

# The importance of practical approaches to identifying constraints to smallholder goat and sheep farming

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# Core principals for applied research and development activities

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Research for development:

- Simple practical methods
- Finding out what is the most useful for small holder farmers
  - Useful = practical, relevant, solvable
- Focus on a group when there is not much information available
  - Small holders
  - Small ruminant sector and market
  - Whole family
  - Rural, low-resource groups

# Principals

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1. Approaches for listening to farmers
2. Identifying priority problems and constraints for farmers
3. Practical methods to identify causes of these problems and constraints
4. Creating practical, relevant solutions that farmers can use

# 1. Approaches for listening to farmers

## Participatory appraisals:

- Farmers report difficulty accessing extension services & treatment
- Confirmed through consultations with service providers, department staff like we act as a bridge between farmers & livestock department
- Focus groups E.g. exploring locally available knowledge and resources

## Practical surveys designed using local information:

- Regional feed surveys
- Knowledge, attitudes, practice

# Approaches for listening to farmers

## Exploring local opportunities for smallholder farmers

- Value chain analyses
  - Traders • Butchers • Consumers

## KAP surveys

- Family role
- Labor distribution

## Key production parameters

- High wastage: Low weight gain, morbidity, mortality

## 2. Identifying priority problems and constraints for farmers

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Priority = rapid impact, affecting families, identified at village- or farm-level

- Key production limitation: mortality and low production
- Key constraints reported by farmers:
  - Feed
  - Disease

# Vital Statistics: Enterprise Productivity Benchmarking

Indicator	Stock class	Average (range)	Village range
<i>Offspring reared per female per year</i>	Kids/doe	80%	20%–140%
	Lambs/ewe	30%	0–70%
<i>Mortality (% died per year)</i>	Breeding females	9%	0–20%
	Young goats	19%	0–49%

# 3. Practical methods to identify causes of these problems and constraints

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- Validate farmer reports with other results
- Chose methods that are possible to do with farmers in the field
  - BCS (Body condition scoring)
  - FAMACHA
  - Bulk egg count
- Chose measurements useful both for:
  - Identifying cause of problems
  - Monitoring for response to intervention
  - Farmers could take up in own practice





## 4. Creating practical, relevant solutions that farmers can use

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- Improving women's access to information
- Solutions using local available resources at village level
- Can be self-implemented/ managed by men and women
- That others in the community can easily adopt

# Summary

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We should make a strong interaction with local farmers to identify their challenges

Try to address the challenges by facilitating resources like capacity building trainings, extension materials and knowledge

Try to link them with government & other private organization if required

# Thank You



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