

## Modeling smallholder beef farming: a systems thinking's step by step approach

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<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Smallholders are characterized by the complexity of the connectivity of allocating limited resources to support their multi activities in agriculture. Learning smallholders requires an approach which able to acknowledge and elaborate the nature of their complexity. Systems thinking is one of the disciplines of thinking focused on analyzing the interconnectedness among elements within a system. This study aimed to highlight a step by step process in developing a model for smallholder beef farming. The study has been undertaken in rural Central Java at two beef farmers group. Numbers of semi-structured interviews followed by focus group discussions and in-depth interviews to clarify the findings have been conducted involving a total of 50 respondents of farmers. The study revealed operational process which needs to be followed to undertake five steps of standard qualitative modeling practices, i.e., observing the everyday activities of the farming, problem identification, developing a conceptual framework, canvassing the maps of qualitative modelling using Causal Loop Diagram (CLD), and identifying the systems archetypes within the CLD. Qualitative maps of CLD describing the behaviour of the systems of smallholders beef farming.</p>
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