

Sun 20  
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2009

## Livestock emissions and livestock systems in developing countries

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According to Carlos Seré, Director General of ILRI, the livelihoods of a billion people, particularly in Africa and Asia, are attached to livestock – and consequently to their greenhouse gas emissions. If livestock are removed, many of these people have few other livelihood opportunities.

He argues: “improving feeding is one of the key interventions to improve the efficiency of livestock systems, i.e. to produce less methane per kilo of output” – which will relieve pressure on other natural resources like forests.

He cautions that aggregating livestock emissions globally misses the big differences between developed and developing countries. It is important to separate the two.

“ To design policies you really need to clearly separate the problem.” In developed countries, livestock production is mainly commercial and there are a number of policies and instruments that can be applied to reduce livestock emissions.

In poor countries as well, he states, livestock emissions can be reduced – “but we need to be aware of the stark trade off. We may end up with lots more poor people and hungry children.”

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- Livestock (39)
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- Markets (5)
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- - o December 2009 (8)
  - o November 2009 (9)
  - o October 2009 (7)
  - o September 2009 (1)
  - o July 2009 (4)
  - o June 2009 (1)
  - o May 2009 (3)
  - o April 2009 (2)
  - o March 2009 (1)
  - o February 2009 (1)
  - o December 2008 (5)
  - o November 2008 (2)
  - o October 2008 (9)
  - o September 2008 (3)
  - o August 2008 (1)
  - o July 2008 (3)
  - o May 2008 (1)
  - o March 2008 (3)
  - o February 2008 (2)
  - o January 2008 (1)
  - o December 2007 (2)
  - o November 2007 (4)
  - o September 2007 (6)
  - o August 2007 (6)
  - o July 2007 (2)
  - o June 2007 (3)
  - o May 2007 (2)
  - o April 2007 (2)
  - o March 2007 (3)
  - o February 2007 (1)
  - o January 2007 (1)
  - o November 2006 (4)
  - o October 2006 (5)
  - o September 2006 (4)
  - o August 2006 (3)
  - o July 2006 (4)
  - o June 2006 (5)
  - o May 2006 (1)
  - o April 2006 (9)

- o March 2006 (1)
- o February 2006 (9)
- o January 2006 (2)
- o November 2005 (7)
- o October 2005 (2)
- o September 2005 (1)
- o August 2005 (5)
- o July 2005 (5)
- o June 2005 (3)
- o May 2005 (2)
- o March 2005 (1)
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We generate knowledge and technologies designed to reduce poverty, hunger, disease and environmental degradation in developing countries.

