RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Livestock

CGIAR

More meat, milk and eggs by and for the poor

TESTED ELSEWHERE

Reducing lamb and kid mortality

Key messages and solutions

- High lamb and kid mortality negatively impact the overall contribution of small ruminants to small holder livelihoods.
- Improving neonatal survival is a key strategy to increases herd productivity.
- Systematic follow-up on cases of neonatal mortality to identify causes generates evidence for decision making.
- Involving communities in developing and implementing proper reproductive and health management is very important for optimizing reproductive performance of small ruminants.
- Implement longitudinal monitoring and evaluation of lamb/kid survival rate.

Problem statement

- Increasing reproductive performance of small ruminants is an important pathway to reduce poverty, improve nutrition and may help to empower women given their role in small ruminant production.
- However, lamb and kid mortality is a major problem that make this goal difficult.
- The death of lambs and kids before weaning is likely among the biggest causes of economic loss to sheep and goat producers in Ethiopia. About 50% of all lambs/kids born die due to various causes.
- Thus it is important to implement targeted interventions aiming at improving lamb/kid survival through good flock management.

Benefits

- Improved awareness on importance of good herd health management for productivity.
- Increased lamb/kid survival percentages.
- Increased small ruminants' contribution towards rural livelihood security.
- Increased involvement of the veterinarians and extension agents in herd health management.
- Generate evidence to inform research and policy.
- Identifying of the causes of lamb/kid mortality using a scientific approach provides the basis for evidence-based decision-making.

Evidence

- Studies elsewhere proved that targeted supplement feeding of pregnant ewes/does leads to healthier and more resilient offspring.
- Effective treatments to deal with most infectious causes of young stock mortality are known and can be made available once the causes are understood.

Suitability

- The intervention is suitable in all production systems.
- Ideally implementation is coordinated with interventions targeting abortions, breeding, internal parasites control, gender and feeding systems.

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

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