Report on the lessons learned on developing NAMAs from a policy perspective taking into account productive experiences of sustainable livestock in Colombia

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Report on the lessons learned on developing NAMAs from a policy perspective taking into account productive experiences of sustainable livestock in Colombia

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Livestock is an important activity in Colombia, it covers nearly one-third of the national territory, and Colombia has about 650,000 livestock production units (UPA), which reflects the high economic dependence of rural families on this activity. About 20 million hectares for livestock production are currently under land-use conflict, for the purpose of establishing forest plantations (IGAC, 2014).

However, livestock contributes with approximately 77% of the emissions from de AFOLU sector, and is highly responsible for the conversion of forests and natural ecosystems into grasslands. In this order, the government of Colombia has formulated policies and strategies, such as the National Strategy for Reduction of Emissions by Deforestation and Forest Degradation (Spanish acronym ENREDD+) (2009), the Colombian Strategy for Low Carbon Development (Spanish acronym ECDBC) (2011), the Financial Strategy to reduce the Fiscal Vulnerability of the State in the event of a Natural Disaster (2012), the National Plan of Adaptation to Climate Change (PNACC) (2012), and the National Policy of Climate Change (PNCC) (2016); and it has taken on important challenges in matters of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as it did when it prepared its Planned and Determined Contribution at the National Level (NDC) (2015).

Despite the existence of these initiatives, there is not a plan that contributes to sustainable livestock in the country that allows the adoption of technologies in cattle ranching with the objective to reduce emission. It is necessary to develop a methodology to approach to sustainable livestock initiatives that eventually allow adoption of mitigation strategies. To recognize the best ways to increase mitigation and adaptation to climate change from livestock, Initiatives of sustainable livestock were identified focusing mainly on the analysis of specific strategies considered as successful and relevant, as a means to improve livestock sustainability and productivity in Colombia.

With the intention of gradually transforming the pastures towards a sustainable use, the livestock sector requires the intensification and release of areas for forest restoration and conservation. To generate comprehensive strategies aimed at the establishment of cattle production systems covering its formulation, design elements with all the features essential for a sustainable livestock production, it is necessary to have all the documents evidencing successful initiatives that can serve as a roadmap to reach sustainable cattle production to help reducing deforestation, increasing livestock productivity, raising the incomes of farmers, implementing activities related to reforestation, reducing CO_2 emissions, implementing economic incentives, and strengthening sectoral stakeholder awareness as a strategic line to foster green growth.

As a result of the interviews conducted with actors in sustainable livestock initiatives, we identified the main components, around which revolves the success in the achievement of the proposed objectives for this activity. The identified components include:

Technical assistance, Administration, Financing, Integration in the chain, Monitoring, and Traceability.

Submitted manuscript:

The livestock sector in Colombia: toward a program to facilitate large-scale adoption of mitigation and adaptation practices

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ABSTRACT: Livestock raising is a very important sector in the Colombian economy; however, in the next decade, it will face some enormous challenges, including adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. Colombia must change drastically, and in a very short time, the model of livestock production, freeing up areas of pasture for other uses and intensifying livestock production in suitable zones. In spite of the urgency and the magnitude of the required changes, only isolated small-scale initiatives exist. Thus, Colombia has the challenge of the scaling up of measures[1], but, up to now, it has had no program designed to achieve this. Starting from an analysis of the policies, actors, and existing initiatives, we seek to understand the potentialities for and limitations to the scaling up of promising practices to face the challenges of climate change in the livestock sector in Colombia. We show the elements that have been key in previous initiatives regarding the spaces for scaling up: policy space, fiscal and financial space, institutional capacity space, learning space, partnership space, technical space, and other spaces, to which we add the importance of the technical dimension. Finally, we propose some elements for designing a national program of reconversion of livestock raising for the Colombian context.

Key words: spaces for scaling up, climate change, lessons learned, reconversion of livestock raising, sustainable livestock raising

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1 Understood as the actions that generate technological changes and/or behavior agents' changes that lead to modifications in the functioning of a system through the introduction of products, goods, services, processes, and new methods in the transformation or adequacy of administrative, organizational, financial and credit, computational, and marketing systems, leading to improvements in the performance of production systems.

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