

Extensive animal production and its added value in production and environmental chains: a dairy cattle study

Summary

The purpose of this review is to explore the contribution of livestock production in intensive and extensive systems from the perspective of a modern conception of the world. FAO has declared that over the next 50 years the world's farmers and ranchers will be called upon to produce more food than has been produced in the past 10,000 years combined, and to do so in environmentally sustainable ways. The differences between intensive and extensive agricultural systems will be discussed and evaluated in the context of dairy cattle production. Animal genetic resources need to be evaluated not only in terms of units of output, but also in terms of other direct and indirect social benefits supporting different animal production systems, intensive or extensive. Intensive and extensive farming systems are not alternatives to each other, but must be combined in order to respond to different social and environmental needs. Both systems should be evaluated in the context of the challenges facing modern agriculture, such as guaranteeing food security, improving the technological characteristics of animal products and reducing carbon emissions.

KEY WORDS: extensive and intensive systems, animal production, added value, production and environmental chains