Characterisation of smallholder red meat production and marketing systems in Maputo and Limpopo Corridor in Mozambique: Results of a baseline study

S.C.J. Hendrickx, F.R. Maute and D. Cunhete

The project, Pro-poor value chain development project in the Maputo and Limpopo corridors (PROSUL) was designed with the overall goal to establish improved and climate-resilient livelihoods of small farmers in selected districts of the Maputo and Limpopo corridors for three targeted value chains (horticulture, cassava and red meat).

In the three target value chains, PROSUL will address key production, processing and marketing constraints, with a view to improve farmers ability to deliver the qualities and quantities required to respond to market opportunities without jeopardizing household food security, build their profit and strengthen their position in the value chain governance.

The main target group consists of the economically active poor who are already involved in value chain production (existing cassava, horticulture and livestock producers) and are able to produce a surplus. Women will constitute a direct target group in each value chain.

The secondary target group will include (i) (emergent) commercial farmers, i.e. medium and large farmers, mainly geared to commercial production and who have stable linkages to markets; (ii) traders, and in particular meat traders who will get better organised with project support; (iii) private investors interested in financing joint ventures with smallholders, among others.

In addition there will be around 10,000 indirect beneficiaries in various sectors of the value chains.

This research brief presents a summary of the results of a baseline study carried out in August 2014 in the target districts for the red meat component to characterize cattle and goat production and marketing systems. The study also identified the main production- and marketing-related constraints faced by the red meat value chain actors. Based on these constraints, a number of interventions are recommended to improve production and marketing in the target districts.

Methodology

In August 2014, a participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) was conducted in the red meat target districts: Magude and Manhiça in Maputo province; and Chókwe, Chicualacuala, Guijá, Mabalane and Massingir in Gaza province. In addition, interviews were conducted with key informants in each district.

The objectives of the study were:

- To characterize the production systems of cattle, goats and sheep as well as existing aspects of marketing and processing (actors and issues);
- Identify the needs, opportunities, environmental risks and threats involved in the production of cattle, goats and sheep, their marketing and processing;
- To confirm and finalize the plan of interventions for the project based on the findings.

The Red Meat component of the PROSUL project will be implemented in 7 districts with 5,600 smallholders keeping cattle, goats and sheep (even if the number of sheep is very small). The PRA covered two communities in the same administrative post per district with high livestock production and marketing potential. These were selected based on two criteria:
  - Distance to the local market;
  - Distance from the (main) road.

In total eight producer groups were interviewed (276 livestock keepers, 149 men and 127 women) as well as 27 key informants.

Project area

Results

The main findings are:

1. **Livelihoods**
   - Livestock rearing is an important source of livelihoods in the target districts. The main sources of income of households in the project areas are agriculture, the sale of cattle and goats and selling of charcoal. In districts where markets are better developed or close to larger towns, livestock becomes the most important source of livelihoods.
   - The main reasons for keeping cattle are: animal traction, sales, ceremonies, consumption of milk and a bank. For goats and sheep the main reasons are: sales, consumption of meat, ceremonies and milk (for goats only).

2. **Production**
   - Livestock production is not market oriented and animals are kept mostly as a potential source of income for recurring expenses and especially emergencies or household meat consumption during special occasions (for goats). High demand such as around end of year also influences farmers to sell more as the prices are higher.
   - The main challenges in cattle and goat rearing are: lack of pasture, theft, diseases, limited access to water and floods.
   - Improved husbandry practices regarding feeding, breeding and watering practices are limited in most areas or even completely absent in some.
• Limited pasture especially in August, September and October is a major constraint to livestock production especially because no supplementation is done.
• There is no rangeland management and only one group had land use rights (DUAT) for their communal grazing area. However, livestock keepers have a good understanding of the forage species eaten by animals.
• No supplementation of draught animals is done impacting on the acreage of land they can plough.
• Disease incidence is a major constraint for increasing goat productivity.
• Veterinary services are limited. The public sector has very limited numbers of veterinary personnel as well as heavily under-resourced. There are hardly any immersion dip tanks functional. The cover of private veterinary services is confined to urban areas. Most project areas are also constrained by the absence of electricity, making it difficult to keep vaccines that are cold chain dependent.
• The main diseases or syndromes affecting livestock are paralysis, tick-borne diseases, diarrhea, and Lumpy Skin Disease and abscesses for cattle and diarrhea, mange, rickettsiosis, hoof problems and sores in the mouth (Ecthyma contagiosa) for goats.

3. Commercialization
• There is a sales peak in November / December and a smaller peak in June. The main peak at the end of the year is driven by the end of year holiday season when prices firm up.
• The sales occur primarily at the homesteads. Only in Magude has a cattle fair. In other districts there are aggregation points of animals (eg Mapai, Mabalane headquarters and Chinhacanine).
• The selling price of an animal was determined based on the age and body condition. The price for a bull can vary between 5,000 and 16,500MT and big oxen between 20,000 and 30,000MT each. For goats, prices vary between 500 and 1,500MT.

4. Gender and household aspects
• All household members are involved in the husbandry practices, albeit with different patterns between male- and female-headed households.
• The women participate at all levels of the chain of both cattle and goats but there are activities that are exclusively made by men e.g. animal transport. Women have an important role in the chain as buyers of cattle.
• The study showed that women still face difficulties in negotiating prices as the prices they mentioned were lower than those of men. This is most likely due to the fact that pricing is characterized by social bias (gender, status, etc.) reflecting differences in access and power in local markets.
• Participation of youth exists but as part of the household. The boys herd cattle and often work as intermediaries or at slaughter. This is for youths from 15-19 years. Between 19-30 years, the youth are sporadically involved in marketing (local trade and moving livestock to markets).
5. **Climate Change**

The main environmental risks are related to droughts and floods.

**Recommendations**

The results of this study will not change much the proposed intervention logic as proposed by the lead service provider (see figure below). However, there will be the following changes:

- Feasibility study for slaughterhouse and its construction – this is no longer be done by the lead service provider.
- The assessments and the construction of dams and boreholes will have to be done by specialists hired by CEPAGRI, not with the lead service provider.

**Intervention logic**

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