Innovative Approaches to Research and Development Collaboration for Impact on Rural Livelihoods: A Case Study of the Smallholder Dairy (R&D) Project


Smallholder Dairy (R&D) Project

Jointly implemented by:
Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries Development
Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

9th KARI biennial Scientific conference, 1st Kenya Agriculture Research Forum – KARI HQ, 12th Nov. 2004
Introduction

• SDP - an integrated R&D initiative to support sustainable development of the smallholder dairy sub-sector
  – 2 phases: 97/99, 99/03 (/05)
  – Funded bilaterally – DFID/GoK
  – Implemented – MoLFD, KARI, ILRI
  – Designed - to build on coastal experiences of 1988 – 94:
    • recognized need for integrated research & development;
    • developed strong farmer-ext-research linkages
• Integ. & collab. approach was to validate development-oriented approach to dairy systems research implemented through a multi-institutional and inter-disciplinary mode (Rey et al., 1998)

• As a result - SDP to address constraints and opportunities for smallholder dairy production and marketing in the highlands (led by extension/dev but with a strong Research component)
Materials and methods

STEERING COMMITTEE
MoLFD – DLP/DVS/DPD,
KARI, ILRI, KEBS, DFID, MoH/PH
DRSK, KDPA, KENFAP, KNFC, UoN

SDP MANAGEMENT
MoLFD/KARI/ILRI
Manager
Ass. Manager
Advisor/FM

Dairy Systems Appraisal
Policy and Institutional Reforms
Validation and Dissemination
• Steering Committee (SC) meets quarterly

• Thro’ SC other stakeholders influence type of SDP research & dev activities, relevance & ensure address constraints

• Members of SC assist to institutionalise lessons from SDP collaborative activities & help to see their institution implement findings of SDP
• Monitoring & Evaluation
  – Management
  – SC ensures timely delivery of outputs as determined in the log-frame (thro’ OVI's)
  – DFID (with SDP), reviews as & when required

• Evaluations have been used to change and refocus the project's emphasis and priorities
Results and discussions

• Phase I - appraisal of the national dairy sub-sector & detailed diagnostic studies

• Phase II - diagnostic surveys

• Diagnostic surveys followed by cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys
• **Cross-section surveys** - based on agro-ecology, production system and market potential

• **Longitudinal surveys**

• **Surveys & studies** - designed to provide information relevant to major recommendation and demand domains

• **Supported** by - graduate studies, short term, issue specific studies
• SDP organises National workshops
  – Feedback, debate priorities, discuss proposals

• Outputs from studies
  – improved understanding of the production-to-consumption continuum;
  – formulation, prioritization, testing, validation of interventions and development of dissemination materials; and policy; and
  – knowledge systems issues
• Lessons
  – used to target interventions, inform and contribute to dairy policy and institutional reforms
• Due to changes SDP has increased effort towards informing on policy and institutional reforms, while delivering its other outputs
• Dairy Policy Forum (May 04, well attended & successful) – Objectives:

  – to highlight information relevant for development of Kenya’s dairy sub-sector based on evidence generated by a coalition of reputable organizations;

  – to encourage key stakeholders to acknowledge the implications of this evidence, and discuss innovative action to maximize the benefits of the dairy sub-sector for all Kenyans; and

  – to present proposals for specific policy and institutional reform, and agree on an action-plan towards such reform
• SDP Dissemination - existing institutions - public and private - using efficient mix (radio and TV soap opera, field days, pamphlets, feed-back sessions)

• Efforts to test and validate some new ideas, include activities in the following fronts:
  – Media - KBC soap operas, magazine programs and campaigns in market centres.
  – Targeted extension materials and activities
  – Testing the viability of institutions providing services
Conclusions

• Integrating R&D to address problems in the dairy sub-sector has increased the efficiency of resource utilization by:
  – shortening the time and space between problem identification, diagnosis, finding solution and feeding back the results; and
  – enabling the utilisation of multi-disciplinary teams of researchers, extension workers, farmers, service and input providers and others in a consultative way
• Collaborating with partners (+ others over SC – NGOs, Int. org) has:
  – boosted the credibility of the results
  – allowed wider dissemination of information and technologies to beneficiaries and users
  – also increased the chances of better targeting, informing and influencing policy reforms
• Partnerships have:
  – saved on resources, both financial and capital;
  – contributed towards capacity building and enhancement for those people and institutions involved; and
  – also made the collaborators achieve more than they could individually
• Recommendations:
  – ensure integ. & collab. approach to R&D and working partnerships by SDP are sustained beyond the project life
  – management structures & model - SC and an inter-institutional management team be internalised through existing MoUs (MoLFD, KARI and ILRI)
  – KARI take lead role to steer process
Acknowledgement:

SDP has succeeded due to financial support by the Kenya Government, through MoLFD and KARI, and the British Government, through DFID and the effort of many MoLFD, KARI and ILRI staff who have put up with the demands of the project’s activities.