

MALI LIVESTOCK TECHNOLOGY SCALING

Livestock in Mali

Livestock is one of Mali's core economic sectors; approximately 85 percent of Malians own ruminant livestock, especially women. Unfortunately, poor productivity and marketing constraints limit the ability of ruminant livestock to provide secure livelihoods. However, if properly captured, the livestock sector offers great opportunities, as domestic and regional demands for animal source food is expected to continue to grow, catalyzing the expansion of the Malian ruminant livestock value chains, potentially leading to increased incomes, food security and nutrition outcomes for millions of Malians.



Photo credit: World Bank Mali

Livestock & Feed the Future

Livestock (cattle, sheep, and goats) value chains are one of two value chains prioritized for investment under the Feed the Future Presidential Initiative (FTF) in Mali, in addition to cereals (millet, sorghum, and rice). Aligned with USAID/Mali's other development programs, the Feed the Future Mali Livestock Technology Scaling Program (FTF-MLTS) will contribute to inclusive growth in ruminant livestock value chains for increased income, food and nutrition security for 266,000 cattle, sheep, and goat keepers and other value chain actors in the regions of Mopti, Timbuktu, and Sikasso.

Project Goals

FTF-MLTS strives to reduce the productivity gaps and expand the volume and value of ruminant livestock produced and marketed by 61,000 households in 31 FTF focus communes in Sikasso, Mopti and Timbuktu. To achieve this, FTF-MLTS is promoting the wide-scale dissemination of productivity enhancing technologies and best practices coupled with innovative marketing strategies. Program specific objectives include:

1. Promote innovative animal health delivery systems and facilitate the implementation of best health interventions that reduce disease burden in ruminant livestock;
2. Increase availability of quality feed biomass, improve farm feed utilization and husbandry practices and generate livelihood options around feed and fodder value chains;
3. Leverage USAID-led livestock market development and policy initiatives in support to the up-scaling of livestock technologies and expanded livestock market access by smallholder livestock farmers.

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Promoting Animal Health

One of the major threats to livestock production and profitability is disease. While many common livestock diseases can be vaccinated against, most vaccines must be kept cold, often a challenge, especially in Mali's rural north. This is why FTF-MLTS is partnering with Hester Biosciences and the Malian *Laboratoire Central Vétérinaire* to develop and disseminate a thermo-stable vaccine against one of the most common livestock diseases, *peste de petits ruminants*, that will minimize the need for a cold chain, reducing vaccination costs and improving the effectiveness of vaccination campaigns. Additionally, FTF-MLTS will strengthen the capacity of public and private veterinary services to prevent epidemics, while establishing community animal health platforms to expand the range of current veterinarians through the training of community animal health workers.

Improving Livestock Feed

Livestock production is also limited by the amount, quality, and cost of livestock feed available to herders for their herds and for fattening operations. Most livestock is traditionally herded on lands that are increasingly drought-prone, with food availability cyclical and climate-dependent. FTF-MLTS works with small-scale producers to promote wide-scale adoption of dual-purpose crops such as cowpea, sweet sorghum and groundnut, which simultaneously provide human food and livestock fodder. FTF-MLTS is also working to introduce improved forage species such as Bourgou and Bracharia to increase the availability and quality of feed biomass and reduce the losses during the dry, lean season. Further, FTF-MLTS is working to scale up integrated packages in order to develop more intensified production models, including cattle and sheep fattening, dry season strategic supplementation of lactating cows and better management of draught cattle.

Access to Market

Increases in productivity do not lead to improved outcomes without sufficient linkages to strong markets, and strong markets require strong information systems. FTF-MLTS is working with the *Observatoire du Marché Agricole* to revitalize the Malian Livestock Market Information System, which will help herders make decisions regarding where and when to sell their herds. The project is also working directly with herders and exporters to develop business plans and more profitable and competitive family fattening models targeting local and export markets.

Partnership

As the main execution agency, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) engages with a consortium of partners with complementary competencies to implement the program activities:

- Government of Mali public institutions, including: the *Laboratoire Central Vétérinaire*; *La Direction Nationale des Services Vétérinaires*; *L'Institut d'Economie Rurale*; *La Direction Nationale des Productions et des Industries Animales*; and *L'Observatoire du Marché Agricole*.
- Non-Governmental Organizations: Catholic Relief Services; SNV Netherlands Development Organisation; *Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières*; *L'Association Malienne d'Éveil au Développement Durable*.
- Private sector: Hester Biosciences Ltd, India; Private veterinarians; Slaughterhouses; and livestock keepers and traders associations.

Our Targets

- Improve livestock production and related income generation for 61,000 households in 31 FTF focus communes
- Develop, produce, and disseminate a thermos-stable vaccine against PPR
- Expand profitable forage production to enable year-round supply of high-quality feedstuffs for the livestock sector.

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