RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Even though promising results have been described at the creation site, 3-years of continuous validation have revealed several constraints for mass extension. In-field monitoring and interviews with farmers showed the main constraints in the first year of improved pastureland implementation to be: (i) the forage seeds yield required to cover implementation costs and forage seed market limitations, (ii) fencing costs and (iii) the technical skills required for good-quality pastureland implementation. The main constraints for fattening activities and improved pastureland maintenance in the following years were (i) unequal inflation rates between inputs and outputs, (ii) fence maintenance, and (iii) cattle market access malfunctioning and (iv) credit access, amount and payment modalities.

This feedback has given rise to development-related discussions and proposals regarding credit access, market channel functioning and training supports to be provided to farmers. This feed back has also given rise to new research topics, such as (i) how to reduce fertilizer use (main production cost) and (ii) how to generate higher incomes during the first year of implementation. New farming systems based on direct sowing of rice associated with forage species on degraded native pastureland have therefore been tested at creation sites and are currently under validation with farmer groups.

CONCLUSION

This rice-beef system “creation-validation” process shows (i) the need to maintain research activities in the development process and (ii) the merits of the “creation site / farmer validation group” system for determining the potential for technology dissemination.