

Livestock Production in Central Asia: Constraints, Improvement Needs, and Research Opportunities. (A06-iniguez064721-Oral)

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Abstract:

Livestock production in Central Asia is in severe crisis. The dissolution of Soviet markets; deterioration of production supporting services; fragmentation of land and livestock tenure; cessation of seasonal grazing; and a poorly supported research system, characterize the current production scenario. This is reflected in low production levels, production stagnation, low income per flock/herd, increased poverty and nutrition deterioration. Concurrently, the resource base deteriorates progressively. Agricultural research offers themes of scientific interest with direct implication for the improvement of livelihoods. Topics in socioeconomic research include the exploration of market opportunities and appropriate policies, and characterization of production systems and their interactions. Challenging research to assess genetic diversity is attractive and key to match breed to market and production potentials, diversification and diversity management. Equally attractive is research on range management, and forage and animal production, targeting appropriate natural resource management, sustainability of production systems and market opportunities to improve farmer's income.

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