formulate proposals and allocate responsibilities for project implementation. This phase of the process ensures that proposals are relevant to producers' needs and owned by those who will implement them.

Each proposal is then reviewed by a panel. The review ensures that the proposal meets the standards of excellence required for CGIAR research. Proposals are screened against the following criteria:

- Scientific quality
- Conformity to CGIAR and SLP priorities
- Potential for impact, within and across ecoregions
- Budget requirements and financing strategy
- Range of partners involved.

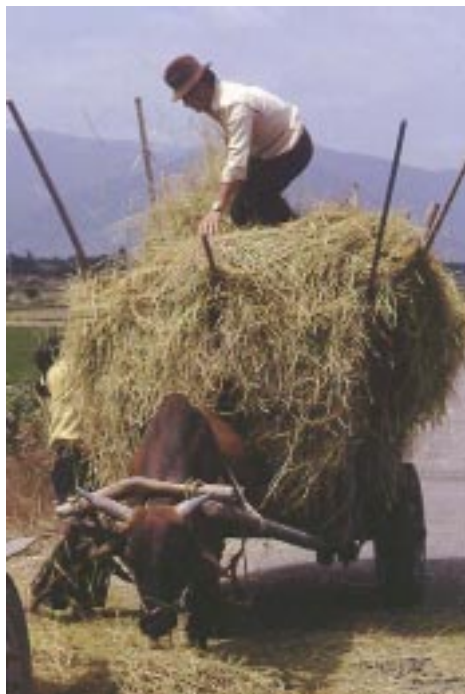


An agenda for impact

The SLP has an agenda that should attract widespread support.

We ensure maximum payoff by identifying and filling critical gaps in the feed resources and natural resource management research of ecoregional programmes. We address issues relating to the environment and to the sustainability of agriculture at the same time as seeking to increase production and productivity. We address policy issues alongside those relating to technology. And we place special emphasis on technology dissemination and impact assessment.

The SLP has become a key promoter of livestock research in ecoregional consortia and an important vehicle for transferring the results of livestock research across regions. Its agenda has been strongly endorsed by the CGIAR's Technical Advisory Committee.



How to contact us

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Adding value to global crop-livestock
research



Concept: Green Ink, U.K.

Artwork: Tony Randell, U.K.

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