Mapping of policies, programs, projects and actions aimed at promoting sustainable livestock practices in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

Michael R. Franco1, Mauricio Chacón2, Julián Chará3, Pablo Frere4, Rogerio M Mauricio5, Walter Oyhantcaba6

1PRV (Colombia-Costa Rica), 2MAG (Costa Rica), 3CIPAV (Colombia), 4Redes Chaco (Argentina), 5UFSJ (Brazil) GASL- CEG, 6ICA, IPCC, CMNUCC (Uruguay)

Introduction - LAC

• Fourth largest producer and the largest exporter of meat (cattle, sheep, chicken, pork and goats) in the world (OECD-FAO 2022), contributing to global food security.
• Cattle systems are mostly extensive and based in direct grazing of rangelands and pastures.
• Half of the world’s tropical forests are in LAC (IADB, 2021), and there are severe deforestation processes partially associated to the cattle expansion activities (WWF, 2021).
• Second region that generates the most agricultural emissions globally (17% according to FAO), which are related to livestock activities (beef and dairy).
• Significant potential to increase carbon sinks in soils and woody biomass and to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (CONTRERAS-SANTOS et al. 2021).

Methods - mapping

The objective of this mapping is to identify how LAC countries are advancing to promote sustainable livestock through policies, programs, projects or other actions.

The mapping included 20 of 32 LAC countries. Policies, programs, projects and actions that promote sustainable livestock were sorted out in each country according to:
• Policies aligned with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the nationally determined contributions (NDCs), NAMAs, and the National Plans for Adaptation to the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
• Conservation of biological diversity
• Actions against desertification and restoration of soil organic carbon
• Projects or specific actions that promote regenerative livestock practices or the implementation of silvopastoral or agroforestry systems
• Efficient management of grasslands

Results

• All 20 countries have general national policies that contribute to development of sustainable livestock throughout their national territory; however, 13 of them have specific national policies for this purpose, while the other 7 do not have any specific policies.
• 15 have developed or are developing a livestock NAMA, and 1 country is implementing its NAMA since 2014. Several countries have developed national adaptation plans (NAP), and 1 country has prepared a specific NAP for the Livestock sector.
• The figures below show the type of policies implemented in the 20 countries and the significance of four domains, with the bars indicating the relative importance of them. Climate change and growth-related policies seem to be the most significant.

Conclusions

• High diversity of livestock systems.
• Significant potential to enhance sinks in soils and trees in silvopastoral systems and grasslands.
• LAC has programs and policies to reduce the environmental footprint of livestock production and improve sustainability indicators.
• Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Uruguay are cases with large-scale projects and scientific evidence on the results of sustainable livestock systems.

Regional seminar

• This mapping was presented in the Regional Consultation Seminar helping to promote multistakeholder partnership in LAC and to identify other challenges, initiatives, policies and projects.

Participants outlined the importance of the creation of a LAC Chapter to contribute to move towards more sustainable livestock and emphasized that more work is needed on:
• Improving public policies, incentives and support for innovation.
• Combining traditional and scientific knowledge.
• Improving productivity in a sustainable manner to cope with an increasing demand.
• Reducing dependence on purchased inputs and diversifying sources of income.
• Positioning meat produced in sustainable livestock systems as added value.
• Communicating the many benefits of sustainable livestock production.
• Being more inclusive with small farmers including market access.

References / Links

2. IADB, 2021. The forests of Latin America and the Caribbean in the 2020s: contributions from four teams of experts.

Acknowledgements

• Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), Closing the efficiency gap & Global Network on Silvopastoral Systems (GNSPS) ANs, farmers, associations and participants