KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION PROJECT (KIP)

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KIP OBJECTIVES

- to support the development/extension agents' comprehension of the farm family livestock production systems on Campos functioning and provide them with insight and tools to improve/update their work,
- and inform other stakeholders about actions needed
- to build a platform where to link with other organizations interested in these subjects
- Ecosystem characteristics
  - There are high potential rangelands (Campos), that is natural herbage pasture composed of a lot of species (mainly C4) with and annual precipitation of 1200 millimeters. This allows all year outside grazing.

- Land area, numbers of people involved
  - It is a national level project. The Plan Agropecuario agents working on it are 25, and the end users can be estimated more than 10000, according to the distribution of the magazine.

- Ownership structure: land tenure rights; collective or private land;
  - The land tenure is mainly private ownership. There are a few cases on public leases.

- Livestock system;
  - All year open air grazing systems on natural pastures, including some cultivated pastures (10%) and some supplementation (<50 kgs/animal/year)
Operating environment: free market, subsistence; policy framework

There is a very liberal capitalistic system open to national or foreigner investors, where the state promotes the norms (mainly sanitary) that permit access to foreign markets. 70% of production is exported by well-organized market chains.

Participants in the case and

During each cycle there have been 15 livestock farms collaboration with the project as “case studies”. Cirad/INRA from France and the University of Buenos Aires have been supporting the process, and the 3rd cycle that is been implemented a close partnership with Agresearch (NZ) and INIA (national research organization) is in place, maintaining the support of the initial partners.
Monitoring

Describe what is being measured and why they were chosen.

The project is entering in its third cycle. The first one emphasizes on comprehension of the functioning at the farm family level, the second one on developing tools to support decision, and actually the launching cycle should promote generalized learning, at the farmers, extension agents and institutional level.

As a capacity building action, what are monitored are proxies to these objectives: articles, master’s thesis, presentations, etc. The feedbacks of key stakeholders, such as the University, the Government or the farmer’s organizations are also monitored.

Tell us the decisions that the data collected will inform i.e. land management by individuals, policy development.

There are good analysis of strategical (succession problems) or operational (cow calf management) that inform farmers.

Insight of the dynamics of these farm family systems that inform public policy, mainly about capacity building and other type of support needed by these kind of farms.
LESSONS

What principles and lessons (positive or negative) have you learnt from your case related to grassland management for multiple benefits?

There are many conclusions about different drivers affecting farms evolution that have been identified and described (succession, land tenure, drought, social aspects and so on).

What are the gaps and/or constraints identified for improving grassland management?

Lack of comprehension
Complexity of the vegetation
Farm family objectives not always in line with good management

What kind of coordinated actions for FA2 network sites would you propose to improve grassland management?

Identification of common drivers about farm evolution
Knowledge production and exchange
Thank you