



CIPAV

**COLOMBIA**

**Centre for Research on Sustainable Agriculture  
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*CIPAV, an organization that contributes to sustainable rural development*



CIPAV works in four knowledge areas which operate in an integrated manner, each with priority projects, always in partnerships with other research groups, farmers, public institutions, organizations and companies. Each area conducts research and consulting projects, development, technical assistance, outreach and capacity building.

**The Centre for Research on Sustainable Agriculture - CIPAV**, which began operating in 1985, is a non-government organization whose mission is to contribute to the sustainable development of the rural sector through research, development and outreach of environmentally friendly farming alternatives.

CIPAV Foundation works in partnership with numerous groups, research centers, scientific and international cooperation institutions, rural communities and businesses that promote sustainable rural development in Colombia and in several countries of Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.

Knowledge generation for innovation at CIPAV is supported by philosophical and ethical principles with deep roots in the cultural and social values of the generations who have struggled for rural livelihoods, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. Research, management, development, technical assistance and dissemination of environmentally friendly farming alternatives, are carried out with the assistance of a qualified team devoted to society and environmental protection.

### Sustainable livestock production



Seeks to develop and consolidate production systems for different scales and agroecosystems through the development of various agroforestry practices. Emphasis is given to research that supports Intensive Silvopastoral Systems (ISPS) and good husbandry practices for different livestock species. It covers topics such as fodder production and consumption; quality of meat and milk; animal welfare; biological pest control; conservation of biodiversity, soil and water in livestock systems; adaptation and mitigation of climate change; economic analyses of production systems and the design of incentives for the social and environmental transformation of livestock production, the dominant land use at a global scale.



### Water systems

This area investigates the ecology of Andean micro-watersheds and designs methods for assessing and monitoring aquatic environments. It also promotes different options for collecting, storing and using water efficiently in rural communities, and investigates wastewater decontamination methods for different agro-ecosystems and production scales.

Research, development

Technical assistance, outreach and capacity building

### Ecosystem services

The area investigates the roles of ecological processes and their valuation by society as environmental services in rural landscapes, and evaluates innovative compensation schemes and incentives for agroecological production and conservation, such as payment for environmental services and community compensation. It also collaborates in the assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of projects and their effects on biodiversity, soils, water resources and climate change adaptation and mitigation.



### Ecological restoration

This area carries out projects with broad community participation focusing on: (1) recovering lands affected by landslides and severe erosion (this includes risk reduction, protection of infrastructure and ecological enhancement), (2) increasing connectivity in agricultural landscapes through biological corridors and the incorporation of native trees in agroecosystems.



CIPAV works under different institutional arrangements and relation schemes, in scientific research projects related to sustainable development and in partnerships with research institutes and universities, ministries, state and municipality governments, environmental authorities, and national and international NGOs. Local participatory research and development processes involve unions, community and farmer organizations, with an emphasis on innovation and adaptation to diverse agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions. Internationally, CIPAV has executed and managed projects and consultancies with The World Bank, the IDB, FAO, ITTO, IAEA, CIAT and CATIE as well as with several universities, institutes, science institutions and governments of the United States, Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

The international electronic journal Livestock Research for Rural Development - LRRD was created in 1989, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas R. Preston, scientist emeritus consultant who also guided the formation of CIPAV. This freely available journal (<http://www.lrrd.org>) promotes rapid and efficient communication between scientists and technicians working with sustainable agricultural production technologies throughout the world.

This journal, edited by CIPAV in Colombia, was a pioneer electronic publication and currently receives over one million visits from over 120 countries every year.



[www.cipav.org.co](http://www.cipav.org.co)

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