

Opportunities

Feeding management and nutrition



Simple interventions and practical technical solutions will allow families to improve growth and productivity without needing significant inputs or support services

Adult management and young stock mortality



Developing practical ways to address common management and mortality issues that will increase survival and quality and reduce animal and resource wastage

Strong value chains and demands



There is consistent high demand for goat and sheep meat in Pakistan, and an export market too. Opportunities to capitalise on this with more and better quality animals are clear

Providing opportunity for all societal groups



Goats and sheep can easily be sold for income at times of need, and are a source of household nutrition and food security. Requiring low initial investment and maintenance, they are an accessible option for marginalised groups in society – especially women



Challenges

Support services and infrastructure



Compared to cows and buffalo, extension and support services for goat and sheep farmers are limited. Production advice and health support is not commonly provided or accessible

Diverse production systems



Goats and sheep are farmed in a variety of ways, and in different agroecological environments. This can make developing broad solutions and scalable interventions tricky to identify and assess

Attitudes to adoption and investment



Attitudes to adopt new practice and invest for improved production are not as common in small ruminants as they are in dairy production. This can make practice change more challenging. We experience this same challenge in Australia. It all comes down to finding the right people to work with.

Applied studies and farmer recruitment



As with all applied studies, identifying farming families that we can work with over the length of the project will be a challenge. We will build on existing relationships established in the SRA, and work with partner groups to lessen this challenge