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pastoralism: linking global
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through shared visions and
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GLOBAL AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK



MULTIFUNCTIONALITY WORKSHOP | 2016 INTERNATIONAL RANGELAND CONGRESS Saskatoon



Multi-functionality of Livestock, Always a Chance for Pioneers of Amazonia

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Literature mentioned the cattle as a major tool of the Amazonia colonization, especially due to the large ranches built after deforestation of forest plots during forty years, from the 60s to the beginning of the 21th Century and the real implementation of the environmental law.

However, arriving to the agricultural frontier of Amazonia, many migrants usually have just their willingness to improve their life conditions. Some of them have received from the government or have bought a piece of land to survive. The others, less lucky, were landless several years, many times working in ranches and in small farms, until to be able to buy or take their own land. For all, their first own cattle was one of the more significant change of their new life on the frontier, especially due to the relevant functions of livestock, such as dairy products for home consumption, income of the calves selling and the first saving. Later, the family herd raised and new functions of livestock became more important, as for example valorizing the grassland planted after slash and burn agriculture, investing the income of cropping system, using the cattle manure to fertilize cash crops and orchards, guarantees for loan, social status, etc.

So, if cattle were an essential tool for the ranches in the Amazonia, it was also a significant key-factor for the settlement of small holders, mainly due the multi-functionality of livestock. However, the settlement has led to strong environmental damage decried everywhere. So, since the middle of 00s, the global context has changed: 1. Effective fight against global warming which has resulted in major changes in the governance of territories, forcing pioneers to stop deforestation and implantation of new pastures; 2. Markets for the products of livestock are become increasingly selective about the environmental impact; 3. Global change, partially linked to deforestation, such as drought period in dry season in some areas that challenges the resilience pasture; 4. Concentration in livestock sector and stronger external market dependence; 5. Negative image of cattle breeder in the Amazonia, especially defunded by environmental NGOs (Greenpeace & Cie).

In our poster/paper, we propose to discuss the impacts of these changes on multi-functionality (see resilience) livestock.