

Abstract Submission Form

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Preferred presentation

Oral

Preferred session

Session 1: WG Animal Data Exchange – Decision Support Tools of the Future – Promoting Sustainability Farm Management

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Title of your paper

How data can have a big impact on small farms in developing countries

Insert ABSTRACT text

Whereas the dairy industry often speaks about herd management on large dairy farms, statistics actually show us that most dairy cows on this planet are kept in herds of small holders in developing countries.

An example of such a developing country is Ethiopia, where you can find more than 15 million dairy cows. This is more than the number of dairy cows in the US and Canada together. While so many of us are focusing on improving results of these large farms that are already producing lots of high quality milk. Small adaptations in dairy farms in developing countries will let them take huge leaps in milk quality results and productivity, having major impact on the income of the farmer, food supply and the local economy.

Having more tools to manage data can be an essential part of these leaps in development. However, it is obvious that the tool used by a farmer with 1000 cows has no use for a farmer with 25 cows. With simple decision support tools a farmer can take better care of the cows health, fertility and productivity and with that increase their income. Besides the consultants that are advising these farms will be able to work much more efficient when data is available and bring more added value. Although this all sounds simple there are big challenges in countries where internet, technical devices and agricultural knowledge

is not always at hand. During the presentation it will become clear how challenges in these countries can be overcome and how also farms with 10 cows can improve their management with herd-management tools.

Enter keywords

smallholders, developing countries, data, herdmanagement