Gender and bovine livestock in Latin America: the status quo

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Feminization of agriculture

Which are the roles of women and youth in bovine livestock?

Tasks and responsibilities of productive households rise transforming roles, knowledge transference and contributions.

Transnational dynamics transforming agriculture:

Agents of change: climate change mitigation strategies

Male migration

Generational transfer

Growing markets

Three perspectives stand out:

Value chains: challenges and opportunities:

» Action nodes of men and women.
» Hygiene-related activities, selling dairy products (artisanal cheese/informal markets).
» Double “work burden”: productive and reproductive labor.
How is this hindering productivity?

» Complicates the access to services and information.
» Poor recognition of vital, yet “invisible” contributions (wages and informal markets)
» Gender-blind technologies can have a negative impact on vulnerable populations whose necessities were not accounted for. (sanitary regulations, persistent inequality)

Bovine livestock and families in the Southern Cone

» Export-oriented markets and democratization: land and property rights.
» Generational transfer and local markets: what happens when the “father” dies? (reluctance to inherit women)
» No property rights: no decision-making.

New lines of inquiry:

Innovative business models for women, youth and minorities

Historical perspectives and sociocultural factors: (forced migration, violence, civil wars) and comparative analysis

Learning opportunities: climate change, mitigation strategies and reforestation.

Conclusions

» A gendered division of labor that perpetuates inequality hinders the productivity of the cattle sector across LAM.
» Animal care, hygiene activities, domestic contribution and selling of milk by-products has a vital social and economic importance in the survival of rural households.
» Rendering visible the contributions of all family members is necessary, not only to bridge the gender gap but also to facilitate the access to services, information and assets and empower vulnerable populations as agents of change, opening new research opportunities.

References

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