



Small Ruminant Project: Inception Workshop

Monday, 11 February 2019: University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore

Meeting goals

To share project plans and experiences, learn from experience and expertise in the room, build collaborative relationships, and provide opportunity to identify other collaborations

Overview

- 39 participants from 17 organisations attending
- Presentations from 12 different organisations
- Presentations available [here](#)



Session 1: Opportunities that partners described they would get from this project

- UVAS: Good opportunities to use staff technical expertise and in return there are opportunities around external collaborations and course development opportunities. These include increased farmers interaction; enhanced understand market chain; opportunities to develop trainings and vocational courses.
- SLD: the project will enable SLD to focus on making small ruminant farming more productive and profitable, and the project will be milestone to provide new dimensions to small ruminant rather a secondary priority. SLD can work on the challenges faced to small ruminant husbandry: feed, disease, mortality, management production and reproduction.
- L&DD: There is a need in Punjab to minimize neonatal losses due to off season breeding. L&DD are investing significantly in breed improvement sector, and they have strong veterinary support, providing door step facilities for farmers.
- SAU: great capacity for student training, and the ability to conduct laboratory work including identifying and analyzing the nutritive value of non-conventional feeds (interest in working in Thar); to compare the digestibility of different feeds and their effect on small ruminant productivity; to develop economical feeding strategy for sustainable small ruminant production.
- UOM: expertise in whole-farm systems approach to research, evaluation and extension in Pakistan small ruminants sector; opportunity to supervise project research and researchers, including post-graduate students. Aim of University of Melbourne is to contribute to publication of meaningful reports & scientific papers and veterinary teaching in Pakistan and Australia.

Session 2: Partner experience with connecting with farmers and scale out

- ECDI: their value chains work has focused on social and economic empowerment initiatives, resulting in deep experience and expertise; and specifically, on poor sequestered women, refugees and young people in the diverse subsectors, facilitating their access to higher value markets.
- PODA: Project work focuses on Women's Rights Advocacy & Education; Democracy & Human Rights Education; Annual Rural Women Conference; Agriculture & Small Business Education – with specific activities including capacity building for technical and infrastructure for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment Projects.



حکومت سندھ

Government of Sindh





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- UpTrade: Focus is on combining strength of private sector social enterprise with international and local development groups to connecting communities with quality equipment and service providers; to create community mobilization leveraging local knowledge to enable communities to receive infrastructure in return for goats (water or solar), or improved prices and market connections (building an e-mandi model).

Session 3: Pathway to impact

Market Development Facility (MDF), Australia Baluchistan Agribusiness Programme (AusABBA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and ACIAR Dairy-Beef project shared their experiences with connecting with partners and scaling their findings.

Areas of focus included:

- Critical to share information with farmers in an *effective* way (readily understood, relevant, implementable)
- The importance of connecting with women in the farming family and the challenges that this can involve
- Connecting with partners is critical as well, and this includes understanding their goals, needs and capacity.

What will the small ruminant sector look like in 10 years?

There was broad, positive sentiment about the future for goats in Pakistan over the next 10 years. Opportunities include:

- Market linkage will increasingly put the power into the hands of the farmers, improving their opportunities and income.
- Local and export potential for mutton is huge, and options to capitalise on it will arise. The key is to incorporate marginal groups into this wealth change so that benefits are shared equitably.
- We need to still understand household nutrition issues and the role small ruminants play in this (milk, meat) as well as monetization challenges.
- Potential future market beyond meat include goat milk and also goat cheese options
- Opportunity for more focus on the value addition for small ruminants, including frozen meats, and higher value products.
- Fattening is rapidly growing area and new farms need a consistent supply of young, high quality animals for fattening.

Where to find us

Project information can be found on the [ACIAR website](#) (where future annual reports will be shared), Aik Saath newsletters ([email Gerard](#) to be added to the mailing list), [ACIAR Pakistan](#) twitter feed – along with other Pakistan projects.

We'd love to hear if you've developed new connections from the meeting, or are incorporating anything into your work. Please get in touch shumaila.arif@unimelb.edu.au

