

Synthesis: Session 4 Have we future-proofed the livestock sector

5 Main points

In spite of all the investment in the livestock sector in LIC, in many cases there has been little/no improvement in productivity or data quality. Also (related) concerns/unanswered questions about emissions from livestock.

SO, what is needed?

May have to be more intentional about promoting changes to sector structure/practices. Good strategies and master plans are needed and must be based on better data and models. Important (but challenging) to consider trade-offs and sector segments.

BUT

What part do data and evidence really play in master plans, policies, gov. investment decisions? Never a political clean slate. Data use can be “ad-hoc”. Strategies and policies sometimes contradict each other. Private sector may be more data-focussed.

AND

To achieve “national” targets from an investment, may need to intervene on a much larger scale than we think we do, or combine multiple interventions to increase scope.

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Main unanswered questions

Climate change

- Are livestock/LIC being unfairly singled out? Are we confident about integrity of the data for sectors other than livestock? (e.g. of VW cars).
- Is enough being done to implement the interventions that appear to be feasible?
- Do we know enough about trade-offs to be confident about promoting sector-level changes to increase productivity?

Challenge of setting targets at scale.

- Need for quantification and justification. Do we know enough about target setting under a quadruple bottom line?
- How many national targets for individual investments are based on an accurate assessment of scalability?
- Many barriers (including institutional) slow down scalability and transformational change. Disruption/private sector intervention may speed it up but we need to know more about effects of disruptive interventions.