Genetics and reproductive innovations: Key lessons, scaling requirements and quick-win actions for Ethiopia sheep and goat value chains

Joram Mwacharo (ICARDA); Bekahegn Wendim (Sekota Agricultural Research Center); Kebede Habtegiorgis (Southern Agricultural Research Institute); Tesfaye Getachew (ICARDA)

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RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
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More meat milk and eggs by and for the poor

## Key lessons from the past 10+ years experience

- Participating communities have been benefited from CBBPs
  - Increased demand for improved sires
- CBBPs can be considered as best alternatives of small ruminant genetic improvement
  - Relatively cheaper
  - Reduce time to reach community
  - less disease risk – high survival
  - Allow to do research and develop animals fitting farmer management
- Long-term commitment/investment pays

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Key lessons from the past 10+ years experience

- Sheep and goat becoming main activities (more focus by govt, NGOs and other partners)

- Establishment and increasing role of breeder cooperatives

- Success rely on the involvement of partners (e.g extension and cooperative office)

- CBBP villages serving as learning sites, model for another interventions/research

- Genetic resources identified and characterized

- Role of digital genetic platform appreciated

- Low cost and mobile field solution for AI developed and the technology appreciated by the community
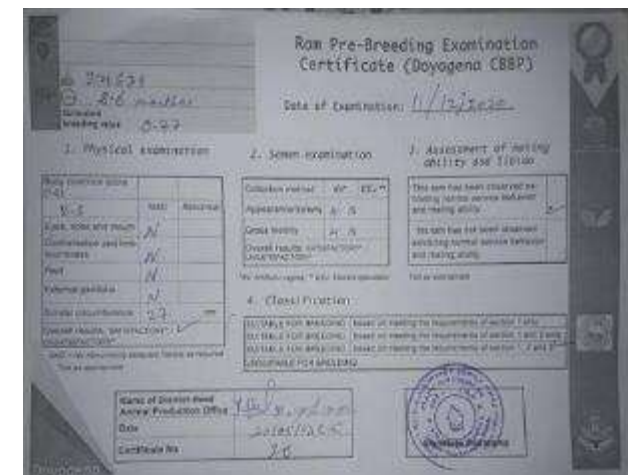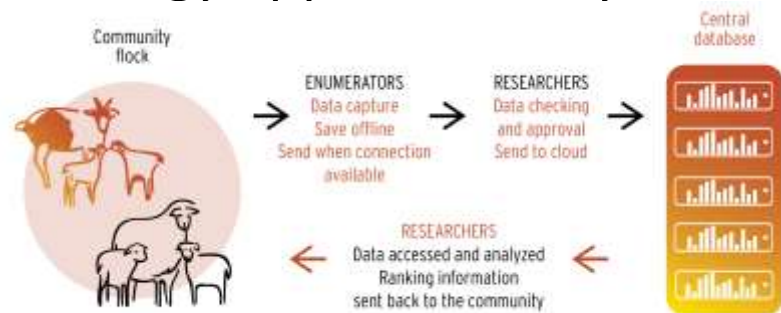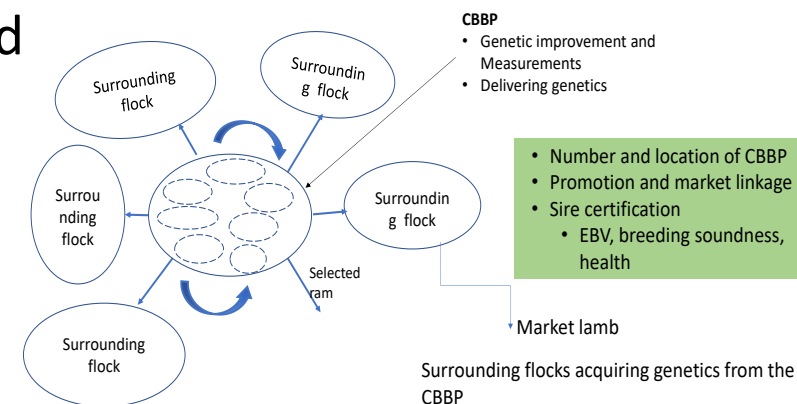
What is still needed?

- Close follow-up and solving technical challenges (selling before selection time, mating ratio, sire service year, uncertain sires and so on) -
- Strengthen animal identification digital database system
  - Infrastructure for ICT
- Partners engagement and government focus
- Strengthen cooperatives in some of the sites/areas
- More work on use of ultrasound as management tool
- Input supply (feed, reproduction technology facilities and consumables, vaccines) and market linkage

Quick wins

- Optimizing the breeding program
- Develop methodological framework for dissemination of improved genetics – upscaling strategy
- Develop national animal identification, recording and animal evaluation system
- Strengthen the digital database
  - Utility, ICT infrastructure development and capacity building
- Sire certification (policy support required)
- Integration of genomics
  - Allows early age selection
- Understanding genome composition and structure among breeds
- National institutions should take the leading role in implementation of the breeding program (NAGII, Extension, Research, Universities….

CBBP
- Genetic improvement and Measurements
- Delivering genetics

- Number and location of CBBP
- Promotion and market linkage
- Sire certification
  - EBV, breeding soundness, health

Market lamb

Surrounding flocks acquiring genetics from the CBBP

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