

Challenges of livestock projects implementation by communities: The case of Meru goat breeding project

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ABSTRACT

Objective: A study on a community-based goat-breeding initiative was carried out to investigate the challenges faced in implementation. The objective was to identify and document handicaps in various management aspects with a view of making recommendations for improved performance and to guide similar future projects aimed at poverty reduction. The study was motivated by concerns raised by stakeholders on the declining project performance after take-over by the community, which was a threat to sustainability of the initiative that had started contributing to increased incomes locally and also stimulated increased demand for dairy goats from the same foci throughout the country.

Methodology and results: Primary data were collected through a descriptive survey that involved administration of structured questionnaires to selected respondents. The sample size was derived using the Fischer's formula while the respondents were selected through a random sampling method. The collected data



was edited, coded, and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data through frequency distributions. The study established that though a community can democratically elect its own leaders, it could not ensure delivery of the expected outputs by those leaders. The Meru dairy goat project was found to face leadership, financial management, and information communication challenges.

Application of findings: The study recommended that the government develops a policy to ensure sustainability of rural development community-based livestock projects; and the putting in place of support structures for monitoring, supervision and backstopping as necessary.

Key words: *community project management, dairy goats, Meru*