

# Technological innovation to transform family livestock farming in the South American Chaco.

Productivity was increased and environmental impact reduced in family livestock systems in the region through the adoption of technology supported by training and technical assistance.



## Technology innovations

### The implemented initiative

This project seeks to improve the efficiency, stability and resilience of family beef production systems. Specifically:

- 1) Productive systems were surveyed in each of the agroecological zones and alternative improved practices were proposed.
- 2) A network of pilot sites in farmers' fields was assembled, to adapt, evaluate and demonstrate

proposed technologies to ranchers.

- 3) A technical assistance and training plan for family beef production innovation is being implemented.
- 4) A system for the registration and monitoring of cattle farms is being developed, with evaluation of technological uptake and the effects on the productive system.

## Tools to address the problems

### The technological solution

With a participatory approach, extension agents and producers agreed the critical technologies to be implemented in each pilot site, which were grouped into 4 types:

- a) fodder and food: pasture implantation, preparation of fodder reserves, stock adjustment according to fodder supply and animal requirements, and improvement of grazing systems;
- b) Infrastructure and business management: field divisions, water collection and distribution systems;

registration and monitoring of administrative performance indicators.

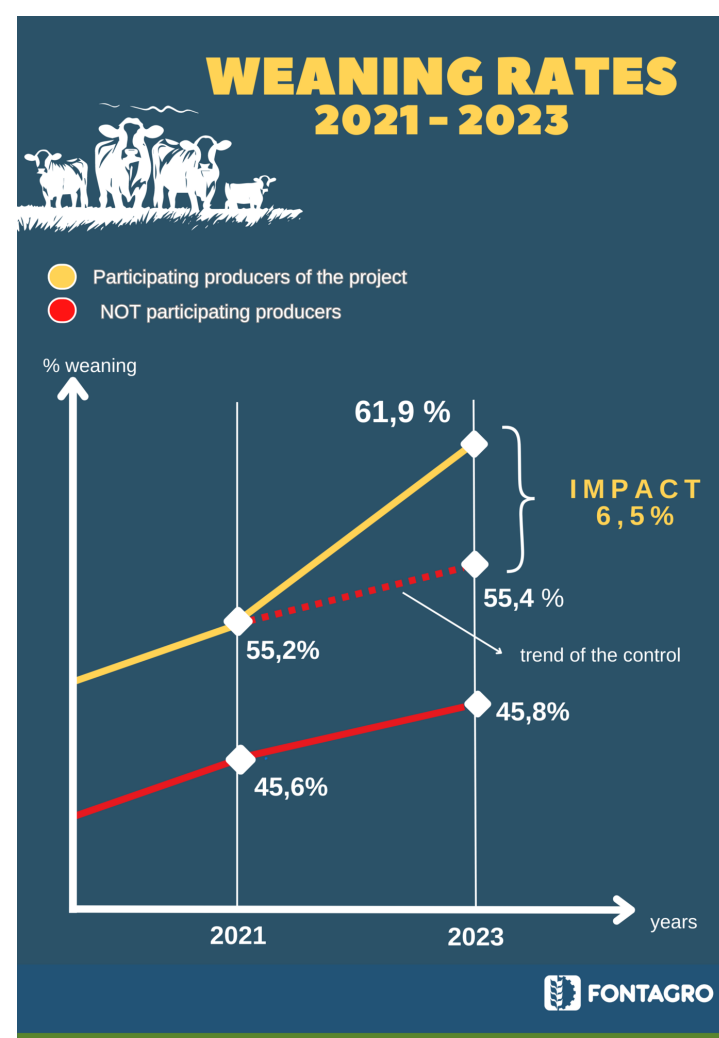
- c) Animal health: Adaptation of the health plan to the system and the area, control of parasitic and infectious diseases and bull evaluation.
- d) Herd management: monitoring of animal body condition, elimination of unproductive categories, supplementation of calves and heifers, seasonal breeding, pregnancy diagnosis and early weaning.



Argentina / Bolivia / Paraguay

- 3** Characterisation of livestock systems and possible technologies for incorporation
- 86** Livestock producer groups
- 2595** Trained producers
- 851** Trained women
- 90** Pilot sites
- 385** SMEs receive technical assistance
- 117** Public officers trained
- 10** Institutions with strengthened capacities
- 19** Sustainable practices difunded

## IMPROVED WEANING RATE AT THE END OF THE PROJECT



## Results

Updated characterization of family bovine systems in the Chaco region and of the technological alternatives incorporated during the project. Installed network of 90 pilot sites adopting technological improvements, serving as experimental, demonstrative, and training units with future prospects. 124 training sessions were conducted for 2,532 producers, 152 extension agents, and advisors in bovine

production in the Chaco. A virtual livestock innovation course and a herd management App will be made available, scalable to other producers and technicians. Participating producers, on average, increased their initial calf weaning percentage from 54.5% to 61.9% (an 11.8% increase) even in a challenging climatic context, and raised their meat production by at least 10.06%.

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## Main donors



## Participating Organizations

