



**Serere Agricultural and animal Production  
Research Institute (SAARI)**

# **Proceedings of a Training workshop on Improved Livestock Interventions in the Teso Farming System**

**Held at**

**Church of Uganda Community Centre – Soroti**

**5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2004**



**Facilitated by**

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These proceedings are an out put from contract R 8108, project number ZC0186 between NRInternational, as managers of the livestock production programme (LPP) of the UK Department for international Development (DFID). Strengthening the contribution of women to Household Livelihoods through Improved Livestock Strategies and Interventions in the Teso farming System. The views expressed here are those of participants and do not necessarily represent those of DFID or of NRInternational.

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## Summary

The work shop was convened in order to introduce the resource poor livestock farmers to improved livestock technologies and also to derive an understanding of policies that affect the participation of farmers most especially women. The workshop attracted participants from women groups across Katakwi, kaberamaido and Soroti districts.

Participants shared their experience in livestock keeping and actively participated in the demonstrations that were carried out during the training. Evaluation by participants indicated that they appreciated the highly participatory nature of the workshop and felt that they met their expectations and objectives of attending the workshop. Participants promised they were going to practice what they had been introduced to.

## **1. Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the farmers to improved livestock technologies in feeding, breeding and disease management and also to policies that affect women in livestock enterprise

## **2. Participants**

Training of farmer groups from women groups in Katakwi and Kaberamaido districts

## **3. Registration**

This was the first item. It was followed by a word of prayer by one farmer in Kumam language.

## **4. Welcome Remarks**

The training was opened by Dr. L.K. Serunjogi who was introduced by Ag. Project Leader Betty Esenu.

He welcomed the farmer groups. He was happy for their ability to come in spite of many problems. He thanked the facilitators and the church for allowing the training to take place in their facility.

Training, he said, is important as we try to modernize agriculture in Uganda. Many enterprises make up Uganda Agriculture, Livestock, fish etc. To update the livestock sector must also adjust. He answered then that the project is to keep farmers abreast with latest technologies.

Whatever learnt should be carried back and taught to others who did not get a chance. He promised a follow-up to see whether what is learnt is implemented. Positive results will encourage further actions. He declared the training opened.

## 5. Day 1 Proceedings

### **Session 1: Policy – Betty Eсенu**

She gave the project overview. The project started in 2000/1 as a result of a needs assessment survey conducted in Teso Farming System. It is targeting women livestock farmers. The project is to strengthen the roles of women in livestock interventions. She further informed the participants that participation of women in livestock production had very many constraints and at the same time opportunities. This presented challenges both on production and policy. It was necessary to put in place enabling policies and improved livestock interventions.

The purpose of the training therefore was to sensitize farmers especially women farmers on existing policies as they affect livestock farmers. It was also geared towards generating dialogue on these issues. The information derived could be sent for consideration and possible inclusion in formulation of policies.

Policies - Key policies to look at are; -

- Gender
- Environment
- PMA and NAADS

When asked what policy is? Farmers gave many answers as

- Government laws
- What to follow
- Regulations
- Government programmes
- Government plans etc.

The facilitator agreed that all the above replies had some contribution towards what policy is. She then defined policy as plan of actions geared towards achieving something(s)

The facilitator was very articulate, however, grasping policy concepts seemed not easy to the farmer. A video film was promised to help in this effort.

#### **Gender:**

As a teaching aid two volunteers were asked to come forward. The two were made to stand side by side and the participants came up with these differences.

	<b>Man</b>	<b>Woman</b>
1. Dressing	Trouser, short	dress
2. Breasts	absent	present
3. Beard	present	absent
4. Physique	prominent	not prominent

The above, the facilitator said is what sex is. The two were then asked to depict what was each does from morning upon waking up till time for going to bed.

The list of activities performed by the woman by far grew longer than that of a man. The participants said that sharing of tasks occurred in; -

1. Monogamous homes
2. God fearing homes
3. Wedded
4. Drunkard ness is not a factor
5. Educated families

In Teso the farmers concurred that the common scenario is that women are more burdened than men. The drama was therefore about gender:

Gender she said is socially and culturally constructed roles.

- It is not equality
- It is not swapping of roles or women leaving kitchen and men going replacing them.
- It is about roles and responsibilities of each

### **Gender Equality**

Involved equal access by men and women to socially valued goods, services, resources etc. like jobs, education etc.

### **Gender Equity**

Is about justice and fairness in treatment. If there is a job let the two women and men get it on merit.

### **Gender discrimination**

It the different treatment given to boys and girls in a home or men and women in society. It is common for gender discrimination to be fuelled by conditions and sayings that exist in our homes, these are; -

1. Beliefs that boys are stronger than girls
2. Girls are for fetching wealth, boys are heirs.
3. Only boys taken to school, girls prostitutes
4. Boys are supposed to be brave, not any etc
5. Women don't take part in marriage negotiations etc

The participants were broken into groups of 4 each and required to put down ways in which gender discrimination occurs in homes, Sub County, district and national level.

### **Lunch break**

## Session II: Pasture Establishment, Maintenance and Utilization-Grace Ebiyau

Objective of the training was to enable these participants identify pasture, how to establish and utilize improved pasture.

They were informed there are 2 types of pastures: legumes and grasses. Participants knew what pastures were and gave the following advantages of pastures; -

- Source of humus for the soil
- Shelter or roofing materials
- Conserve soil and moisture by providing soil cover
- Can be ornamental
- Source of firewood
- Act as windbreaks
- Source of food – can be both direct and indirect
- Provided hiding places during the rebel incursion etc.

### Pasture establishment

Emphasis was placed on; -

- Selection of right pastures plants
- Seed quality by use of simple viability test.
- Good pasture seed ought to have 30% germination for the grasses and 70% for legumes – derived from the formula

$$\frac{\text{Seed germination}}{100} \times 100\% = 30\% \text{ or } 70\%$$

The pasture established for seed should be single or pure stand while that meant for grazing should be mixed. The mixture is 2 parts grasses, and 2 parts legumes. This mixture is divided into 4 parts after mixing. The field where it is to be sown is also divided 4 times. Each quarter gets its separate allocation. This is to ensure the field gets uniform allocation

Grasses	2	1	2	field
Legumes	2	3	4	

The participants were cautioned against weeding pasture for grazing with a hand hoe, as many will still not have germinated.

Grazing starts at 2 month with light grazing to allow branching. The pasture is ready for grazing at 4 months.



**Fodder:**

Pastures establishment by use of vegetative parts e.g. elephant grass, Guatemala etc. These especially elephant grass was to be selected. It should have no spikes, should be succulent, leafy and in most cases should be got from a reliable source – Research Institute – SAARI.

The participants were asked to value their fodder highly. They are to be cut and fed and not grazed. The session attracted vigorous questions from participants, which were equally well answered by the facilitator.

**Session III: Gender concepts and Policy Ikareut Elizabeth –Gender Officer, Soroti**

Gender – she described as how roles were divided by society or forefathers. The present government saw loopholes in these arrangements. Women were overburdened. Although presently changes were agreed to be taking place, more still, had to be done. Government brought policies specifically to address these imbalances.

1. In 1987, government put a policy of including women in all councils up to parliament at a ratio of at least 1 out of every 3. The purpose was to ensure that, women's views are represented, get ladies share, and present their problems. This was to ensure that they are emancipated. The participants however, felt that little of what women present is considered. This is compounded in the majority of cases the ladies in the councils or parliament don't come back to consult but rather tend to look after their own interest.
- 2 U.P.E – purposed at ensuring that there is no excuse for girl children to be left at home. This policy has to a certain extent worked. The observation is that girl children in the majority of cases rarely go beyond Primary seven because of
  - o Early marriage/pregnancies
  - o Insecurity
  - o Parented – ignorance, poverty etc
  - o And many others

This policy was agreed had well intentions but was also fighting many huddles. There was need to put mechanisms of enforcing rules and laws that strengthen this policy like defilement etc.

Other strategies in place to try to address these imbalances were: -

- PMA – Programme for Modernization of Agriculture
- NAADS
- Water and Sanitation
- Health – Immunization

Gender issues were agreed to be the root cause of poverty. Participants saw a need to address these policies by

- Seminars
- Projects and loans that target women
- Enlightened women should come down to the rural folk
- Exchange visits

- Provision of improved seeds
- Market provision
- Family planning

On livestock production the participants needed the following areas to be addressed.

- Prices of animal drugs and vaccines to be reduces
- Vet staff currently far and few should reside with the sub counties
- Need more sensitization in other areas of livestock production which they may not be aware of
- Need skills training or animal health especially diagnosis
- Need improved breed like Friesian at affordable price
- Need an organized breeding Programme to improve their stock
- Barbed wire and other inputs for fencing
- Rival of cattle drip service
- Training on apiculture

Day closed with a practice on pasture identification – Olokojo Betty

## 6.0 Day 2 Proceedings

### **Session I: Poultry Feeding - Mr. Masaba J**

The facilitator started by asking the farmers why it's necessary to feed chicken.

It drew the following response

1. Avoid starvation
2. Healthy
3. Control movements
4. Get used to the feeder
5. Increase production
6. Gain weight
7. Prevent diseases

When he asked them to faithfully state what they individually do to their chicken in relation to the above or feeding, there was a general agreement that our local chicken

1. Starve
2. Not healthy, not treatment
3. They move far away in search of food
4. Produce less in terms of eggs and meat
5. They are small, weak and not attractive in sight
6. They can not fight diseases
7. Are not used to the owners

The solution to the above was simple he said; -

- Provide feeds

- Provide housing and nests

He urged the participants to appreciate supplementary feeding. This is said was better option rather than 100% feeding. What had to be borne in mind is balancing the supplements so as to provide all necessary requirements

As a way forward it was agreed that; -

1. Cleanliness
2. Supplementary feeding
3. Treatment/vaccination
4. Housing
5. Regular training to as many farmers as possible could help build capacity to the farmers to handle poultry.

He urged the farmers to start with what they had and advance later. He cited maize bran mixed with omena as most common supplement

Computation

Maize bran	+	Omena	=	10cups
7 cups		3 cups	=	100%
70%		30%	=	100%

Participants raised questions on

- Cocks laying eggs
- Soft shells
- Double yokes
- Low hatchability

All where satisfactorily answered by the facilitator. He ended by giving a hand out.

## **Session II: Agriculture, Environment and policy - Mrs. Betty Esenu**

To enhance understanding charts were displayed.

She started by asking the farmers what agriculture was? They gave the meaning, role and contribution of agriculture to their lives and nation in detail. The importance of farmers to the economy was recognized. 25% of the total output is contributed by rural farmers and 80% of this is by women.

However, productivity is still very low as most produce for subsistence. This prompted government to come up with a policy; PMA (Plan for Modernization of Agriculture). It is a policy to raise production from subsistence to commercial. Training from a rural farmer to a modern one.

The ministry was to achieve this by; -

Inputs: Supply to farmers through private stockist not government. The farmer is to buy inputs for himself

Marketing: Government is to take care of infrastructure e.g. roads. Farmer has to transport his produce to market and bargain for his prices

NAADS: This is for simplicity in delivering services to farmers. Farmers are empowered to demand for services

Research: For improved seed and technologies

Diversify: Agricultural produce

At this stage in her presentation she used charts to drive points home. The posters depicted roles of PMA. Participants were easily able to tell what they saw in the charts.

PMA is therefore the answer or government response to the farmers' voices. It is about doing farming as a business using improved methods. It is creating opportunities for all, women, disabled, orphans etc.

When asked whether any grants are received from LC.III councils, the participants expressed ignorance.

For PMA to yield fruits it's intended to; the following areas needed urgent attention; -

Planning:	Planning at lower levels is insignificant
Environment:	Needs urgent protection
Health:	Farmers must be health to manage farming
Security:	Without which PMA cannot take off
Water and sanitation:	Clean water should be availed to farmers and stock.
Adding value:	To agricultural produce for profitability
Land:	Fertility must be safeguarded and maintained
Training and extension:	New ways of doing thing have to be taught

The farmers were told that if they are to benefit from PMA

- They themselves should decide on the type of advice they need as no body else knows ones problems.
- Group formation – individuals are not targeted but rather those that are in groups. Must be registered in sub county
- Use available resources within ones locality copying may not help
- Get information from different sources

The participants still wanted more action on; -

- Technology dissemination – not always proper
- Information is given late always
- Insecurity
- The selection process for which group or individual qualifies to benefit from government programmes is not transparent.
- Farmers increased involvement in technology generation.
- Need for more information – some technologies are only heard about on radios. They don't reach the grass root.

## Environment

The farmers gave the following in relation to environment.

- Trees
- Bush
- Lakes
- Land
- Mountains
- Swamps
- Birds
- Animals
- Insects
- Human
- Sun
- Land
- Starts etc.

All the above constitute environment. Asked what man gets from environment. The participants said mans very existence depends on the environment. Asked what environment gets from man. It was agreed that it was mostly destruction with little protection by say planting of trees.

Man's actions that are destructive; -

- Burning
- Cutting
- Excavation
- Drainage especially swamps
- Cultivation etc.

The results / effects

- Low yields
- Drought
- Weeds
- Soil erosion
- Poor health
- Poverty
- Death social conflicts
- Famine etc.

Participants were asked to carefully look into the future. Supply of fuel (firewood), fruits, and water space are dwindling. 25% of malaria death is caused by poor environment, 75% of people die because of poor hygiene, 31% women die because of wood smoke. How will it be 50 years from today?

The farmers were asked to seek energy saving stoves, plan to reduce human drudgery. Our environment is dragged by abuse and everywhere one sees poor environmental practices characterized by; -

1. Biomass/bush burning killing insects, animals etc.
2. Poor solid waste disposals – no latrines
3. Poor application and use of Agri – chemicals and medical products

Government struggles trying to put policies to protect environment such as

- No cultivation in swamps
- Judicial cutting of trees, for every tree cut, two must be planted. But all one sees are indicators of a sick environment.
- Sickly population of both humans and animals
- Poverty – ever increasing especially in rural areas
- Malnourished children – put bellies
- Absence of latrines
- Funds pumped into environment all the time

Overall policy on Environment

To enhance integrity and productive use and management so as to satisfy the needs of current population without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their needs.

The session conducted by farmers' being requested upon return to think about Policies, PMA and Environment beginning from their homesteads

They wished them well in whatever they strive to achieve in life.

### **Session III: Breeding in cattle for sustainable production -Mr. Masaba J**

The facilitator went through the topic as it appears (arranged) in the hand out. The participants were broken into groups of 4 and asked to list desirable characteristics of a breed. Their presentations were heard.

### **Last session IV: Hay making -Grace Ebiyau**

Participants were asked the definition of pasture? The answers were overwhelming. She then asked whether pasture was available in their areas all year around. The response was that it's in plenty in wet season and very scarce in dry season. Again when asked the problems cattle keepers face in dry season, they said;

- Scarcity of pasture
- Scarcity of water
- Move long distances again in search of the above
- Herdsmen are stressed
- Diseases increase
- To stop this dilemma, it was deemed wise to preserve pasture in seasons of plenty for use in seasons of scarcity. This could be done by;-
- Irrigation
- Avoid burning
- Preserving it in form of hay or silage

Species for hay

Panicum maximum, elephant grass, Rhodes etc

- Time of cutting – at the beginning of flowering
- Tools – sickle for grass or panga for elephant grass

### **Hay making process**

- She said it can be grown or cut from wherever they are grown
- Cut above ground
- Arrange smartly and don't scatter
- Spread where they were cut
- Spread away from termites
- Turn after 2 days
- It should not be allowed to dry to much
- Long grass can be shortened or cut to size
- Store away from rain
- Tie in bundles to avoid scatter

### **Practicals**

The training ended with a practical in hay tying

**Requirements:** a frame e.g. an open-ended box

## **7.0 Closing Remarks**

The training was closed by Dr. L.K Serunjogi Director of Research – SAARI who had this to say;

He was happy for the work done so far. He was happy to note that although it was intended for women groups or livestock farmers, men were also in attendance. The two should always be together. All are entitled to the project. He encouraged participants to establish contacts for further continuation. He asked the participants to request the facilitators and project leaders to organize a tour for them to Serere Research to see more of what they had learnt.

Lastly he thanked Soroti District Administration, Government of Uganda for the security during the course. He wished them a happy journey back but strongly cautioned against the temptation to travel back late for safety reasons.

He declared the training closed at 5.30 p.m.

### A list of Participants

No.	Name	Women's group	District
1	Amenyu Margret	Adodoi	Katakwi
2	Akwi Modesta	“	“
3	Eseru Bernard	“	“
4	Putan Maltilda	“	“
5	Akwango Christine	Asamuk	“
6	Eyabu David		“
7	Amuge Joyce Mary		“
8	Akello Grace		“
9	Atego Joyce	Wera	“
10	Okiror Margaret	“	“
11	Aceru Christine	“	“
12	Onyanga Ester	“	“
13	Alao Melda	“	“
14	Asio Rose	“	“
15	Inangolet Vicky	Aloogok American	“
16	Amongin Kevin		“
17	Omuka F		“
18	Imalingat Rose	Atapara	“
19	Anyait Mary	“	“
20	Adome Mary	“	“
21	Akol Kolostica	“	“
22	Akello Keletestia	“	“
24	Acweru Eswilu Winnie	Kalaki	Kaberaido
25	Apalla Hellen	“	“
26	Anyait Mary	“	“
27	Ayuno Grace	“	“
28	Emyedu Michael	“	“
29	Asimo Grace	“	“
30	Alwano Immaculate	Alwa	“
31	Ocen Kate	“	“
32	Oyoga Alice	“	“
33	Ewolu Susan	“	“
34	Emuka Alice	“	“
35	Enyimu Naome	“	“
36	Iyabo Stella	“	“
37	Ajilo Paulina	Makiteko	“
38	Akao Jane	“	“
39	Alibo Matina	“	“
40	Ikedu Beatrice	“	“
41	Elayu Joseph	“	“
42	Awayo Beatrice	“	“
43	Agono Maria	“	“



44	Ewayu Jennipher	Tubur	Soroti
45	Ebuchu Pauline	“	“
46	Ekedu Martha	“	“
47	Amulo Sarah	“	“
48	Acan Grace	“	“
49	Ocung Peter	“	“
50	Owanyang Mary Amongin	Asamauk	Katakwi
51	Ochola Simon	“	“
52	Atalo S	“	“
53	Acham Christina	Adodoi	“
54	Aningole J	“	“
55	Abiyar John	“	“