



Enhancing small ruminant production to benefit farming families in Sindh and Punjab, Pakistan



Overview

Value chain structures provide opportunities for smallholder farmers in the Sindh and Punjab provinces of Pakistan to capitalise on high market demand for small ruminants (sheep and goats). But they are being held back by limitations on the number, quality and consistency of the animals they produce.

Key factors leading to this poor supply include ill thrift and mortality of young animals, inappropriate nutrition and poor health of adult stock. Extension and other services for small ruminant farmers are very limited, and when they are available are based on limited evidence and often poorly coordinated.

Supply and quality could be increased by engaging with the whole family because women and youth, not just men, play a critical role in small ruminant farming.

KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. LS/2018/105

Duration: October 2018 to June 2022 (3 years, 9 months)

Target areas: Pakistan

Budget: A\$900,091

Project Leader

Dr Rebecca Doyle, University of Melbourne

Key partners

- University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Anna Okello

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.

