

# Gendered priority livestock species and roles in small ruminant production

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## Introduction

- Livestock are important for small holders' livelihood Ethiopia.
- Sheep and goats are considered as key assets for small holders given their role for household economics and their cultural value.
- Household members have different roles and responsibilities, access to and control over of resources, and thus different needs that may be regulated by gender norms.

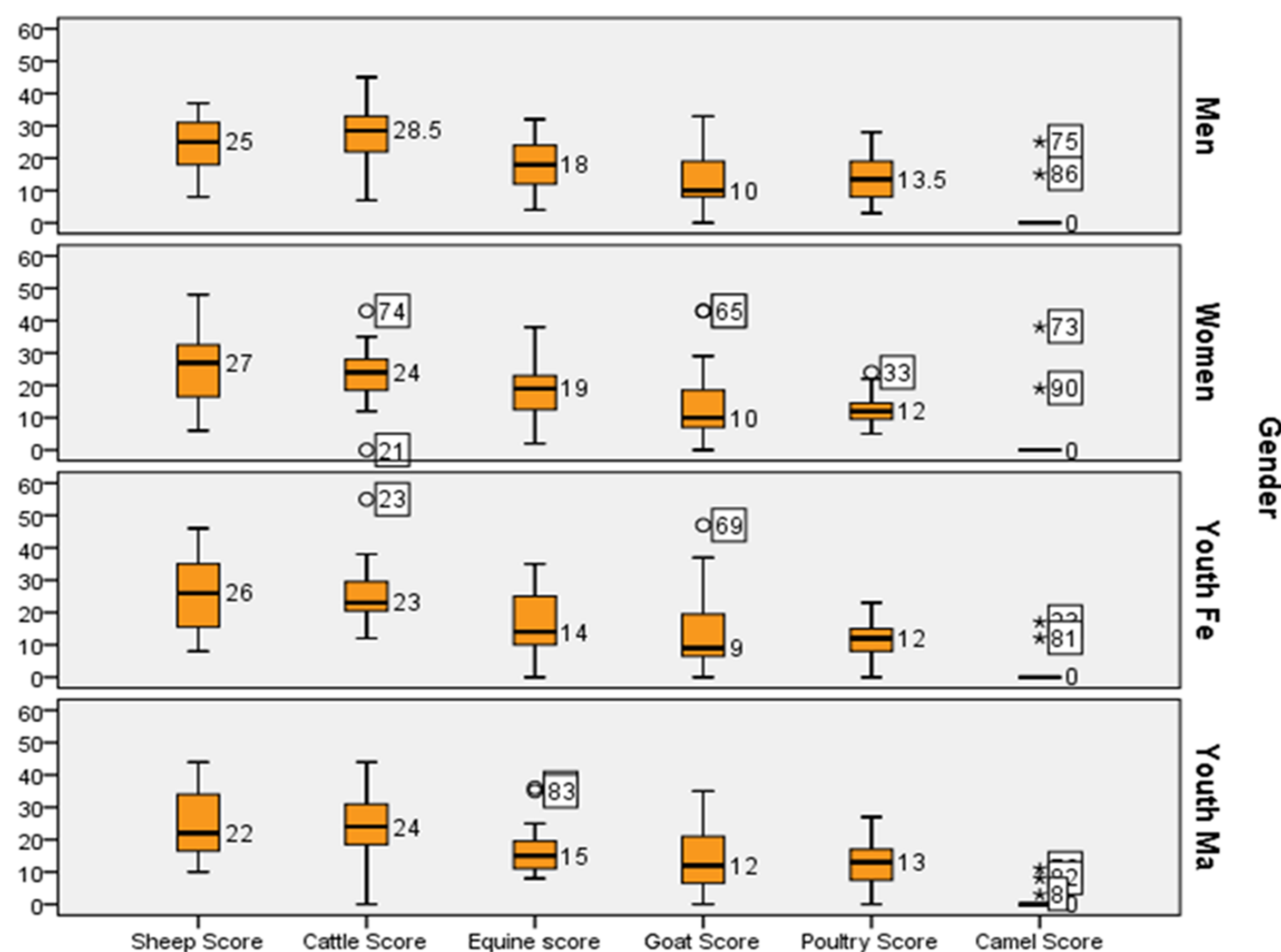
The aim of the study is to examine the gendered preferences of livestock species, their importance and the different gender roles in small ruminant production.

## Results

### Importance of livestock

- Sheep were considered the most important livestock species- 'Sheep are fast growing cabbage in the homestead' with women scoring higher, closely followed by cattle.
- Men allocating higher scores for cattle- 'cattle are bank for owners'.
- Small ruminants were considered multi-functional: meat and milk, nutritional value for children and/or medicinal use of meat and milk, disease and drought resistance, and fast growth and high reproduction rates- "Goats are cattle gifted for the poor".
- In addition poultry production was important for meat and egg and generating additional income for women.
- Transporting goods and people, providing milk are mentioned as camels importance. Use of equine as pack animal, ploughing and compacting of land and threshing of crops.

Priority Livestock Species by Gender

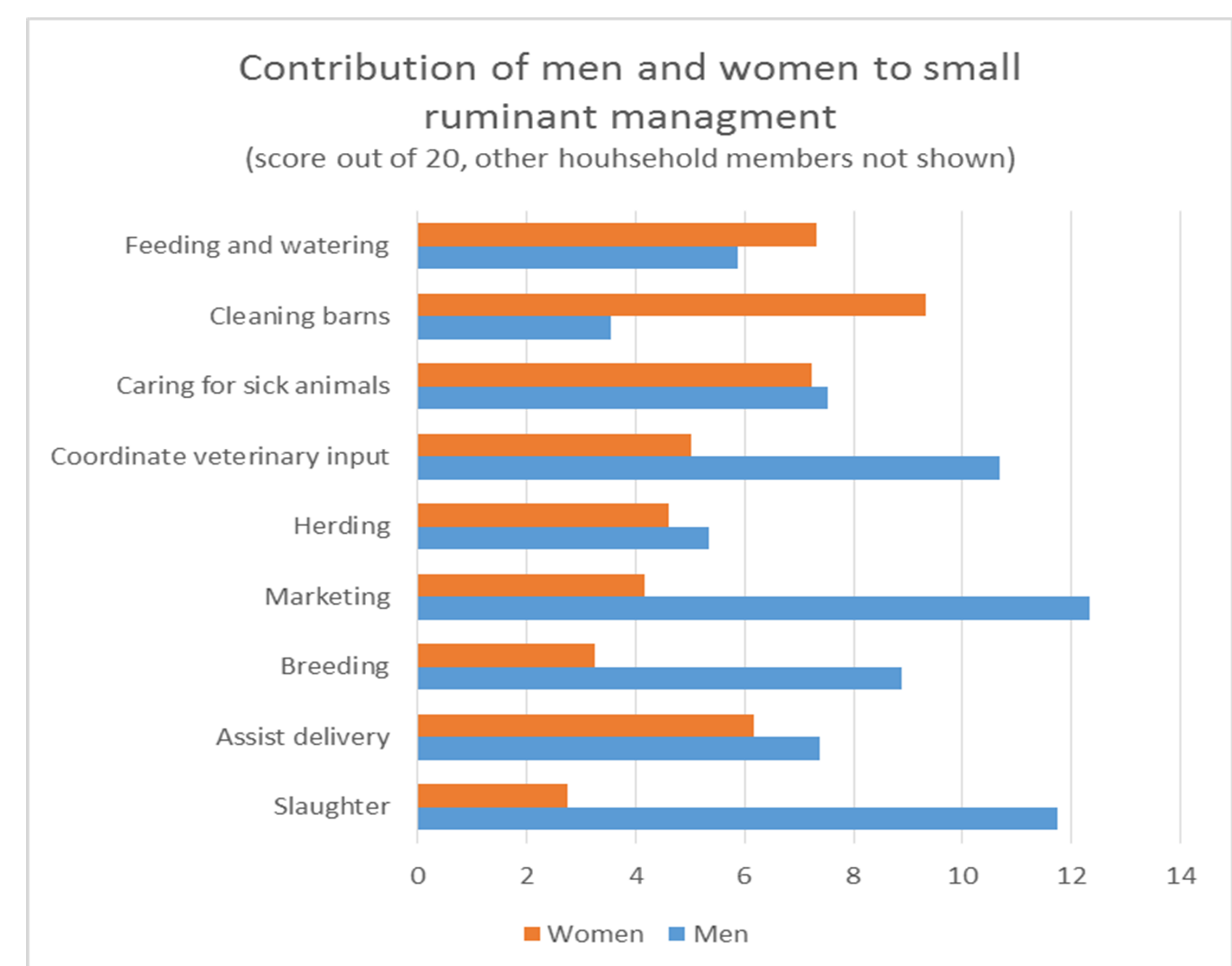


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## Methods

Gender disaggregated data were collected from four regions of Ethiopia:

- Focus group discussions were conducted: 23 each with men, women, youth male and youth female groups in total of 92.
- Household survey involving 646 interviewees in 429 households: 216 men and 125 women in male headed household and 88 women in female headed household.
- Participatory tools, such as simple ranking and proportional piling were used to assess importance of livestock species.



## Gender roles and decision making

- In small ruminant production, women are involved most in cleaning, feeding, watering, and also equally involved in caring for sick animals with men.
- Whereas men are mostly involved in activities related to marketing, breeding, veterinary inputs and slaughtering.
- Despite contributing as much as men, women have less control over income generated from small ruminants.
- Decision related to production, men have control apart from decisions related to treatment of sick animals.
- Decisions related to slaughtering, women jointly with men decide on which animal to slaughter.

## Conclusion

The study highlights on:

- The importance of livestock, and the preference of livestock species in the different gender groups.
- Women's involvement in the small ruminant key husbandry practices and management but their contribution is under recognized.
- The study sheds light on the presence of potential gender inequalities in terms of production, decision making and control over of income from small ruminants.

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