

Public policies and silvo-pastoral systems (SPS) in Latin America: A comparative analysis

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Introduction

- Latin America plays an essential role in the global cattle industry, since it contributes with more than 25% to the global beef and 10% to the global milk supply.
- Despite the importance of the sector for the region and its growth potential, the environmental effects of traditional or conventional cattle production systems are multiple and include e.g., impacts on water sources, soil resources, a loss of biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions.
- This has led to discussions about the transition from a conventional to a sustainable cattle sector.

Materials and Methods

- In order to address the proposed objective, we decided to write a review article with a qualitative-descriptive approach. Literature review was used as the main data collection technique.
- Data collection was carried out from January to May 2021 and prioritized three types of data sources: a) governmental reports, b) publications of international organizations, and c) scientific articles.
- With the aim of presenting a picture as complete as possible of each of the studied scenarios, aspects such as the countries' context, National Development Plans (NDPs), legislative advances, multi-sectoral initiatives and regional and national policies were considered.

Results and analysis

COLOMBIA

Successs

- ✓ Stability of the political-economic system for more than 3 decades.
- ✓ Continuity of the promotion of a sustainable cattle sector in the NDPs.
- ✓ Existence of a national level Roundtable for Sustainable Cattle.
- ✓ Strong progress in the formulation of a national level public policy on sustainable cattle.
- ✓ Promotion of SPS through on regional and national policies.
- ✓ Existence of a credit line for the establishment of SPS.

Difficulties

- ✗ The national public policy framework is still very young and at its early stages.
- ✗ The Departmental Agricultural Extension Plans are still very young and at their early stages, and they also do not exist for all departments with relevance to the cattle sector.
- ✗ Insufficient coordination between national and regional level public policies.
- ✗ Lack of clear budgets to carry out some of the policies, particularly from the NDP and the Departmental Agricultural Extension Plans.

ARGENTINA

Successs

- ✓ NDP with an environmental sustainability component.
- ✓ Existence of laws that promote forest protection, environmental balance and climate change mitigation strategies.
- ✓ Development of multi-sector initiatives that promote sustainable beef production.

Conclusions

- » The sustainable development of the cattle sector is an unquestionable need. International demands, in addition to the role of different actors, deny any possibility of continuing with traditional production practices.
- » Despite the fact that the results achieved so far are not fully satisfactory, the implemented policies should not be abandoned, but rather persist and be expressed in tangible effects.

Objective

To identify successes and difficulties in the implementation of public policies for the development of a sustainable cattle sector in Colombia, Argentina and Costa Rica between the years 2010-2020.



- ✓ Existence of the Argentine Sustainable Beef Board.
- ✓ National public policies articulated with the provinces.
- ✓ Regional policies that promote the adoption of SPS and good animal husbandry practices.

Difficulties

- ✗ Environmental conditions that affected and still affect the cattle sector.
- ✗ High political instability that has led to changes in the development model.
- ✗ Increased inflation and unstable exchange rate.
- ✗ Decrease in wages and reduction in national beef consumption.

COSTA RICA

Successs

- ✓ Political stability for several decades
- ✓ Low inflation and stable exchange rates
- ✓ NDPs include sustainable production components
- ✓ Diversity of national and regional public policies framed in the objective of carbon neutrality
- ✓ Regional Livestock Development Plans with focus on environmental sustainability
- ✓ Promotion of SPS through both national and regional policies
- ✓ Existence of payment schemes for ecosystem services and agroforestry programs

Difficulties

- ✗ Absence of a sustainable cattle roundtable or any similar initiative.
- ✗ Postponement of the carbon neutrality objective.

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