Animal products value chain in Iraq

Climate change risks and proposed adaptation practices

**Inputs**

**WATER**

- Livestock losses due to poor water availability, contamination due to environmental degradation and salinity, decreasing natural water resources (M).
- Establish water purification and conservation units (e.g., reverse osmosis, rainwater harvesting).
- Support improved water efficiency and governance at the local level.

**ANIMAL FEED AND BREEDS**

- Reduced availability of quality feed due to seasonal droughts, low precipitations and water salinity/contamination (M,P).
- Promote crop residue utilization and self-production of fodder crops, including feed types that enhance resilience to climatic shocks.

**Farming**

**LIVESTOCK**

- Animal stress or mortality due to exposure to extreme temperatures and dust storms and water scarcity (drought, low precipitation) (M,P).
- Uptake of water-efficient drinking equipment and cooling systems to reduce heat stress (e.g., evaporative ventilation pads).
- Poor integration of livestock and crop systems not incorporating fodder crops (e.g., corn, soy) increases vulnerability to climatic shocks (M).
- Promote self-production of fodder crops as well as GAPs such as rotations and inter-cropping.
- Declining productivity of birds due to heat and cold stress in the absence of temperature-controlled housing infrastructure (P).
- Retrofit existing housing infrastructure with drinking, temperature control and ventilation equipment.
- Establish communal poultry houses incorporating key risk management features (e.g., cooling panels).

**Post-harvest**

**STORAGE AND TRANSPORT**

- High post-harvest losses due to the absence of cold chains and prolonged exposure of milk to high temperatures (M).
- Short shelf-life and product degradation.
- Adopt cooling infrastructure, refrigerated transport equipment and adequate handling material.
- Restore or establish communal processing facilities to process excess output.

**End market**

**MARKETS**

- High demand from Iraqi consumers for local sustainable animal products to substitute imports (M,P) but low availability and need to meet market requirements (packaging, aspect, colour).
- Improve understanding of domestic market requirements and invest in productivity-enhancing equipment and infrastructure.
- Foster on-farm value addition and collective marketing/branding while improving quality management.

**Read the report:** Climate change risks and opportunities in Iraqi agrifood value chains


**Risk level**

- High
- Moderate
- Low

**Opportunity level**

- (M) =
- (P) =

**Sector**

- (M) =
- (P) =