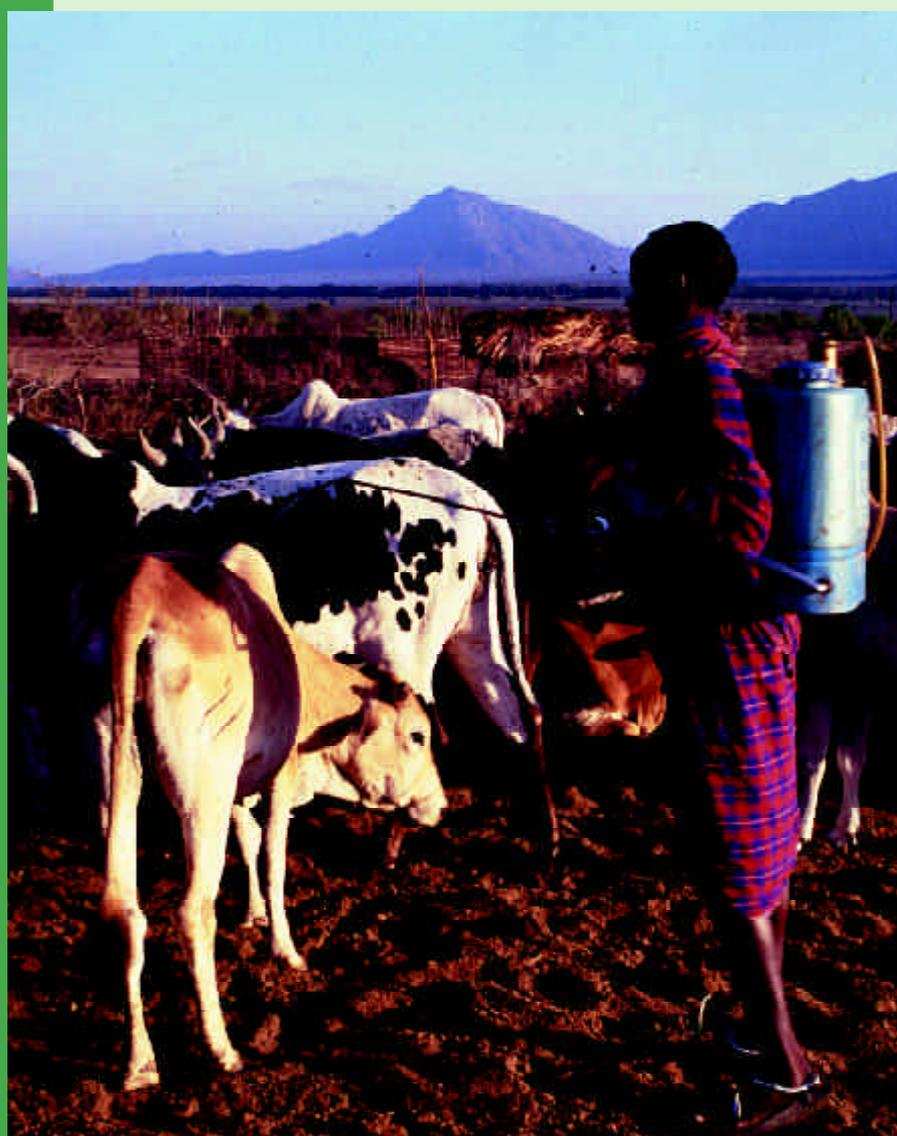


Community-based Approaches in Livestock Development: The Means and the End

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Community-based approaches are those where the initiation, planning, implementation and evaluation is controlled by local communities. They have become increasingly important in Africa for the following reasons:

- After structural adjustment governments were unable to continue funding many goods and services.
- The strong evidence that government are not always efficient or effective providers of goods and services and should instead focus on policy formulation and regulation.
- The realisation that communities had always managed their own livelihoods and natural resource base and that they were very good at doing it.
- The failure of 'top down' approaches and the success of 'participatory' and 'community based approaches'.
- The mainstreaming of 'human rights' and 'entitlement' concepts. People are entitled to participate fully in what concerns them.

Pastoral Associations (PA)

Pastoral Associations (PAs) are groups of livestock keepers who manage natural resources or services. They have been a central strategy in pastoral development in Africa for over 25 years.

Successes

- In Mauritania more than one third of pastoralist households are members of PAs; many PAs manage revolving funds for micro-credit.
- Pastoralist Associations in CAR and Guinea are effectively lobbying national governments.
- In Kenya, PAs have joined to form apex organisations and are managing education, human and animal health, conflict resolution and micro-credit.

Challenges

- Most PAs have not been sustained after project completion - even those supported for long periods (15 years) . Building PAs is costly in terms of time, money and resources.
- PAs have not proven successful in managing pasture.
- Management of user fees and money is often problematic with major equity and accountability breakdowns.

Community-based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)

CAHWs are community members who have received basic, non-formal training in animal health care and who prevent and treat animal diseases within their communities. CAHWs were initially viewed with mistrust - in 1995 most Chief Veterinary Officers in Africa thought CAHWs would not be able to provide treatments. By 2002 however, many African countries are seeking to officially recognise CAHWs and integrate them into national veterinary services.

Successes

- All economic analyses of CAHW programmes have shown large returns, varying from \$2 to \$209 for each dollar invested
- A study of over 1000 CAHWs in Ghana found most had good to excellent impact on animal health and were regularly reporting to veterinary authorities.
- In Kenya, CAHWs were still working 10 years after training.
- CAHWs have played a key role in the eradication of rinderpest from Ethiopia and improved rinderpest control in southern Sudan.

Challenges

- If CAHWs lack skills they can jeopardise human and animal health, and waste scarce resources of poor livestock keepers
- CAHWs may exploit farmers by overcharging and under-dosing with medicines
- CAHW service quality can be safeguarded by improved selection and training of CAHWs, and veterinary supervision within privatised systems
- The state and veterinary boards have key roles to play in developing supportive policies and legislation for CAHWs and ensuring adequate monitoring and regulation.

Community management of wildlife resources

Local communities and conservation were once considered incompatible, but more recently there have been efforts made to minimise the cost of conservation to local people (through control of problem animals, compensation for damage and giving access to fuel, grass, plants) and in some cases to give communities control over conservation.

Successes

- Involvement in wildlife enterprises such as tourism and safari hunting. Although controversial, the CAMPFIRE project in Zimbabwe generated funds for schools, womens groups, football clubs and drought relief.

Challenges

- Benefits to communities are often small and incentives for non-participation are high.
- Many projects have failed to meet objectives because of low participation, inadequate property rights and bureaucratic or political problems.

Research and extension

Adoption of livestock-related technologies by livestock keepers is consistently low. More recognition of indigenous knowledge and farmers as independent experimenters led to the development of farmer participatory research. Most case studies in the last 20 years report participatory approaches are effective in spreading technology and increasing capacity.

Successes

- In Zimbabwe, participatory research resulted in up to 80% of farmers adopting improved feed practices, and a 100% increase in preventative animal health treatments.
- In Mali, 120 private vets and paraprofessionals provide extension for 4,500 villages leading to over 3 million vaccinations and rapid declines in mortality.

Challenges

- Farmer participation adds considerably to costs. One project found participation by farmers took up 80% of the time and increased costs by 66%.
- Only wealthier farmers are willing to pay for advice, so extension requires external funding - this undermines sustainability and accountability.

Not all goods and services are best managed by communities. Private enterprise models are usually more appropriate for private goods. And for public goods spanning many communities with diverse interests, provision may be better managed at local, regional or central government.

Key messages

- Communities can effectively and efficiently manage their natural resources
- Community-based approaches must include capacity building and long-term engagement
- Community-based approaches require an enabling legal and policy framework

References

¹ Pratt, Le Gall, and de Haan 1998

² Participatory action research experiences in smallholder dairy farming in Zimbabwe J Francis and S Sibanda <http://www.cipav.org.co/lrrd/lrrd13/3/fran133.htm>

The Organization for African Unity/Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

The Organization for African Unity/Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (OAU/IBAR) is a specialist technical agency of the OAU mandated by member states to promote livestock development in Africa. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, OAU/IBAR implements major livestock development programmes including the Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) and Farming in Tsetse Controlled Areas of Africa (FITCA).

The objectives of OAU/IBAR are to:

- Co-ordinate activities of all OAU member states in the field of Animal Health and Production
- Collect, collate and disseminate information in all aspects of Animal Health and Production
- Initiate, develop and execute projects in the field of Animal Health and Production
- Liase with appropriate authorities of member states, regional groups, inter-governmental and international organisations.

For many years, OAU/IBAR has been African success story by attracting donor funds and providing technical and policy support to the member states, particularly state veterinary services. In the new millennium, the bureau understands that livestock issues are becoming increasingly complex due to forces such as globalisation, rapid technological advances and the demands of stakeholders. Stakeholders at all levels are becoming more vocal, influential and involved in governance, priority setting, financing and evaluation of development interventions. OAU/IBAR provides effective responses by having a clear vision of its direction, policy and strategies.

For further information contact:

The Director
OAU/IBAR
PO Box 30786
00100 Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254 2 334550/251517/226651
Fax: +254 2 332046/226565

The Policy Briefing Paper Series

This series of Policy Briefing Papers aims to provide short and easy-to-read introductions to some of the key policy issues affecting the livestock sector in Africa. In particular they show how livestock can contribute to the following widely held policy objectives:

- Food security
- Economic growth
- Equity
- Export promotion
- Revenue generation
- Resource conservation

Each briefing paper provides an overview of an issue and directs readers to source documents (many produced by OAU/IBAR) where further information and more detailed analysis can be found.