

DAIRY GOATS IN TANZANIA, HEIFER INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA

TIPS AND CHALLENGES

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The Presentation Outline

- Introduction of Heifer International
- History of Dairy Goats in Heifer Tanzania Projects
- Production levels
- Heifer Approach in Dairy Goats Project
- Merits of Dairy Goats
- Impact of Goats to Community Livelihood
- Challenges of Dairy Goat Projects
- Tips for a successful Dairy Goat project
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgement

Introduction – Heifer International

- Heifer International is an international development non-for profit and Non Governmental organization founded in 1944
- It's international headquarters is in Little Rock , Arkansas-USA
- Heifer international started working in Tanzania since 1974 as is currently registered as an NGO



roduction – Heifer International

- **Vision Statement:** The vision of Heifer International is a world of communities living together in peace and equitably sharing the resources of healthy planet.
- **Mission Statement:** The Mission of Heifer International is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth

Statement of Purpose of Heifer Tanzania

- Heifer International Tanzania works with vulnerable families and communities in partnership with relevant stakeholders to improve food security, increase income and assets by sharing knowledge, livestock and other resources, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability.
- To achieve this purpose , Heifer Tanzania works with different partners like Government of Tanzania (MLDF), CBOs and NGOs



Introduction – Heifer International

- Heifer Tanzania operates her projects based on its Philosophy of Passing on the Gifts encompassing the Twelve Cornerstones for just and sustainable development.

Introduction – Heifer International

- The 12 Cornerstones for just and sustainable development viz
 - 1) Passing on the gift
 - 2) Accountability
 - 3) Sharing and caring
 - 4) Sustainability and self-reliance
 - 5) Improved animal management
 - 6) Nutrition and income
 - 7) Gender and family focus

- The 12 Cornerstones continued
 - 8) Genuine need and justice
 - 9) Improving the environment
 - 10) Full participation
 - 11) Training
 - 12) Spirituality

These cornerstones as guidelines to implementation of the projects have not only enhanced sustainability but also instilled a sense of love and cohesiveness and accountability in the participating communities

Introduction – Heifer International

- Heifer International Tanzania works with resource poor families in various integrated livestock projects for family food security and livelihood.
- Livestock species include:
 - ✓ Dairy goats
 - ✓ Boer goats
 - ✓ Camels
 - ✓ Donkeys
 - ✓ Dairy cattle
 - ✓ Pigs
 - ✓ Fish farming ,
 - ✓ beekeeping &
 - ✓ Various agroecological initiatives

Dairy cattle



Camel



Introduction – Heifer International

Agro-ecological



Fish Farming



Dairy goat project



Local chicken Project



History of Dairy Goats projects in Heifer Tanzania

- Dairy goats project in Tanzania started way back in 1987
- The initiative focused on the resource poor families who could not manage to keep dairy cows as source of milk
- Later in 2003 the dairy goat initiatives extended its arms to reach orphans, vulnerable families and People Living with HIV –AIDS (PLWHAs)

History of Dairy Goats projects in Heifer Tanzania

- The projects were and are in Mara, Shinyanga, Mbeya, Singida, Babati, Arusha, Kagera, Rukwa, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, Dodoma, Morogoro regions and Zanzibar
- To date, a total of about 9,990+ dairy goats have been distributed to the same number of beneficiaries
- Out of this number, 6,478 are original placement and 3,513 are Passing on the Gift beneficiaries

Breeds of Dairy goats in Heifer Tanzania

SAANEN



ALPINE



Breeds of Dairy Goats in Heifer Tanzania

ANGLONUBIAN



TOGGENBURG



Production levels

- The average milk production is 2.5 litres per day under optimal management and without supplementation.
- Highest milk production of 8 litres a day was recorded in Kagera from a Saanen goat . This goat was mostly fed on variety of shrubs of not less than 4 types a day but with limited supplementation.

Heifer approach in Dairy Goat Projects

- Beneficiaries are selected based on Heifer cornerstones
- The selected beneficiaries receive a six days practical and theory training in dairy goat husbandry including record keeping, gender , HIV/AIDS , environment and tips in entrepreneurship

Heifer approach....

- After training individual farmers in their own formed groups start preparing goat sheds using locally available materials and whenever necessary, few are supported with cement and other materials for ground floor sheds
- Most sheds are constructed using wood poles and thatched by grasses
- For very few use iron sheets and timber in making the sheds

Heifer approach...

- The training also includes practices of establishing pasture plots (Napier and other grass species planted with leguminous species like desmodium, luceanae, calliandra etc), thus farmers establish pasture plots as source of feeds
- The farmers are advised to feed the goats in doors

Merits of Dairy Goats

- Require small space to raise a shed which is also less costly, feed little and variety of feeds including crop left over's
- It is clandestinely named as a poor man's cow



Merits of dairy goats.....

- Feeding requirement of goats is five times less than of a 300kgs cow
- Easy to clean the goats shed as compared to cow sheds
- Its is easy to handle at family level, meat from slaughtered goat than the same from a slaughtered cow which will require cold chain
- Dietary improvement through milk intakes. Shown that 65 – 95% of goats milk is consumed at home
- Goats milk can be easily absorbed from the GIT and hence the preferred commodity by PLWHAs
- It is believed that goats milk bears medicinal value against Peptic Ulcers

Merits of Dairy goats.....

- Goats are more fecund as compared to large ruminants. The twinning effects to an extent of quadruplets is well defined in goats than it is with large ruminants
- It is a source of income to the rural poor . A six month old nanny is priced at TAS 150,000.



Merits of Dairy Goats.....

- Manure as a byproduct of metabolic process is used to fertilize farms for increased crop production
- Integration of goats with agriculture has resulted in environment and soil improvement characterized by planted leguminous plant species and bio-intensive gardens



IMPACTS OF DAIRY GOATS

- Dairy goats have greatly improved nutritional status of many families including many People Living with HIV/AIDS



IMPACTS.....

- Juma Kijungu (36), a physically hand caped from Musoma Rural, Kibubwa village, received a dairy goat in 2010. Since then the goat has kidded three times. Has given a POG already and uses most of the milk for home consumption. When asked as to why he does not sell some , this is what he has to say “ *the milk from the goats has been very useful to my kids and my ailing mother. As you see, I am very poor but the milk has helped these kids and my mother to be in the condition you see them*” he recounted



IMPACTS.....

Juma and his family



His daughter, Anna enjoying the milk from their goat



IMPACTS.....

- Anatoli Mukera, a father to Mectilda died from HIV/AIDS in 1997 leaving Levina , a widow who also passed away in 2001 leaving 6 orphans –Adella (8), Johanes(6), Pius (5), Assela (3) and Paschale (2).The major source of income in this child headed family was labour. In 2003, Heifer provided a goat to the family and after a third calving the income from the goat was enough to pay for Mectilda school fees which was previously catered for by the ELCT –Church. Progressively the income became stable and after a long walk of education, Adella is now at the University of Dar es Salaam pursuing a degree in Laws. The family can now afford something mundane like three meals a day which was never before .



Challenges....

- Beneficiaries are not always abiding by breeding along pure breed lines



Challenges....

- Goats have a short generation interval which calls for a rigorous bucks rotation to avoid inbreeding
- There is no Artificial Insemination to dairy goats in Tanzania
- Lack of organized market for dairy goats. In some the prices for goats are low which can be disincentive to the farmers
- There is stud book for dairy goats in Tanzania where records of the best performing goats are kept for selection purposes

Challenges...

- There is no reliable source of improved dairy goats
- Unreliable vaccination regime of notifiable diseases e.g. Contagious Capri Pleural Pneumonia (CCPP) have become endemic

Challenges....

- Poverty level of most beneficiaries leads to mismanagement of dairy goats (supplementation, disease control practices ,housing etc)



Challenges....

- Abject poverty of beneficiaries impedes forming of a strong capital for sustainable livelihood development as every kid is sold to carter for household basic needs



Tips to successful Dairy Goat Project

- Proper Project design that considers the vulnerability level of the community to be supported for sustainability
- Proper selection and training of beneficiaries
- Sheds that are well ventilated and always dry
- Feeding which should include a variety of shrubs as even in limited supplementation, still goats can perform. Establishing pasture helps a lot
- Proper breeding record at farmers level which necessitates proper identification of goats
- Good source of start up flock
- Disease control strategies especially on vaccination of deadly notifiable diseases like CCPP
- Community based Animal care system for provision of first aid animal health services
- Organized market for goat kids so that farmers can fetch a fair price (Organize farmer groups

Conclusion

- Despite the challenges, dairy goats have changed the lives of very vulnerable families to a sustainable livelihood. However, a thorough livelihood assessment prior to implementing a dairy goat project is needed to come up with contextual issues which will help in the design of goat projects needed to attain sustainable livelihood.

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Thank You Very Much for
Listening