

LIVESTOCK SCALE-UP CASE STUDY-DISCOVER¹

Introduction and project objective

Self Help Africa is collaborating with Small Scale Livestock and Livelihoods Program (SLLP Malawi), Foundation for Community Support Services (FOCUS) and Foundation for Irrigation and Sustainable Development (FISD) in implementing this project in Karonga District. SLLP Malawi is mainly supporting the implementation of activities that fall under Output 2: *Capacity of communities and individuals to adapt their livelihoods to climate variability and the impacts of climate change and to manage disasters increased*. The livestock component of DISCOVER project aims at improving management of existing livestock and provide small stock and community based livestock breeding. Achieving this would mean increased livestock production and this enable farm family to use livestock and their products as source of income, saving, and insurance in the event of crop failure due to occurrence of natural disasters, thus buffering critical seasonal food gaps. The income will also used to meet basic needs of households including paying school fees for children. This would also increase availability of livestock and livestock products for consumption among project beneficiaries hence contributing to their nutritional well being. Manure from these livestock would be used to enrich the soil. This would improve the capacity of the soil to hold moisture for sometime as well as making it more productive hence improved crop production. This project focuses on promotion of goat and pig.

Beneficiary identification process

In the first year of project implementation, the project identified 141 (65 male; 76 female) farmers. It is amongst these farmers where the primary beneficiaries who received initial/seed livestock (animals originally bought by the project) were selected. These farmers were in 6 farmer groups that were formed by the project. Selection of the secondary beneficiaries will be done by groups themselves through their committees aided by the project staff and government staff. In accordance with previous experience of SLLP a partner leading in the facilitating this component in similar projects, which demonstrates propensity of women in animal production, selection of project beneficiaries will place particular emphasis on women. The project will provide requisite training to the beneficiaries before handing over the animals to them.

Ownership of animals

The project uses community groups as entry points and for purposes of coordination. However, to ensure good management and commitment, ownership of and responsibility for managing the animals rest with the individual beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are responsible to committees such that if an individual is not taking good care of the animals, the committee would relocate the animals to another beneficiary within the same group. The project provided initial training to the beneficiaries and planned to provide continuous capacity building through regular refresher courses in animal health and disease control of the respective classes of animals which the project has provided.

Sustainability arrangements

In order to sustain the small livestock project beyond the project's life span, the project promotes *the pass on the gift concept* as a source of capital for new beneficiaries. It also advances the use of group managed drug revolving fund to keep replenishing drugs once there are used up. The project is continuously building capacity of extension staff, partners (government) and farmers by conducting regular refresher courses in animal health and disease control of the respective classes of animals that the project is providing. The project is also strengthening capacity of local farmers (livestock lead farmers) in handling farmer to farmer extension services. Besides these, the project adopts a participatory approach to selection of new project beneficiaries.

¹ 17th January, 2013-draft

Steps that SHA has followed in the small livestock scheme programme.

a. Formation of farmer groups and Identification of beneficiaries

The sensitization meetings that were conducted across the district revealed that there is an overwhelming demand for livestock in the district. More than 200 clubs showed interest in livestock production. However, due to limitations on the budget, it was necessary that the project starts with limited number of farmer groups. Hence the project selected with 6 farmer groups with a total of 131 (57 male; 74 females). The farmer groups were formed in TAs Mwakaboko, Kyungu and Wasambo.

b. Farmer training in goat and pig production

Driven by the need to develop livestock sector in the country and in recognition of the immense potential in the country has, in 2009 SSSLP Malawi conducted an in-depth problem analysis of the constraints facing livestock production in the country and in particular the targeted areas and identified the following challenges to animal production: inadequate extension staff with technical knowledge and skills to support livestock farmers; low farmer management capacity that results in inefficiencies in reproduction of existing livestock, high mortality from diseases such as East Coast Fever, African Swine Fever and Newcastle Disease in poultry; poor feeding and housing because of seasonal availability of feeds (quantity & quality), poor access to veterinary supplies as well as lack of proper markets for livestock. In a bid to improve the capacity of the livestock beneficiaries in livestock production, the project conducted trainings in goat and pig production. A total of 131 (57 male, 74 female) farmers were trained in goat production and 10 (8 male and 2 females) farmers were trained in pig production. *In this picture pig farmers are listening attentively to a presentation by one of the training facilitators.*



After farmer trainings, demonstrations were conducted on construction of good livestock houses for pigs and goats. And all farmers that received animals constructed good livestock pens which are not the norm amongst livestock farmers in Karonga. Most farmers in the district keep animals by tethering in the open.



The project also conducted training for frontline staff in Animal Health and Production. This training targeted the Area Veterinary Supervisors (AVSs) and Agricultural Extension Development coordinators (AEDCs). These were targeted because they are supervisors in their respective Extension Planning Areas (EPAs) hence are better placed to train others members staff who were not involved due to budgetary constraints. These were drawn from 6 EPAs (across the district). A total of 17 members of staff (all male) were trained. It was not by design to train only men but it just happened that the target (in the positions) were only men. *In this picture one*

of the facilitators, Dr. Pat Boland is making a presentation on animal health issues.

c. Procurement of livestock.

i. Goat distribution



On August 8, 2012 the project distributed 148 goats (140 female goats and 8 male goats) to 70 farmers (24 male, 46 female). Each farmer received 2 female goats. Each group also received an improved breed buck/s (boer buck cross) that would be used for breeding. The 70 farmers were drawn from 6 farmer groups namely Chitemwano club in GVH Njalayankhunda (TA Wasambo); Chanthipa club (GVH Kayuni (TA Kyungu); Ndindo and Kyimo Clubs in GVH Mwangulukulu (TA Wakaboko); and Chimwemwe and Tutulane Clubs in GVH Mwandambo (TA Mwakaboko). The goats were sourced from MOKASADAL FARMS of Mponela in Dowa district. This was after a competitive bid process. Three bids were sourced and MOKASADAL FARMS was selected by the Internal Procurement Committee.

ii. Pig distribution



On August 31, 2012 the project distributed 24 pigs (20 female pigs and 4 male pigs) to 8 farmers (7 male, 1 female) drawn from TA Kyungu. Every farmer received 3 pigs (2 gilts and 1 boar). On December 16, 2012, 5 more boars (male pigs) were bought and distributed to the farmers. The number of male pigs bought in the first place was inadequate. Tri-Stars, Large White and their Crosses were bought and distributed by the project. This intervention aims to multiply improved breeds of pigs in Karonga after the district suffered huge losses of pigs in 2010/2011 due to an outbreak of African swine fever. The offspring will be sold out to other farmers as seed stock after the stud breeders meet the obligation of

passing on pigs to the next set of beneficiaries.

d. Animal health monitoring and supervisory visits

The livestock team conducted animal health monitoring exercise in all groups (7) that received animals. This was done in order to see how animals were adapting and at the same time assist those that had shown signs/symptoms of disease conditions including stress. Farmers were also advised on where they needed to improve. The project managed to achieve 96 % survival rate of goats and 100 % that of pigs during the critical period after livestock delivery, because of the close monitoring visits.

Procurement process of animals and quality of animals procured

The supplier is solely responsible for sourcing the animals and transporting them from the place of origin to the DISCOVER Project designated delivery and inspection points in the district where project staff will inspect the animals. The supplier will then transport the approved animals to the final farmer group locations as provided by the project. The project also specifies where the animals could be sourced. However the source of animals is not limited to the district where the animals will be distributed given the fact that goats are very scarce and their demand is very high. What is very important is the way how animals are handled during the procurement process and transportation as well as the cost at which the goats are procured.

Description of the reproductive goats

1. Breeds and quantities (*total and of animals and their sex*)
 - a. Local Malawians, Boer, and doe crosses
 - b. Boer bucks
2. Age: Not younger than 8 months but not older than 18 months, having a maximum of 2 teeth upon mouth inspection
3. Live body weight: 12 to 23 kg for does and 20 kg for bucks
4. Body condition: BSC of at least 3 with potential to grow
5. Udder/testicle conformation:
 - a. A doe udder should have 2 functional teats
 - b. A buck should have well developed and descended testicles
6. Reproductive status: should be open and not bred
7. Origin: only goats sourced from the following districts (*as specified by the project*)
8. Healthy and excellent physical conditions as certified through a health certificate issued by the livestock specialist engaged by the project at both the place of origin and final destination
9. Color: Any
10. Requirements for females:
 - a. Between 8 to 12 months
 - b. Between 12 to 20 kg live mass
 - c. Maximum kidding: 0
 - d. Maximum number of 2 (permanent) teeth upon mouth inspection
11. Health inspection: DISCOVER Project will only accept animals once they are inspected and certified by its own independent veterinary staff (the supplier will solely bear all costs associated with rejected animals)
12. Delivery:
 - a. The supplier is responsible for the following (including associated risks):
 - i. Feeding, watering and the treating animals, when needed, before the delivery at the agreed distribution points
 - ii. Drugs that might be needed by the animals, apart from the de-wormer, to be applied systematically before loading of the animals
 - iii. Transport and safe delivery of the goats to designated delivery points

- b. Transport of the animals by the supplier
 - i. Goats must be given water and food before transport
 - ii. No more than 8 consecutive hours of transport without water and food
 - iii. Safe driving (not to exceed 80km/hr on tarred roads and 40 km/hr on the sides on the dusty roads)
 - iv. The vehicle /transport trailer must have a roof and proper ventilation slots/windows
 - v. Goats must not be attached, individually or between themselves
 - vi. Hay must be spread on the floor of the truck/trailer to avoid slippery surfaces. This will also provide a comfortable resting place for animals during travel

Location for Final Delivery by the Supplier

ID	District/Location	Club Name	Approximate Distance from the Boma (km)	Number of goats		Delivery Date
				Does	Bucks	

The following table provides an example of how livestock death can be reduced if proper procurement procedures are followed.

Dates livestock were bought; August 2012								Type and number of livestock that died after distribution and total deaths to date.		Reason for death		Number of farmers that received livestock			
Type of livestock bought by the project		Number and type of livestock that died in transit before distribution		Type and number of livestock distributed											
Goat	Pig	Goat	Pig	Goat		Pig		Goat	Pig	Goat	Pig	Goats		Pigs	
				Male	Female	Male	Female					MHH	FHH	MHH	FHH
148	25	0	0	140	8	20	5	7-5%	0	Goats died due transit stress despite being treated after delivery.		24	46	2	8

Lessons Learnt

Experience has shown that good timing, and conducting preparatory activities and proper management of the procurement of process of livestock are the 3 critical factors that need to be done in order to have a successful pass on program. It is important for livestock projects that animals are procured after the famers have been trained on livestock management and have constructed livestock pens. This ensures good animal health. It has also been learnt that other than the source of the livestock to be supplied, the management of livestock during procurement and distribution has a bearing on the survival rate of the animals. Hence it is very important to ensure that all the steps are rightly followed. Firstly it is required that full information describing the type of animals you want is given to the supplier. Some information like quantity, age, body condition score, live body weight conformation, inspection requirements, and point of delivery and origin of the animal is specified. The project needs to have the drugs ready during transportation and soon after distribution. These drugs should consist of Anti-stress, Anti-biotic, dewormers, wound spray and others.