Maziwa Zaidi (More Milk) in Tanzania
Gender perceptions of livestock ownership and their implications for food security
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Key messages

- Ownership of livestock has many meanings including ‘undertaking all the livestock work with no decision-making’
- Simply supporting ownership of livestock by women may translate into increasing their workload with no benefits
- ‘Control over livestock’ is a more concrete research issue than ‘ownership of livestock’
- Gender-responsive approaches are needed to ensure that women’s ownership of livestock supports gender equity
- Gender understanding of key concepts (e.g. ownership and control) is vital to progress on livelihoods and gender equity

Opportunities to invest and scale

- Flexibility of livestock ownership arrangements does provide a space for increasing women’s benefits and opportunities
- Public investment in exploring locally gender-based priorities for livestock management helps identify strategies to support gender equity and food security
- Public investment in addressing inequitable gender norms in livestock management is one of the most effective pathways to enhance equity and food security

Objectives and approach

Problem: Ownership of livestock by women is assumed to improve their control over productive resources, gender equity and food security. However:

- What does ‘owning livestock mean and entail?’
- Does ownership of livestock by women really support gender equity and food security?

Approach: Focus group discussions with 57 female and 51 male respondents from Mvomero, Kongwa, and Lushoto districts

Key results

- Men and women disagreed about who owns livestock
- Ownership of livestock was associated with 7 domains
- Only in some cases does it entail decision-making
- Arrangements for livestock ownership were more flexible and informal than for other assets, such as land
- Arrangements generally favoured men
- Livestock-related decision-making and enabling gender norms were considered important for food security
- Gender norms affect statements about ‘who owns livestock’ more than actual control over livestock

Source

http://www.agricultureandfoodsecurity.com/content/4/1/2

Enjoying benefits

Carrying the responsibility

Having full authority

Decision-making

Knowledge

Taking care

7 domains ‘ownership of livestock’