



Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project

Regional Training of Trainer (ToT): Community-based Animal Breeding and Management
29th October – 2nd November 2018, Hawassa, Ethiopia



Training Report



Introduction

The livelihood of a vast majority of people in ASALs of IGAD region is highly dependent on income from livestock and livestock products. And thus supporting animal breeding activities is vital for livestock producers. Most of the countries in the region directed institutional focus towards improving livestock breed for dairy sector in high rainfall areas and coordinated support was not in place in ASALs, the necessary infrastructure is not in place and people largely depend on traditional breeding practice. Given the high dependency of pastoralist who live in cross-border areas on cash income from the sale of livestock and livestock products, it is important supporting production system through local breeds adapting to the environment.

Modern livestock breeding methods are often unsuitable in ASALs where feed and water are constraining factors. International Center for Agricultural research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) and its partners have developed a more sustainable alternative: community-based breeding programs focusing on indigenous breeds, and suited to smallholder conditions.

Community-based breeding programs supported by ICARDA have proved highly successful in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Mexico and Peru. The same approach can be used in the RPLRP countries, to improve the incomes and livelihoods of poor communities in pastoral areas. The effort of ICARDA demonstrated that community-based breeding can increase the productivity and profitability of indigenous breeds without undermining their resilience and genetic integrity, and without expensive interventions.

Central nucleus schemes and importation of improved commercial breeds in the form of live animals, semen, or embryos for crossbreeding have not resulted in sustainable genetic improvement of small ruminants in developing countries. A new approach gaining global interest is a community-based breeding program (CBBP). Programs that adopt this strategy focus on indigenous stock and consider farmers' needs, views, decisions, and active participation, from inception through implementation, and their success is based upon proper consideration of farmers' breeding objectives, infrastructure, participation, and ownership (Sölkner *et al.*, 1998; Mueller *et al.*, 2015).

Community-based breeding programs have been pilot tested in Ethiopia with different breeds representing various production system and agro-ecologies. We evaluated both biological and socio-economic performance of three CBBPs in Ethiopia and some of the results include the following (Gutu *et al.*, 2015; Haile *et al.*, 2017):

- Sheep/goat farming, once a side activity for these farmers, is now their main business activity and the linchpin of their livelihoods.

- The best rams/bucks are now retained in the community for breeding instead of being sold for slaughter (“negative selection”).
- 3200 households with more than 19,200 people in 40 villages directly benefiting from the scheme.
- Most of the participating households in Menz (one of the CBBP sites) graduated from the government-run safety net program that meets short-term food needs through emergency relief. They now use income from sheep sales to buy food.
- More than 35 functional cooperatives established.
- Increased income from sheep production (since CBBP inception in 2010, an average increase of 20 percent) and increased mutton consumption (now an average of 3 sheep slaughtered for home consumption per family per year compared to 1 sheep at the project start) directly linked to CBBP production in Bonga, Horro and Menz.
- Farmers’ sheep/goats have shown an improvement in performance, such as lamb growth rate, lambing interval, reduced mortality and tend to attract higher prices in markets compared to sheep/goats from farmers who are not members of breeding groups.
- Most of the newly established cooperatives have been able to build capital (e.g. Boka-Shuta cooperative has capital of about USD 60,000).
- Significant genetic progress has been achieved over years in growth traits.

We have now proved that CBBPs are technical feasible to implement and financially rewarding. Therefore, the technology has to be up/out scaled. With the overall objective of up/out scaling CBBPs in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, we organized regional training on ‘community-based small ruminant breeding programs’ during 29th October to 2nd November in Hawassa, Ethiopia. The training was organized in partnership with IGAD and trainees were staff of 15 from each of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Objectives of the regional training

The objective of the training is to equip the three RPLRP countries led technical team on community-based breeding. In general the following agenda were covered in the training:

1. Overview of small ruminant breeding programs in Africa
2. Community-based breeding programs (CBBP): theory
3. Implementation of CBBP: practical guidelines
4. Experience of CBBP presentation by national staff
5. Basics of data collection and analysis
6. Field visit to Doyogena
7. Reflection and way forward



Training participant group photo, Hawassa, Ethiopia



Training on CBBP, Hawassa, Ethiopia

The training had both theoretical and practical sessions. The contents of the training included the following:

- Overview of small ruminant breeding programs and key lessons in Africa
- Community-based breeding programs: theory
- Community-based breeding programs: Some successes and early impact of CBBP in Ethiopia
- Implementation of CBBP: practical guidelines
- Basics of data collection and analysis
- Computer exercise on data management and basic analysis
- Practical training and visit on Doyogena CBBP
- Presentation by country on **road map on how to roll out the training**

The team from each country developed a detailed plan of action to implement CBBPs in their respective countries and made presentations. Their plans were reviewed thoroughly and will be put in to action with support from their countries, IGAD and ICARDA.

It should be noted that in scaling up/out CBBP, it is important to continue to engage the public extension system, build capacity, share experience, and provide farmers with access to inputs and market, which have been the central elements for CBBP's success thus far.



Kenyan team awarded a book for their outstanding presentation on **road map on how to roll out the training in their perspective, Hosana, Ethiopia**



Filed visit on Doyogena CBBP

References

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Training participants

The participants will be from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

Table 1: Proposed list of participants

No	Name	Country	Responsibility
1	Hebret Worku Ambie	Ethiopia	Livelihood specialist from Federal RPLRP
2	Miss Nasri Abdi Nur	Ethiopia	Ethio-Somali
3	Dr. Dereje Tolesa Jaleta	Ethiopia	Oromia
4	Mr. Abas Mohammed Sedik	Ethiopia	Afar
5	Alemnesh Lemma Taddese	Ethiopia	SNNP
6	Dr. Kakungulu James	Uganda	Component head
7	Dr. Omaido Edward	Uganda	Kumi District
8	Dr. Eladu Fredrick	Uganda	Kaabong District
9	Dr. Okino Moses	Uganda	Moroto District
10	Dr. Kulume Mary Gorretti	Uganda	Napak District
11	Judy Gachora	Kenya	
12	Mohammed Diba Dokata	Kenya	Isolo
13	Abdullahi Giriye Garat	Kenya	Wajir
14	Alex Zephania Sabuni	Kenya	Narok
15	Ronald Nyukuri	Kenya	Turkana
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18	Accountant	ICPALD	
19	Dereje Wakjira	ICPALD	