Livestock Adaptation in drought areas of Camagüey Province

Quick Country Facts

According to data provided by United Nations, Cuba ranks 105th among 182 countries for its hydrological potential. Water is the most threatened natural resource in the country.

Approximately 14% of Cuba’s territory is affected by desertification, corresponding to 1.5 million hectares of soil.

Cuba is highly affected by soil degradation; 46% of agricultural land is qualified as having very low productivity and 30% as having low productivity.

The situation

Camagüey has a long livestock tradition and is known as one of the best cattle ranching areas in Cuba. However, it is highly susceptible to climate variability and increased duration of the dry season. Desertification and drought are affecting Camagüey more than other Cuban provinces. This phenomenon has produced a negative impact in its main productive activity (milk and meat production). It is expected that further productive losses will be felt if the province does not develop an adaptation strategy for the livestock sector, taking into account climate models and predictions.

What CARE wants to achieve

Agricultural cooperatives develop and implement disaster risk reduction strategies using climate models and predicted effects on the agricultural sector.

Increase the capacity of cooperatives to develop and implement adaptation strategies in the livestock sector, including the application of new technologies.

Cooperatives and population linked to the livestock sector have increased access to information which helps them to integrate climate vulnerability and adaptation strategies in the development of local plans and policies.

Women’s focus: I am powerful

At the moment in Cuba only 7% of cooperative members are women. In the beneficiary cooperatives, only 15.7% of members are women.

There are documented cases of people (generally women) who work in cooperatives but are not associated as members nor receive pay or recognition for their contribution, in contrast to their husbands and fathers, who receive full benefit of membership. This excludes women from the political participation in cooperatives, and from access to paid work.

One of the project’s goals is to facilitate employment for women in the selected cooperatives. It aims to build the capacity of women to become integrated in cooperative management. The project contributes to disseminating the work and contribution of women in the livestock cooperative sector—traditionally dominated by men—encouraging them to play a more active role in the decision-making processes of cooperatives.