



Community-based breeding programs enhance livelihoods and deliver genetic gains

Key messages and solutions

- CBBP for small ruminants in Ethiopia are feasible to implement, result in sustained genetic gains and are economically rewarding to the participating communities
- CBBP ensure the genuine participation of livestock keepers in the design and implementation of sheep and goat breeding as well as control over the sales and products generated.
- A conducive institutional environment such as support by NARS, and the availability of policy support and complementary services such as access to improved and affordable health services and access to adequate and quality feed resources and market linkages, are crucial to the sustainability of such breeding programs
- Legal breeders cooperatives are crucial for sustainability of CBBPs because collective action facilitates access to inputs, marketing, better selection and management of the flock.



Benefits

- CBBPs help to establish functional cooperatives that often take on wider roles than just animal breeding
- They increase flock/animal productivity and producers' incomes
- They increase consumption of animal-source foods

Problem statement

- In the past, centrally-managed and top-down breeding programs in developing countries—in particular for small ruminants—have been unsuccessful.
- Community-based breeding programs (CBBP) offer a viable alternative to these programs.
- CBBP take into account farmers' needs, views, decisions, and active participation, from inception to implementation, and their success is based on proper consideration of farmers' breeding objectives, infrastructure, participation, and ownership.
- Sheep and goat CBBP implemented at different locations in Ethiopia have been found to be successful.



Evidence

- CBBP were tested with 2,000 households with more than 12,000 people in 23 villages of Ethiopia.
- Evidence show that animal productivity increased (example six months weight in Horro increased by average of 0.31kg/year over the last 7 years); income increased (average of 20% from CBBP in Bonga, Horro and Menz); communities consume more mutton (now average of 3 sheep slaughtered per family per year compared to 1 when CBBP started in Bonga, Horro and Menz); and established cooperatives have been able to build capital (e.g. Boka-Shuta cooperative has generated a capital of about USD 60,000)



Suitability

- CBBP have been tested in low input crop-livestock production systems. They could also suit pastoral settings with little modification. It is important that CBBP are set in areas where collective action already exists, as ram sharing and management are handled by well designed ram groups. Communal grazing areas and watering points would also help to set up mating plans in these areas. CBBP are best suited to improve indigenous populations through selective breeding.
- The main resource requirement is for knowledge and skills, especially in terms of collective self-organization and management - ownership by all stakeholders is key to their success.

Resource requirements (low to high)

Land	● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Water	● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Labour	○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○
Cash	○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○
Access to inputs	○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○
Knowledge and skills	○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○

Impact areas (low to high)

Food security	○ ○ ○ ○ ●
Human nutrition	○ ○ ● ○ ○
Employment and livelihoods	○ ○ ○ ● ○
Natural resources base	○ ● ○ ○ ○
Gender empowerment	○ ● ○ ○ ○
Market linkages	○ ○ ○ ● ○

Value chain focus

Input & services

Production

Processing

Marketing

Consumption

Contacts

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