Technological innovation in beef cattle production in the South American Chaco.

The incorporation of technology is vital to improve the productivity and sustainability of family livestock systems in the region.

Technology innovations

The implemented initiative

The project seeks to improve the efficiency, stability and resilience of family beef cattle systems. Specifically:
1) Productive systems were surveyed in each of the agroecological zones and alternatives improving the usual practices are proposed.
2) A network of pilot sites was assembled in farmers’ fields where the proposed technologies are adapted, evaluated and demonstrated to growers.
3) A technical assistance and training plan for family beef cattle innovation is being implemented.
4) A system of registration and monitoring of cattle farms have being developed, and it was evaluated whether they adopted the proposed technologies and their effects on the productive system.

Tools to address problems

The technological solution

The technological proposals of the project are adapted to local circumstances and implemented at the pilot sites where producers, advisors and extension agents will be trained.

Improved critical technologies are:
- Increased field divisions in plots or pastures, improved water provision and distribution systems;
- Better forage reserves’ planning, animal rate per hectare and pasture management adjustments;
- Monitoring of the body condition of animals, elimination of unproductive categories, bull services’ seasoning, pregnancy diagnosis, weaning management and cows supplementation;
- Adaptation of the health plan to the system and area circumstances and diagnosis of bulls.

PARTICIPANT INSTITUTIONS AND WORK TEAMS

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Paraguay

Characterisation of livestock systems and possible technologies for incorporation

- 85 Livestock producer groups
- 530 Trained producers
- 87 Trained women

Results

- An updated characterization of family cattle systems in the Chaco region and technological alternatives to be incorporated into intervention strategies and continuity to the actions in the future is available.
- An installed network of pilot sites in the 3 countries, which adopt technological improvements and serve as demonstrative and training units during the project and afterwards.
- Trained producers, extension agents and advisors in bovine production in the Chaco. A virtual livestock innovation course for the region that can be scaled up to other producers will be available.
- Information available on productivity indicators, level of adoption of the proposed technological alternatives and their effect on the productivity of family livestock systems.