

Controversies on livestock farming systems are galore! The most common argument we hear is about livestock being one of the major contributors to greenhouse gas production. Is the reality that simple? Is it the only basis on which we can assess the true value of these systems? Is it an open and shut case or is there a genuine need to go beyond these controversies? This book tries to delve into these issues and understand what really underpins livestock farming in today's globalized world.

To the question, "what drives livestock farming"? we have answers not only from researchers but also first-hand accounts and hands-on experience from practitioners and development agents spanning different continents. From resource sufficiency to functional integrity, sheds a new light on what constitutes "resources" for these systems. Are they finite and given or can they be dynamic and "regenerated"? What in the end ensures that livestock farming systems are rendered resilient: ecosystem long term dynamics, animal grazing adaptive behavior, collective action, learning, cultural aspects...

The authors discuss about these new perspectives and diversity of novel approaches to managing livestock farming systems, set against the backdrop of Canadian prairies, Andean highlands, South American Pampa, French Mountains right through African Sahel Tibetan Plateau and Mongolia, to name just a few.

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