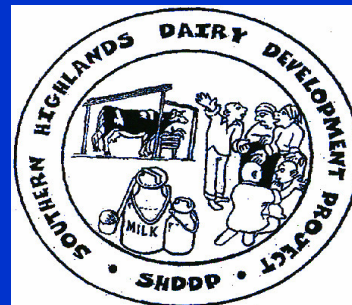


DELIVERY OF LIVESTOCK SERVICES THROUGH PARAPROFESSIONALS IN TANZANIA

SDC



Context

- Agricultural extension service financed by the public sector until the nineties
- In the late nineties, veterinary services privatized
- Provision of veterinary services in remote areas collapsed
- Demand for veterinary services continued to be there

Paraprofessionals

- Either first aid workers or para-extensionists
- Indigenous to their communities and often only limitedly trained
- Definition of paraprofessionals under the Tanzania Veterinary Act of 2003

SHDDP

- Objective: improve the nutritional status of the rural population through increased availability of milk
- Target population: 100 dairy farmer organisations, approx. 6000 households
- Approach: shift from public towards private
- Time frame: 1978 - 2003

Community-based animal health workers in SHDDP

Following collapse of veterinary services promotion of:

- an affordable self-sustaining basic animal health service delivery system
- managed by the communities themselves
- making use of local knowledge in animal health

Lessons learnt and challenges

- Ownership
- Financing service delivery
- Continued training
- Recognition
- Appreciation by livestock keepers

Ownership

- Importance of selection criteria for nomination of CBAHW by the dairy groups
- CBAHW dependent on the dairy groups; no real own identity
- Tripartite agreement (CBAHW, dairy group, village government) allows service provision also to non-members of dairy groups

Financing service delivery

- Two types of remuneration: honorarium and margin on drug sales
- Group or individual payment
- Prospects for viable (self-) employment opportunities are still low

Financing service delivery

- Large element of voluntarism; in contrary dairy technologists are employees of dairy groups
- Working tools and transport means are important to the CBAHW for their work performance
- External co-financing required

Continued training

- Willingness of groups to meet some of training costs
- Few CBAHW ready to pay for certificate course
- Multi-partnership

Recognition

- Maneuvered lack of legal recognition through village government and District Veterinary Officer
- Grassroots experience contributed to the new legislation

Appreciation by livestock keepers

- Availability of and easy access to CBAHW - more or less around the clock in cases of emergency
- High level of trust, since well-known to and selected by the group

The way forward

- Paraprofessionals are an alternative for doing skilled work in rural, particularly marginal and remote areas
- Focus on integration in local and national government systems to assure sustainability
- Develop service provision by paraprofessionals as a business, as far as possible