

Objective

The project aims to improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of small ruminant farming families, with a focus on the inclusion of women, by developing strategies for improved, sustainable production and value chain engagement.

The objectives are to:

- Develop and test improved production practices to increase small ruminant growth and off-take.
- Create opportunities for women and their families to derive more benefits from small ruminant production and marketing.
- Develop and test strategies to support small ruminant farming families in the assessment of market opportunities and in meeting market specifications.

Expected scientific results

- Provision of benchmarks for small ruminant productivity.
- Demonstration of the potential for small ruminant production in Pakistan.
- Demonstration of the value of farm-based research on small ruminants.
- Provision of new information on a vastly under-researched species in the Pakistan livestock industry, including comparisons of the potential of crossbred and purebred small ruminants in small-holder farming systems, and the nutritional value of forages and their role in small ruminant growth in Pakistan.

Expected impact/outcomes

- Improved livelihoods and wellbeing of small ruminant farming families, including women and youth as a result of improved sustainable production and value chain management.
- Increased quantity and quality of small ruminants produced in Pakistan's Sindh and Punjab provinces as a result of improved growth and management of adult animals, and reduced mortality rates in young stock.
- Improved understanding of value chain opportunities and better connections with value chains.
- Identification of industry areas that can be further developed.
- Increased capacity of project partners and other stakeholders who will continue to develop the small ruminant farmer and gender inclusive research approaches used in this project.

