

Realities in breed improvement programmes for dairy goats in East and Central Africa

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Date: 2009

Abstract

Increasing population pressure, land scarcity and diminishing production resources are promoting goat production in the tropics. Dairy goat breeding (DGB) projects have been implemented by development agencies, governments and the private sector with the objective of improving the dairy merits genetically through crossbreeding with exotic genotypes. The performance of these projects is still a cause for concern. Therefore, sustainable dairy goat breeding forces various stakeholders to re-orient their breeding goals, strategies and design of breeding programmes towards a sustainability perspective. This paper highlights a set of key requirements for establishing sustainable dairy goat breeding programmes. Conclusions are drawn based on the lessons learnt from numerous examples of DGB projects in East and Central Africa keeping sustainability concerns insight to inform on-going and future projects