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ROLE AND CHALLENGES OF SMALL-SCALE LIVESTOCK FARMING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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I. CONTEXT

I.1 Summary

Small-scale livestock systems play a critical role in terms of nutrition, food security and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people around the world. These systems include subsistence farmers, producers in transition, commercial producers and others. Livestock production can be individual, family or community-based and constitutes an essential element of household livelihoods.

Latin America and the Caribbean region faces a complex scenario with high and rising food inflation, growing poverty, high levels of income inequality, rising levels of hunger, food insecurity and obesity.

While some progress has been made towards the sustainable development of smallholder livestock production, several lingering challenges hinder its progress. These challenges are compounded by the vulnerability of smallholder livestock producers to global issues such as climate change, endemic, emerging and recurrent diseases, land degradation, water scarcity and conflict.

Animal source food produced by small-scale producers plays a key role in national and local food supplies. Their products are essential to a nutritious, healthy and diversified diet, and are particularly important in areas where malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are rife.

Small-scale livestock production is often not included in policy and decision-making processes, which is partly due to the lack of reliable data disaggregated by livestock production systems and scales. Small-scale livestock producers have limited access to production resources, technologies, credit, input or output markets and little bargaining power. In addition, they have difficulty meeting the high health standards developed for larger scale systems and have little bargaining power in input or output markets. This situation is often exacerbated by the lack of organised small producer groups.

Policies or programmes that support food production by small-scale livestock producers and link their production to local food programmes or markets through shorter food supply chains, can increase producers' incomes while bringing down the cost of nutritious food for consumers.

Strengthening small-scale livestock production and realising its full potential requires institutional changes, sound public policies, public-private cooperation and the valorisation of the contribution of small-scale livestock production to social and collective wellbeing.

There are examples of good practices that have contributed to the improvement of small-scale livestock productivity through interventions at the production unit, value chain and policy levels. Properly managed, these systems could be more resilient to prevent and cope more effectively with extreme weather events, for example by breeding animals (breeds) that are better adapted to the territory.

Organisational processes play a key role in improving access to production inputs and support services, including technical assistance, training, credit, marketing and market access, improving production practices and scale, as well as enhancing knowledge and negotiation skills.

In this context, it is proposed that countries advance in the establishment and development of associative forms of small-scale livestock production that build greater capacity among producers and enhance their role in marketing by making their relationship with intermediaries more efficient; in addition to improving access to information, technology and technological services, access to other public goods and support services such as financing and technical assistance.

I.2 Background

Small-scale livestock production systems¹ and related value chains serve as economic and social drivers. These systems are tied to the local livelihoods of smallholders, support food security and nutrition, and provide employment and have other multiplier effects on local economies.

While some progress has been made in improving small-scale livestock production and productivity, several challenges remain and are compounded by the vulnerability of producers to global issues such as climate change, endemic, emerging and recurrent diseases, land degradation, water scarcity and conflict.²

¹Small-scale livestock producers are defined as farmers and pastoralists who either operate an amount of land or a number of livestock in the bottom 40% of the production system at national level or obtain an annual economic revenue from livestock production in the bottom 40% (according to FAO methodology).

-FAO. 2019. *Methodology for computing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2*. FAO Statistics Division Working Paper No. 18-14. Rome, 39 pp. (Available in English at <https://www.fao.org/3/ca3043en/CA3043EN.pdf>).

²FAO, 2022. Buenas prácticas para mejorar de forma sostenible la productividad de los ganaderos en pequeña escala (documento COAG:LI/2022/3) <https://www.fao.org/3/ni039es/ni039es.pdf>

According to the latest Global Report on Food Crises,³ the number of acutely food insecure people in need of urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance increased for the fourth consecutive year in 2022, when more than 250 million people were facing acute levels of hunger. In 2022, the severity of acute food insecurity rose to 22.7 per cent from 21.3 per cent in 2021, which remains unacceptably high and accentuates the rising levels of poverty and hunger globally, making it difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDGs 1 and 2 related to poverty and hunger.

While conflict, inappropriate land use and extreme weather events continue to drive acute food insecurity and malnutrition, the economic impact of the coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19) and the knock-on effects of various global armed conflicts have also become important drivers of hunger, particularly in the world's poorest countries, mainly due to their high dependence on food and agricultural input imports and their vulnerability to global food price shocks.

Conflict, national and global economic shocks and extreme weather events continue to become increasingly intertwined, feeding on each other and creating a spiral of negative impacts on food insecurity and nutrition. There is no indication that these aspects will improve in 2023: climate change is expected to bring more extreme weather events and global and national economies face a bleak outlook, where conflict and insecurity are also likely to persist.⁴

At the regional level, in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), a rise in the poverty rate during the pandemic, the high level of income inequality, higher international food prices and the increase in the consumer price index (CPI) for food have worsened the food security situation.⁵ These factors, often in combination, have contributed to a surge in the prevalence of food insecurity and the cost of a healthy diet.⁶

LAC faces a complicated scenario with high and rising food inflation, swelling poverty, high levels of income inequality and increasing levels of hunger, food insecurity and obesity.⁷ High inflation rates erode the purchasing power of households, putting their food security at risk and limiting their access to nutritious food, especially in the lowest income quintiles, which spend a considerable part of their budget on food purchases.

LAC is the region with the highest average level of income inequality in the world.⁸ In highly unequal countries, economic downturns and recessions disproportionately affect the food security and nutrition of low-income groups.

The region has faced several years of economic stagnation and contraction since 2015. In 2019, 186 million people in LAC were already affected by poverty. In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by 6.8%, and 17 million more people fell into poverty. Extreme poverty in the region increased from 11.4 per cent in 2019 to 13.8 per cent in 2021

³ FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises. 2023. *RCC 2023*. Rome.

⁴ FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises. 2023. *RCC 2023*. Rome.

⁵ The number of people experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean increased from 205.2 million in 2019 to 267.7 million in 2021. Moderate or severe food insecurity in 2021 affected 177.7 million people in South America, 61.9 million in Mesoamerica and 28 million in the Caribbean.

⁶ FAO, IFAD, PAHO, WFP and UNICEF. 2023. *Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition - Latin America and the Caribbean 2022: Towards improving affordability of healthy diets*. Santiago, Chile. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3859en>

⁷ In LAC, 7.5 per cent of children under five were overweight in 2020, two percentage points above the global average (5.7 per cent). In South America and the Caribbean, the number of overweight in children under five has increased over the last 20 years, reaching a prevalence of 8.2 per cent and 6.6 per cent in 2020, respectively. In Mesoamerica the prevalence is 6.3 per cent.

⁸ FAO, IFAD, PAHO, WFP and UNICEF. 2023. *Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition - Latin America and the Caribbean 2022: Towards improving affordability of healthy diets*. Santiago, Chile. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3859en>

and employment recovery has been slow. Moreover, the response capacity of most countries in the region is limited.⁹

Although the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on malnutrition have not yet been fully revealed, negative impacts on various forms of malnutrition are expected.¹⁰ These effects are exacerbated at the global level by political situations outside the region, such as the conflict between Ukraine and Russia due to the importance of both countries in wheat, maize and fertiliser production and commercialization.¹¹

Moreover, these situations also drive the search for new markets to supply the ever-growing global demand for meat, dairy products and eggs, which, according to FAO estimates, will increase by 52%, 40% and 39% respectively between 2012 and 2050.¹²

This could become a new economic opportunity for the countries of LAC, one of the world's main producing regions of these resources. However, inequalities in terms of installed capacities between countries, and even within countries, limit the equitable use of these opportunities.

Small-scale livestock producers have limited access to productive resources, technologies, credit, input or output markets and little bargaining power¹³ in these markets. In contrast, large-scale producers often have sufficient knowledge and resources to benefit from the growing demand for animal source food.

I.3 Importance of small-scale livestock producers

Small-scale livestock producers include a wide variety of production modalities, including subsistence farmers, those who are in transition,¹⁴ producers engaged in commercial production, and others; they can be either individuals, families or community-based, and are an essential element of household livelihoods. Small family farms covering less than two hectares account for 84% of all farms worldwide, but they use only some 12% of all agricultural land and produce about 35% of the world's food.¹⁵

Their production systems vary widely in terms of: i) the species and breeds bred¹⁶ (from multi-purpose indigenous breeds to specialised commercial breeds); ii) the purposes of production, from subsistence to profit; iii) the scale (from a single animal to several hundred) and intensity of production; iv) their integration with agricultural and aquaculture production; v) the natural environments in which the systems are operated; vi) the resources used by the system.¹⁷

For rural households engaging in small-scale production, farm animals are an asset that can act as both a capital reserve and a source of income. In addition to this, they are a family insurance policy since

⁹ ECLAC. 2022. *Los impactos sociodemográficos de la pandemia de COVID-19 en América Latina y el Caribe*. Santiago, ECLAC. (Available at: www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/47922-impactos-sociodemograficos-la-pandemia-covid-19-america-latina-caribe).

¹⁰ Diet quality is a critical link between food security and nutrition, as a poor-quality diet can lead to different forms of malnutrition, such as undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity.

¹¹ FAO, IFAD, PAHO, WFP and UNICEF. 2023. *Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition - Latin America and the Caribbean 2022: Towards improving affordability of healthy diets*. Santiago, Chile. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3859en>

¹² FAO. 2018. *The future of food and agriculture: Alternative pathways to 2050*. Rome. 224 pages (the full report is available in English only at <https://www.fao.org/3/I8429EN/i8429en.pdf>).

¹³ Related to the purchase of inputs, marketing of products, access to information, among others.

¹⁴ Refers to small producers who generate surplus that they can sell, or exchange by **bartering**.

¹⁵ FAO. 2019. *Methodology for computing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2*. FAO Statistics Division Working Paper No. 18-14. Rome, 39 pp. (Also available in English at <https://www.fao.org/3/ca3043en/CA3043EN.pdf>).

¹⁶ Livestock species and breeds are adapted to a wide range of environments, enabling the sector to be a significant factor in eradicating hunger and malnutrition, even in areas that are not suitable for crop production.

¹⁷ FAO, 2022. *Buenas prácticas para mejorar de forma sostenible la productividad de los ganaderos en pequeña escala* (documento COAG/LI/2022/3) <https://www.fao.org/3/ni039es/ni039es.pdf>

they can be sold in times of crisis and provide a wide range of products such as milk, meat, eggs, and hides and skins. In this sense, the contribution of livestock to escaping poverty is three-fold: (1) it increases people's resilience, (2) it improves the productivity of smallholder farmers and (3) it increases participation in markets.¹⁸

Another key role of livestock is their use as animal traction and a source of fertiliser, both of which stimulate crop productivity and, as an economic asset and source of income, contribute directly to household purchasing power, enhancing food security.

Additionally, eggs, milk and meat produced by small-scale producers play a vital role in national and local food supplies. These products are essential for a nutritious, healthy and diverse diet, and are especially important in areas where malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are rife.

Policies or programmes that support the food production of small-scale livestock producers and link their production to local food programmes or markets through shorter food supply chains, can increase producers' incomes while reducing the cost of nutritious food for consumers. In this sense, including family farming in public procurement programs and increasing the presence of local food culture on school menus can help children have wider access to healthy and nutritious diets.¹⁹

Products generated by small-scale livestock production systems provide good quality protein compared to other foods, albeit with slight differences in digestibility.²⁰ Some amino acids and bioactive factors that have functions in human health can only be found in terrestrial animal foods (such as carnitine, creatine, taurine, hydroxyproline and anserine). Long-chain fatty acids and the proportions of essential fatty acids found in terrestrial animal foods are important for cognitive function at all stages of human life.²¹

II. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

While some progress has been made towards the sustainable development of smallholder livestock production, several lingering challenges remain and hinder its progress. These challenges are compounded by the vulnerability of smallholder livestock producers to global problems such as climate change, endemic, emerging and recurrent diseases, land degradation, water scarcity and conflict.²² In this regard, smallholder livestock producers—particularly women and youth—are often among the poorest and most vulnerable population groups and have poor access to:

- productive resources, such as infrastructure (transport and adequate handling and production facilities, as well as access to logistics services along the chain)
- markets
- credit, mostly due to insecure land tenure and the low level of individual capitalisation of assets and collateral for access to finance

¹⁸ FAO. 2016. Síntesis – Ganadería y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

¹⁹ FAO, IFAD, PAHO, WFP and UNICEF. 2023. *Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition - Latin America and the Caribbean 2022: towards improved affordability of healthy diets*. Santiago de Chile. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3859es>

²⁰ FAO, 2023. Contribution of Terrestrial Animal Foods to Healthy Diets for Improved Nutrition and Health. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc3912en>

²¹ FAO, 2022. Contribución de los alimentos de origen animal terrestre a dietas sanas para mejorar la nutrición y la salud (documento COAG:LI/2022/2) <https://www.fao.org/3/ni005es/ni005es.pdf>

²² FAO, 2022. Buenas prácticas para mejorar de forma sostenible la productividad de los ganaderos en pequeña escala (documento COAG:LI/2022/3) <https://www.fao.org/3/ni039es/ni039es.pdf>

- natural resources, such as secure tenure rights
- services, such as animal health and financial services
- information, such as education and capacity building
- appropriate technologies and innovations
- social protection systems.

Furthermore, small-scale livestock production is often not included in policy and decision-making processes. This is partly due to the lack of reliable data disaggregated by livestock production systems and scales, which means that policy makers tend not to recognise their enormous importance.²³ In addition, they have difficulty meeting the high health standards developed for larger-scale systems,²⁴ and have little bargaining power in input or output markets; this situation is often exacerbated by the lack of organised small-scale producer groups.

These systems are vulnerable to climatic events such as droughts or floods, which erode productivity and animal welfare. Climate change may also have an impact on animal disease patterns, making outbreaks more recurrent and difficult to control.

Climate change affects livestock directly (e.g., through heat stress, increased morbidity and mortality) and indirectly (e.g., through feed and fodder quality and availability and animal diseases). In this respect, small livestock producers, including pastoralists, are one of the groups most vulnerable to this, notably to extreme weather events.

Strengthening small-scale livestock production to realise its full potential requires institutional changes, sound public policies, public-private cooperation and the valorisation of the contribution it makes to social and collective wellbeing.

Figure 1. Contribution of small-scale livestock production

²³ FAO, 2022. Buenas prácticas para mejorar de forma sostenible la productividad de los ganaderos en pequeña escala (documento COAG:LI/2022/3) <https://www.fao.org/3/ni039es/ni039es.pdf>

²⁴ See the XVI CODEGALAC document on Animal Health and Trade

Source: Adapted from the Guiding framework for strengthening family livestock production in LAC (FAO, 2012).

As seen in Figure 1, small-scale livestock production makes an important contribution to food security and nutrition, sustainable rural development, sustainable natural resource management and poverty reduction.

To strengthen the contribution of the small-scale livestock sector to rural development and food security and nutrition, it is necessary to efficiently implement regulatory and policy frameworks that improve access to the means of production (land, water, capital, technology), that promote mechanisms that encourage sustainable production and that contribute to reducing poverty and increasing food security in the most vulnerable populations.

In this context, it is necessary to promote sustainable and inclusive food systems,²⁵ where members of society are allowed to contribute to and participate in the growth process on equitable and equal footing. In this sense, in the context of food systems, the following should be considered:

- Development and implementation of incentives for small-scale livestock production that integrate conservation actions with a landscape approach and biodiversity protection.
- Establishment and development of associative forms of small-scale livestock production to improve the scale of operations. Strategies to strengthen the capacities of small-scale livestock producers to—depending on the specific context in which they operate—bring them closer to the final consumer through shorter circuits or public procurement or improve their role in marketing and make their relationship with intermediaries more efficient.
- Establishment of accessible and transparent agreements and mechanisms to facilitate fair trade at the local and international level.

²⁵ A sustainable food system is one that ensures food security and nutrition for all people in a way that does not jeopardise their economic, social and environmental foundations for future generations. This means that it is always profitable, ensuring economic sustainability; that it offers broad benefits to society, ensuring social sustainability; and that it has a positive or neutral effect on natural resources, safeguarding environmental sustainability. FAO, 2023. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/food-systems/es/>

- Facilitating access to and supply of healthy food.

Innovation and best practices

Innovation systems for sustainable rural development²⁶ should consider the promotion of collective and individual capacities, thereby recognising the diversity of actors and their demands in the territories, bringing together traditional knowledge and formal and informal research, and promoting inclusive access to different types of markets for small-scale livestock production.

To carry out these actions, the state and its institutions need to apply legal frameworks that facilitate their implementation through a focus on equity and consistency with social protection policies and sustainable productive development. In addition, the role of small-scale livestock production, rural households, and the social construction of innovative markets at the service of sustainable rural development must be understood in a holistic manner.²⁷

For countries with a large percentage of small-scale livestock producers, the promotion and exchange of good practices that result in greater total factor productivity is essential to ensuring productive, sustainable and competitive livestock production. Total factor productivity refers to the increase in livestock production because of an overall increase in the efficiency of production processes, rather than an increase in the use of inputs.²⁸

There are examples of good practices²⁹ that have contributed to the improvement of small-scale livestock productivity through interventions directly at the production unit, value chain and associated policies, as well as a set of guidelines for different livestock species and issues.³⁰ An example of good practice is the *Balde Cheio* programme in Brazil,³¹ which develops and adapts dairy production practices and administrative instruments in a participatory way with small-scale dairy farmers. Results show that, over a five-year period, milk production increased 2.3 times, while improving land productivity by 54%, individual cow productivity by 24% and labour output by 37%.

Good practices may vary according to local agro-ecosystems, production systems and socio-economic circumstances, so there is no one-size-fits-all approach to small-scale livestock production. However, these practices can be grouped under the following themes:³²

- capacity development in an inclusive, relevant, reliable and accessible manner to fill information gaps throughout the value chain, including through participatory peer learning.
- improving access to production resources that suit the needs of small-scale producers and local agro-ecosystems in support of resilient production, even in difficult environments.

²⁶ A system of individuals, organisations and government institutions focused on making social and economic use of new products, processes or forms of organisation by strengthening family farming and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development. FAO, 2017. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7769s.pdf>

²⁷ FAO. 2017. Innovation systems for sustainable rural development. Santiago: FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

²⁸ FAO. 2017. *The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges*. Rome, 180 p. (Available in English at <https://www.fao.org/3/i6583e/i6583e.pdf>).

²⁹ FAO. 2023. Good practices to sustainably enhance the productivity of small-scale livestock producers—compilation of exemplars and guidelines. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8423en/cb8423en.pdf>

³⁰ FAO. 2022. Good practices to sustainably improving the productivity of small-scale livestock producers (Also available in English at <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8423en/cb8423en.pdf>)

³¹ See <https://www.embrapa.br/balde-cheio>.

³² FAO. 2022. Good practices to sustainably improving the productivity of small-scale livestock producers (Also available in English at <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8423en/cb8423en.pdf>)

- efficient use of available, often scarce, resources by small-scale producers as animal feed and nutrients.
- improving access to effective, efficient and equitable animal health services and practices to reduce high mortality and morbidity in the small-scale livestock sub-sector and contribute to better disease surveillance and animal welfare.
- sustainable and low-carbon production as a strategy for climate change mitigation and minimising environmental impacts.
- differentiated and tailored small-scale, inclusive, responsible and secure livestock value chains to ensure access to input and output markets, value addition and commensurate remuneration, and to improve the competitiveness of small-scale livestock producers.
- protection of natural resources and secure and equitable access to environmental services and productive resources to encourage investment and long-term improvement of small-scale livestock producers.
- promotion of inclusive and adequately funded research and development partnerships to enable small-scale producers to jointly develop innovations and technologies that are adapted to meet their specific needs and circumstances.
- increased resilience of small-scale livestock production systems and the ecosystems on which they depend to reduce risks and vulnerability, including those related to conflict and extreme weather events.

Small-scale livestock producers are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Their capacity to respond and adapt to its effects is highly differentiated and tied to the local conditions where they carry out their economic activities. Properly managed, these systems could be more resilient to prevent and cope more effectively with extreme weather events, for example by breeding animals (breeds) that are better adapted to the territory.

To improve smallholder livestock productivity successfully and sustainably, it is essential that synergies are generated between activities at the production unit, along the value chain and at the policy level. Interventions at the farm level alone are less likely to achieve sustainable improvements in productivity.³³

Promoting regenerative grazing practices and restoring degraded grasslands can contribute to carbon sequestration by the soil and its return to the land, while improving biodiversity and water quality, especially in extensive grazing systems. Improved manure management can prevent nutrient loss, contribute to soil health and produce renewable energy.

Strong policy and regulatory frameworks are essential to creating an enabling environment. The development of effective policy and regulatory frameworks in favour of small-scale livestock producers requires their active participation throughout the process and a full understanding of their business model.

Efficiently addressing current policy challenges, legal frameworks and institutional environments at national, regional and global levels is key to advancing the equitable development of smallholder livestock producers. The importance of addressing this in a comprehensive and coordinated manner is highlighted in

³³ FAO. 2022. Good practices for sustainably improving the productivity of small-scale livestock producers (Also available in English at <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8424en/cb8424en.pdf>).

the UN Decade of Family Farming Global Plan of Action,³⁴ especially through its first pillar: creating an enabling policy environment to strengthen family farming.

Organisation and market access

Any strategy to strengthen small-scale livestock production requires support for the organisation of producers to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programmes. Organisational processes play a fundamental role in improving access to inputs and production support services, including technical assistance, training, credit, marketing and marketing of products, improving production practices and scale, as well as enhancing knowledge and negotiation skills.

Particularly regarding market access, associativism can facilitate the integration of modern agri-food chains, promoting the coordination of producers with the industrial segment, distribution and final demand. And at the local level, it can promote an increase in the scale of production and the construction of marketing platforms to directly meet final demand, favouring local economic circuits.

In relation to associative forms of family livestock production, cooperatives are one of the key drivers in the inclusion of family farming in value chains.³⁵

Cooperatives are the business model that best combines effectiveness and economic efficiency with social inclusion, equity and equality building, based on solidarity and social responsibility, fully involving care for the environment. When farmers organise into networks, agricultural cooperatives, they have alternatives to improve their situation and gain better access to agricultural resources, public services, markets and policies.³⁶

In LAC there are more than 108,000 thousand cooperatives, of which about 28,000 are agricultural and/or rural cooperatives, with more than six million members.

Through the cooperative model, producers generate better conditions for accessing financing, markets, services, goods and inputs at lower prices. In this sense, associative or cooperative models:

- increase the social capital of farmers, reducing power asymmetries and promoting decent work.
- support access of more players on value chains and productive linkages, offsetting concentration.
- contribute to territorial governance by providing a participatory, transparent and democratic business model that strengthens the existence of public-private partnerships.
- transform agri-food systems by being present at different stages of the chain, encouraging the development of comprehensive policies for reactivation in the event of disruptions caused by multiple issues, such as inflation.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

³⁴ FAO and IFAD. 2019. UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR FAMILY FARMING 2019-2028. Global plan of action. Rome. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca4672es/ca4672en.pdf>

³⁵ FAO, 2022. Las cooperativas en América Latina y El Caribe: Motor para la transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios. Disponible en: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0934es/cc0934es.pdf>

³⁶ Cooperativas de las Américas. 2022. Declaración de la VI Cumbre Cooperativa de las Américas de Luque, Paraguay (2022). El compromiso cooperativo para la reconstrucción y el cuidado de nuestra comunidad local y global. Disponible en: https://aciamericas.coop/IMG/pdf/declaracion_vi_cumbre_coop_de_las_americas_oct_2022.pdf

Measures to support small-scale livestock producers must include a holistic and inclusive approach along the value chain. Complementary policy and institutional changes, such as participatory outreach and advisory systems, linkages between research and innovation to local markets, and access to credit and insurance, should be incorporated.³⁷

In this regard, FAO's strategic framework for 2022-2031,³⁸ the 2030 Agenda and the three regional initiatives established at the 37th FAO Regional Conference for LAC³⁹ (RI 1 sustainable agrifood systems for healthy diets for all, RI 2 prosperous and inclusive rural societies, and RI 3 sustainable and resilient agriculture (RI 3) are recognised as key strategies to advance the transformation towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

Considering the information presented in the previous chapters, the CODEGALAC Technical Secretariat proposes focusing efforts and work according to the following actions/recommendations:

- Promote the establishment and sustainability of associative or cooperative forms of small-scale livestock production, which improve access to inputs, markets, support services, knowledge, bargaining power, etc.
- Establish market strategies that build greater capacity among small-scale livestock producers to bring them closer to the final consumer, reducing intermediaries or improving their role in marketing to make their relationship with intermediaries more efficient (e.g., through short trade circuits and linkages with public food procurement and school feeding strategies).
- Facilitate small producers' access to information, technology and technological services, through technical assistance to strengthen their capacities and the generation of incentives that enable the implementation of practices and technologies that are adapted to their specific needs and circumstances, supporting the reactivation and application of local knowledge that contributes to improving resilience.
- Support public and private investments that allow for the development of small-scale productive infrastructure (roads, collection centres, modular slaughterhouses, milk processing plants, etc.), marketing and access to other public goods and support services such as financing, access to credit and technical assistance.
- Strengthen information systems and sectoral statistics related to small-scale livestock production and marketing to facilitate development strategies and decision-making based on objective facts.

FAO, through the Technical Secretariat of the XVI CODEGALAC, offers support to the countries for the implementation of the actions described in this document, through:

- Technical advice and support in designing evidence-based policies, programmes and legal frameworks that strengthen and improve small-scale livestock governance, sustainability and marketing systems.
- Technical assistance in the analysis, identification and systematisation of success factors of associative or cooperative models in small-scale livestock production and marketing.
- Support for the identification, systematisation and implementation of successful experiences (knowledge, good practices, policies, technology, resources, etc.) that support the sustainable

³⁷ Devaux, A., Torero, M., Donovan, J., and Horton, D. (2018). "Agricultural innovation and inclusive value-chain development: a review". *Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies*. DOI:10.1108/JADEE-06-2017-0065.

³⁸ Available at: <https://www.fao.org/strategic-framework/es>

³⁹ FAO. (2022). Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC). Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/larc37/documents/es/>

development of small-scale livestock farming, and that can be replicated and/or considered in other countries and/or territories.

- Support for the mobilisation of resources from different sources to enable the implementation of actions, strategies and programmes to improve membership in associations, market access and progress towards more resilient, sustainable and inclusive small-scale livestock production.
- Facilitating mechanisms or spaces to enhance regional level and public and private sector dialogue, with a view to promoting the development and implementation of joint strategies and projects for the sustainable development of livestock production overall.