

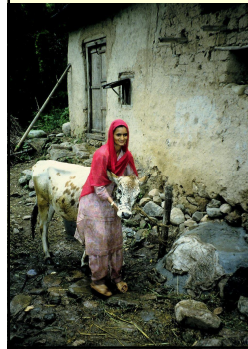
Promoting gender equality and empowering women through livestock

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Focus on women and livestock to reach MDGs



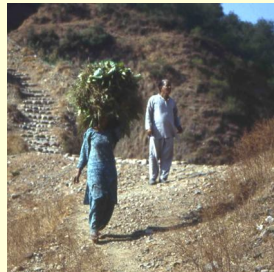
- Food and income from livestock can help reduce hunger and poverty (MDG 1)
- Livestock-keeping can give women a chance to control more income, reducing gender inequality (MDG 3)
- Higher livestock production, diversified income from livestock, and stronger position of women as livestock owners help reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other diseases (MDG 6)

"Poverty has a woman's face"
(ILRI 2008)

Women still often overlooked in livestock interventions

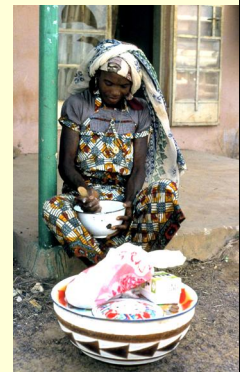
Assuming that men are main actors in animal production may:

- deprive women of traditional realms of responsibility and social recognition
- prevent women from benefiting equitably from development
- constrain women from fulfilling their potential to contribute to development



Impacts of livestock interventions on women and vice versa depend on gender differences in:

- Roles and responsibilities in household and community
- Ownership and control over livestock
- Access to livestock services
- Decision-making about use of inputs and outputs

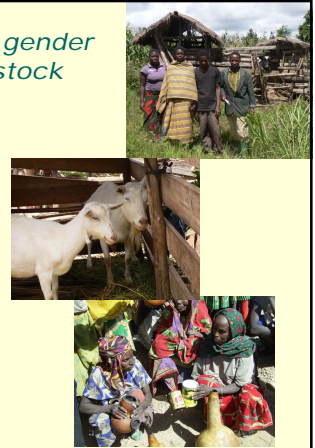


Gender inequality, HIV/AIDS and livestock

- HIV/AIDS stems from gender inequality and can worsen it
- Woman without rights to livestock can completely lose access to them when the husband dies
- She thus loses her family's source of food, income, draught power and fertiliser for farming
- If she may keep the animals, she may not be able to manage them well because of her poor access to extension and credit
- Livestock services need to address these gender dimensions that can lead to even more inequality and vulnerability of women in AIDS-affected households.

Yes, we can improve gender equality through livestock

- **Heifer:** WiLD (Women in Livestock Development) gave women chance to own more animals; training in literacy and strategic planning
- **FARM-Africa:** Small-scale credit for women to own goats; training women as paravets and in marketing
- **PARIMA:** Pastoral women learn from each other how to organise selves for small enterprise development to generate income from livestock



Recognising women's innovativeness

PROLINNOVA (Promoting Local INNOVATION)

- Giving recognition to and stimulating women's creativity in agriculture and NRM
- Raises women's esteem in their own eyes and those of community and outsiders
- Village women lead experiments to develop innovations further
- Village women in selection committees that allocate innovation grants to farmers



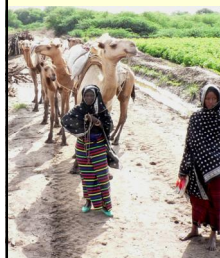
Ethiopian woman improved "modern" beehive with local materials



South African woman developed better way to keep chickens

Lessons for promoting gender equality and empowering women through livestock

Lesson 1: Gender analysis is a must to gain understanding of:



- gender relations in households, division of labour; differences between women and men in access to and control over resources
- women's and men's needs, and opportunities to support them in an equitable way
- constraints to women's involvement in livestock-keeping and how to overcome them
- different impacts of livestock-related interventions on women and men, and how to address the consequences

Lesson 2: Focus on women

- Livestock interventions with positive impact on women were those that **focused on women** and dealt with:
 - milk marketing
 - building capacities to manage stock
 - improving women's access to livestock services and information
- Most promising interventions for women in resource-poor households:
 - small-scale, low-external-input activities involving goats, cows, poultry and other small stock
 - production, processing and marketing
 - reducing women's workload for fetching water and feed, cleaning pens, processing livestock products and transport to market
 - making small-scale credit available to women's groups



(ILRI 2008)

Lesson 3: Strengthen local women's organisation

- Local women gain power by organising selves around production and/or processing of animal products
- Usually easier for women's groups than individuals to access production resources and achieve economies of scale in marketing
- Groups offer "safer" setting for male researchers and development agents to work with women
- Existing informal groups provide good starting points for enhancing women's managerial and leadership skills



Lesson 4: Improve women's and girls' access to education and training

- Women and girls need better access to:
 - general education
 - specific training and info about livestock-keeping
 - training in literacy, small-enterprise management, and leadership
- Female extension agents trained in livestock production and marketing can help enhance local women's capacities
- Extension staff trained to facilitate community discussion on gender issues impacting on family welfare, e.g. livestock inheritance rights
- Rural women can more easily join extension activities if these are close to home
- Women's access to livestock services can be improved e.g. by training both men and women as "paravets" (community animal health workers)



Lesson 5: Recognise and support local innovation by women

- Poor households develop coping mechanisms and innovations, including innovations in livestock-keeping
- Recognise how women and men in poor households are innovating, to discover entry points for pro-poor development
- Women more likely to develop low-external-input innovations that suit resource-poor households
- Women often lack confidence and undervalue their own achievements
- To empower women: raise awareness how resource-poor women contribute to livestock development through own innovation, and support this process



Lesson 6: Seek gender equality in livestock services and organisations

- To achieve gender equality at the grassroots, we need to seek gender equality in livestock services and organisations
- Women still in minority among graduates in animal and range science and in livestock research and development organisations
- CGIAR Gender and Diversity Program, FAO, IFAD etc have tried to improve the situation, but we are still far from gender equality at international level
- Irene Hoffmann, Chief, FAO Animal Production Service:
"Women make up no more than 10% of participants in professional and inter-governmental meetings related to animal production."
- This imbalance could partly explain the weak interest at lower levels to give due attention to gender equality.

Conclusions and action – 1 –

- **If** roles & responsibilities of women in animal production are recognised
- **If** women have more rights of ownership over livestock
- **If** women have better access to livestock services and markets
- **If** women have more say in decision-making about inputs and outputs in animal production and more control over the income
- ...
- **Then** basic needs of women and their families can be better met, thus reducing poverty and hunger
- **Then** women's strategic needs can be better met:
 - giving them higher status in family and community
 - increasing their self-confidence to contribute more to development

Conclusions and action – 2 –

- Spread powerful images of women who use livestock to meet family and community needs:
 - who innovate
 - who take collective action to solve their problems
 - who openly express their views about the changes they seek
 - who take active part in livestock project planning and R&D
- High-profile documentation to give strong messages to women and men at all levels about women's actual and potential contributions to animal production, to help change perceptions
- **Deliberate efforts in livestock R&D institutions to give attention to women in their policies and to translate these policies into day-to-day practice**



It's a long road to changing how professionals regard:
- the contribution of women to livestock development
- the contribution of livestock to women's economic and socio-political development

But we're getting there!