

INTRODUCTION

Equids are involved in means of living of human population in Mexico; most for subsistence, some as opportunity of self employment and fewer bringing income as cash. Types of livelihoods relying on equids vary from smallholder units in remote, poor rural areas like in countries with similar ecological and economic conditions, to entities in forsaken, underprivileged peri-urban areas of cities like in countries with certain social and economic circumstances. Despite of some efforts to change the perception, equids remain regarded not productive, a sign of underdevelopment and an unpromising field to work; ideas that do not help to advance quality of life, demanding to produce methods and data to show effectiveness of those means of living, even when the concept of sustainability does not completely apply.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

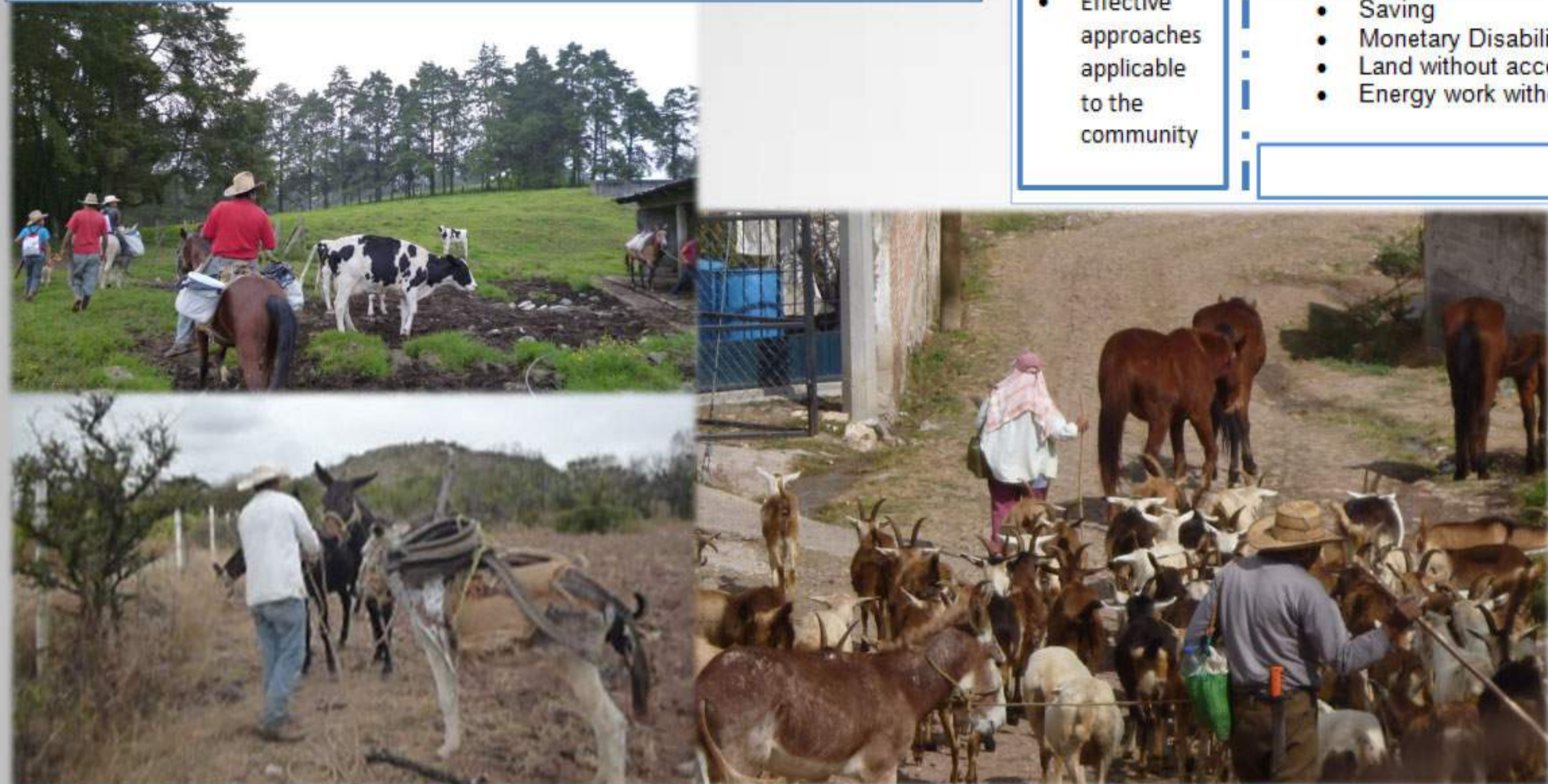
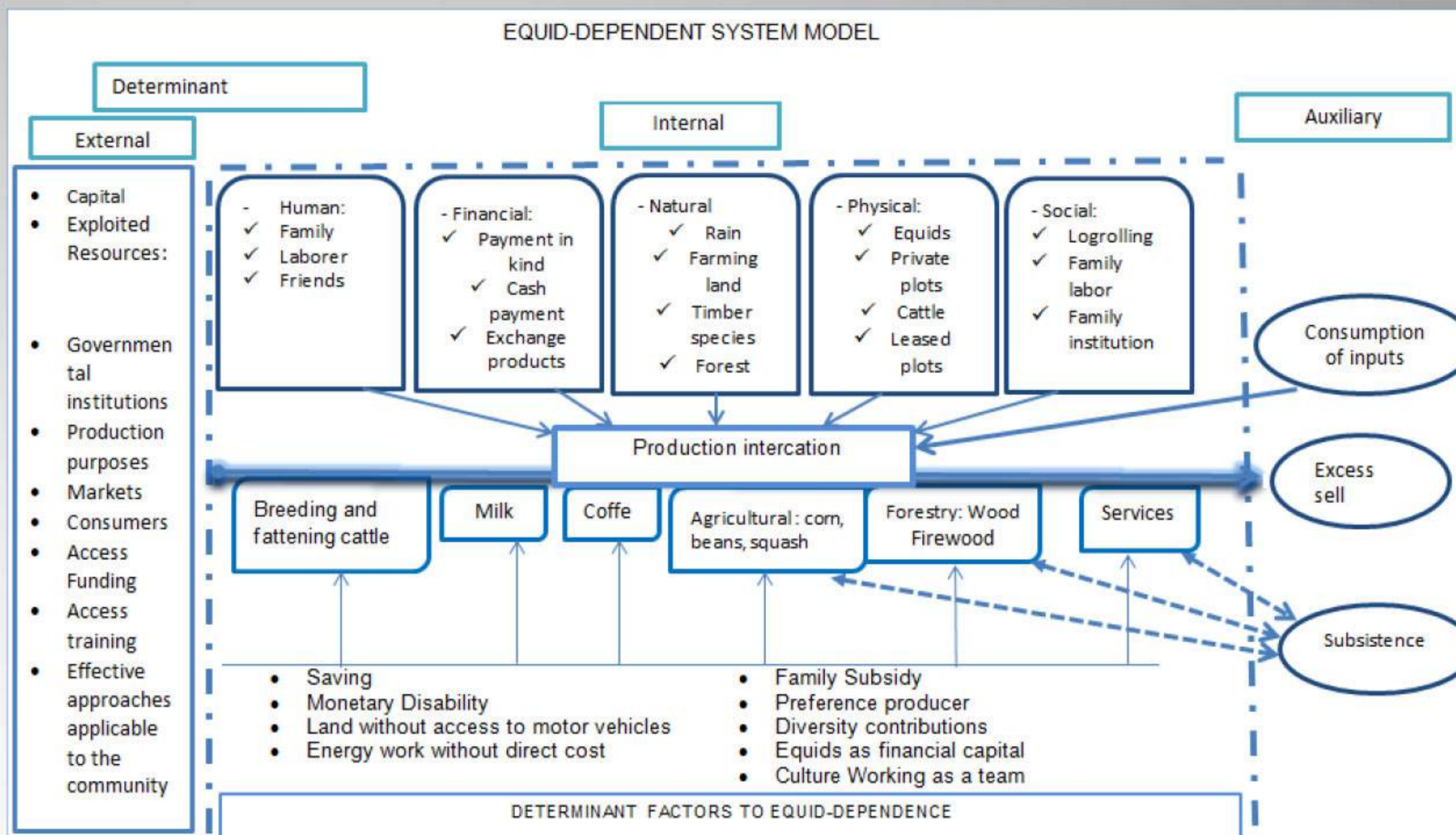
In order to: 1) Provide elements for the understanding of socioeconomic contribution of working equines, 2) find areas of opportunity for the professional development of in-community workers veterinarians and the animal management, and 3) raise the quality of life in the field of working equines; This work is Being Carried out to Identify indicators and relationships in different systems and contexts.

The research is based on the theory of sustainable livelihoods proposed by the Department for International Development (DFID).

Supported in the frames of reference developed in the first part, 10 rural communities and one peri-urban were selected in different states of Mexico where The Donkey Sanctuary (DS) Program - UNAM Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and zootechnics of the same UNAM, and recently Foundation AMMVEE, have worked.

Through participatory methods of diagnosis and listen to life stories of people from the community, from conceptual models were developed from knowledge and experience of the inhabitants of the communities responsible for the health and management of Equids, as well as from members of the DS program - UNAM.

Capital, Capacity and activity indicators were obtained to manage resources and face adverse situations to maintain the welfare and productivity.



RESULTS

Equids bring direct and complementary benefits in livelihoods where are developed through agricultural production systems, livestock, forestry and services, generating cash inflows to be sold or rented and, in specific cases, they represent a way of maintaining other capital and resources, harness their energy and labor and often combined with power equipment and prevent costs for basic goods or services which help sustain a given system.

An applicable context to understanding the socio-economic contribution of working equines, involves relations that continuously occur between the biophysical environment such as the cultural and the system of production and consumption, which involves understanding the existence of intrinsic relations in livelihoods of people where Equids are involved and that, among its actions involve money or goods in kind, exchange of favors, work or ideas that should be given to finance activities of public utility, which tabled to issues between society and the economy together responding to a demand scenarios and problems where highly complex, involving social, financial, cultural and environmental aspects are presented.

Work style of veterinarians (MVZ) and other animal husbandry care professions of attention to equines should be aware that each livelihood function varies. According to producers equids attention most of the times is sluggish by conditions such as working models performed by most MVZ which is based primarily on solving emergency diseases that involves very high costs for producers, lower promotion of customer education on issues of production improvement that involve equids in given consultations, infrequent disease that put a high risk of equine life, ingrained habits of past home treatments that are functional to the problems presented, function assigned to the species in the production unit, diversity of animals in the production unit, treatment costs compared to buying replacement, lack of diversity of payment accepted by the MVZ and producers' payment capacity.

The MVZ and other professionals should be aware that the requirements of veterinary medical care in most rural areas of Mexico are primarily based on the principle of production volume in the forms of cash income that is generated by the system species which includes production, and always remember that the main purpose in the case of equine is the utility to exploit its power as a tool in any system.

Encourage improvements in quality of life for working equines involves understanding that the term quality of life varies in each region with the participation of equine, finding that for many producers, knowing that his equine is walking well, eating well, and not having its skin hurt, indicates an acceptable quality of life for them, in the context that equids life style depends on the degree of participation in the midst of which they are part.

Train local or people close to the areas of priority to develop the skills and capabilities in serving these needs of the owners and their Equids help promote prompt attention in health and improvement in the life quality in this work field with equids, achieving sustained attention over time.

Equids participation in the population's livelihood				
Function	Contribution	Responsible of activity	Season of the year	Place of development
• Work:	• Economical	• Family	• Seasonal and continuous depending on the equid participation in each system.	• Production unit.
✓ Traction	• Human vulnerability reduction	• Laborer		• Communal lands.
✓ Cargo		• Friends		• Family lands.
✓ Transportation	• Leisure	• Producers		• Forest.
✓ Sport		• Trainers	• Community parties.	• Local competitions.
			• Sportive commitment.	• Hippodrome.
• Social	• Human relations	• Family	• Community parties.	• Village and surrounding communities.
	• Values	• Community	• Part of the practical teaching in the MVZ school and others.	• Schools.
	• Education	• Education	• Equids training process.	• School practice place.
		• Universities		• Farming plots.
• Cultural	• Value Development	• Community	• Community parties	• Communities in specific geographic spaces.
	• Companionship	• Families	• Habits and traditions.	• Equids Specialized centers.
	• Education	• Friendships	• Seasonal and continuous depending on the equid participation in assisted therapies.	
	• Alternative therapies	• Friends		
		• "Compadres"		
		• Capable people.		
• Financial	• Direct incomes	• MVZ work	• Indefinite	• Determined by geographic location.
	• Savings	• Friendship.		• Production Unit.
	• Other Incomes.	• Journal or sell Contractor.		
• Nutritional	• Feeding	• Foreign butcher.	• Conditioned by age, bond and utility of the equid.	• Main Square.
		• Local Authorities.		• Market
				• Production unit.



DISCUSSION

From an optical depth the contribution of equines is interesting and invites to reflexing in how they can contribute and how they can impact the search of the development of sustainable livelihoods as a possible alternative of substitution and combination with use of motorized mechanical forces. Given the variability of the ways and ends of production and seeking the sustainability of its dependent systems of working equines in Mexico, where small production units that depend on the interaction of its participatory resources where equines and other animals are fundamental. MVZ Work policy changes urge, with only clinical profiles to seek alternative professional development using local resources as the basis and foundation to achieve such professional development and assist in the maintenance of equid-dependent production systems and promote life quality in this field.

