Doing research for 18 months on Indian dairy farming

AgreenSkills meeting, Oct. 2015

Claire Aubron, Montpellier SupAgro, SELMET Research Unit, France
Hosted by ILRI, India, from 15/02/14 to 15/07/15
Why did I plan a mobility project?

- My research field: livestock farming systems and agrarian systems
- A three-years long experience in Peru, with an extensive fieldwork for my PhD research
- Since 2007, associate professor in Montpellier SupAgro doing research on Mediterranean livestock farming

⇒ Mobility as a way: (i) to test approaches in a different context and to discover new approaches; (ii) to strengthen an international profile on livestock and development issues.

One more ingredient: a comprehensive husband ready for an experience abroad with our two daughters
Why India?

- World’s largest milk producer with impressive growth
- 70 millions of farms producing milk: most of them small and non specialized, with strong crop-livestock integration
- An original cooperative model supported by proactive policies since the 1970
My research in India

• **Objective:**
  Highlighting the trade-offs between milk production increase, social inclusion, and environmental impact in Indian dairy farming

• **Methods:**
  Studying the last decade’s trajectories of contrasted agrarian systems in different areas of India, based on an important field work
The hosting lab

International Livestock Research Institute, South Asia Regional Office, New Delhi
What did I do?

- Building partnership with research and extension institutions
- Designing and supervising the work of 8 Master students in different parts of India
What did I do?

- Reading, reading... and starting to write ⇒ one paper published, one paper and one book chapter submitted, and one congress communication

- Building projects to fund future research in India ⇒ project officer of IndiaMilk project, funded by the metaprogram GloFoodS
The most challenging:
- Dealing with the high inequalities in Indian society
- Building partnership
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Interesting
- Managing a team of students doing field work
- Building knowledge on the diversity of dairy practices and farms
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**Challenging**
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**Interesting**
- Managing a team of students doing field work
- Building knowledge on the diversity of dairy practices and farms

**Amazing**
- Discovering a totally different way of living and thinking, and its history
- Travelling and living an everyday life in India with the family
More than something over, a starting point for:

- Further research on Indian dairy farming
- Dissemination of knowledge about Indian agriculture
- Benefiting from connection with new scholars, institutions and networks
Thank you