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# SYSTEME D'INNOVATION EN PRODUCTION ANIMALE

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Improved livestock breeding and feeding practices will result in more food and incomes for rural households in Haiti allowing them to cope with the negative impact of climate change and political and economic instability.

## BACKGROUND

Haiti is one of the countries most exposed to environmental shocks and stressors including natural and seismic disasters and climate change. Food insecurity exacerbated by the negative impact of climate change and political and economic instability, remains one of the biggest challenges that Haiti faces today. The productivity of the livestock sector in Haiti is generally low due to an interplay of factors. These include the low productivity of indigenous breeds, limited availability and access to quality feed, poor animal health, and ineffective management practices. These problems are compounded by other overarching socio-economic challenges such as natural and political shocks including recurrent earthquakes, and civil and political unrest. These shocks have caused a decline in investment in agriculture and lack of stability that collectively threaten agricultural practices, for example, causing rampant cattle theft. Moreover, there is a general lack of data and information on important aspects of the livestock sector such as animal breeds, and forage availability and composition.

## GOALS

The purpose of Système d'Innovation en Production Animale (SIPA) is to increase the productivity and resilience of the livestock sector in Haiti through targeted, applied, and integrated research and capacity development in animal breeding and feeding. Project objectives are to:

- Improve the genetic profile of key livestock species (small ruminants, dairy and beef cattle) through breeding and dissemination of quality genetic stock in Haiti,
- Increase the performance of livestock through transformative forage and feed interventions,
- Strengthen the academic, vocational and research capacity of key local universities and partners and support the dissemination of research findings from objectives 1 and 2.

SIPA is a five-year program that started in May 2023 and will end in May 2028. While objectives 1 & 2 will be implemented in partnership with SIPA's three primary Haitian universities partners: Campus Henri Christophe de Limonade, Université Notre Dame, and University Quisqueya, the Local Capacity Development( LCD) component under objective 3 will include three other universities that are part of the Center for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change Feed the Future consortium: Faculté d'Agronomie et de Médecine Vétérinaire; Université Chrétienne du Nord d'Haïti; and the American University of the Caribbean.

Primary beneficiaries are livestock keepers found through farmers groups for objectives 1 and 2; and researchers, staff and students affiliated with Haitian agricultural universities for objective 3. Secondary beneficiaries of the project are public and extension services, the private sector, non-governmental organizations among others.

**Lead Implementing Partner:** Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems, University of Florida

**Sub-Partners:** In Haiti: Université Notre Dame, Université Quisqueya, and Campus Henri Christophe de Limonade; in the U.S.: University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Florida A&M University and Fort Valley State University.

**Location(s):** North, North-East, Upper Central plateau, and South Department

## ANTICIPATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SIPA will strive to strengthen the local livestock innovation system through an integrated collaborative learning and adapting approach that enables Haitian university partners and other stakeholders to lead the interventions. SIPA works with other USAID funded projects such as the Programmme d'Appui à la Rentabilisation de l'Elevage, and CEMARCH to mutualize efforts and leverage resources. This collaboration will allow SIPA's research program to have a broader impact. Improvement in research, education, extension, and infrastructure will help to sustainably overcome Haiti's livestock challenges. Synergistically improving livestock breeding and feeding will greatly enhance livestock productivity. Coupling these efforts with technologies to promote livestock health and management while strengthening the capacity of Haitian university partners can more effectively improve the livestock sector in Haiti than any of these efforts alone. This will lead to long-term benefits of increased income and resilience of smallholder farmers.

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