COMMUNITY LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

A CASE OF KATHEKANI KENYA

By

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Mission statement: To build the skills of poor people in developing countries enabling them to improve the quality of their lives and that of future generations
Background information of Kathekani

- Dryland farming area
- Bimodal rainfall (around 600mm/annum)
- Dominant vegetation- *commiphora* and *acacia* species
- Population- 17,300 people (3000 HH)
- Occupation- agropastoralists
- Livestock reared-cattle, sheep, goats and chicken
- Area is tsetse infested
- Preferred livestock species are indigenous goats, the East African and the Galla
Cultural value of the goat

- Dowry payment
- Traditional rituals
- Traditional healers fees
- Social purposes
- Prestige
Objectives of the Initiatives

• Building of a strong local capacity to address livestock production constraints
• Improving household income through the sale of goats for slaughter and the breeding stock
• Exploiting the existing local goat gene pool to achieve higher productivity
Management systems of goat rearing

- Population of goats-60,000 and cattle 21,000
- Semi-intensive management systems
- Supplementation feeding-mineral supplements, on-farm byproducts, others
- Mineral supplements based on naturally occurring salt licks,
- Made into salt blocks and sold to farmers @ $1/kg
Existing goat genetic resources

The East African goat
- Found all over EA
- Among the most successful in ASALs
- Colour ranges from pure white to pure black with various intermixes of roan and speckled brown
- Adults males attain up to 35kg and 25-30kg for females
- Attain sexual maturity at 5-6 months
- Low growth rate, yearlings hardly achieve 20kg
- Have a high ability to survive
- Have high potential for selection
Indigenous to northern Kenya

Bucks have adult weight of 70 Kg and does 45-55kgs

Kept for their higher milk yield

Continues to gain weight upto 8 years of age

Colour: White haired with black skin, nose, feet and under the tail

Has strong dental system, rarely culled for this problem

Remarkable power of compensatory growth after long dry season

High wither weight and long bodies

Females produce 20kgs of kids at weaning
Breeding program

- Communal group approach
- 9 groups each with 15 members
- Selection of best performing EA goat males and females
- Physical relocation of the males
- Financial contribution to purchase the group Galla buck

- Each group member takes custody of buck for one month
- Ensures that all farmers can access the buck
- Farmers attempt to control mating among goats
- Breeders association supports the initiative
Institutional support

- Agriculture & Rural Development Ministry
- Community Animal Health Workers
- Ethnoveterinary practitioners
- Traders
- ITDG-EA
SUSTAINABILITY

- Community Ownership
- Strengthened Institutions
- Communal approach
Outcome

- Higher sales of goats to traders and butchers
  EA at a live weight of 25kg costs $20, cross
  of 45kg $67
- Improved livestock management practices
- Greater networking between community
  members and other stakeholders
Constraints

- Limited availability of pastures
- Lack of adequate resources
- Risk of uncontrolled mating
- Predation of animals by wildlife
- Lack of appropriate breeding policy
- Low level of literacy
- Lack of clear breeding goal by farmers
Lessons learnt

- Breeding programmes should be integrated (holistic)
- In-situ conservation can only be successful with direct benefits
- Organised community activities lead to faster realization of development
Conclusion

- Farmers are focused on short term and not long term benefits
- Sound Technical guidance is required
- A clear breeding policy is required
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