

**Discussion Summary, 9/14/05:
Yucatan sheep systems**

Objectives: *What are the kinds of outcomes important to Yucatan sheep systems?*

[multiple targets: by farmer clientele group; well being of farm households]

- Profitability (all producers)
- Productivity
 - System land
 - Farm animal
 - Industry
 - Generate employment
 - Access to market: Which? Where?
- Sheep numbers
 - Number of farmers, sheep/farm
 - Productivity
 - Farm numbers/characters
 - Lower exit rate for farmers
- Good nutrition
 - Productive opportunity
 - General management
- Education re: system
 - Extension/education
 - Advice, learning, training
- Natural resource base
 - Improve farmer financial reserves and liquidity
 - diversification (increase)
 - ∴ economic growth, sustainability

Actions: *What are the priority actions to achieve the specified objectives?*

[links with objectives and actions]

- Support farmer coop action/ organizations
 - provide monies
 - loans
 - grants for
 - input purchases (sheep)
 - infrastructure, machinery
- Identify/characterize farms (environments, constraints)
 - Costs of production
 - Profitability (efficiency)
- Extension education
- Identify production (best practice) possibilities and technology options
- Research/evaluation (e.g., modeling, other methods)
- Trade policy?

Information: *Which data, and the information derived from them, are essential to the actions that could effectively achieve these objectives?*

[links with actions]

- Indicators of current and future outcomes/objectives
- Which practices/management and policies/ programs are “best”?
- Markets: in and outside Yucatán, demand (market size), meat quality
 - Competitive structure of the market