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## **Competitive smallholder livestock in Botswana**

**Report of the second project partners meeting**

**27/02/2014**

**Gaborone, Botswana**

## **Abbreviations**

<b>ACIAR</b>	<b>Australian Center for International Agricultural Research</b>
<b>BIDPA</b>	<b>Botswana Institute of Development and Policy Analysis</b>
<b>BNVL</b>	<b>Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory</b>
<b>BMC</b>	<b>Botswana Meat Commission</b>
<b>CICE</b>	<b>Center In-service and Continuing Education</b>
<b>DABP</b>	<b>Department of Agricultural Business Promotion</b>
<b>DAR</b>	<b>Department of Agricultural Research</b>
<b>MOA</b>	<b>Ministry of Agriculture</b>
<b>ILRI</b>	<b>International Livestock Research Institute</b>



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The partner workshop gathered various over 22 participants of local partners with the objectives of updating partners on the projects past activities, share planned and ongoing activities in 2014-2015, (re) introduce the project to new partners, discuss how strengthen partnership of the project to better build capacity needed to enhance the competitiveness of smallholder livestock production in Botswana.
- There is an overall appreciation that this project by partners. Most partners note that the project presents a great initiative by focus on competitiveness presents in smallholder setting in scientific way.
- Most of the project activities are up-to date. While there were delays in finalizing the animal health serological tests results and the participatory epidemiology reports, Dr. Kawonga noted that the lab tests results finalized soon. Breed related work is coming together. A committee of breed experts was identified and planned activities were share with the partners. Policy related activities were shared by BIDPA key contact.
- Partners identified and discussed key ingredients to strengthen the partnership. Discussion centered on improving communication, clearly defining roles and having a shared goal. Partners identified their role and contributions that they will bring to the projects.
- The completion of detailed survey of over 600 household was highlighted a major activity in 2013. DAR shared field level experiences related to the data collection exercise including challenges faced by enumerators. Partners expressed excitement over the planned policy conference toward the end of the year.



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## 1. Project summary

### 1.1. Background

The smallholder livestock sector produces most of Botswana's meat and over 70% of the country's agricultural gross domestic product. Although past policy and research have focused on the beef export sector, rather little information has been generated on the circumstances and potential of the 80,000 smallholders who own most of the country's cattle, and the 100,000 households that earn livelihoods from sheep and goats. This leaves strategies and investments for rural development and livelihood generation without a basis in data and analysis.

For both cattle and small ruminants, more competitive smallholder systems can improve livelihoods. Several factors constrain the production and marketing of surpluses by smallholders: poor animal health is one example that is often made worse by the complexities of communal grazing and by limited access to services.

This 3-year research project (*Enhancing the Competitiveness of Smallholder Livestock in Botswana*) engages partners in research, industry and government to address the following three questions:

- (1) What are the characteristics of smallholder livestock producers in Botswana?
- (2) What factors constrain their livelihoods?
- (3) How can livestock-related marketing systems in Botswana be improved for the benefit of smallholders and the rural population?

### 1.2 Project objectives:

The project objectives are to:

1. Better define smallholder livestock production systems and to identify the factors affecting the productivity of smallholder livestock producers and assess their competitiveness



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2. Understand and improve conditions for market participation and value addition in markets for livestock, livestock products and inputs
3. Strengthen the capacity of agricultural education and b extension

### **1.3 Project main partners**

The main partners of the project are:

1. Botswana Ministry of Agriculture
2. Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis
3. International Livestock Research Institute

### **1.4. Project Donor**

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

### **1.5 Duration**

September 2012 to 31 August 2015

## **4. Objectives of the workshop:**

The objectives of the workshop were centered on:

1. (Re) introducing the project to (new) partners
2. Updating partners on past project activities
3. Presenting and discussing planned project activities for 2014-2015
4. Strengthening partnership and collaboration

## **5. Workshop opening remarks**

### **a. Welcoming remarks**

In her welcoming notes and introduction, Dr. Mahabile, Director of Animal Production and Rangeland Research at the Department of Agricultural Research (DAR), thanked participants for participating in the project partner meeting.



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She applauded the sponsor of the project - Australian Government, through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and thanked International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in their contribution in implementing the project. After noting the main objectives of the meeting, she reminded the stakeholders that the forum presents stakeholders with an opportunity to be updated with project progress since 2012 to date, discuss and develop strategies to produce and better communicate information generated from the project.

b. Opening remarks

In his opening remarks, Mr. Boweditswe Masilo, Director of Department of Agricultural Business Promotion, commended the project team for organizing the project partner meeting. He emphasized his department and MOA commitment to the project and any initiatives that raise competitiveness of smallholder farmers for that matter.

He mentioned that he was involved when the project started in 2011, but due to ministerial engagements became less engaged as activities of the project kick-started in 2012. He indicated that he is aware that the project has broad aspect to undertake, but aimed at smallholder being competitive. Despite that, Mr. Masilo noted that he regularly gets updates from the ILRI staff and the project coordinator, Dr. Bahta. He further reiterated the importance for all the partners to give their best and the importance of record keeping in our communication so that the project can succeed to increase the quality and quantity of smallholder market participation.

## 6. Workshop proceedings

a. **Presentation on the project: Past, current and upcoming activities**

**Dr. Sirak Bahta:** After mentioning the main objectives of the meeting and (re) introducing the project, Dr. Bahta, ACIAR/ILRI/MOA project coordinator briefly explained the past and upcoming project activities. In his presentation, Dr. Bahta, said the main focus of the project in 2014 will be on marketing, feed and breeding activities. He further noted the following activities:



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- Completion of a detailed household survey in three districts in 2013 and data base over 600 households is ready for analysis.
- The database has been used for profit efficiency analysis and results will be presented in international conference (IFAMA) and Dr. Bahta presented the preliminary results at DAR.
- Feed Availability Assessment Tool (FEAST) training has been conducted and the project has trained 30 extension officers from animal production department and some researchers from DAR.
- Discussions and planning on feed experiment with BMC are ongoing.

#### **b. Presentation on breeding Activity**

##### **Dr. Siboniso Moyo**

Dr. Moyo highlighted the planned activities for the breeding component and underlined that a core team responsible for breeding (DAR, ILRI, and BCA) will meet and develop a detailed work plan of the activities.

The main activities in the plan include the following: 1. literature review on breed performance; 2. consult with decision makers, on how breeding systems and services work; 3. conduct focused group discussions with field level service providers and users. 4. Extraction of relevant data from the baseline survey on breed choices, use and services; 5. prepare an update on how the sector has moved from the Livestock Improvement Act of 2009 to the current set up? 6. Inclusion of the breed component in the feedlot studies; 7. completion of 2-3 research outputs from the breeding component work; 8. recommend components of a breeding strategy to improve the competitiveness of the smallholder beef cattle in Botswana. The plan is that these should be concluded by end of 2014.

#### **c. Presentation on data collection: Sample coverage and challenges**

**Mr. Alec Makgekenene** explained the process and experience of household data collection. He noted that the survey was conducted in three districts of Botswana, namely South East, Central and Chobe, and it covers over 600 livestock farm households. He further mentioned the tasks, such as requesting for



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farmer names from the MOA, random selection of farmers from the list provided by MOA and the pretesting of the questionnaire, accomplished before the survey is conducted. The survey was conducted together two supervisors and fifteen enumerators from BCA. He shared with partners some of the challenges experienced in the collection of the data.

#### **d. Presentation on animal health:**

**Dr. Kawonga** from BNVL updated the project partners on blood and serum tests. She noted that the lab testing is in its final phase of data entry and compiling the results. She mentioned that the laboratory sent some of the samples to South Africa for Leptospirosis test and they are expecting the result to arrive soon.

**Dr. Katjuongua (Epi)** updated partners on three 3 broad animal health activities of the project: (1) disease prevalence study (cattle and small ruminants) based on serological tests and participatory epidemiology (PE) reports. From this the project will aim to draft a list of and ranking diseases that are significant in smallholder livestock system; (2) household data and information will be used to assess animal health delivery services and the financial /economic burden of various animal diseases at household level (3) based on (1) and (2), define candidate priority disease interventions. She mentioned that the project would make effort to collaborate with local research scientists and researchers from NVL on the different research outputs related to animal health and disease.

Furthermore, based on the PE reports and serological test results, another refresher training course will be conducted by Dr. Saskia Hendrickx once all the results are submitted.

Finally, Dr. Katjuongua informed the partners that a proposal for second project focusing on small ruminants, both on animal health and marketing of small ruminants is currently being prepared.

#### **e. Presentation BIDPA's contribution to the project**

**Dr. Patrick Malope** discussed key research areas that BIDPA will contribute to the project. (1) The role of collective action in enhancing smallholder livestock competitiveness in Botswana. This includes investigating questions on how to increase collective action, identifying the best forms of collective



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action and constraints to collective action in Botswana (2) public and private provision of livestock services to smallholder livestock farmers by investigating the role of Livestock Advisory Service (LACs) and its impacts on private sector development, (3) assessing the regional trade opportunities for Botswana livestock sector, and (4) leading a policy conference to be held in Gaborone toward the end of the year subject to funding.

#### **f. Presentation on partnership and communications**

**Dr. Katjiungua (Epi)** and **Dr. Siboniso Moyo** gave a short briefing on how the project and its partners can enhance their partnership and communicate project outputs effectively. Dr. Siboniso explained on how ILRI and its partners in other projects in Southern Africa work in partnership and communicates within and outside of the project countries.

Most of the participants reiterated the importance of effective communication means to increasing awareness of the project activities among livestock farm communities.

## **7. Discussions**

The section below summarizes some discussions around various topics during the workshop program:

- a. General:** There was a general appreciation of the project and its objectives.
  - Dr. Sam Madibela of BCA noted his appreciations that it is the first time that these issues are being examined in a scientific way at this scale in a smallholder setting in Botswana.
  - All the partners committed to 2-3 roles that their organization can bring to the partnership (see appendix 1)
- b. Public and Private Provision of Livestock Services:**
  - The importance for the private sector to take up the role of service delivery was discussed. Mr. Masilo noted that it is equally important to find ways to prevent collusion and assure quality when promoting private sector to provide service delivery.



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- Mr. Masilo further noted the importance to harmonize and develop standards to foster regional trade together with the private sector.
- Some participants asked whether policy is helping or undermining the growth of the private sector in the provision of services in the livestock sector.

**c. Communication with farmers:**

- Dr. Ferran, Representative of CIRAD, stressed the importance of using new technologies to inform and build capacity of farmers. He gave example of using cellular phones and messaging on information related to animal disease and prices. For example, Orange and a partner in Zimbabwe and with collaboration through CICE are proposing such a service for Botswana.
- -BCA noted the importance of to improve awareness about breeds and their performance through good messaging.

**d. Animal health and disease:**

- Dr.Ferran, noted that the willingness of CIRAD to collaborate with ILRI and local partners on animal health. Such collaboration could include (1) doing further testing on existing blood samples, (2) working with two M.Sc. students in Botswana and (3) mapping the distribution of tick-borne diseases in Botswana. He also noted that CIRAD is open for co-analysis of current data.
- Some of the questioned directed to BNVL were: (1) does the timing of blood sampling take into account the impact of seasonality on disease in animals? (2) how long it took for the blood samples to arrive at the NVL in Gaborone and whether the timing would have influenced 'quality'?
- Dr. Kowanga briefly explained NVL' procedures and logistics



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- BMC representative, Dr. Biotumelo, mentioned that measles is a big problem in Botswana and reiterated the importance following up and further research to study the magnitude of the disease in Botswana.
- Endo-parasites were noted as potential problem in the livestock sector of Botswana and participants agreed the need for further detailed study as the current sampling system is based only on animals that show the sign of the disease.

**e. Breed component:**

- Mr. Masilo noted that the Ministry of agriculture is concerned about breed and productivity of cattle in Botswana.
- Dr. Ferran questioned the comparison basis when discussing calving rate and growth rates with respect to animal performance in Botswana. He further reiterated the importance of using an appropriate and globally acceptable method of comparison.
- A discussion on the need for a support system for breeding services arose. For example, conducting proper recording, especially for breeders (stud) was raised. But some participants questioned whether stud breeders are part of smallholders.
- Participants recommended that there is need to find ways to get (1) farmers to work together and (2) to develop standards for breeders.
- BCA noted the importance of improving awareness about breeds and their performance through good messaging.

**f. The role of collective action:**

- On the discussion of collective action presented by Dr. Malope, Dr. Lepetu of CICE noted that is importance of integrating cultural and customary aspects of the society with the study of collective action.



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- Dr. Mogome-Maseko recommended if BIDPA shares its proposal with other partners so that BCA and others can provide input.
- Dr. Ferran of CIRAD noted the importance of market segmentation and production differentiation (to give incentive) in striking a balance between the livestock production and environment. Ideas related to labeling of products made from animals procured from livestock communities who are engaged in protecting the environment and wildlife should be looked into.

**g. Smallholder in Botswana:**

- There was a discussion on the definition of smallholder in Botswana. Questions arose in the different criteria for defining a smallholder in Botswana and how this fit with existing definition of different sizes of farmers in Botswana. In general, it was concluded that through the data and information collected, the project will enrich and broaden the definition of smallholder farmers in Botswana beyond location and herd size, with various household factors including asset base, other household characteristics, income sources, farm management practices and efficiency indicators.

**h. Group Discussion on building strong partnerships**

Finally workshop participants were divided into four groups to discuss ideas on (1) key ingredients needed to strengthen partnership and (2) What each partner can bring to the project (see table 1). Among the key ingredients discussed include:

1. Effective communication. In addition, it was noted that we need to find better ways and different media options to communicate about the project, findings from the research and to build capacity among stakeholders.
2. Having a shared common goal
3. Openness, transparency and honesty
4. Sharing of information and acknowledgement of contributions.



5. Early consultation about the project (activities)
6. Flexibility to adapt
7. Bringing on board new partners to meet project objectives

## 8. Action plans

1. The project team needs to share ideas and ways on how to bring on board new stakeholders who were not on board from the beginning of the project. We need to involve and inform some stakeholders who were not at project inception.
2. Meet with new head of BCA to request the nomination of focal person from BCA agricultural economics department to the project. Sirak will follow up with a formal official letter and a visit to BCA
3. Breed work
  - a. We need to involve BCA. Boni will follow up with Prof. " Nsoso
  - b. Boni will draft a plan for the breed activity and share it with the core breed team/committee
4. There is a need to link conceptualization of methods by BIDPA for their deliverables to the project log frames (for the relevant activities)
5. Collaboration with CIRAD: We need to meaningfully follow up and build on our relations with CIRAD, especially on work related to animal health and strengthen the relationship.
6. Communication with farmers:
  - a. Sirak to follow up on the proposal with Orange telecom and network provider (check with Dr. Lepetu).
  - b. Follow up on the technological innovations in disseminating information and discuss with Dr. Joyce Lepetu.
7. Policy conference:



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It is important to plan for it, but we need to look for funding and at other projects to co-sponsor participants from the region including. The project team discussed the following possibilities:

- a. ACIAR project in South Africa
- b. ACIAR - ZimCliffs project in Zimbabwe
- c. IFAD Swaziland and Mozambique
- d. CIRAD
- e. Follow up with ACIAR for participation and possible funding to expand the conference.

With regard to conference, Sirak and Epi to follow up with BIDPA:

Specific issues to cogitate include:

- Come up with a working number of participants;
- Date: consider presidential election in Botswana and ILRI Board meeting (1-5 Nov);
- Key note speaker: Mr. Masilo can help with identifying of a keynote speaker and dignitaries to attend the conference;
- Venue and lunch provision and clarify what BIDPA can provide;

8. Environment:

a. Even though the project does not have an environmental component, we need to think through on the environment aspects (esp. for feed). Engage with extension on issues related to overgrazing and grazing, explore possible collaboration with ILRI's Dryland Systems CRP, and the FAO's Agenda for Action.

b. We need to ask the extension officers trained on FEAST to investigate the grazing lands/over grazing/range land management issues. Overall, the project and its partners need to show consciousness on the issues related to the environment.

9. Small ruminant proposal:

- Epi and Sirak to follow up with Dr. Tobitso on existing data and work done by CICE on goat value chain, and for their input.

### Appendix 1: Key contributions by partners to the project

Partner	Contact	Key roles and contributions:
CICE (BCA)	Dr. Joyce Lepeto	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist in coordinating capacity building (training and extension)</li> <li>2. Linking environment aspect training (fodder trees for livestock production). Contribute to how best to mobilize communities to conserve their communal areas and adapt to climate change.</li> </ol>
DAR	Dr. Mehabile	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research and technology transfer</li> <li>2. Research on livestock feeds and feeding.</li> </ol>
BCA	Dr. Madibela	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research and technology transfer</li> <li>2. Research on livestock feeds and feeding.</li> <li>3. Extension education.</li> <li>4. Internal parasites of small stock research.</li> </ol>
Department of Agribusiness	Mr. B. Masilo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Play a role of focal person of the project at the MOA</li> <li>2. Assist in communicating project outputs with MOA staffs</li> </ol>
CIRAD	Dr. J. Ferran	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capacity building through research with student at BCA.</li> <li>2. Partnering on research on animal health and further testing of blood samples (design, analysis of data and interpretation).</li> <li>3. Explore future ways of collecting and sharing information with farmers and other stakeholders (e.g. cellphone technologies)</li> </ol>
BIDPA	Dr. P. Malope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to the project studies on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Role of Collective Action in Enhancing Smallholder Livestock Competitiveness in Botswana</li> </ol> </li> </ul>



		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public and private provision of livestock services to smallholder livestock farmers: an examination of LACs</li> <li>Regional trade opportunities for Botswana livestock sector</li> </ol>
DAR	Mrs. L. Phiri	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to project implementation through undertaking some of the activities (e.g., breeding)</li> <li>Sharing of information and giving feedback where it is needed.</li> </ol>
BNVL	Dr. M. Kawonga	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide background information/data on projects' diseases of interest, i.e. disease trends</li> <li>Conduct testing for various diseases.</li> <li>Participate in capacity building for extension staff and farmers</li> <li>Manage sample bank for future analysis</li> </ol>
BMC	Dr Biotumelo Mogome Maseko	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact person of the project at BMC</li> <li>Promote information on slaughter and post mortem data = historical and present</li> <li>Collaborate on production systems (feedlot and back grounding)</li> <li>Marketing issues (intelligence, market analysis and market realization)</li> </ol>
ILRI	Dr. H. Katjuongua, Dr. S. Bahta and Dr. S Moyo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assure implementation of project activities to reach objectives.</li> <li>Communicate and consult with partners.</li> <li>Identify key capacity development areas and actions.</li> </ol>



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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Share data and research outputs</li> <li>5. Contribute to the breeding component</li> <li>6. Supervise students</li> <li>7. Facilitate linkages to other beef value chain projects in the region (Swaziland, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe)</li> </ol>
DAR	Leonard Baleseng, Refilwe Metlhaleng and Alec Makgekgenene	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support project coordination</li> <li>2. Feed lot trial</li> <li>3. Data collection</li> </ol>

## Appendix 2: List of participants

	Organization	Name
1.	CICE (BCA)	Dr. Joyce Lepetu
2.	DAR	Dr. Mehabile
3.	BCA	Dr. Madibela,
4.	BCA	Dr. S.J Nsoso
5.	DABP	Mr. B. Masilo
6.	DABP	Mr. Police Nkhori
7.	CIRAD	Dr. J. Ferran
8.	BIDPA	Dr. P. Malope
9.	DAR	Mrs. L Phiri
10.	BNVL	Dr. Mercy W Kawonga
11.	BNVL	Mr. Tshelofelo Kooshengete
12.	BMC	Dr. Biotumelo Mogome Maseko
13.	ILRI	Dr. H. Katjuongua,
14.	ILRI	Dr. S. Bahta
15.	ILRI	Dr. S. Moyo
16.	DAR	Mr. Leonard Baleseng, and
17.	DAR	Mr. Mogomotsi Keoletile
18.	DAR	Mrs. Refilwe Metlhaleng
19.	DAR	Mr. Alec Makgekgenene
20.	DAR	Mr. Machacha
21.	DAR	Mr. Rapaka
22.	BCA	Dr. C. Tsopito



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Project title: Competitive smallholder livestock in Botswana

Facilitator: Dr. W. Mahabile

Project Partner meeting program, 27 February, Gaborone, Botswana

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Welcome	09:00 am - 09:10 am	Dr. W. Mahabile
Opening remarks	09:10 am- 09:20 am	Mr. B. Masilo, Director of Agri Business Promotion
Introducing partners and ILRI colleagues	09:20 am - 09:30 am	Dr. W. Mahabile
Introduction of the project and project past and planned activities	09:30 am – 10:10am	Dr. Sirak Bahta
Coffee break	10:10 am -10:25 am	Coffee break
Breeding Activity	10:25 am -10:45 am	Dr. Siboniso Moyo, Mr. M.Keoteile, Mrs. L. Phiri
Animal health activity	10:45 am -11:00 am	Dr. Kaunga (BNVL)
Animal health research outputs and next project	11:00 am-11:25 am	Dr. Katjuongua Hikuepi (Epi)(ILRI),
Studies on Roles for Co-operatives, Public and Private service provision and Regional Trade Opportunities	11:25 am -11:45 am	Prof. Patrick Malope (BIDPA)
Partnership and communications	11:45 am -12:30 pm	Dr. Katjuongua Hikuepi (Epi)(ILRI), Dr. Siboniso Moyo, Dr. W. Mahabile
Lunch	12:30 pm -1:30 pm	Lunch
Data collection: Sample coverage and challenges	1:30 pm -01:55pm	Dr. D. Marumo (BCA)/ Mr. Alec Makgekgenene (DAR)
Discussion	1:55 pm -02:30 pm	All
Coffee break	02:30 pm - 02:45 pm	Coffee Break
Discussion	02:45 pm - 03:45 pm	All
Closing remarks	03:45pm-04:00pm	Mr. D. Machacha