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


Smallholder Dairy (R&D) Project

Jointly implemented by:
Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries Development
Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

9th KARI biennial Scientific conference, 1st Kenya Agriculture Research Forum – KARI HQ, 12th Nov. 2004
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
Acknowledgement:

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