



Project outcome brief

December 2020

Innovation platforms lead to commercialization of cattle in the district of Massingir

Background

The project for development of value chains in the Maputo and Limpopo corridors (PROSUR) in Mozambique is financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to develop three value chains—horticulture, manioc (cassava) and red meat.

The objectives of the red meat component are to:

- develop a favorable environment for the value chain;
- improve by cattle, goat and sheep production and productivity; and
- improve market connections.

To complement the various interventions predicted in the project, seven innovation platforms (IP's) were established in the districts of Magude in the province of Maputo; Manhiça in the province of Massingir; and Guija, Chókwe, Mabalane, Mapai and Chicualacuala districts in the province of Gaza. The aim of these platforms is to improve the performance of the red meat value chain through greater participation of small producers. They also take into consideration gender aspects and factors surrounding climate change.

What is an innovation platform?

An innovation platform is a forum that brings together key players in a value chain, such as breeders, cattle traders, butchers, local governments, community leadership and input providers, among others. Based on their mutual interests, they define roles and institutional commitments clearly. Problems, opportunities and solutions to address efficiency of livestock production and marketing are identified on the innovation platforms and then implemented.

The case of Massingir innovation platform

The Massingir innovation platform was established in July 2016 and has 30 members (21 men and 9 women).

The main problems identified on the Massingir IP include:

- Lack of water for livestock;
- Lack of pasture during the dry seasons;
- theft of livestock;
- Lack of livestock marketing infrastructure; and e) collection of high and differentiated fees in the cattle transaction process.

Why the Massingir IP is successful

The Massingir IP involved the government before executing identified solutions. The implementation of decisions and solutions was, therefore, supported by the district government. Direct involvement of the government in sensitizing value chain actors on application of animal health regulations created a favorable environment for commercialization of livestock.

Value chain actors were encouraged to change their ways of thinking and working. As a result, the cattle sales by farmers at trade fairs increased. In addition, breeders have started to gradually adopt improved livestock production technologies and the quality of animals produced is improving.

Table 1: Progression of cattle sales at trade fairs in 2018

April to Dec 2018			Jan to Dec 2018			Cumulative			
In Kraals	At the fair	% sales at fairs	In Kraals	At the fair	% sales at fairs	In Kraals	At the fair	District	% sales at fairs
1104	441	40	242	690	74	1346	1131	2477	46

Here are some of the changes brought about by this process.

- The fees charged for transit licenses were standardized.
- Weighing of marketed cattle is mandatory.
- The sale of cattle and issuing of transit licenses are made only at the fair.
- Prices for the sale of livestock are adjusted regularly according to the market price.
- The use of funds from fees charged at the fair is authorized by IP members.

The project has been hailed for bringing about significant changes in the lives of the local population. Many breeders are now benefitting from reasonable prices at the trade fair. Innovation platforms have also created a basis for project sustainability, given the involvement of key actors. Having as partners the District Services for Economic Activities and the District Services for Planning and Infrastructure guarantees continued support to communities to access improved technologies, capacity building for infrastructure management and a sense of project ownership.

Lessons learned

- Innovation platforms are very important in solving problems affecting livestock production and marketing in the district.
- The local government has substantial influence on implementation of development policies in the district and it is vital to involve them.
- The success level in implementing decisions made during the innovation platform meetings depends to a large extent on the direct involvement of government officials.

Thanks to the collaboration of the District Government, in 2018 almost 74% of the cattle that left the district passed through the trade fair.

—Samuel Chissico, President of the trade fair management committee.

Contact

Sikhalazo Dube
Coordinator, PROSUL project
s.dube@cgiar.org

Iddo Dror,
Program leader, Impact at Scale
i.dror@cgiar.org

Photo credit: ILRI



ILRI thanks all donors and organizations which globally support its work through their contributions to the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#)

Patron: Professor Peter C Doherty AC, FAA, FRS

Animal scientist, Nobel Prize Laureate for Physiology or Medicine—1996

Box 30709, Nairobi 00100 Kenya
Phone +254 20 422 3000
Fax +254 20 422 3001
Email ilri-kenya@cgiar.org

ilri.org
better lives through livestock

ILRI is a CGIAR research centre

Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Phone +251 11 617 2000
Fax +251 11 667 6923
Email ilri-ethiopia@cgiar.org

ILRI has offices in East Africa • South Asia • Southeast and East Asia • Southern Africa • West Africa



This brief is licensed for use under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence.

December 2020