
CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Rapid change characterizes livestock systems in emerging nations, owing to reasons such as population expansion, rising demand for livestock products as wages rise, and urbanization. Climate change is compounding the significant development difficulties presented by these change factors. How can livestock keepers take advantage of rising demand for livestock products when possible, and how can the poor's livestock assets be safeguarded in the face of changing and more unpredictable climates? Because of the complexities of livestock and crop-livestock systems, a combination of technical, regulatory, and institutional changes will be needed. We address some of the probable effects of climate change on livestock and livestock systems, as well as some of the key livestock development problems that have arisen as a result: water and feeds, livestock genetics and breeding, and animal health. We emphasize livestock's importance in reducing poverty and assisting families in dealing with climate change. However, our understanding of how climate change and increased climatic variability may impact livestock systems and the livelihoods of those who rely on them is severely lacking.

KEYWORDS: Agriculture, Breeding, Climate Change, Livestock, Variability.

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