

# **Liflod Network (Livestock Farming and Local Development)**

## **Results and Prospects after the Rosario Workshop**

(Workshop of the 9th International Rangeland Congress, 2011)

### **A) The « Livestock Farming embedded in Local Development Workshop: a functional perspective to alleviate vulnerability of farming communities”, IXth IRC, Rosario (Argentina), 2 and 3 April 2011.**

The Workshop proposed and organised by the Liflod network brought together a hundred or so participants (= the workshop with one of the highest attendances), concentrating on 4 themes:

- Alleviating vulnerability: role of livestock farming (2 sessions) ;
- Enhancing livestock farming contribution to local development (2 sessions)
- Assessing livestock farming functions to sustainable development
- Strengthening policy to sustain livestock farming
- Poster session (related to each of the themes)

The contributors represented the 5 continents, with a logical predominance of work from South America (10), but also from Sub Saharan Africa (7), Europe (4) and the South Mediterranean (4) to which were added studies from China, North America and New Zealand. Similarly the list of participants (not exhaustive) shows a high participation from South America and also from Asia (India, Indonesia), Australia, South Africa and Europe, with researchers from North Africa and the Machrek. We have the email addresses of these participants.

The communications we established enabled us to discuss various aspects of how livestock farming is embedded in territories (1) the contribution of this activity to reducing the vulnerability of families and communities in a rural environment (2) the interactions between this economic and social function of livestock farming and the production of ecosystem services from natural resources or crop-livestock interactions (3) the impact of public policies and sector dynamics on the transformation of livestock farming in territories (4) the proposal of a vision of the future of livestock farming not reduced to the production of nutrients, gas and effluents.

This workshop was also an opportunity to enter into discussion and debate about the directions of work proposed by the Liflod network, focused here on pastoral and agro-pastoral systems, the theme of the congress, but also offering opportunities for opening up and generic programming for other livestock systems. The final outcome of the debates, with this greater than expected participation, is very positive. The workshop file is on-line on the network website ([www.liflod.org](http://www.liflod.org))

### **B) Prospects for the network**

The network's international steering committee took the opportunity of this workshop to define the directions of work for the next few years to come.

a) The use of the Workshop via an **international study** in English based on a selection of articles subject to a revision process. M.Taher Srairi (Morocco), N. Njoya (Cameroon), P. Waquil (Brazil) and JF Tourrand (France) are in charge of this action, including contacts with potential publishers.

b) Setting up a **comparative study of the functions of livestock farming in a territorial dynamic**. It will involve (1) testing and developing a methodology to analyse what players in tune with the fate and development of a given territory expect from livestock farming in the future, (2) carrying out this analysis in contrasting situations throughout the world, and (3) constructing from a diversity of cases a generic vision of the different registers of interactions between farming and territory, so as to identify major specific categories of geographical zones, socio-economic situations or cultural traditions. It involves helping to differentiate potential public action methods in the field of livestock farming, according to a few major types of situation at world scale, whether they are intensive or so-called extensive production systems.

The methodology was first put to the test when the Workshop was extended during the setting up of the ANR Systerra « Mouve <sup>1</sup> » project in South America (4 to 9 April 2011, Paysandu). For the occasion, this start-up was open to colleagues external to the project who wanted to participate in this Liflod action (Morocco, China, Egypt and New Zealand). V. Homen (Brazil), L. Ding (China), A. Ickowicz and B. Dedieu (France) were in charge of organising this action.

c) The development of the **website**, which was opened just before the workshop but whose content must be regularly updated and incremented (correspondent: H. Morales, Uruguay)

d) The network's contribution to the **thought given to the future of livestock farming in authorities or during international initiatives**<sup>2</sup>. The group thus intends to contribute to the « Global Agenda of Action in support of Sustainable Livestock Sector Development » presently being developed by FAO AGAL and The Netherlands, in association with other partners (BM, ILRI, IBAR, Brazil, China, New Zealand,...) (Meeting in Brasilia of 17-20 May 2011). In October 2011, this group will organise a new meeting in China to enlarge the partnership. In the framework of the initial orientation which centres on «The improvement of resource-use efficiency», first contacts with the FAO suggest an opening up to approaches developed by the Liflod network and the opportunity to contribute to the production of Concept Notes. (Correspondent A.Ickowicz)

e) The continuation of **scientific activities** by the LIFLOD network on its theme areas. We are presently working on a proposal for a research workshop which could be directed by the APSS (International association of farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa), and are seeking funds to strengthen and stabilise the functioning of the network and develop other actions. Obviously, the main challenge to the network's existence is the obtaining of funds, and involving international partners, in addition to the help already provided by the Cirad and the INRA<sup>3</sup>. For the moment, the idea would be to give each other mutual support, and work out two or three projects committing the network participants and financed on international invitations to tender to support the network.

---

<sup>1</sup> Mouve : the livestock-territory interactions in starting up ecological intensification. Systerra 2011 - 2013

<sup>2</sup> It must be remembered that the constitution of such a network had been requested by the DGCID of the MAEE at the GIP Ifrai, and that a preliminary workshop had been created during the VIII IRC at Hohhot in China in 2008, the actions of which were the subject of the work « A paradigm shift in livestock management: from resource sufficiency to functional integrity », published in 2011 in the Cardère publications, distributed to the participants in the Rosario workshop.

<sup>3</sup> The Liflod workshop of Rosario was financed by the FAO, the CIRAD and the INRA –Animal Productions in Hot Regions Programme, the Sciences for Action and Development Department and by the UMR Metafort (Cemagref, Engref -Agroparistech, Vetagrosup, Inra).