

## Project Summary

Title	Development of management practices for sustainable improvement of indigenous goats in Tanzania
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Purpose	To improve the productivity of indigenous goats and crossbred goats kept by pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in rural areas.
Project Summary	In recent years Exotic breeds and crossbred goats of the indigenous breeds and some European breeds (mainly dairy goats) have been distributed in rural areas to increase goat productivity and alleviate poverty. However, the distribution of these breeds has been carried haphazardly without taking into consideration the environmental conditions in rural areas. No efforts have been done to match the genotype with the right environment. On the other hand, efforts for searching for appropriate feeding regimes that are both economical and sustainable have also been sought with varying achievements in the diverse farming systems. However, more is still desired in ensuring that crossbred goats receive proper feeding or supplementation strategies under farmers' conditions. This project intends to assess the existing goat breeding programmes and institutions in the country, with a view of strengthening them and make them more effective to sustainably carry out the genetic improvement of goats. The project intends to evaluate the performance of the breeds introduced in semi-arid areas and identify the reasons for success and failure of goat improvement programmes in the villages. The project will develop a simple recording scheme and introduce it to goat keepers in rural areas for utilization in genetic evaluation. In addition, this project intends to develop good quality and cost-effective feed rations based on locally available feed resources that can be used to feed improved goat breeds in rural areas. Moreover, the projects will train small-scale goat farmers to formulate good quality rations using indigenous tree and shrub leaf meals and pods as protein

	<p>supplements to replace conventional oil cake supplements. The study will be carried out in Manyara and Dodoma regions located in the semi-arid environment. In each region four villages with pure exotic breeds or their crosses will be selected for the study. Two MSc students will be recruited under this project. The first student will assess the performance, profitability and impact of exotic breeds and their crosses introduced in rural areas for the purpose of improving goat productivity and alleviating poverty. Individual interviews and focus group discussions will be conducted to collect information on lactation performance and reproductive traits, adaptive traits and farmers' preferences. Secondary data on growth, reproductive and lactation performances will be analyzed to assess the productivity of the breed. Furthermore, the input-out relationships of goat enterprises will be assessed. The second student will address the problem of poor nutrition for the goats kept in rural areas by developing good quality rations based on locally available feed materials. Farmers will participate in identifying feed materials and testing the rations. A survey will be carried to collect information on livestock feed availability and fluctuation, local knowledge on goat feeds and feeding practices. Samples of grasses, legumes and trees / shrubs and crop residues will be collected and analyzed for chemical composition. Different rations will be formulated and tested on-farm using both lactating and growing goats. Gross margin analysis will be used to estimate profitability of the different rations and the best and cost-effective rations will be identified. Participating farmers will be trained to formulate better quality rations for lactating goats and fattening goats at an affordable cost from locally available feed ingredients. It is envisage that during implementation of the project, there will be, not only capacity building of researchers, students and farmers who will be directly involved, but also a direct contribution to poverty alleviation and improvement of food security among the rural poor in the project areas.</p>
Country and Specific Location(s)	Regions; Manyara and Dodoma, Tanzania
Participating Institutions	To be identified
Start Date	September, 2010
End date	September, 2012
Amount of Funding	USD 59,750