

Improving the Livelihoods of Poor Livestock-keepers in Africa through Community-Based Management of Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resources

BENIN 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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2- Refreshment

Project activities and sub-activities are summarized in the table below.

Year	2004	2005				2006				2007		
Quarters	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Activity and sub-activities												
➤ (General - recruitment of project staff) Recruitment, preparation for subsequent recruitment and/or confirmation of project staff (project manager, graduate fellows, NPO, SNR, field enumerators)												
➤ (General – project workshops) Annual project planning and review workshops												
➤ (General – project reports) Annual & final reports												
Activity 1: Identification of communities, priority breeds/species and PRA surveys												
• Collect and analyze existing secondary data												
• Stakeholder discussion and planning seminars & workshops												
• Survey instrument design, pre-testing and sample selection												
• Training of enumerators												
• Livestock-keeper breed surveys												
• Identification of in-depth study locations and priority breeds												
Activity 2 (previously Sub-Activity 2.2): Community-based action research ---Community-based management framework development, establishment, monitoring and assessment												
• Development and establishment												
• Monitoring and assessment												
Activity 3: Analysis of the economic, market and policy factors influencing the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR.												
• Survey instrument design, pre-testing and sample selection												
• Training of enumerators												
• Producer, market and consumer surveys												
• Policy analyses												
Activity 4: Capacity building and dissemination												
• Graduate Fellowships												
• On-the-job training, training courses and workshops (national and community-level)												
• Stakeholder involvement in project planning based on on-going project activity results												
• Reports, theses, scientific papers, etc.												
• Dissemination workshop												

Source: BMZ full proposal ILRI_CBM AnGR

Five quarters (of which four for 2005) are completed since the project has started with rural communities' involvement. At the end of each quarter, Benin team used to evaluate the level of activities execution and then plans the following quarter. The “PIC” approach is applied at every stage of the implementation.

3- Achievements

3.1 Activity1: Identification of communities, priority breeds/species and PRA surveys

Feed-back of the informal PRA results to each community

A PRA was conducted in the last term of 2004 through the south and the centre of zones of Benin. The feed-back of the informal PRA results has provided an additional opportunity to contact local authorities and discuss with them those results and the project implementation as well as the selected communities to work with.

In-depth participatory survey within target local communities revealed that:

- Natural resources are disappearing
- Natural vegetation is sparse,
- Soils are naked and of low fertility,
- An inexhaustible little river is available in a low ground soil. This offers an opportunity to produce maize and vegetables in dry season.
- Wildlife is quite scarce,
- Soils are continuously exploited to produce annual and perennial crops, resulting in low harvest.

In addition, human activities consist in:

- Cropping,
- Animal breeding,
- Local trade,
- Handicraft,
- Processing,
- Palm wine extraction,
- Hunting.

Further, detail maps of the research locations were drawn with the support of Laboratory of Remote Sensing of the Faculty of Agronomy, University of Abomey-Calavi.

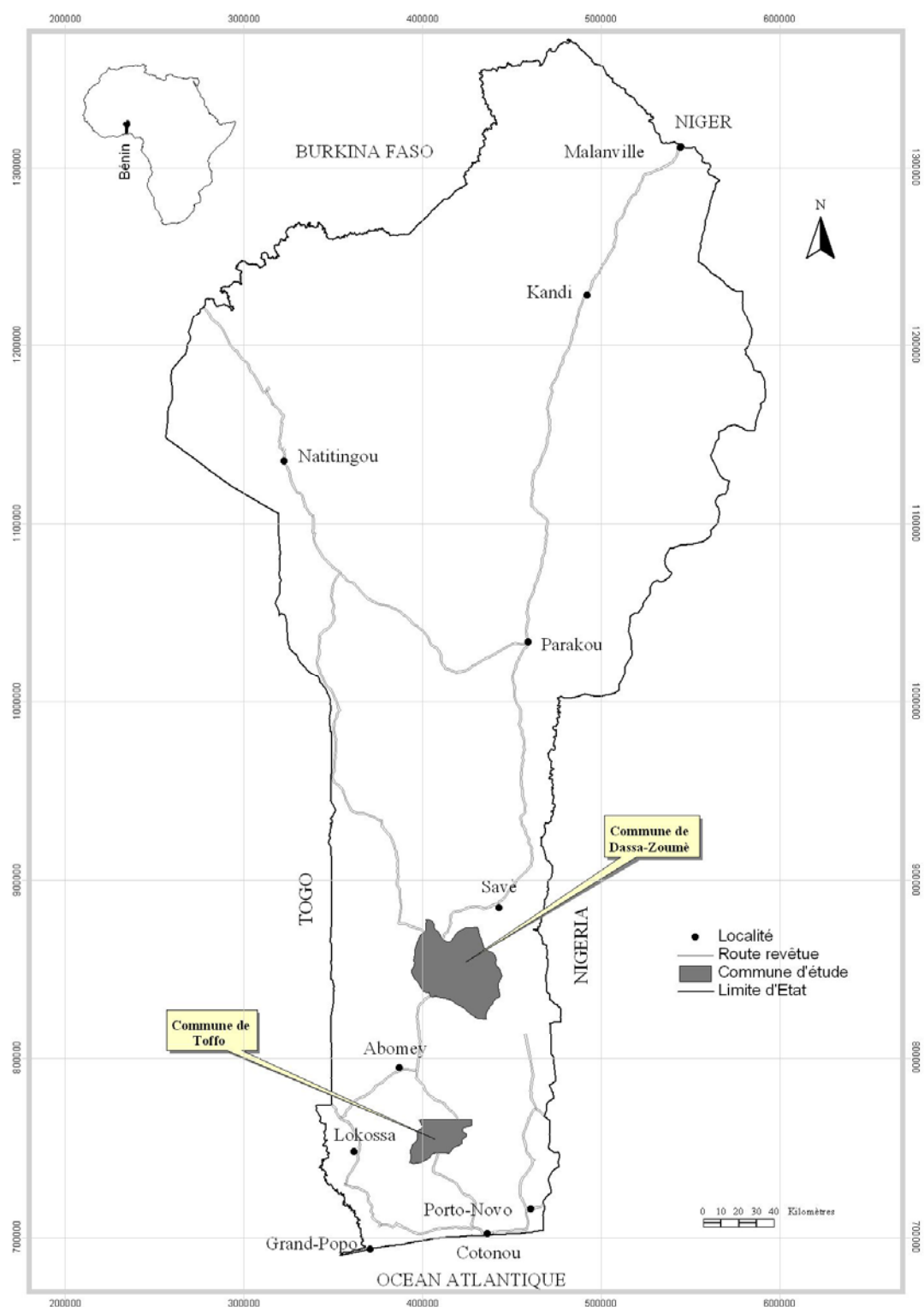


Figure 1. Research sites localisation in Benin : Dassa-Zoumè and Toffo

- Wealthy classes determination

Wealth ranking of the communities members and criteria which determine wealthy classes are listed below.

Local Criteria for Well-being could be synthesized as follow:

- Size of cashew tree plantation equal of superior to 5 ha
- Possession of car and/or motorbike
- House made of clay or brick with corrugated iron roof
- Possession and number of houses in urban area
- Number of wives (>3) and children (>8)
- Capacity to send their children to school
- Ownership of cattle herd and/or oxen
- Possession of mills
- Scarce food shortage
- Employing others as man power in cropping activities.

Poorest are identified with the following criteria:

- Clay dwelling with thatched roof
- Frequent food shortage
- Few children (max. 5)
- Children do not reach secondary school
- Have no land ownership or land size less than one ha
- Frequently employed by other families in cropping activities
- Children grown up by other families
- Daughters are involved in forced wedding

Except those two social classes, poor and rich are two middle cases distinguished by the farmers. From a sample size of 146, it comes out that 20% are considered to belong to the richest class, 30% to the rich class, 23% are poor and 27% poorest. Rich households keep more livestock species than poor one.

Livestock species/breed existing in the communities were elicited

Informal PRA results showed that livestock reared were ruminants (goats, sheep, and cattle), poultry (chicken, duck, guinea fowl, pigeon) and pig, while grass-cutter and rabbit were recently introduced. Irrespective of the location, the priorities in term of species were ranked as chicken and goats. Sheep shared the third position in Toffo and the 5th position after cattle and pig in Dassa. However, cattle and pig are owned only by a very few proportion of women. Consequently, these species could be considered as less relevant than sheep for the resource-poor people.

For community-based actions, 30 herds of goat and 30 flocks of chicken were chosen for monitoring purposes.

Identification of breeding goals and commitment on breeding goal values and predictors with the farmers are in progress. The observed lateness was due to farmers who were busy with cropping activities.

3.2 Activity 2: Community-based action research ---Community-based management framework development, establishment, monitoring and assessment

Recruitment and training of enumerators

One enumerator per community was recruited. The most important criteria for that were: acceptance to live continuously in the concern site, aptitude in reading and speaking French and ability to speak common language of the community.

Characterization of selected villages

Change in livestock species and production systems were discussed with village elders. It came out that grazing area and available drinking water were decreasing; local breeds of goat and chicken were disappearing and exotic breeds became more available; number of human and animal diseases has increased; higher rates of mortality were recorded. The enumerated reasons are: land shortage for cropping, high development of urban drift, introducing animal from other parts of the country or from outside, lack of respect to indigenous laws.

Identifying and characterizing different production systems

This sub-activity has been completely achieved for goat. The average household flock was 8.2 (8.6 for the richest, 10.8 for the rich, 8.2 for the poor and 4.4 for the poorest).

- More than 90% of households preferred local average legs goat as in DASSA and in TOFFO
- Diseases appeared as major constraints face to lack of housing, failure in feeding, theft, lack of capital, early disposal of animals and limited access to market.
- There is a poor breed description of goat; only Meyer (2002) described three breeds: African dwarf goat (short legs), Sahelian (long legs) and cross-breeding products.



Long legged type from North Benin

Very short legged type in Dassa and Toffo

Local average legged type in Dassa and Toffo

- Reproductive and productive traits preferred by the farmers are: litter size, animal size, good mothering and diseases resistance.
- Formal markets do not play any role in breed stock acquisition. Enumerated sources for breed stock acquisition were village keepers, neighboring villages, other regions, formal market and care taking.
- Irrespective of the location, sale and ceremonies purposes are the main reasons for offtake.

From the rank given to “limited access to market”, it appears that farmers restrict their concern to production point of view.

In chicken, major constraints are killing diseases, theft, lack of feed and water during dry seasons, depredation, low market price. They are raised in a freely range system.

3.3 Activity 3: Analysis of the economic, market and policy factors

In this activity context, data on breeding system, market and consumers are required.

Secondary data collection and analysis

It consisted in gathering available information on livestock and livestock products supply and demand in Benin. Goat and chicken were specifically focused. The place of local farm animal production at national level in relation to existing and potential demands has been pointed out. The gathered information derives from national and international sources. They have been collated, summarised and a report is written.

Design of guides for base line survey

The designed material aimed at collecting information on infrastructure aspects, different actors in goat and chicken channels and the relative importance of these animal species.

Recruitment and training of enumerators

Six enumerators were recruited, four for urban and sub-urban markets and two for rural markets.

Baseline market survey

Actors and resource-persons have been interviewed. Different actors, related importance of supply to demand for animals and animal products, and the origins of focused species are identified. Collected data were analyzed and relevant zones for the in-depth surveys were consequently chosen. Each zone included the local market and surrounding consumers households.

Design of questionnaires for each actor

Designed questionnaires focus various actors such as breeder-sellers, local traders, wholesalers, retailers, restaurant managers, caterers, butchers and negotiators.

Pre-testing and improvement of questionnaires

This step includes enumerators training and support from ILRI consultant to improve the questionnaires. Early November 2005, Benin team has received a boost from Isabelle BALTENWECK assistance in this respect.

In depth survey on selected markets

The in depth survey was conducted in:

- Cotonou (South) and Bohicon (center) as urban markets
- Godomey (South) and Tindji (center) as sub-urban markets
- Avakpa (South) and Dassa (center) as rural markets

Encountered difficulties were:

- Time constraints at actors level,
- Refusal of some selected informants to be questioned because they did not expect any interest and considered that as a wasting of time.

Data filing and analysis

This step has just started. A data base is being designed.

3.4 Activity 4: Capacity building and dissemination

Capacity building

- Graduate Fellowships
 - One PhD fellow, PhD Student, University of Goettingen, Germany
 - MSC student: one was recruited and sacked less than two months after.
- On-the-job training, training courses and workshops
 - Two members of the research team have been trained in Kenya on Farmer Field School (FFS) approach and livestock characterisation in a production system by cybernetic approach.
 - The four communities have been trained on various materials of situation analysis such as pair wise comparison, map drawing, constraints analysis, action planning.
- Stakeholder involvement in project planning based on on-going project activity results
 - The first national workshop has been organised in June 2005. An on-going evaluation and a review of Benin planning and data collection materials were performed.
 - Prior Informant Consent is the basis approach of the research team intervention (Exchanges, Feed-back, data collection) in the communities.

Dissemination (Reports, theses, scientific papers, etc.)

- Livestock Production in Benin and Available Farm Animal Genetic Resources: a review
- Elicitation of Livestock Species Preference by Communities and Choice of Communities and Species for the Implementation of the ILRI-BMZ Project in Benin
- Livestock and livestock products supply and demand in Benin
- Five quarterly on-going reports
- Report of national first workshop
- Community-Based Management of Small Ruminants in Benin: Interim Report