Sustainable milk and beef production in Nicaragua: actions and opportunities for an inclusive value chain

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Cattle Sector in Nicaragua
• Major pillar of economy (36% of agricultural exports)
• Increasing demand
• Adapted disease resistant breeds/crosses
• Extensive, low productivity
• Soil degradation and deforestation
• 63% of agriculture GHG emissions

Nicaragua dual purpose cattle value chain part of CRP Livestock and Fish

LivestockPlus
Sustainable intensification: integration of improved forages
• Genetic intensification: superior cultivars
• Ecological intensification: improved agro-ecological practices
• Socio-economic intensification: reinforced institutions and policies

Perspectives
• Increased Productivity
  • Milk 700 kg → 1400 kg/cow/yr (+100%)
  • Increased live weight gain (+100%)
  • Lower age at first calving (-33%)
  • Reduced calving interval (-20%)
  • Socio-economic intensification
  • More diverse ecosystems
  • Reduced ecological footprint
  • Reduced GHG emissions (-50%)

Further needed
• Emphasis on integrated pasture systems
• Silvopastoral systems
• Dry season feeding (including conservation techniques)
• Good management practices
• Territorial learning alliances

• Investments for cooperatives and small dairy/meat processing enterprises
• Payment for Ecosystem Services, private sector involvement

Partners
• Farmers
• Cooperatives
• Solidaridad Network
• National Agricultural University
• Heifer International
• Regional Research Institute CATIE

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