

Innovative Approaches to Research and Development Collaboration for Impact on Rural Livelihoods: A Case Study of the Smallholder Dairy (R&D) Project

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Smallholder Dairy (R&D) Project

Jointly implemented by:

Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries Development

Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

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Introduction

- **SDP - an integrated R&D initiative to support sustainable development of the smallholder dairy sub-sector**
 - 2 phases: 97/99, 99/03 (/05)
 - Funded bilaterally – DFID/GoK
 - Implemented – MoLFD, KARI, ILRI
 - Designed - to build on coastal experiences of 1988 – 94:
 - recognized need for integrated research & development;
 - developed strong farmer-ext-research linkages



- **Integ. & collab. approach** was to validate development-oriented approach to dairy systems research implemented through a multi-institutional and inter-disciplinary mode (Rey et al., 1998)
- **As a result** - SDP to address constraints and opportunities for smallholder dairy production and marketing in the highlands (led by extension/dev but with a strong Research component)

Materials and methods

STEERING COMMITTEE
MoLFD - DLP/DVS/DPD,
KARI, ILRI, KEBS, DFID, MoH/PH
DRSK, KDPA, KENFAP, KNFC, UoN

SDP MANAGEMENT
MoLFD/KARI/ILRI
Manager
Ass. Manager
Advisor/FM

Dairy Systems
Appraisal

Policy and
Institutional Reforms

Validation and
Dissemination

- Steering Committee (SC) meets quarterly
- Thro' SC other stakeholders influence type of SDP research & dev activities, relevance & ensure address constraints
- Members of SC assist to institutionalise lessons from SDP collaborative activities & help to see their institution implement findings of SDP

- Monitoring & Evaluation
 - Management
 - SC ensures timely delivery of outputs as determined in the log-frame (thro' OVIs)
 - DFID (with SDP), reviews as & when required
- Evaluations have been used to change and refocus the project's emphasis and priorities

Results and discussions

- Phase I - appraisal of the national dairy sub-sector & detailed diagnostic studies
- Phase II - diagnostic surveys
- Diagnostic surveys followed by cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys

- **Cross-section surveys** - based on agro-ecology, production system and market potential
- **Longitudinal surveys**
- **Surveys & studies - designed to provide information relevant to major recommendation and demand domains**
- **Supported by** - graduate studies, short term, issue specific studies

- SDP organises National workshops
 - Feedback, debate priorities, discuss proposals
- Outputs from studies
 - improved understanding of the production-to-consumption continuum;
 - formulation, prioritization, testing, validation of interventions and development of dissemination materials; and policy; and
 - knowledge systems issues

- **Lessons**
 - used to target interventions, inform and contribute to dairy policy and institutional reforms
- Due to changes SDP has increased effort towards informing on policy and institutional reforms, while delivering its other outputs

- **Dairy Policy Forum (May 04, well attended & successful) – Objectives:**
 - to highlight information relevant for development of Kenya’s dairy sub-sector based on evidence generated by a coalition of reputable organizations;
 - to encourage key stakeholders to acknowledge the implications of this evidence, and discuss innovative action to maximize the benefits of the dairy sub-sector for all Kenyans; and
 - to present proposals for specific policy and institutional reform, and agree on an action-plan towards such reform

- SDP Dissemination - existing institutions - public and private - using efficient mix (radio and TV soap opera, field days, pamphlets, feed-back sessions)
- Efforts to test and validate some new ideas, include activities in the following fronts:
 - Media - KBC soap operas, magazine programs and campaigns in market centres.
 - Targeted extension materials and activities
 - Testing the viability of institutions providing services

Conclusions

- Integrating R&D to address problems in the dairy sub-sector has increased the efficiency of resource utilization by:
 - shortening the time and space between problem identification, diagnosis, finding solution and feeding back the results; and
 - enabling the utilisation of multi-disciplinary teams of researchers, extension workers, farmers, service and input providers and others in a consultative way

- Collaborating with partners (+ others over SC – NGOs, Int. org) has:
 - boosted the credibility of the results
 - allowed wider dissemination of information and technologies to beneficiaries and users
 - also increased the chances of better targeting, informing and influencing policy reforms

- Partnerships have:
 - saved on resources, both financial and capital;
 - contributed towards capacity building and enhancement for those people and institutions involved; and
 - also made the collaborators achieve more than they could individually

- Recommendations:
 - ensure integ. & collab. approach to R&D and working partnerships by SDP are sustained beyond the project life
 - management structures & model - SC and an inter-institutional management team be internalised through existing MoUs (MoLFD, KARI and ILRI)
 - KARI take lead role to steer process



Thank You

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