IFAD
Investing in rural people

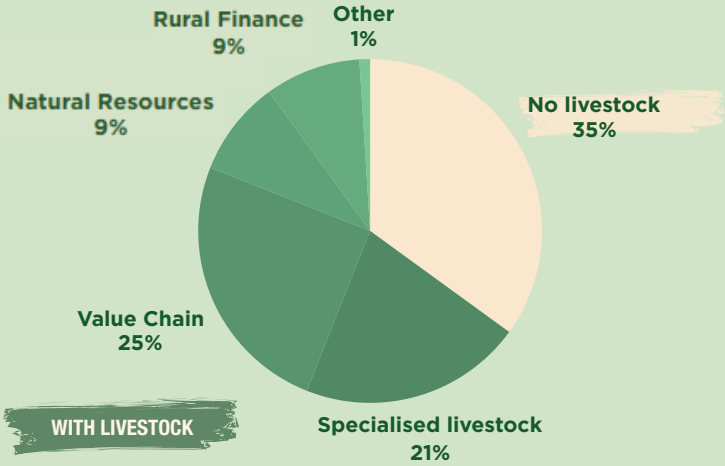
LIVESTOCK STOCKTAKE 2010-2024

OBJECTIVE

Analyse IFAD's livestock portfolio over the period 2010-2024 (IFAD 8 to 12) to inform future designs, projects implementation and policy engagement. This includes past and current trends, success factors and challenges, livestock contribution to IFAD's impact and priorities.

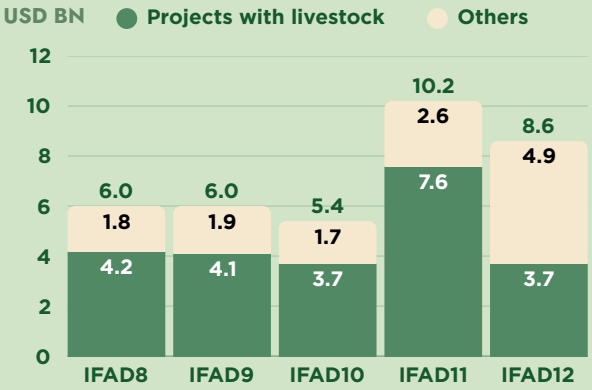
SCOPE

Quantitative analysis of 415 IFAD projects approved between January 2010 and July 2024 and a qualitative deep dive in a sample of 19 projects that include livestock.



65% OF IFAD PROJECTS INCLUDE LIVESTOCK

SHARE OF LIVESTOCK IN VALUE (USD BN) BY IFAD CYCLE

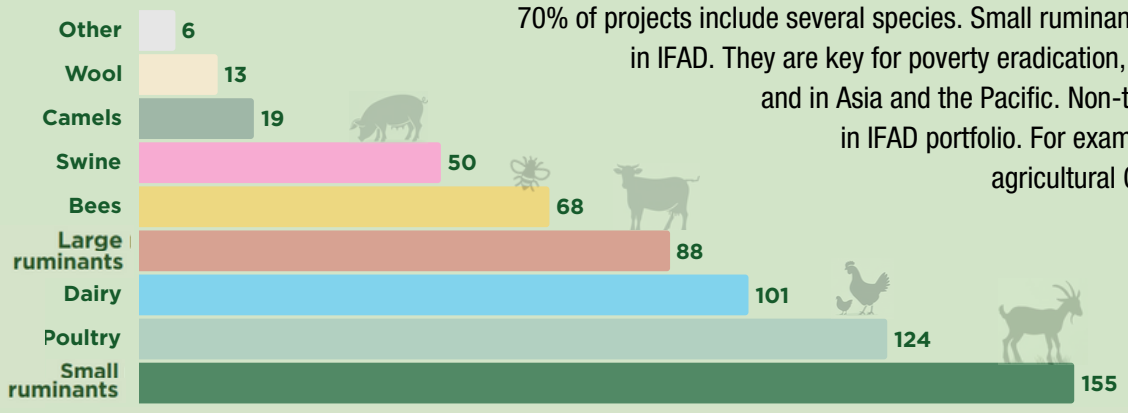


Around 60 projects per cycle include livestock. Livestock investments are found in projects focusing on value chains, natural resources or rural finance. This shows that livestock are considered as part of agroecosystems and food systems in IFAD projects.

Total value of projects has increased significantly over time, with a small decrease in the last cycle due to consolidation.

The share of projects with livestock has been >50% of total investments in value until IFAD 11.

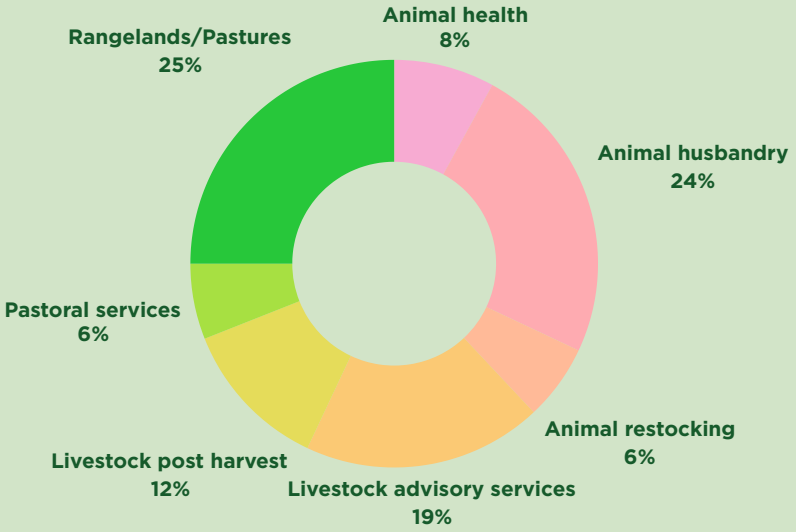
NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT INCLUDE LIVESTOCK SPECIES



70% of projects include several species. Small ruminants and poultry are priority species in IFAD. They are key for poverty eradication, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia and the Pacific. Non-traditional livestock are important in IFAD portfolio. For example, beekeeping - a small part of agricultural GDP - is found in 24% of projects. Livestock-aquaculture integration is growing in IFAD projects.

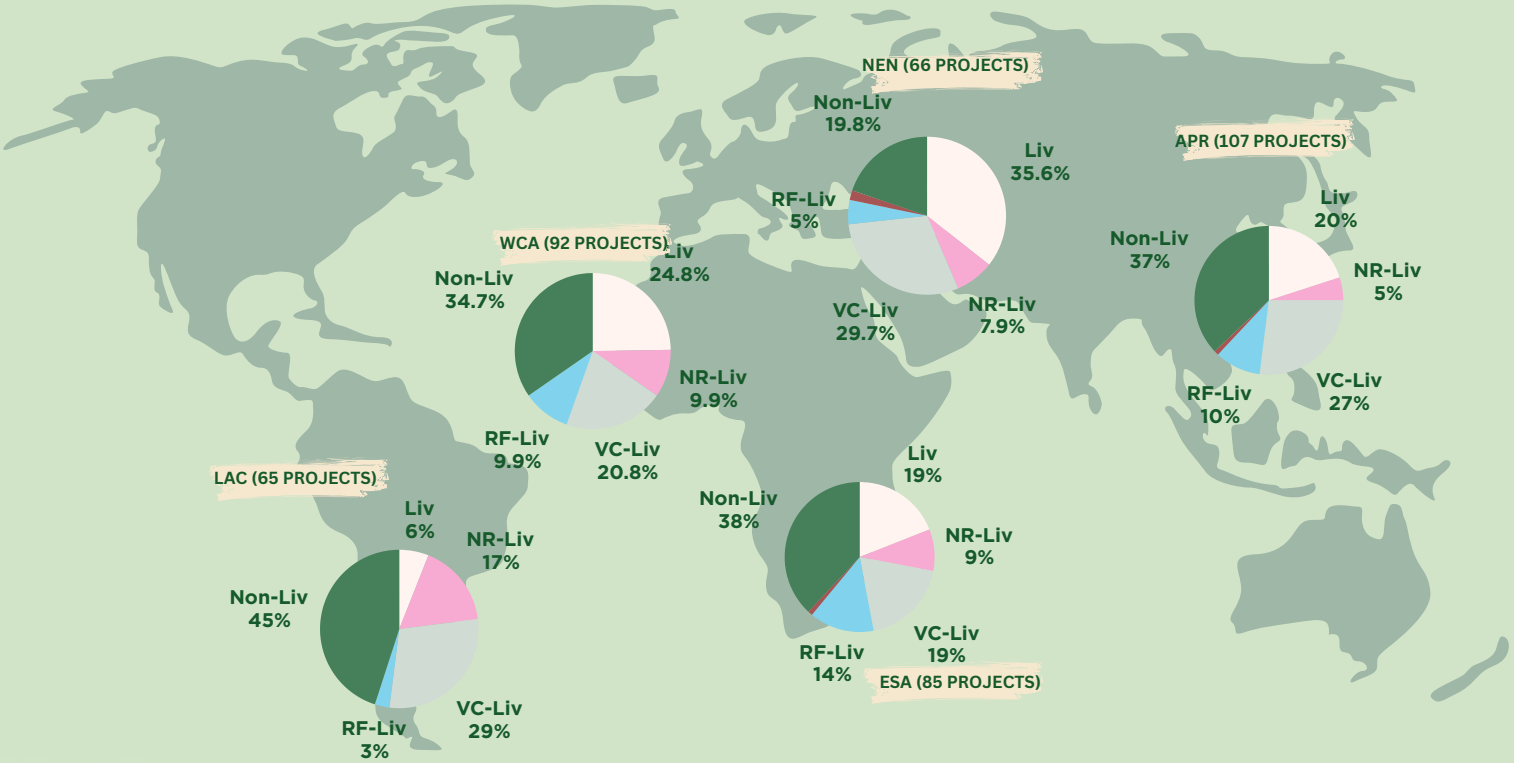
MAIN AREAS OF LIVESTOCK INVESTMENTS

- IFAD invests in pastoralism, with 25% of budgets in rangelands/pastures management and 6% in pastoral support services.
- The allocations for animal husbandry and animal health remain important (24% and 8% respectively) and are the most stable ones.
- Livestock advisory services represent 19% of all investments in the sector, and this share is increasing.
- The share of investments in post-harvest sector is about 12% and it decreased since 2010, while more livestock activities are included in VC projects.



REGIONAL PORTFOLIOS AND SHARE OF LIVESTOCK

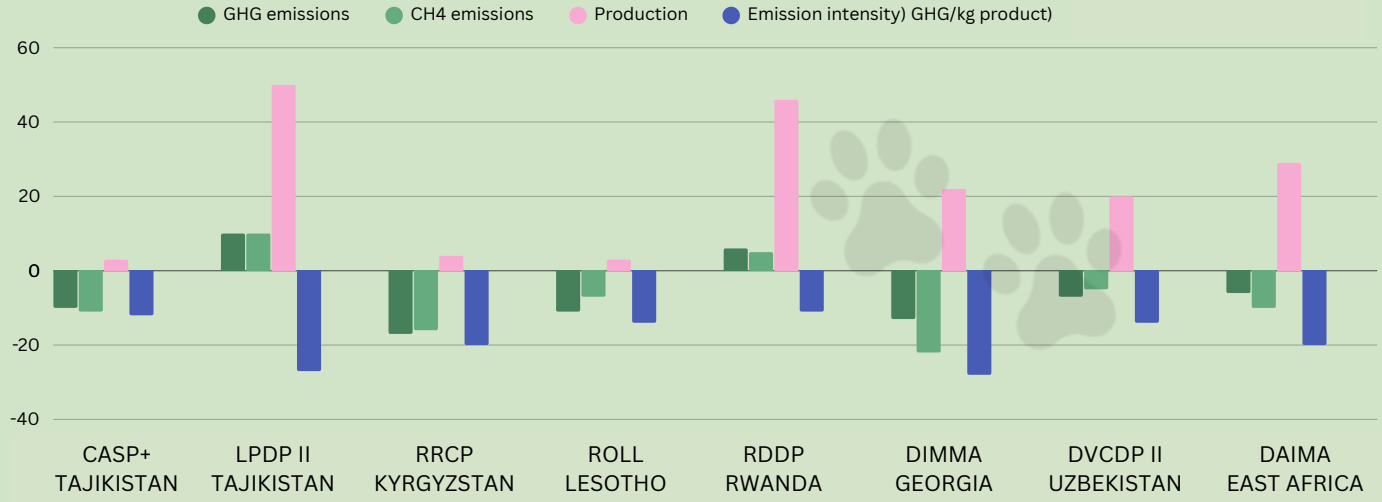
There are more projects that focus specifically on livestock (Liv) in Central Asia (NEN), followed by West and Central Africa (WCA), East and Southern Africa (ESA) and Asia and the Pacific (APR).
Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has less projects that include livestock overall (55%), but more projects on Value Chains (VC-Liv) and Natural Resources (NR-Liv) that include livestock activities. Rural finance projects that include livestock (RF-Liv) are more frequent in ESA and APR regions.



IMPACT OF LIVESTOCK INVESTMENTS ON GHG EMISSIONS

Most IFAD projects contribute to reducing GHG emissions, especially methane (CH4), compared to a situation without investments (assessments using the FAO GLEAM-i tool). If animal production increases more than productivity, absolute emissions may increase, even if emission intensities decrease (e.g. LPDP II Tajikistan and RDDP Rwanda).

IFAD helps countries achieve their climate commitments and provides solutions and estimates to inform national policies (cf NDC revision in Kyrgyzstan in 2021).



RESULTS FROM IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

IFAD livestock investments have positive impacts on incomes and livestock production and productivity. They usually increase diversification of income at household level, which supports resilience. They often improve access to market. Results on women's empowerment and nutrition are more contrasted (results from IFAD 11 impact assessment 2019-2022).

Project	Income	Livestock production	Resilience	Market	Women's empowerment	Nutrition
PSSA Peru	+21% per capita	+61% in value	+7% livelihood diversity	+13pp participation	+21% livestock income controlled by women	+4% Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)
CHARMP2 Philippines	+75% gross income from livestock	-	+6% income diversification (no impact on recovery)	+13pp participation	+83% livestock income controlled by women	HDDS no effect -22% Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
LPDP II Tajikistan	+110% livestock income	+30% cattle weight +120% milk production +99% productivity	Probability of experiencing climate shock -27pp No impact diversification	No impact on probability of selling livestock	+19pp milk production among women-headed households	HDDS no effect
PRODESUD I and II Tunisia	+71% livestock income	+17% livestock productivity	+4pp livestock diversification No effect on shock recovery	+79% value of livestock sales Participation no effect	-8pp female participation to livestock production	-6% HDDS -25% FIES
LMDP II Kyrgyzstan	+43% total income	+69% in value	No effect on recovery	+241% livestock revenue -20pp probability of selling livestock	+9pp probability that a woman takes part in livestock decisions	HDDS no effect -25pp FIES
PASK II Mauritania	No effect on livestock income	+53% in value	+9pp recovery from climate shocks	-5pp probability of selling livestock	+9pp female ownership livestock No effect on participation	HDDS and FIES no effect

CLIMATE

- Rainwater harvesting, drought-resistant fodder varieties and improved grazing management help producers adapt to climate change. Livestock start-up packages (e.g. "Pass on the gift" mechanism) can be a tool for building resilience of poor rural populations.
- Optimized livestock management can reduce unproductive GHG emissions, through better animal health and management of reproduction (e.g. AI). Better feed and fodder quality can reduce emissions from enteric fermentation. Small biodigesters, composting and biochar can reduce emissions from livestock manure.
- Including an indicator of tonnes of CO2-equivalent emissions reduced or avoided in the M&E system requires adequate technical support and capacity development of the project management unit and the government.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Women generally have low participation in livestock ownership and decision making, and in capacity building activities. Specific targeting approaches and tailored content dedicated to address discrimination that motivates behavioural change, such as GALS, can be really transformative.
- Small stock such as small ruminants, poultry and beekeeping, are real boosters for women empowerment and youth employment. Processing activities and access to market - for example for dairy products, wool and other textiles or eggs - generate jobs and incomes that benefit women and youth first.

NUTRITION

- Over half of the world population lacks essential nutrients such as iron, folate, and calcium. Meat, milk and eggs are nutrient-dense foods that can help close the nutritional gaps. Children in particular can benefit from School Milk Programs or "One Egg Per Child Per Day" government campaigns.
- Increased livestock productivity doesn't always translate in increased intake of animal-source foods at household level without appropriate capacity development in dietary choices, food preparation and nutrition.
- Food safety can be improved, and food-borne diseases can be reduced through simple regulations, training on compliance measures, adequate monitoring and collaboration between actors in the value chain.

CIRCULARITY

- Circularity interventions boost productivity and support asset building. This includes recycling of manure and other animal waste for energy and fertilization, reducing waste and land use by using by-products as animal feed, and renewable energy technologies such as solar-powered milk-cooling tanks.
- Practical demonstrations (e.g. demo farms) and learning routes improve adoption of circular practices and crop-livestock integration. Additional financing (e.g. climate) can support mainstreaming circularity.

BIODIVERSITY

- Investment in livestock can have direct impacts on biodiversity conservation, for example through genetic improvements that include conservation of local traits for resilience (draught-resistant breeds), selection and dissemination of improved and locally-adapted feed and fodder seeds and investments in improved rangeland management and restoration.
- Indirect impacts of livestock projects on biodiversity include enhancing soil health and protecting water quality through sustainable manure management, ecosystem services from bees and other pollinators, and avoided expansion of agricultural land through the development of local feed supply chains and the use of by-products.

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