

The key to success in livestock interventions in developing countries? A systematic assessment of scientific evaluations for improved animal health and production

Livestock keeping is very important in low-income countries, not only for the nutritious food produced, but also for the creation of livelihoods and incomes along the value chains. In addition, livestock is an important mean to get out of extreme poverty; it provides means of investments and empowers women.

However, livestock often produce sub-optimally due to lack of proper feed, diseases and other managerial factors. This hampers the development, in addition to bringing the negative sides of livestock keeping, such as greenhouse gas emissions and zoonotic diseases, unnecessarily high in comparison to the outputs in animal products.

Thus, many developmental projects are aimed towards increasing animal productivity and gains in the livestock value chains, and similarly much research for development are also focused on this. But how often are these interventions scientifically evaluated? Are the usual grant periods too short to allow scientific testing of the long-term sustainability and impact? In this project, we will study published research papers to find to what extent interventions are evaluated and to determine which factors are key to success.

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