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Collaborative Approaches to Animal Improvement for Global Food Systems and Livelihoods

Risa Pesapane*

Department of Veterinary Sciences, The Ohio State University, Columbus, United States of America

***Corresponding Author:** Risa Pesapane, Department of Veterinary Sciences, The Ohio State University, Columbus, United States of America; E-mail: risa@pesapane.edu

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Description

In an interconnected world where food security and economic stability are paramount, collaborative approaches to animal improvement play a pivotal role in shaping global food systems and livelihoods. By fostering partnerships among stakeholders across sectors and regions, collaborative efforts aim to enhance animal productivity, resilience, and welfare, thereby supporting sustainable agricultural development and improving the lives of millions. Collaborative approaches to animal improvement bring together stakeholders from diverse sectors, including government agencies, research institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), farmers' associations, and private industry. By leveraging the expertise, resources, and networks of multiple stakeholders, these partnerships facilitate knowledge exchange, innovation, and collective action towards shared goals.

Multisectoral partnerships enable the co-creation of solutions that address complex challenges such as climate change, emerging diseases, and market volatility, thereby enhancing the resilience and sustainability of food systems. Collaborative research and innovation are fundamental to advancing animal improvement efforts on a global scale. By pooling scientific expertise and resources, researchers can accelerate the development of new technologies, tools, and best practices for enhancing animal genetics, nutrition, health, and management. Collaborative research networks and consortia facilitate data sharing, joint experiments, and comparative studies across different regions and livestock species, leading to more robust and generalizable findings. From genomic selection to precision nutrition, collaborative research drives continuous improvement in animal productivity, efficiency, and sustainability.

Collaborative approaches to animal improvement prioritize capacity building and extension services to empower farmers, veterinarians, and other stakeholders with knowledge and skills for sustainable livestock management. Training programs, workshops, and extension activities provide farmers with practical guidance on breeding, feeding, health care, and business management. Collaborative initiatives also support the development of extension networks, advisory services, and farmer-to-farmer exchanges to facilitate peer learning and knowledge dissemination at the grassroots level.

Strengthening human capacity and extension systems, collaborative approaches enhance the adoption and impact of animal improvement practices among smallholder farmers and rural communities. Collaborative efforts to improve animal production systems are closely linked to market access and value chain development. By integrating smallholder farmers into formal markets and value chains, stakeholders can create economic opportunities, enhance livelihoods, and promote inclusive growth. Collaborative initiatives support smallholders with access to inputs, financial services, market information, and technical assistance, enabling them to produce and market high-quality livestock products competitively. By strengthening market linkages and value addition activities, collaborative approaches contribute to poverty reduction, food security, and rural development in diverse contexts.

Collaborative approaches to animal improvement engage policymakers, regulators, and governance institutions to create enabling environments for sustainable livestock development. By advocating for evidence-based policies, regulatory frameworks, and investment priorities, stakeholders can address systemic barriers and promote supportive policy environments that incentivize innovation, investment, and responsible stewardship of animal genetic resources. Collaborative platforms such as policy dialogues, roundtable discussions, and stakeholder consultations facilitate dialogue, consensus-building, and collective decision-making among diverse stakeholders, leading to more coherent and coordinated approaches to animal improvement at national, regional, and global levels.

By fostering multisectoral partnerships, promoting research and innovation, building capacity, strengthening market access, and influencing policy and governance, stakeholders can unlock the potential of livestock to contribute to sustainable development goals. Collaborative efforts empower farmers, enhance resilience, and create value throughout the livestock value chain, ultimately improving food security, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability for present and future.

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