

GL-CRSP LIVESTOCK WORKSHOP REPORT

May 17-19, 2008 • Kabul, Afghanistan

This report summarizes the contents of the presentations, discussions, and conclusions of the Global Livestock- Consortium for Research Support Programs (GL-CRSP) sponsored workshop in cooperation with the Advancing Afghan Agriculture Alliance (A4) addressing development activity in the livestock sector of Afghanistan, held on May 17-19, 2008 at the German-Afghan Guesthouse in Kabul, Afghanistan. Participants and the organizations they represented are listed in Appendix 1.

A synthesis report released in advance of the workshop summarized the state of program activity and research in Afghanistan's livestock sector and provided an introductory context for the workshop's presentations and discussions.

The workshop focused on harnessing the collective experiences of the different participants to identify key priorities in their activities, explore possibilities for program collaboration, and develop strategies to elevate the awareness and status of the livestock sector at the producer, ministerial, and donor levels.

DAY ONE

MORNING

The workshop commenced with greetings from Kevin McNamara of Purdue University and A4 and introductory remarks by GL-CRSP director Montague Demment. Three formal presentations, intended to prime the later discussions, followed.

1. Euan Thomson of Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) presented an overview of production and market issues facing the livestock sector in Afghanistan.
2. Dave Sherman of Animal Health Development Program (AHDP) summarized the animal health infrastructure and capacity of Afghanistan, as well as the health-related challenges currently facing the sector.
3. Mesbah Motamed of the GL-CRSP presented a synthesis of the research and program activity related to livestock and its development, with an emphasis on identifying the distribution of activity across the different elements of the livestock sectors.

AFTERNOON

Following the presentations, the floor was opened for participants to offer their thoughts both on the contents of the presentations and other related items. The comments, spanning a range of topics, included:

POLICY AND PLANNING

- Strengthening relationships between NGOs and their activities to the master plan of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Lack of communication among organizations themselves and between organizations and the government.
- Fragmentation of activities and projects owing to the lack of coordination and goal prioritization.
- Weakness of the relationship between NGOs and agricultural development efforts of the U.S. military.
- Understanding the different incentives for change within the public sector and the marketplace.
- Lack of sufficient data at different administrative levels covering land, weather, markets, demographics, etc. upon which to formulate specific planning.
- Emphasizing the importance of community-level activities.

PRODUCTION

- Tradeoffs between planting crops for feed versus human consumption, particularly in light of high world food prices.
- Lack of a genuine systems approach to feed and livestock.
- Utilizing crop residues more effectively.
- Risk management strategies.
- Addressing the challenges posed by land constraints upon sedentary livestock producers.



Figure 1: Participants discuss the constraints and priorities facing the livestock sector

MARKETING

- Constraints on marketing of livestock products.
- Understanding the absence of entrepreneurial incentives.
- Overcoming the disadvantageous costs of production when competing against foreign imports.
- The role of poultry imports in driving down the demand for red-meat substitutes.

HUMAN CAPACITY

- Limited education levels constrain producers' ability to understand the value of improved feed, medication, etc.
- Integrating human capacity building into each project's activities.

- The relative neglect of the government and donors in regards to the growth and strengthening of the country's educational institutions.
- Issue of attracting qualified local staff to NGOs at the expense of government

Following this discussion, participants broke into small discussion groups of five members each to brainstorm and identify the primary constraints and issues they believed face not only the individual implementing agencies, but also Afghanistan's livestock sector in general. When the participants reconvened, each group reported the results of their discussion. In response to these presentations, participants classified each item according to a particular time horizon:

- short-term
- medium-term
- long-term

and whether it represented something the participants and their institutions possessed the ability to address:

- control
- no control

A complete list of the constraints and priorities highlighted in the group presentations appears in Appendix 2.

DAY TWO

MORNING

Based on the list of twenty-five constraints and priorities facing the livestock sector, workshop participants broke into new groups to refine and narrow its contents by selecting a handful of items that represented the greatest constraints on the sector's growth yet still remained under the control of implementing agencies. The aim was to reflect on an operating environment where resources are scarce and attention is often divided and identify a handful of critical priorities that merited the greatest effort and attention.



Figure 2: A participant presents the results of his group's discussion.

When the participants reconvened, each group presented its list of most critical issues. A diagram summarizing the these issues and their interdependencies appears in Figure 3. Participants recognized the dependencies across the

different priorities and hesitated to assign primacy to one area over another; nevertheless, three items consistently emerged from the discussion.

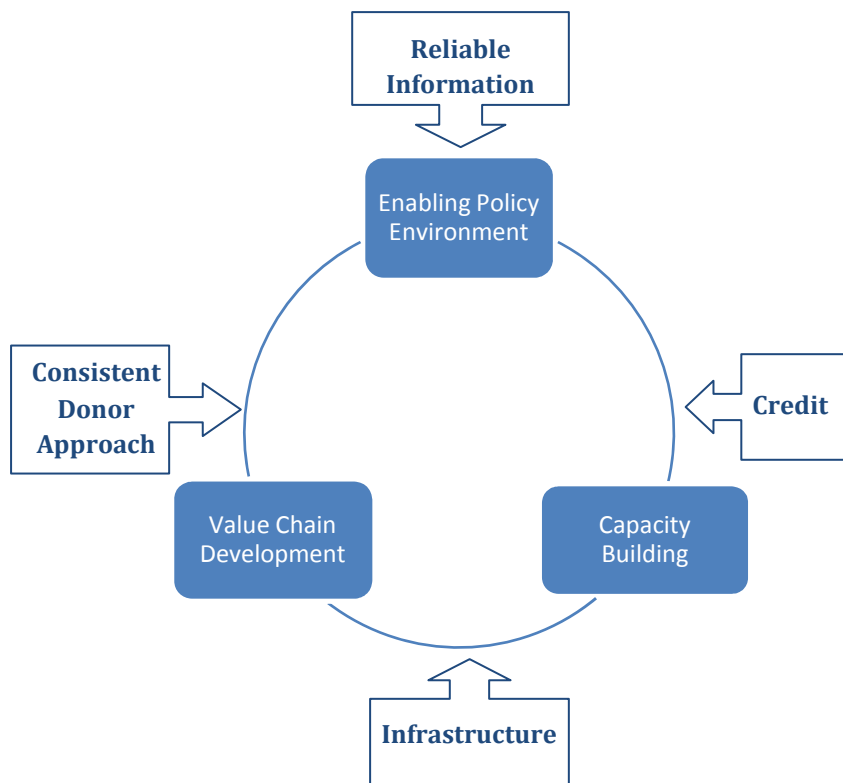


Figure 3: An Integrated Approach to Livestock Development

CAPACITY BUILDING

This objective involves the education and training of livestock sector participants, from the producer-level to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. Developing educational institutions (university, vocational schools), training public sector staff (veterinary services, disease management), and educating producers remain fundamental to livestock’s short and long-term growth. Long-term investment in higher education and vocational institutions, in particular, are the primary means to develop a broad-based core of professional, scientific, technical, and administrative workforce and leadership that are critical to implement development projects, guide policy, and provide entrepreneurial activity in the sector.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

Accurate, detailed and location specific information is critical for all aspects of the development process in Afghanistan from policy making to development strategies. Data needs identified include animal counts, prices, volumes, markets, breed characteristics, genetics, as well as more general data on weather, geography, and macroeconomic indicators. Such data would serve to guide producers, investors, and policy makers in determining where, when, and how to direct their efforts and activities. The lack of such information severely limits both sector development as well as public strategic planning.

VALUE-CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

In all sectors there exists a chain of transactions and processes that link the producer to the consumer which include the sequence of inputs in production, processing, and marketing that add value to a final good. The value chain approach is a linear sequential analysis that provides an effective means to identify constraints on the production-consumption process. Identification of constraints is the basis for effective project design and a mechanism to promote inter-project collaboration.

DAY THREE

MORNING

Following the discussion from the previous morning, participants turned to the matter of converting these priorities into actionable objectives. These actions stem from three types of relationships with NGOs:

PEER NGOS

Participants supported increasing the communication and collaboration among NGOs working in livestock development. Actions included:

- Collaborating on lamb fattening trials
- Inviting agriculture students from local universities to work as interns in livestock projects.
- Creating a livestock-devoted website where news, updates, and information can be posted.

Throughout the discussion, participants stressed the complementary, not competitive, roles of the various implementing agencies.

GOVERNMENT

Participants also highlighted the importance of communicating NGO activities to representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock and better aligning these activities with ministry objectives. Actions included:

- Working within the Ministry as well as Parliament to develop relationships with authorities to raise capacity, enhance cooperation, and strengthen the sector.
- Advocating the creation of a position in the Ministry to be exclusively and directly responsible for the growth and development of the livestock sector.

DONORS

Participants acknowledged the need for greater advocacy for livestock activity at the donor-level. This advocacy entails not only communicating the value of the livestock sector and its potential as a leading sector in Afghanistan's agriculture economy, but also stressing the importance of long-term planning and support that ensures the lasting vitality of this important activity.

CONCLUSIONS

Workshop participants agreed that elevating the importance of the livestock sector among producers, investors, public sector officials, and donors is critical for the country's economic stability. Development of an education and advocacy campaign designed to reach all actors related to the livestock sector is required. Efforts include the commitment of workshop participants to enhance their collaborations, strengthen the voice of producers, engage the public sector to understand, respond more fully to the livestock's needs, and communicate to donors the value of livestock to Afghanistan's economic development and political stability.

It was agreed that a committee would be formed to provide leadership in engaging all actors in the livestock sector in a collaborative effort to encourage more efficient use of available resources, to engage senior planners in MAIL in becoming committed to putting policies and prioritized strategies into practice, and to communicate the results of the livestock workshop to create awareness of and gain support for this integrated approach to livestock sector development. Initial committee activities will include presentation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, appropriate parliament committees, and donors.

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF INVITED PARTICIPANTS

Count	Name	Organization	Count	Name	Organization
1	Abdul Gaderfakhire	DCA	27	Kevin McNamara	A4
2	Alain du Bueres	MADERA	28	Khabir Kakar	CNFA
3	Alice Pell	Cornell U.	29	Kim Lucas	USAID
4	Alimuddin Naseri	Agha Khan	30	M. Haroom Nessar	DCA/Brooke
5	Azizullah Osmani	MAIL	31	M. Yasin Mohsini	Dean
6	Bob Smith	USDA	32	Mark Henning	JDA Intl - A4
7	Bruce Lancaster	PRT/US Army	33	Mesbah Motamed	GL-CRSP
8	Carl Harris	CNFA/VEGA	34	Michael Jacobs	Afghan PEACE
9	Colin Deschamps	AREU	35	MirMohammad Bashir	FAO
10	Dave Hodgson	Kansas State U.	36	Mohd Issa Khan	MADERA
11	Dave Sherman	DCA	37	Montague Demment	GL-CRSP
12	David Hatch	USAID	38	Mostafa Jawad	MAIL
13	Dean Ayubi	Kabul U.	39	Paul Fishstein	AREU
14	Dean Mohsini	Kabul U.	40	Paul Hicks	CRS
15	Dr. Samsor	ASAP	41	Sardar Mohammad	Mercy Corp
16	Euan Thomson	consultant	42	Sayed Gul Safi	AVA
17	Frauke de Weijer	ASAP	43	Scott Drennan	USAID
18	Frewengel Michael	Mercy Corp	44	Shah Mohd Kakar	HLP
19	Guy Fipps	Texas A&M U.	45	Steve Berk	USDA
20	Hans Weigl	AHDP	46	Tek Tapa	FAO
21	Harlan Hale	USAID	47	Tom Billak	USDA
22	Haroon Nessar	DCA	48	Tom Fattori	ASAP
23	Jerry Turnbull	CNFA	49	Wolfgang Pittrof	CRS
24	John Bonnier	HLP	50	Zekria Abed	Agha Khan
25	John Mott	USDA	51	Zia Formuly	ASAP
26	John Woodford	AHDP			

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF CONSTRAINTS AND PRIORITIES

Rank	Constraint/Priority	NGO control	time horizon			Frequency
			short	Medium	long	
1	capacity building-MAIL	yes			x	4
2	government policy, strategy, enforcement	yes			x	3
3	capacity building- producers	yes	x			3
4	capacity building- Universities	yes			x	3
5	capacity building- Agriculture vocational education	yes			x	3
6	marketing-focused activities	yes	x	X		2
7	finance, microfinance	yes	x	X	x	2
8	information for analysis, projection, and planning	yes	x			2
9	feed, fodder, forage, nutrition	yes	x			2
10	disease control infrastructure	yes	x	X		1
11	private infrastructure	yes	x	X	x	1
12	integration of production from farmer to consumer	yes	x	X		1
13	gender equality	yes	x	X	x	1
14	animal health focus, not production	yes	x			1
15	NGO coordination	yes	x			1
16	producer capacity	yes	x			1
17	policies and tools adapted to small-holder level	yes	x			1
18	quality of veterinary services & medicines	yes				1
19	land tenure, water access, and rangeland management	no		X	x	5
20	public infrastructure	no	x	X	x	1
21	Support for decentralization (Federal to District)	no		X		1
22	Security	no			x	1
23	Policy dedicated to risk management	no				1
24	consistency of donor support	minimal			x	1
25	corruption (lack of donor coordination)	maybe		X	x	2