

# Summary of findings from two GALVmed Greater Inclusion Workshops

Hazaribagh 11 Feb 2015 Angara, Ranchi 12 Feb 2015

Facilitated by- SUPPORT

Facilitated by- JSLPS

Dr Mamta Dhawan Regional Manager, S. Asia

Dr Lois Muraguri Assistant Director: Policy and External Affairs

#### Introduction

In India, provision of livestock health services is a state subject and a public function. However, due to various constraints, the government department responsible for providing these services is unable to reach out to small farmers for whom livestock is a substantial livelihood. These marginalized farmers also do not have access to quality livestock health products from private sector since private players do not see them as viable markets. Moreover, they are not aware of what can be accessed from the public system and what their entitlements are.

#### Objective

Greater inclusion workshops were organized with the objective of understanding the policy constraints faced by farmers in the provision of and access to livestock health products and explore how they can be empowered and supported to get their voice heard in the policymaking processes.

#### Process

It was envisaged that in order to achieve the above mentioned objective, two workshops would be organized at the village level. Around 70 wo/men farmers especially leaders of self-help groups and civil society representatives were invited to these workshops. The facilitating partners SUPPORT and JSLPS (Jharkhand State Livelihoods Promotion Society) were requested to invite wo/men farmers for the workshop who would be comfortable to communicate with GALVmed staff and facilitators. In addition, JSLPS was also requested to invite their implementing partner NGOs to the workshop. Keeping in view that the farmers would prefer to discuss issues in Hindi language, Hindi speaking facilitators for group discussions were hired locally. Through PowerPoint presentation, documentary movie (both in Hindi language) and focus group discussions the workshops sought to accomplish the following:

- Enhance the understanding of the participants' perception of policy and policy constraints
- Identify common policy issues and challenges
- Prioritise issues and challenges and agree on approaches to address these

After introducing GALVmed briefly, a short documentary movie on Backyard poultry keeping practices and ND control was shown to the farmers. Thereafter, a PowerPoint on policy and public policy making was explained to all present in very simple terms using day to day examples in order to increase their understanding of what policy means, how public policy is formulated and how it impacts their lives. Importance of participatory policy making to address needs of the people was also discussed.

Participants were divided in two women farmer groups and one male farmer group in the first workshop held on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, there were three women groups and one NGO group. The thought behind this grouping was to get perspectives of NGOs as well as wo/men farmers and also explore with NGOs how best they could be organized to bring voices of the farmers to decision makers. The Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were carried out in two sessions. In session one,



participants were asked to list policy related constraints wo/men farmers involved in livestock keeping

encounter in the course of their livestock keeping activities and in session two they were asked to propose solutions and options to address these policy challenges.

Key findings-

Discussions after the PowerPoint presentation on Public Policy revealed that most of the participants had no idea either of public policy, how they were impacted by it or how they could contribute to it. However they were eager to know who should be approached if they wanted any changes to take place. It was explained that local governance body-Panchayat is where they could bring forth their grievances or needs. Another option would be to bring it to the notice of the local political leader representing them in the state assembly. As for the livestock health services and products, there was generally very little awareness about it. The documentary movie on the preventive health care of backyard poultry and good husbandry practices to increase income from birds was also an eye opener for them and they lamented the dearth of any agencies that could bridge the gap in knowledge sharing. The wo/men farmers participating in the first workshop in Hazaribagh were aware of ND vaccination since GALVmed-SUPPORT ND control programme is going on in the region. However, participants in the second workshop were working with an NGO called Goat Trust and knew about PPR vaccination for control of PPR. Session one brought out many interesting and at times conflicting policy constraints.

Since the FGDs were conducted in men, women and NGO groups, the findings are also mentioned accordingly.

The main constraints identified in women groups in both the workshops were mostly similar in nature and are listed below-

• There is no information about livestock health issues amongst women farmers- Women farmers shared that there was no formal way to access information concerning health issues of their livestock. Informally they got information through word of mouth which was not always reliable. On the other hand they mentioned that as a community they were neither very alert nor aware about their rights, and also they did not exhibit willingness to seek information proactively.

• Preventive health care- Women farmers claimed that their knowledge of preventive health care especially vaccinations was extremely limited. Only women farmers associated with

NGOs were aware of vaccinations for PPR in goats and ND in poultry. Most women farmers claimed that although they took care of the sick animals, they did very little to prevent it from getting sick since they had no know-how about it.

• Very limited animal health public services-Women farmers shared that Veterinary hospitals were at a distance and could not be accessed easily. Therefore they sought



services of untrained healers that prescribe and administer all types of medicines including ethno veterinary medicine with unpredictable results.

- Expectations of free/subsidized services and medicines- In the second workshop women farmers still expected to get free or subsidized medicines from the public system. They admitted that this is an attitudinal problem as they have got used to getting freebies through a number of government schemes meant for poor people. However they also acknowledged that they ended up spending a lot once their livestock fell ill!
- Economics of rearing poultry and small ruminants Women farmers admitted that discussion within the group had made them realize that they had not given due attention to the annual income accrued from their livestock. When looked at carefully this income was quite substantial under local context. At times this lack of understanding of the income from livestock also contributed in disinterest shown in investing in preventive health care where NGOs are functional and providing these services.
- Other constraints In the first workshop, women complained that there was lack of support from male family members in getting medicines etc from town since men did not give value to the livestock owned by women (usually poultry and goats). While in the second workshop, low rates offered by local trader for goats and limited knowledge on feed and fodder management especially in case of goat keepers was brought out.

Men farmer group



 Lack of awareness about diseases – Men farmers opined that lack of awareness about diseases preventable through vaccinations, right timings of the vaccinations and no access to vaccines contributed to loss of money spent on curative medicine and at times resulted in mortality. They felt that if they had timely information from say an 'information centre', they

would be better equipped to care for their animals and benefit from increased production.

- Access to public veterinary health services- Farmers claimed that not only are veterinary hospitals at distance, vets are rarely available in their work places. Moreover services of a vet are only sought in case of large ruminants as visiting charges of a vet are quite high. Untrained local healers services are sought which are not reliable.
- Access to veterinary medicines- Very few shops stock veterinary medicines and these are also at district level.
- Supportive role of good husbandry practices- Information on balanced feeding, breeding, appropriate housing etc was considered equally important to realize full potential from keeping livestock.

#### NGO group-

- Access to public veterinary services- NGO group opined that Public veterinary institutions are largely understaffed and they did not get positive assistance from these institutions due to lack of human and material resources.
- Preventive health care- NGOs were aware of PPR control in goats through vaccination but did not know much about ND vaccines for poultry. They mentioned that 100 dose vial for PPR vaccine was not suitable for the needs of small holder goat farmers. Moreover vaccination charges varied from place to place.
- Cold chain issues- Cold chain maintenance in field was a challenge and cold storage facility needs to be available at Panchayat level. However given the electricity conditions in the region, it might not be feasible!
- Knowledge sharing- In-spite of being more resourceful than the local wo/men farmers, they lamented that information on disease outbreaks, its spread etc was not shared by any authentic agency leading to rumour mongering and crisis selling by livestock keepers.

While the issues raised by male and female farmers were more or less the same, the way they were perceived by both genders was different. The male farmer group saw it as failing of government system while women farmers took part blame on themselves for not being proactive. Male farmers seemed to be better informed than women farmers on getting services from public system, Women farmers' expectations from the public services were negligible since they seldom travelled to get these services from far off stationary hospitals and were more eager to get these services from NGO service providers and through SHGs that were closer to their homes.

NGOs are functional in both workshop areas and are working with women self-help groups on improving livelihoods through goat rearing, handicraft making, and agriculture. Recently ND control in poultry has been introduced in the first workshop area. As expected, the NGO group was more knowledgeable on cold chain issues, inappropriate vaccine vial size, and practical problems facing AHD staff to reach remote farmers. They were also promoting group insurance for goats and were vocal about long drawn procedures involved to get an insurance claim settled. Although role of NGOs is sensitization, knowledge sharing and in provision of services is laudable but mechanisms need to be put in place to build capacities of the fe/male farmers to manage these activities independent of the NGOs.

The issue of expecting free or subsidized services was especially seen in second workshop where women have been given loans to buy goats through government scheme. Here the expectation was that since they were already paying loan instalments, costs for vaccination and deworming should be borne by CAHWs of the NGO involved! However, women in the first workshop were happy to pay for getting their birds vaccinated as this was conveyed to them right in the beginning of the project that the services are not free! This implies that people's behaviour and expectations can be moulded through knowledge sharing, dialogue and training.

### Possible solutions

In both workshops, participants discussed possible solutions to the identified livestock health services constraints in the second session. Solutions proposed by the different groups are summarized below-

Women farmer groups-

 Since flow of information from public agencies is woefully inadequate, women farmers proposed that organizations like SUPPORT, GALVmed, JSLPS (through NGOs supported by it) should step in and provide the information pertaining to livestock/poultry health, husbandry practices, disease outbreak and preventive care. Self Help Groups (SHGs) meetings were proposed as a suitable place for dissemination of information on regular basis.



- The women demanded that mass awareness campaigns regarding husbandry practices, livestock health and preventive care should be undertaken but were not able to articulate who would be responsible to do it. They suggested that it could be animal husbandry department or NGOs like GALVmed. These could include roadside advertisements, banners, street plays, video shows, adverts in radio and TV etc.
- More animal health centres at Panchayat level should be opened by Government or NGOs working in this sector. These would be closer to the livestock rearers like primary health centres that have been opened in villages for human health issues.
- Either government or civil society should train livestock health workers from within the community to provide services if veterinarians and para vets from Animal husbandry department cannot come to villages. They were referring to Pashu Sakhi (Friend of animals) and CAHWs model operating in villages covered by NGOs.

Men farmer group-

- Since public extension system is not functional, men farmers suggested that information about spread of disease and steps to be taken to control it should also come from a reliable source like government AHD, and or NGO to avoid rumour mongering and distress sales especially of goats.
- Vaccines and cold storage facilities should be available up to Panchayat level so that quality vaccines are available on time. In addition, rates for different vaccination should be displayed for transparency.
- Men farmers acknowledged that the Backyard poultry documentary shown earlier had brought out that they had not paid attention to the income accrued from backyard poultry and goat keeping. Once they understood the income they were getting from these species, they would be more inclined towards providing proper health care to their animals and birds.
- In order to make the AHD aware of their animal health related needs, best action would be to organize livestock keepers into a group and have one voice to engage with the department.

### NGO group-



- Farmers need to organize themselves in groups so that it is cost effective for a vaccinator to provide his/her services.
- There is need for smaller packaging of vaccines suitable to the flock size kept by farmers e.g. 25 dose vaccines for PPR in goats against 200 dose vaccine presently available at block level Veterinary hospital centre.
- Since JSLPS (through its implementing NGO) was active in the region where second workshop was held, its Goat Resource Centre (GRC) could serve as vaccine, balanced feed and medicine store where farmers could get them at lower rates than open market.
- Need for locally available Pashu Sakhi (CAHWs) could be met through training women from the community provide preventive health care and first aid to goats and poultry.

From the session two discussions, it was quite clear that constraints faced by AHD had been accepted and expectations from AHD were low. However, dependence on NGOs was quite heavy especially from women groups. The NGOs need to build capacities and put systems in place that are sustainable post project period but this is something that remains to be seen.

While most wo/men farmers already pay for services the issue of free services came up in second workshop where women have been given loans to buy goats through government scheme and they expect this to be covered by government scheme as well.

Animal health issues are most predominant problems faced by wo/men farmers but surprisingly they have not taken any collective action to deal with it at panchayat level. In FGD it came out that all groups are keen to get a primary animal health centre at panchayat level but how far this is feasible given the human resources crunch in AHD is yet to be seen. However if human and animal health centre could be a combined one, at least issues of vaccine storage and cold chain issues could be taken care of.

Public extension in livestock health sector is woefully inadequate and there is dire need for AHD to address this. Lack of information or rumour of an outbreak at times leads to distress sales of animals. This has two implications- firstly, loss of revenue to the farmer as they sell healthy animals at lower than market rates from fear of these animals getting the disease and secondly sale of sick animals to cut losses leads to physical movement of animals from seller to buyer that aids the further spread of infection.

Recommendations-

• Extension of livestock health related issues including good husbandry practices are required urgently and all stakeholders- Government, Civil society and Private sector should be involved to accomplish this. These stakeholders could collaborate to work as Public private



partnership where private companies could work closely with government to undertake mass awareness programmes as their CSR activity.

• Animal Health workers need to be trained from within the community to provide basic first aid and preventive healthcare since presently vets and para

vets are few. This calls for standardized training for this cadre of workers and linking them up with AHD for referrals and remote supervision. One of the ways to institutionalize them could be in Panchayat since it is the grass-root local governance body and livestock health issues come under its domain. They could be registered with the local AHD institution at block level. This is also important for the post project sustainability of the CAHWs.

- Local NGOs and community based organizations recommended that more village level policy sensitization workshops need to be conducted by GALVmed through its partners.
- Sensitization of Private sector to penetrate this untapped market through products especially designed to meet the needs of small holder farmers should be undertaken.
- GALVmed could play a role to create a pilot (model) where Government, private sector and civil society work in tandem so that livelihoods based on livestock and poultry can be maximized.

### Acknowledgement

GALVmed would like to thank Mr Bishnu Parida- JSLPS COO, (Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society), Mr Khalid Hussain PE- Livelihoods, JSLPS and Mr BS Gupta CEO (SUPPORT) for providing logistical support to interact with wo/men farmers and NGOs. Their active participation in conducting the workshops has immensely added value to the discussions. Our thanks also go to Amit Tete (SUPPORT) for post workshop assistance in providing English translations of the group discussions carried out in Hindi.

List of participants for the workshop held in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand on 11/02/2015

S.N	Name	Group	Village
1	Sunil Kumar M Lara, Churcu		Lara, Churcu
2	Dasrath Mahto	М	Dadi, Chainpur
3	Bandhani Devi	F	Khapia, Chainpur
4	Anita Devi	F	Chainpur
5	Subasho Devi	F	Chainpur
6	Mala Devi	F	Kahpia
7	Soshan Sonwar	F	Rikba
8	Rabni Devi	F	Ganjudi, Rikba
9	Reena Devi	F	Kodwe, Royang
10	Kiran Devi	F	Kodwe, Royang
11	Santosh Kumar	Μ	Rikba
12	Mahendar Parjapati	Μ	Balsagra
13	Bihari Parjapati	М	Balsagra
14	Manoj Kumar	М	Bodra
15	Geeta Devi	F	Mandu
16	Ranjeet Kumar	М	Bodra
17	Ashok kisku	М	Bodra
18	Mohan Hasda	М	Bodra
19	Manki Kumar	F	Kanabandh
20	Phulki Devi	F	Kanabandh
21	Soniya Baske	F	Belgada
22	M. Bishni	F	Belgada
23	Mila Devi	F	Kanabandh
24	Sumanti Tudu	F	Kanabandh
25	Lalmuni Soren	F	Belgada
26	Sunita Hemrom	F	Belgadha
27	Talomuni Devi	F	Kanabandh
28	Pinki Tudu	F	Kanabandh
29	Jitan Soren	М	Kanabandh
30	Manoj kr. Yadav	М	Barhi
	Organizers		· · · · ·
31	Amit Tete	M	Hazaribagh
32	Joseph Tirky	M	Hazaribagh
34	Kanchan Lakra	F	Hazaribagh
35	Sujata Prasad	F	Hazaribagh
36	Nawin Kr. Soni	M	Hazaribagh
37	B.S Gupta	M	Hazaribagh
38	R. Prasad	M	Hazaribagh
39	Bablu Thakur	M	Hazaribagh
40	A. Kishor Parjapati	M	Hazaribagh
41	Dr. Mamta Dhawan	F	N Delhi
42	Sharmila Dutta	F	N Delhi

List of participants or the W	Vorkshop held in Angora.	Ranchi Jharkhand on 12th Feb 2015
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SNO	NAME	GROUP	VILLAGE
1	Dildar Hussain NGO		Bhonda
2	Anup NC Oraon	NGO	Katta
3	3 Ratan Kumar		Angora
4	Ajay Kumar Karmali	NGO	Khas Benti
5	Sanjanath Bhovta	NGO	Bisa
6	Roshan Lal Munda	NGO	Bisa
7	S. Vishwarana	NGO	Bisa
8	Ramchnadra Oraon	NGO	Ranchi
9	Kumar DD Sah	NGO	Ranchi
10	Aarti Devi	F	Ranchi
11	Balamdeeja Tirky	F	KakuDungri
12	Ritmani Devi	F	Getalsud
13	Jeetna Devi	F	Bhau Thukiri
14	Aitvari Oraon	F	Soso
15	Uma Kumari	F	Soso
16	Saraswati Devi	F	Buki Balora
17	Anita Devi	F	Buki Balora
18	18 Rajranai Devi		Buki Balora
19	Ahilya Devi	F	Getalsud
20	Palco Devi	F	Getalsud
21	Anita Devi	F	Getalsud
22	Akriti Devi	F	Katar Toli
23	Laxmi Devi	F	Aab Toli,
24	Malti Devi	F	Getalsud
25	Geeta Devi	F	Getalsud
26	Mamta Lohza	F	Soso
27	Nargis Parveen	F	Maheshpur
28	Saju Devi	F	Getalsud
29	Jayati Devi	F	Getalsud
30	Babita Devi	F	Ramdaba
31	Seema Devi	F	Getalsud
32	Sangeeta Devi	F	Getalsud
33	Anima Tirky	F	Resham Dam Daag
34	Sadam Devi	F	Karamtoli
35	Sonali Devi	F	Navagad
36		Basmati Devi F Gandhi Gram	
37	Kalawati Devi	F	Ramdaba
38	Sunita Devi	F	Aadhartoli

39	Manita Devi	F	Aadhartoli	
40	Christina Kajoor	F	Chalewa	
41	Anita Devi	F	Getalsud	
42	Simari Devi	F	Getalsud	
43	Diya Oraon F Getalsud		Getalsud	
44	Chan Devi F Getalsud		Getalsud	
Organizers				
45	Laxmikanth Suata	М	Angora	
46	Jogesh Kumar	М	Asa	
47	Suresh Oraon	raon M Getalsud		
48	Rajesh Munda M Gandhi Gram		Gandhi Gram	
49	Amit Tete M Hazaribagh		Hazaribagh	
50	Sanjeev M Hazaribagh		Hazaribagh	
51	Kanchan	F	Hazaribagh	
52	Sujata Prasad	F	Hazaribagh	
53	D.K. Chashi	Μ	Ranchi	
54	Vivek Anand Mehta	Μ	Ranchi	
55	Khalid Hussain	Μ	Ranchi	
56	Bishnu Parida	Μ	Ranchi	
57	Dr Mamta Dhawan	F	N Delhi	
58	Sharmila Dutta	F	N Delhi	

### A GALVmed-SUPPORT Workshop Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

#### Agenda

*Objective*: To understand the policy constraints faced by farmers in the provision of and access to livestock health products and explore how they can be empowered and supported to get their voice be heard in the policymaking processes.

This goal will be achieved by:

- 1. Enhancing the understanding of the participants' perception of policy and policy constraints
- 2. Identifying common policy issues and challenges
- 3. Prioritising issues and challenges and reaching agreement on approaches to address these

Time	Tuesday Feb10, 2015
	Meeting with SUPPORT and resource persons
	Wednesday Feb 11 2015
9.30-10.00	Participants arrive and register
10.00-11.30	<b>Opening &amp; introductions</b>
	Welcome, opening remarks and introductions by Mr Gupta
	Scene setting
	Agenda, aims & objectives of the meeting by Dr M Dhawan
	Brief presentation on GALVmed
	Sensitization movie on BY Poultry
	Introducing policy
	Q&A and brief discussion
11.30-11.45	Tea break and Group Photo
11.45-13.15	Session 1:
	Briefing for break out session and group assignment 1
	Understanding the issues and challenges around policy
	Presentations of the session 1
13.15-14.00	Lunch break
14.00-15.30	Session 2
	Briefing for break out session and group assignment 2
	Proposing Solutions and Options to address policy challenges
	Presentations of the session 2
15.30-15.45	Tea break
	Feedback and closing remarks
15.45-16.30	Resource persons meeting

# GALVmed- JSLPS Workshop RANCHI, 12 Feb 2015

### Agenda

*Objective*: To increase understanding of the policy constraints faced by farmers and the civil society in the provision of and access to livestock health products

Purpose: To explore means of supporting farmers and the civil society in articulating their needs in order to make policy decisions more inclusive

We will achieve this goal by:

- 4. Gaining perspectives from farmers and NGOs on common policy issues and challenges impeding provision of and access to livestock health products and services
- 5. Gaining insights into successful approaches/methods being used by farmers and NGOs in organising stakeholders for facilitating access to livestock health products and services
- 6. Prioritising issues and challenges and reaching agreement on approaches to address these
- 7. Jointly developing an action plan detailing practical actions for participants, NGOs and GALVmed

	Time	Thursday Feb 12 2015
	9.30-10.00	Participants arrive and register
	10.00-11.30	<b>Opening &amp; introductions</b>
		Welcome, opening remarks and introductions
		Scene setting
		Agenda, aims & objectives of the meeting
		Brief presentation on GALVmed
		Short movie on preventive health care and good practices in BY
		Poultry
		Introducing policy
		Q&A and brief discussion
	11.30-11.45	Tea break and Group Photo
	11.45-13.15	Session 1:
		Briefing for break out session and group assignment 1
-		Understanding the issues and challenges around policy
		Presentations of the session 1
-	13.15-14.00	Lunch break
	14.00-15.30	Session 2
-		Briefing for break out session and group assignment 2
		Proposing Solutions and Options to address policy challenges
-		Presentations of the session 2
	15.30-15.45	Tea break
		Feedback and closing remarks.
		Farmers can leave.
		Resource persons meeting
		Any other discussion
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# Annexure -5

### **Policy Focus Group discussions for farmer groups**

### SESSION 1 - Understanding the issues and challenges around policy

What policy related constraints do farmers and farmers'/women's groups involved in livestock

keeping encounter in the course of their livestock keeping activities?

- List the challenges on a piece of paper.
- Enable group to discuss, prioritize and rank the challenges in order of importance.
- On the flip Chart/cards *write the 4 main challenges*

### **SESSION 2 - Proposing Solutions and Options to address policy challenges**

1. What types of solutions or coping strategies could you propose to address the identified

challenges?

- a. What have you tried to solve the problem?
- b. What has worked what has not worked give examples
- 2. What key policy interventions would enable farmers and farmers'/women's groups have better access to livestock health products and services and participate in other activities along the value chain?

### Activity:

- Write down the suggested solutions to each problem on Flip carts.
- Discuss around solutions to the identified challenges.

- Which of these solutions can private sector implement without external intervention? How can farmer groups be organised in order to do this?

- Which of these solutions require external intervention, please mention type of intervention?

# Policy Focus Group discussions for NGO groups

### SESSION 1 - Understanding the issues and challenges around policy

1. From the NGO perspective, what policy related constraints do farmers and farmers'/women's groups involved in livestock keeping encounter in the course of their livestock keeping activities?

### Activity:

- List the challenges on a piece of paper.
- Enable group to discuss, prioritize and rank the challenges in order of importance.
- On the flip Chart/cards write the 4main challenges

### SESSION 2 – A) Proposing Solutions and Options to address policy challenges

- 2. What types of solutions or coping strategies could you propose to address the identified challenges?
  - a. What have you tried to solve the problem?
  - b. What has worked what has not worked give examples
- 3. What key policy interventions would enable farmers and farmers'/women's groups have better access to livestock health products and services and participate in other activities along the value chain?
- 4. In what ways can the farmers and farmers'/women's groups meaningfully have a voice and contribute in policy formulation in areas of direct relevance to their activities/work?
  - a. Have you been involved in advocacy activities related to organising farmers'/women's groups so that they have a voice? How have you done it?
  - b. What lessons have you learned? How could tried approaches be improved?

### Activity:

- Write down the suggested solutions to each problem on Flip carts.
- Discuss around solutions to the identified challenges.

- Which of these solutions can NGOs implement without external intervention? How can farmer groups be organised in order to do this?

- Which of these solutions require external intervention, please mention type of intervention?

#### B) Exploring Partnership, collaboration and synergy options among partners

5. What role do organisations such as GALVmed or other partners have in assisting NGOs and farmers to address any of these challenges

### Introduction to Policy







