A general framework to estimate loss sources and magnitudes in live-ruminant value chains

Key messages

- There is a dearth of consistent methods and applications to measure losses in livestock commodity value chains, in part due to the difficulty in defining and quantifying losses related to live animals.

- More research and evidence on the extent of losses at various levels of live animal value chains are needed. Such evidence is necessary to identify the points of inefficiencies and interventions to reduce such losses.

- There is need to design common a methodological approach, an appropriate sampling framework and appropriate tools for the collection of data on the assessment of post-production losses. Tools are also needed to assess financial and environmental losses.

- Measuring losses in live-ruminants value chains is an equally important indicator of chain performance.

- A global loss function has been tabulated from reported losses during pre-marketing, actual sales and marketing phases, after which an optimization program applied.

Livestock-based solutions

- Food loss issues are usually addressed through quantitative and qualitative magnitude estimates with the implicit will to eliminate them (zero loss approach). However, an alternative economic perspective would rather be to assess and alleviate in value losses

- The conceptual framework was field tested in Senegal through the use of surveys with livestock keepers, transporters, traders (secondary markets), brokers, and traders in terminal markets. Live ruminants—such as sheep, goat and cattle—were the main species. Scientists and staff at national livestock departments are currently the main users of the research outputs.

Global losses during pre-marketing and sales phases in Senegal live-ruminant value chain

Status and scale of the tool

- The total is currently being tested at household and value chain level

- It is currently in the design and small-scale testing phase

References


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Acknowledgments

This work was undertaken as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Achieving multiple benefits through livestock-based solutions, Addis Ababa, 8-12 May 2017