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# **Gender and Livestock**

## **Capitalisation of Experiences on Livestock Projects and Gender**

Heidi Bravo-Baumann

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Working Document

**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**

Bern, September 2000

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## Foreword

Women play an important role in activities dealing with livestock such as care and management or transformation and marketing of certain livestock products. Furthermore, livestock ownership patterns (especially for small stock and poultry) appear more equitable than that of other assets (land, capital, knowledge). These reasons have possibly contributed to an increasing inclusion -in one way or another- of gender aspects in livestock development projects. Gender aspects are to be understood as "practical needs" on the one hand (access to technologies, more access to better welfare) and as "strategic needs" on the other hand (revised rules and regulations, long term improvement of women's position).

On the basis of interest shown by various partners for the topic and the positive feedback to the proposal by SDC Agriculture Division, the Division decided to review experiences and examine the following hypothesis: "livestock sub-sector is a privileged entry point to promote gender balanced development in rural areas". We expected the work to provide a more differentiated picture to complement a review mandated in 1996 on gender and agriculture and which concluded that a project aiming at gender balanced development depends more on participation than on project contents or the domain of intervention. If the hypothesis examined here holds true, it would imply scope for interventions in the livestock sub-sector thus indicating a specific possibility to work on gender issues in a production domain (gender enhancing interventions usually appear more evident in social domains such as education or health).

In addition to and independently of the answer to the hypothesis, we also wanted to identify best practices and pitfalls as there are a wide variety of approaches to address gender and women issues in livestock projects (women dairy cooperatives, training of pastoralist women, women focused livestock extension services).

For the reasons given above, SDC Agriculture Division mandated Heidi Bravo to capitalise on the experiences made by SDC and other organisations. During the course of the work there was a close dialogue between the consultant and SDC Agriculture Division and SDC Gender Unit to arrive to the final product. The work consisted in a fairly rapid review of experiences reported by resource people or found in the literature. It is an aid to better understand what can be done and what should be kept in mind for implementing gender approach in livestock projects. This working document does not pretend to cover all the key experiences nor provide the ultimate wisdom on the matter but hopes to stimulate interest and discussions on the subject. For this reason, we invite readers to share their reactions and experiences with SDC and contribute to better know how and further developments of this paper. We would like to thank all the resource people and organisations who responded to the questionnaire and whose names appear in the document.

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# 1. Introduction

The involvement of women in livestock production is a long-standing tradition all over the world, in Europe as well as in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Livestock patterns differ widely among ecological zones, and socio-political systems. Livestock production systems can be divided in four major categories (Niamir, 1994): Nomads or transhumants, agropastoralist, intensive crops and livestock, and peri-urban intensive systems. In addition, there are some not-so-obvious livestock systems. In developing countries, the majority of livestock raisers are agropastoralists, deriving their incomes from both livestock and crop production. Agropastoral systems refer to a wide range of production systems, from the semi-nomadic to the sedentary. The difference between agropastoral and intensive crop and livestock systems is that the former consists of larger herds and usually relies on some kind of communal pastures or rangelands. Agropastoral societies in Africa have in general more total numbers of livestock than in transhumant ones, but the livestock ownership per capita is higher among transhumants. However, there are many exceptions to this rule. Intensive crop and livestock systems are more popular as land shortages force agropastoralists to intensify their production. Such systems have fewer animals per household than other categories, and often rely on fodder production or crop residues and by-products. In Asia, where often land shortages are severe, there are fewer transhumant and agropastoral systems. The typical livestock production system is a smallholding integrated intensive crop-livestock farm ("backyard" system).

It is difficult to generalise about the typical role of women within a livestock production system, as it differs even on a regional basis. In transhumant systems in Africa for example, herding and management responsibilities for large stock (cattle or camels) are rarely assigned to women. But that is not the case in transhumant systems in the Andes of Latin America. In many societies women are responsible for small stock such as goats, sheep and poultry, as well as for young and sick animals kept at the homestead. They are mostly involved in milk production, although not all women control the sale of milk and its products. Involvement in this task is not necessarily the women's choice, but provides an opportunity to obtain some additional income within the given circumstances.

In the last decade, gender balanced programmes and projects have become an important goal for many development agencies. Participatory methods, involving both women and men, are an important tool for success. But project content and approach have to be well defined that efforts in gender related issues will have a sustainable impact and the contribution of women in the sector are not trivialised.

This report aims to provide an overview of the experiences made by integrating gender aspects in livestock projects. Due to differences in society structure, cultures and livestock production systems, generalisation is quite difficult. Nevertheless, key points, risks and best practises are presented. For project designers and for project monitoring some indication of the required information and possible indicators needed to facilitate such a task are given.

## **2. Objectives**

The main objectives of this study were to:

- Verify the following hypothesis, taking into account the impact of development efforts of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Inter-cooperation (IC), Helvetas and Vétérinaire Sans Frontières Suisse (VSF CH) and experiences reported in the literature: “the livestock sub-sector is a privileged entry point to address and promote gender aspects in rural areas of developing countries”.
- Identify best practices and pitfalls encountered through interventions in the livestock sub-sector by promoting gender aspects; best practices and pitfalls should be differentiated according geographical regions or production systems (sedentary, semi-nomadic, large and small ruminants). SDC priority countries with livestock projects (India, West African Sahel, Tanzania) should receive particular attention.

## **3. Approach**

There exists a wide range of literature dealing with gender-issues, gender and agriculture and some specific publications related to gender and livestock. As a first step, a literature review was carried out and questions formulated based on the key findings. In the second step, a questionnaire (Annex 1) was developed and submitted to international organisations, development agencies, research institutes and various projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The questionnaire contained nine main questions. Adequate space was provided so that different project experiences, as well as important findings, opinions, and other relevant information could be included in the responses.

The questionnaire was sent out by e-mail. The advantage of using e-mail is that it provides a rapid and dynamic process for sharing of information, ideas and opinions with many people located throughout different parts of the world. However, e-mail can also quickly create additional work for agencies and field workers because of the ease by which requests can be forwarded on to others. In order to obtain a good response rate, the questions posed need to directly relate to topics which are of a major concern to the partners. They must feel that they will in some way benefit from the information reported. A total of 18 questionnaires were sent out. Twelve were returned completed, in some cases more than one from the same organisation, but for different projects. Those returned partially completed are not included in this number. However, many of these provided references to other documents in the literature and internet sites. Some projects also sent projects papers and didactic materials. All this information was considered in this report.

In a next step, the different experiences and findings contained in the questionnaires were compared with the main points reported in the literature.

## **4. Implications of gender aspects for project design**

## 4.1 General aspects on gender-issues

Today gender aspects are an overwhelming concern in all countries and in all fields of social and economic life. Gender is defined by IFAD as: “the socio-economic and evolving roles and functions of men and women as they relate to and complement each other within a specific socio-cultural and economic context”. Despite such a definition, gender is often misunderstood as being the promotion of women only. However, gender issues focus not only on women, but on the relationship between men and women, their roles, access to and control over resources, and division of labour and needs. Gender relations determine household security, well-being of the family, planning, production and many other aspects of life.

Gender and gender related aspects are often given lip-service by politicians and briefly noted in policy papers. However, to actually incorporate the concept of gender across all operational levels is more difficult. To give the support required to ensure that it can be properly applied and that some measure of success can be made, demands even more effort.

Concerning livestock development, there is a high level of agreement in the literature that socio-economics and institutional frameworks play an important role in determining who does what, and who gets what. Social and cultural norms dictate the division of labour and control over assets. Policy and institutional structures often restrict existing sources of support to women, particularly credit to acquire large ruminants.

Values, norms and moral codes embedded in culture and tradition have very strong influence on gender issues as they determine attitudes and the organisational set-up of the whole community system. Like culture and traditions, political, institutional and legal structures also change slowly. Hence, these latter factors often impede the implementation of gender balanced programmes. Therefore, in projects operating at micro level, the most important set-up to consider is the socio-economic factor (1)<sup>1</sup>. Social and cultural factors determine the possible margin of action of women and their activities. In cases where women are excluded from community meetings, have no access to education and training, and where their capacity to become actively involved is not strengthened, they will always be left behind (8). Economic factors are the basis for change because with a greater economic independence, self-confidence and possibilities of upward socio-economic movement increase (10). If one is to achieve a broad-based impact with a particular intervention, then gender aspects cannot be looked at separately: all factors including political, institutional and cultural aspects have to be considered. The distinction between practical needs and strategic needs is not clear cut and the complexity of gender relationships goes beyond these two definitions. Nevertheless, these definitions are clearly relevant for gender analysis and monitoring. New gender frameworks and, more importantly, flexible ones have to be evolved to address the dynamic reality of gender at the grassroots level (2).

Failure to take into consideration gender relationships leads to unsuccessful project activities, and the marginalisation of the disadvantaged sector of society and a large part of the agricultural workforce. Thus, understanding gender relationships and ad-

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in bracket refer to survey respondents who are acknowledged on page 27

justing methods and messages to them is crucial for full participation by all sectors of the community.

## **4.2 Gender awareness of project designers and executors**

For an increasing number of organisations, participation of men and women is becoming an important goal. Many project papers mention the importance of gender aspects, which are often included in the overall project goals. However, upon closer examination of the operational plans, one finds that gender aspects are often missing. As demonstrated by an example from Burkina Faso, gender aspects are only included in words, but not translated into actions in the action plan for rural financing and sometimes are misleading for publicity purposes (4).

Formulation of gender balanced projects and programmes assumes a high degree of awareness of stakeholders on gender issues. This includes not only the theoretical understanding of the concept, but also the willingness of the parties and persons involved to think permanently about their own positions and concepts. Gender training helps to achieve a better understanding of the concept, but gender awareness is also a personal position in daily life. This is the reason why gender training should take all opportunities to move towards addressing gender issues at the level of the individual person, organisation and institutional fields, culture, etc. Few programmes have had the possibility to attempt this (1,2,3,5,9).

Nevertheless, training itself is not a sufficient condition for gender transformation. It has to be integrated in a capacity building strategy including follow-ups and action-learning projects on a continued basis. Innovative interventions in gender issues need to be initiated in order to bring about breakthroughs in traditional division of labour and culture (2).

Special attention has to be however given to the social and cultural reality in a specific society. Project focus and approach in gender issues have to fit into general attitudes of beneficiaries. Activities related to gender issues always require to analyse the specific situation in order to establish a gender balanced programme. Forced promotion of women rarely lead to sustainable impact or even worse, antagonism between groups could strengthen social imbalance. In Mozambique a goat programme which promoted women ownership of livestock was in the beginning rejected by men and women due to the fear to disrespect cultural aspects. Though a gender balanced approach including men and women and giving special attention to women headed households the programme turned to be successful including women ownership and with participation of women and men in meetings on livestock issues (12).

Most programmes include gender without a proper understanding and perspective of the complete concept. Understanding gender requires a high awareness of the stakeholders and a permanent thinking about positions, behaviours and reactions of all involved partners, field workers and beneficiaries, and women and men in a project. A gender perspective should be a cross-cutting issue for all stakeholders, being part of their function and responsibilities, and should not be delegated or put aside (2).

### 4.3 Implications for project design

Gender awareness cannot be learned in a one week training course and it also cannot be delegated to one person or section within an agency. It is an ongoing process which implies the whole society in developed, as well as in developing countries. But a stakeholder can influence the process by his/her own commitment in applying the gender approach at each moment and for each action. Gender aspects should be adapted to the specific project region and society. In 1998 Intercooperation worked out a guideline for equal opportunities for women and men within the organisation and at project work level and a document on implementation instruments to support gender approach with the goal to integrate a gender specific dimension of analysis and implementation into the daily organisational and operational practice.

Gender-aspects should be an integral part of project goals and get carried on board throughout the log frames. It should be systematically and practically included in the operational plan by translating it into concrete activities and relevant indicators. Apart from activity oriented indicators, which show that a certain activity has taken place, performance indicators should be well defined in line with the objectives and expected results or outputs. Proper monitoring to capture small, but sensible changes in gender relations within and among households should be worked out in all planning stages (1).

With the integration of gender aspects, the project's scope expands as it is forced to dwell into the social, cultural and economic parts of the target communities. It will no longer be a livestock project, but will also deal with household dynamics and community anthropology. This is one of the major challenges when integrating gender aspects in a project. Major attention has to be focused on the fact that gender changes are very slow and, therefore, project goals should not be too ambitious in gender issues (1).

Gender analysis requires taking into consideration other factors which could influence the potential impact of a project and presents opportunities or constraints to project goals and activities. The reason for specifying these determining factors is to identify what can facilitate or constrain the project. The following factors have to be considered:

- make sure that gender is not an issue of mistrust and prejudice, but of creativity, inspiration and positive spirit for men and women.
- social and cultural factors (norms and traditions which influence the behaviour of men, women and children, organisation of the daily life of the household members, specific religious rules for men and women)
- economic factors (poverty level, inflation, infrastructure, income distribution and distribution among family members, etc.)
- institutional structure (government, extension, education, health care, funding agencies etc., and their gender approach in theory and practice)
- environmental factors (quantity, quality and availability of land by households and intra-household distribution, water, energy, etc.)
- political factors (power relationship, system of decision making, legal system, etc., and their influence on the relationship of men and women)
- demographic factors (migration, life expectancy, infant mortality, etc.)
- legal parameters (right to ownership, law of succession, etc.)

For successful livestock interventions the following factors have to be considered:

- Production systems and function of livestock
- Ownership of and access to land, capital and knowledge
- Ownership of different livestock species
- Responsibilities and division of labour
- Role of livestock products in household nutrition
- Processing and marketing of livestock products and household economy

The task for project designers and planners is to assess these factors, and determine whether and how they will have an effect on or be affected by the project. An analysis of the flow of resources and benefits is essential to understand how a project will affect women and men. Monitoring is important and should be carried out periodically to evaluate whether the project is achieving the expected impact and, if not, corrective measures have to be taken.

In the past, livestock projects have been designed and implemented mostly by men. The main focus was oriented towards production issues such as breeding, feeding and animal health. Only when project development was hindered, were institutional set-ups, market aspects and gender issues considered. A review of more recent livestock project documents shows that a clear reorientation of projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America occurred. Generally, the specific situation of the project region and its society, as well as the market aspects, are becoming more important. Nevertheless, a real awareness of gender and its application is today the exception, rather than the rule. In many countries, for example in India, livestock extension services are mainly oriented towards men, which makes it difficult to implement a gender balanced programme. Also, research is mostly dominated by men. Until today, little research efforts have been oriented towards livestock and intra-household decision making and organisation.

The planning team has to be gender balanced, well trained on gender issues and show a high degree of gender awareness. Experiences on gender issues from other projects, within the same country or region, should be analysed and taken into consideration. This is particularly important if projects are oriented towards other activities (health, agriculture etc.).

## 4.4 Participatory approach and gender training

Participatory methods are often used to initiate and guide the process of joint learning. These methods help people to visualise the analytical process of identifying causes and effects, and their linkages serve as common points of reference, and help to mobilise communities into action. As illiteracy is very high in most developing countries, especially amongst women, symbols help to visualise discussions and to record final plans and achieved agreements.

All those who participated in the questionnaire process agree, that despite the use of participatory methods and improving facilitation skills, not everybody participates in and benefits from the extension activities. Some agricultural trials fail and messages are not adopted because women, though being active farmers, did not attend the extension sessions. Husbands did not repay the loans because they spent the money on other things and had discussed neither the loan nor the purpose of the loan with their wives. Women's groups frequently are unable to market products because their husbands do not allow them to travel. There are many other examples that one can cite which illustrate the difficulties in achieving satisfactory results through participatory methods, if gender aspects are not actually integrated in the extension system.

In building up a gender sensitive programme, training is one of the most important components. The overall aim of gender training is to increase the awareness, knowledge, skills, and behaviour in relation to gender of all people. The training has first to be oriented towards the staff in order for them to acquire knowledge and skills to understand, explain and practice the concept of gender. Awareness raising should be carried out at all levels, from senior staff to junior staff over to the clients themselves (1). Proper approach and teaching methodology should be developed for each level.

Specific approaches should be developed which suit staff and client levels separately. The background of the target community should be well understood and the training components should be in line with the existing situation. This means that a global gender training syllabus is not appropriate. Rather, a syllabus must be developed which specifically relates to the context. Resource persons should both represent the male and female sex, and should have an affiliation with agriculture and livestock production (11).

Another aspect consists in the preparation of training programmes. The aim of the training and the content should be well thought out and developed. A suitable training environment should be identified and proven techniques used to facilitate participants learning by understanding. These are two very important points because in gender training individuals basically talk about their own lives, beliefs and experiences. Thus, they need an environment and facilitators which will promote open and frank discussions in order to identify certain biases and views they may hold concerning gender. The sensitivity of the gender concept itself calls for participatory, open minded and flexible approaches, so as to involve all participants in the whole process in order to identify their own weakness in terms of behaviour, perception and attitudes, and gradually prepare oneself for a change (1).

## **5. Gender aspects in livestock production**

### **5.1 Production systems and function of livestock**

#### **5.1.1 Experiences**

Throughout much of the developing world livestock are raised in mixed farming systems, where animals very often have different functions. Livestock activities are normally integrated into the existing farming systems: animals graze on fallow land and browse on hedges, utilise crop residues as feedstuffs and produce milk and meat, manure for biogas and power for traction.

A special category of smallholders are landless labourers, who own one or two dairy cows. This is a category that is dominant in Asia. These labourers and their families must also be considered and included in dairy development programmes. Experience in India shows, that through milk cooperatives (Operation Flood) a large number of marginal farmers, women and even the landless could be attracted to dairy production (Ramaswamy, 1996).

Sheep and goats can be kept on small farms without large fodder resources. They are a fundamental component in many farming systems, but they rarely dominate. In Niger most women own some sheep, which during the day are sent to pasture. Several studies show that this activity, when all costs for medicine, salt and straw are counted, provides little profit. Nevertheless, keeping sheep allows women to realise some income, form part of their savings and is a source of prestige (SDC, 1999).

Poultry are probably the most important livestock species for many poor, rural families world-wide. Poultry keeping is largely the responsibility of women, but despite this, research into rural poultry development is usually narrowly focused on technical aspects with very little attention being paid to the wider socio-economic issues. Interventions to improve poultry production are often seen as a way to reach poor rural women to improve their livelihood (Rushton, 1998). Project proposals that intend women to be the main beneficiaries should examine how changes will affect them and how much control they can exert.

Often it is assumed that a household is a unit of production where all members have the same objectives and interests. Experiences in Tanzania show that the husband and wife may have both shared and separate objectives or interests in dairy production, and each one tries to work toward achieving them. This situation has a great influence of the overall livestock management (1).

Even if income is not the only factor that determines the socio-economic position of women, it greatly influences their status and well-being. Increasing women's income through improved livestock production would, therefore, also increase their status.

Men may feel threatened by this process and it is doubtful whether women would continue to maintain the traditional control they seem to have over the system. In fact, it has been reported when such changes take place, men will often take control (Rushton, 1998). To avoid such a backlash, experience shows that projects must include men and women throughout all negotiations to bring about equitable and sustainable changes. However, at the same time efforts must be made to increase the capacity of women so that they are able to confidently negotiate and meet their strategic needs.

### **5.1.2 Risks and best practises for livestock projects**

- The function of livestock for the various household members -men and women in particular- needs to be understood and fully accounted for
- Local practices and experiences are the basis for livestock production and further development has to take them into consideration, using technologies that are economically feasible, socially accepted and at low risk for farmers (7). Special attention has to be oriented towards the role of women and their empowerment in the local and regional livestock production system.
- Traditional control over income within the household from cattle, milk, sheep, goats and poultry and the possible development under projects conditions has to be taken into account and possible results compared with project goals.
- In complex systems, special attention has to be given to the interrelations and the possible consequences of project interventions on gender.

### **5.1.3 Required information and indicators**

For each specific situation, available information and relevant indicators will need to be considered together in the overall context of gender awareness. Some possible examples are given below.

#### **Agricultural production systems**

Livestock production systems and types of animals; crop/livestock linkages; feeding; availability and quality of natural resources, ecological conditions and availability of land and pastures; soil quality; natural water sources; other common property resources; availability and cost of inputs; use of manure and crop residues; technology used.

#### **Households and their livelihoods**

Role of livestock according to the men and women within the households; proportion of households with livestock and their social structure; ethnic, cultural and social relations; household activities and intrahousehold organisation; seasonal migration; relation between livestock and other activities; gender disaggregated seasonal occupation and sources of income .

## **5.2 Ownership of land**

### 5.2.1 Experiences

Insecurity of women's land tenure is one of the most serious obstacles to increase productivity of agriculture and livestock and the income of rural women . Land tenure refers to a set of rights which a person or organisation holds in order to own, have access to or use land. Security of land tenure is not limited to private ownership, but can exist in a variety of forms such as leases of public land or user rights to communal property. Tenure enables the holder to make management decisions on how land-based resources will be used for immediate needs and long-term sustainable investment (FAO, 1998).

Historically, in most cultures, women's access to land involved right of use, but not ownership. When common land is converted into state ownership and then to private land, women often lose their traditional rights and are often not considered when new laws are introduced. In addition, women are rarely aware of their rights. Generally, the importance of this overall scheme is neglected by policy makers, ministries and project designers. But there are also other examples. In Eritrea there is a strong gender equality concern in the land tenure legislation . Since 1994 the right of ownership of all land is the exclusive right of the government. Every citizen, whose main source of income is derived from the use of land, has a lifetime right of usufruct over the land with the provision that such a right is neither divisible nor inheritable. Eritreans qualify automatically for land upon attainment of age 18 regardless of sex, religion or marital status. Individual holdings are registered and lifetime usufructuary title deeds issued.

Due to their status within the family, in most societies men are the main owners of land. Private land is mainly transmitted from the father to the sons, and often daughters are only taken into consideration if no male successor is available. There are some exemptions, mainly in Latin America, where the land is divided between all children. A brief examination of the succession law provides an appreciation of possible future land distribution and subsequent farm size. If agriculture and pasture land is divided between all children (or all sons), land availability per family tends to diminish rapidly. With an increase of family members, in many cases, survival relying only on farming cannot be longer assured. In cases where there are no jobs available in other rural sectors to contribute to meeting family income needs, the family tends to increase productivity on the available land with mostly negative consequences on sustainability. Less fertile and exposed land is cultivated, crop rotation is no longer feasible and the consequences are depleted soils, erosion and poor yields. If pressure on the land increases and no other income resources are created, migration is the last resort. In the first step men migrate seasonally, while the burden of the women and children who continue to cultivate the land increases. Abandoning the village and the migration of the whole family is often only carried out as an extreme second step, when there are no other options.

Security of land tenure is the key to having control over major decisions in agriculture and livestock production: what techniques to use, which products to sell and which to consume are examples thereof. The law of succession influences the distribution of land, the security of tenure and it is often a precondition for access to credit and a key link in the chain from household food production to national food security (World Bank, 2000).

Some development projects have attempted to give women access to land. A World Bank project in India made it possible for women in Jammu and Kashmir to obtain joint title to mulberry gardens, if they have a letter of no objection from their husband or landowner. In Andhra Pradesh, state land grant schemes promoted women's access to land. In a smallholder farmer project in Chile, obtaining land titles for female heads of households was a priority. This latter experience demonstrates that a government can successfully target the most needy farmers who lack secure land tenure and that rural women can be explicitly recognised as beneficiaries (FAO, 1998). Farmers with land tenure security are more readily to accept new technologies or interventions.

### **5.2.2 Risks and best practises for livestock projects**

- In many societies it can initially be difficult to establish who owns the land and who has the right to use it. But land tenure security is an important precondition for investment, as well as for empowerment. Given the complexity of different tenure systems, project strategy has to be adapted to the reality of the region and society.
- In many societies women gain access to land only through a man. This reality cannot be rapidly changed and, therefore, project design has to adapt to this reality.
- Law of succession influences the distribution of land, security of tenure and is often a precondition for access to credit. Looking into the succession law allows project designers to obtain a better understanding of how gender relates to the possible development of farm size and pressure on land in future.
- The concept of the household as a homogenous unit is inadequate. The power of a family member to make and enforce decisions depends on access to and control over land, livestock and other resources, as well as on access to income and social support networks. This needs to be taken into account in a gender perspective.

### **5.2.3 Required information and indicators**

Information and indicators on land ownership or tenure is often difficult to obtain. Some possible examples of indicators which can be used to assess the initial situation and develop changes are given below.

Gender and land tenure

Extent of landlessness; legal set ups as tenure legislation; land title and succession law; relation between credit systems and land tenure; access to and control over land by gender in quantity and quality and intra-household decision making.

## **5.3 Ownership of different livestock species**

### **5.3.1 Experiences**

Generally, men and women tend to own different animal species. In many societies, cattle and larger animals are usually owned by men, while smaller animals, such as goats and backyard poultry which are kept near the house, are more women's domain. However, ownership patterns of livestock are more complex and are strongly related to the livestock production system and to social and cultural factors.

Ownership of larger animals is often related to ownership of the land. How can a woman own a cow while the land she uses belong to her husband? This question raised by projects in Africa illustrates the strong influence of cultural and traditional aspects. In the southern highlands of Tanzania, even if a married woman signs the ownership contract or pays for a cow, the animal still belongs to the husband, and even in case of divorce, the wife cannot take the animal with her (1). Similar experiences are related from pastoral societies in Niger, where livestock is often a part of the dowry, but the control over the animals after marriage belongs to the man (3). The perception of these cultures imply that with marriage all the belongings of the women, including herself, reverts to the ownership of men. The Nuer society in Sudan do not permit women to own cattle and goats, but they are often charged with the responsibility for grazing these animals (8). However, in extensive animal husbandry systems in Pakistan, women continue to own the animals they brought as a part of their dowry. They can decide by themselves what to do with them, but if they want to sell livestock, then they need the men's agreement (Dohmen, 1992). Thus, even if women are the rightful and legal owners of livestock, they still depend largely on decisions and agreements made by men (12). In Burkina Faso, the handling of large animals is controlled by men, even if the woman is the owner. In this society as in many others, for example Latin America, large livestock are held as an investment for savings and, therefore, are an important source of prestige (4, 9).

The distribution of ownership of animal species between men and women depends not only on the society considered, but also on the type of animals raised. For example, in transhumant Peul society, each woman owns a cow to cover the family needs of milk and milk products. The more settled a family is, the more the division of ownership or control over different animal species becomes important. Men tend to own mainly cows and camels, and women goats, sheep and poultry. But there are also exceptions to this rule (3). When the rearing of small animals such as pigs or poultry becomes a more important source of family income, then ownership, management and control of the animals is often turned over to the man (4,5).

Another way to look at ownership patterns is in terms of management of income generated from livestock. The general trend seems to be that men are the ones who control the income generated. But there are also exceptions to this. Examples from India show that women have learned to keep their own personal accounts and the pattern of income management in women-managed households is quite different from men (2). Generally, women's control over livestock resources tends to occur with widowhood and to increase with age (7).

### **5.3.2 Risks and best practices for livestock projects**

- Livestock projects often assume that women ownership of cattle is a straightforward concept. Women buying or receiving a cow from the project does not necessarily mean in all societies that she owns it. More fundamental changes in society have to occur, and these changes are usually out of reach due to the

time limitation of such projects. Analysing the specific situation in the project region, village and household, as well as monitoring changes, are important if one is to formulate and attain realistic project goals.

- Traditions are important, and therefore, the role of livestock as a source of capital, income or for traction and cultural ceremonies, etc., has to be considered. The perception of project planners of livestock-related priorities may differ from those of the target population and of the women in particular.
- As income earning opportunities in areas of livestock production traditionally controlled by women increase, their control may be taken over by men. Thus, an agreement with the beneficiaries, men and women, has to be found in order to avoid that the position of women is eroded.

### **5.3.3 Required information and indicators**

Some indicators of ownership to be considered in the context of gender awareness are given below.

Number, ownership and control of livestock species by household types and gender; Social and cultural constraint to ownership of livestock; role of livestock production (home consumption, commercial production, for savings, for ceremonies, for manure etc.); types of ownership and control of livestock products as meat, eggs, wool, dairy products etc.

## **5.4 Access to capital and knowledge**

### **5.4.1 Experiences**

In a general rule, men have easier access to government provided credit than women. Women are rarely considered creditworthy because they have no collateral. In addition, they often cannot read and write, and are not used to frequent governmental or official institutions without their husbands consent and being accompanied.

In many countries, however, women have developed their small credit/loan systems. Credit funds and revolving savings of women's groups are common in West Africa. The members of the group save a certain amount of money which is then granted to one of the women as a loan. Normally no interest is paid, and the social control guarantees that loans are repaid. Other credit systems consist of loans of animals or even milk for processing. Generally, these systems only function at the village level, often between neighbours, where social control can be assured.

Project experiences show that special credit lines for women are successful if they are transparent and cultural and social reality of the concerned families are considered. However, the local situation has to be well analysed. For example, if the loan agreement or contract is only signed by the woman, but the loan is actually used by the man, or if jealousy or distrust develops between the two, then problems can arise and repayment of the loan will not be guaranteed.

In the most countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, animal husbandry services are mainly oriented towards men. Veterinary services and extension programmes and advisory services have been mainly designed by men for men. Extension personnel are often not trained to teach technical subjects to women or to react their specific questions. Due to limited resources in time and material, attention is first given primarily to men's animals. Extension work with women often requires special didactic knowledge and communication skills because women often speak only the local language or dialect and illiteracy is high.

#### **5.4.2 Risks and best practises for livestock projects**

- Efforts to introduce new technology which does not take into account existing knowledge of men and women are unlikely to meet with success.
- Failure to direct information to the person responsible for a given activity may result in no increase in productivity or even in stock losses.
- Credit lines have to respond to client's needs and their social and cultural values. Social behaviour and traditional rules of men and women have to be well considered and credit lines adapted to their special needs.

#### **5.4.3 Required information and indicators**

Some indicators to evaluate household and gender specific access to capital and knowledge are given below.

Credit systems and required collateral; intra-household decision making and control over loans; proportion of total income saved on annual bases and use by household type and gender; preference concerning investment of liquidity (bank, purchase of livestock, jewellery, saving groups etc.), informal borrowing sources (purpose, interest, repayment conditions) etc.

Official livestock and extension services; gender disaggregated information on following items: participation in decision making structure; type of services and training offered and attended; other sources of information and training (rural radio, TV); literacy level; participation in formal and informal groups.

### **5.5 Responsibilities and division of labour**

#### **5.5.1 Experiences**

Patterns of gender division of labour are location-specific and change over time. Although the most typical pattern of gender division of labour is that women are responsible for animals kept at the homestead, there are many variations to this pattern from non-involvement in livestock to the management and herding of large stock (6).

If new livestock activities are introduced, it is mainly males who decide on whether or not to participate. The intra-household division of labour then depends on household labour availability, the number and type of livestock, economic development of the household and estimated income out of the new activity. But in fact, many decisions in a family are joint decisions, although they may not be formally recognised as such (not admitted by households and communities for socio-cultural reasons).

In Mali for example, handling of large livestock is traditionally controlled by men while women are responsible for smaller animals. This traditional division of labour is changing as the monetary value of livestock and their products increases (9). Experiences in Tanzania show that men primarily perform those jobs related to income generation and control most financial decisions (1).

From the Orissa region in India it is reported that women perform all the day to day activities related to caring, feeding, cleaning, health and production of livestock. These activities performed by women may appear to involve low skill levels, they are, however, most critical to the survival, health and production of the livestock. Activities performed by men are occasional in nature, involve less time, energy and labour and largely occur in the public domain, outside the confines of the household. These are activities such as vaccinations, deworming, grazing, purchase of fodder and medicines, and taking animals to the dispensary. Clearly these activities involve greater mobility, access to new technology and information, greater interaction with the market and the outside world (10). Despite this division of work, livestock production and management continues in India to be a household activity with flexible arrangements of work between women and men. Women's access to information and training in modern livestock management and dairying continues to be limited and even indirect, lowering their involvement and efficiency (2).

In Latin America, administration and control of cattle, including the milking, are done traditionally by men while the women participate in grazing activities and feeding (5).

Animal traction might reduce the work load for women, especially in Africa, where much of the hoe cultivation is done by women. On the other hand, the increased stall feeding and in general intensification of production might increase work load, as it involves transport of fodder or water over larger distances (6).

With increasing migration and off-farm work by men, the workload of women subsequently becomes greater as they become involved in activities once considered as being exclusively handled by men. Also in situations of war, women often take over the work traditionally carried out by men (8). It is, however, common for women to perform men's tasks, whereas, the opposite rarely occurs (11). It seems that a change of traditional division of labour occurs only by need, in cases where external factors influence a society, for example, the introduction of new technology, new agriculture or livestock activities, pressure for migration, war etc. Bringing shifts in division of labour by projects imply long term interventions (1).

With respect to children, gender-roles in most societies become internalised at a very young age – girls are socialised into performing roles traditionally performed by women and boys take on the roles considered appropriate for men. These internalised set of roles also influences attitudes and thinking and are carried later into life, which is why it is so difficult to change gender related issues (IFAD, 2000).

### **5.5.2 Risks and best practises for livestock projects**

- Seasonal differences in livestock activities such as feeding, watering and milking have to be taken into account, as well as seasonal changes in the labour input of different household members and their relationship to other farm and non-farm activities.
- As water is needed for livestock, as well as for milk processing, the year-round availability of an adequate water source near the farm is an important issue. Water resources that are located far from the farm, even for only part of the year, lead to very high labour inputs, frequently for women and children.
- Including women in project activities does not automatically benefit them. Periodic analysis of labour, adjustment of the time spent by women, or labour-reducing measures could diminish the risk of overwork.
- Special attention has to be directed towards children, especially girls, when increasing livestock and domestic tasks which can impact their ability to attend school.

### **5.5.3 Required information and indicators**

Some indicators related to gender division of labour are given below.

Different types of livestock; important crops and other activities; cultural restrictions to livestock related activities for men and women; seasonal variation in labour intensity; hired labour; daily time use by gender for productive activities and domestic tasks; intra-household organisation and distribution of work (taking also children into consideration).

## **5.6 Role of livestock in the household nutrition**

### **5.6.1 Experiences**

Generally, household nutrition level through livestock keeping can be influenced in three ways:

- direct use of products like milk and milk products, eggs,
- using the income from milk, manure or animal sale to buy food
- using manure to improve household food production like vegetable and other food crop production.

Monetisation of milk economy leads resource-poor families to sell more milk (1,2). But if the money is invested in nonfood items or used to drink beer, household nutrition level will not improve. The assumption that a cow will always lead to increased household nutrition does automatically not hold (1).

Nutrition levels of families have improved wherever projects have given focus on nutrition education or have brought multiple packages of intervention to improve the livelihood systems of the household (2). In transhumance societies in Niger, milk and milk products are mainly controlled by women. As women are traditionally more aware of nutrition aspects, they tend to assure family needs first of all, through direct consumption of livestock products or through selling and acquiring complementary products (3).

Contrary to crops, animal products, such as eggs and milk, are produced throughout most of the year. Selling them provides a small but continuous income, which is more likely to be reinvested in nutrition than the income of selling a cow or a cash-crop. Project experiences in Bangladesh show that through poultry production women's income could be raised. Expenditure increased in portion to the increase in income. Most significant increase was expenditure on food, followed by clothes, savings, animals and schooling. It is interesting to note that as women's savings became more important, there is greater female influence on decision making, with the result that more girls are sent to school (Nielsen 1998).

Generally, increased livestock production can have a positive influence on the nutritional level and the well-being of household members. Increased income from livestock production may change the intra-household distribution and control over products and earnings. When higher production and marketing activities become more important, women often lose their control over products and income. The level of nutrition within the family may decrease if the animals from which the products are derived are sold and the earnings spent on personal necessities, without taking into consideration the household well-being.

### **5.6.2 Risks and best practises for livestock projects**

- Due to differences in men's and women's use of income, increases in men's earnings from livestock-related activities may not be necessarily translated into improved household nutrition, whereas women tend to first increase household well-being.
- New livestock activities can have a negative effect on household food security, if women-controlled activities (used to satisfy immediate household needs) change to the advantage of males or if new activities are taken over by men and women's control of assets and benefits decreases.
- Religion, traditional beliefs and values may restrict the consumption of meat, milk and other dairy products by certain categories of people.
- In areas where livestock activities are mainly oriented towards subsistence, the establishment of milk collection and marketing points for meat, eggs, etc., may lead to a lower consumption of these products within the family. Project designers have to be aware, that if the objective of the project is to increase the income of small farmers, nutritional and social objectives for vulnerable groups should be realised through special programmes.

### **5.6.3 Required information and indicators**

Information and indicators on household nutrition can be difficult to obtain. Some possible examples of indicators are given below.

Eating habits by households and gender; seasonal variation in food combinations; food quantity and quality; proportion of animal products in nutrition and meal frequency by gender; religious and traditional constraints in nutrition of specific groups (children, pregnant women etc.); sources of different foods (home production, purchase, food aid); part of income spent on nutrition; systems of storage, processing and losses; intra-household distribution and control over products and earnings; main diseases; access to potable water.

## **5.7 Influence of processing and marketing of livestock products in the household economy**

### **5.7.1 Experiences**

If livestock keeping is the major source of income, men become more responsible and in-charge of the finance. Often men control the income and use it as they wish. However, experience has shown that money from live animals sales, mainly cattle, is often used to pay school fees or make major house repairs etc., whereas money from milk sales is used for minor expenditures like buying soap, kerosene etc. (1).

In many areas, sour milk, ghee and fresh cheese are the most common milk products processed at household level. Usually these products are for consumption and if marketed women control the income received. In cases where there is no market for fresh milk, processed milk products are sold in small quantities. When marketing of milk and milk products becomes a more important income source, commercialisation is often realised by men. In Peul, Touareg and Rouboukawa societies, selling of milk is exclusively a women domain, independent of the quantity sold (3). In Burkina Faso, the selling of milk products is realised by men when there are long distances between the village and market place. Money earned through milk sales is used to purchase necessary products for daily life that are not available in the villages (4). Experience from India shows that women tend to have greater control on the income from sale of poultry, eggs, milk and small ruminants (10).

The introduction of Operation Flood in India, the organisation of milk collection programmes and the establishment of milk cooperatives illustrates how market organisation influences marketing possibilities and income generation. Therefore, intervention in livestock production should always be accompanied by a prospective evaluation of the existing or potential markets (milk, beef, wool, etc). Future market possibilities, involvement of women and income from livestock activities depend largely on the focus and support given by the project to market issues (marketing, infrastructure, capacity building, etc).

In general, women tend to spend the money they earn from livestock activities on the welfare of their families. Income from livestock activities is also invested into diversification of agriculture, to buy animals and even to buy land. In many societies, the little income derived from daily milk sales is sometimes used by men for drinking. This continues to be an intractable issue in many societies (IFAD, 1999).

### **5.7.2 Risks and best practises for livestock projects**

- The national and regional market structure, policy, prices, services and marketing possibilities, determines whether or not a specific livestock activity is economically viable. Gender specific division of work in processing and marketing as well as marketing activities of men and women have to be analysed and activities adapted to the specific society.
- Intervention in livestock production cannot be sustainable if market issues are not considered. Measures to improve productivity and production only succeed if through the marketing of the products beyond home consumption and additional income can be assured. Gender specific market possibilities and mobility as well as the control over the additional income has to be considered.
- Women often have a more limited scope for mobility than men, depending on the family structure and the region. Limited mobility impacts and strongly influences marketing possibilities for women.

### **5.7.3 Required information and indicators**

Some indicators relating to processing and marketing of livestock products are given below.

Sources of income, especially from livestock activities; intra-household decision making and control over income and expenditure; structure of expenditure by type of household and gender; organisation and control over processing at household and industrial level; system of commercialisation of different livestock products; policy, prices and services; infrastructure; livestock products and quantities sold by household members through different marketing channels and system of payment; seasonal variation on prices for fresh and processed livestock products; processing and marketing possibilities for increasing livestock production; restriction to mobility of women.

## **5.8 Training in livestock activities**

### **5.8.1 Experiences**

In many parts of the world, women and men are involved in livestock production, but, compared to women, men have easier access to technology and training, mainly due to their strong position as head of the household and greater access to off-farm mobility. In most countries, research and planning activities in the livestock sector, such as breeding, handling, feeding and health care, are largely dominated by men. Official livestock services are often controlled by men and extension personnel are primarily men who are not accustomed or trained to teach technical subjects to women. Extension programmes and educational materials are mainly designed by and oriented towards men. Although in most societies all household members are involved in some way or another in livestock production, the decision making processes within the family and the division of labour for activities such as feeding, milking, health care, processing and marketing differs between regions, societies and households.

At present, in many societies, women's access to information and training in modern livestock management and dairying continues to be limited and even indirect. Successful training should be oriented towards those household members which execute these tasks. For example, in societies where sick animals are mainly treated by women, they have a knowledge of the symptoms and cures for animal diseases. But if they have no access to training, progress in best practices and appropriate herding to reduce diseases is difficult. Therefore, where extension services are dominated by men and where women have little access to training due to socio-culturally-defined gender roles, men need to be persuaded to see the relevance and the benefit of training women. Only through a carefully planned gender approach can livestock production goals and successful training of women and men be achieved.

Projects should identify and consider specific socio-cultural conditions of women, their needs and time constraints. Mobility of women is often limited and illiteracy high. Successful training can only be reached if these restrictions are considered and activities, approaches, methods and materials adapted accordingly to meet the specific conditions. Quality gender training should be practical and situational (1). Resource persons should represent both males and females, and should have an affiliation with agriculture and livestock production. It is also important to consider the

age of the resource person. Very young facilitators and presenters may not be taken seriously by the group.(11)

### **5.8.2 Risks and best practises for livestock projects**

- To increase productivity in livestock production, training should be oriented towards those persons directly involved in these activities. Depending on the society, special training material for women has to be elaborated. Training should be oriented towards the specific needs which in some societies can only be reached through separate courses for men and women.
- Constraints to women's' participation due to time and social restrictions, as well as content of training, have to be analysed and concrete measures adopted to provide better assistance to women.
- Training should be balanced between the development of technical and methodological skills, and creating a social awareness for putting gender strategies into action.

### **5.8.3 Required information and indicators**

Some possible indicators for developing activities in gender awareness training in livestock production are given below.

Differentiation of activities in livestock husbandry mainly executed by women and by men and possibilities to increase productivity through training; cultural and social constraints to participation of women in public life and extension; existence and structure of other production support services including other projects; constraints to mixed training groups; gender disaggregated adult literacy level; time and mobility constraints of women.

## **5.9 Role of farmers' organisations**

### **5.9.1 Experiences**

There is little information on experiences of farmers' organisations, their impact at the local and regional level, and how they influence and impact on gender related issues.

Farmers' organisations can play a vital role in the livestock development process. Input-supply organisations may grow and become centres for services such as artificial insemination, bulls, veterinary assistance, milk collection and processing, and marketing of animals and products.

The experiences in Andhra Pradesh in India show, that the membership of dairy cooperatives is largely dominated by men. Dairy cooperatives offered opportunities to men from backward communities to have access to benefits, emerge as leaders and gain visibility. Women only achieved symbolic representation and there are none or little opportunities for them to assume positions such as a manager, planner or director (Ramaswamy, 1996). In Orissa state in India, it seems that participation in the cooperatives benefits both men and women in terms of marketing. But there is

clearly no significant impact on increasing women's decision making power or on enhancing their leadership qualities (Ramdas, 1999).

In some societies where the participation in cooperatives due to cultural and traditional reasons is difficult or impossible, women create their own cooperatives. By doing so, capacity building and decision making power, as well as self-confidence of women increase. Nevertheless, in these societies women cooperatives can only be successful if the husband first agrees to his wife's participation.

### **5.9.2 Risks and best practises for livestock projects**

- Farmers' organisations should be based on local initiative, with some help and encouragement from external sources. Farmers' organisations only succeed if participants are convinced that through common activities benefits for all individuals will be the result and solutions for common problems can be found through increased influence on regional and even national level.
- Women's participation is important, but cultural and socio-economic realities have to be taken into consideration. Where in public men and women are separated, it may be necessary to create a women organisation.
- Capacity building efforts through farmers' organisations should, beside economic benefits, raise the awareness amongst women, build leadership qualities, and help them to gain a positive self-image. Literacy skills should be enhanced because poor literacy levels are often a major factor limiting a woman's access information, credit and market operations.
- Well organised farmers' groups also have the function of channelling the interests of their members and making these known in political circles. They may influence agriculture politics, extension services and project development. By doing so, capacity building and decision making power, as well as self-confidence of men and women increase.

### **5.9.3 Required information and indicators**

Some indicators relating to farmers' organisations are given below.

Existence of farmers' groups, associations, cooperatives; their goals, orientation, structure, membership, activities, influence; level of participation of women and their influence in the decision making process; existence of women's groups; relations between different groups; main constraints.

## **6. Livestock sub-sector - a privileged entry point for promoting gender issues?**

Good entry points for projects are found when concerns and problems of the target population or a specific sector of a society are well identified, understood and taken seriously. Economic problems are often the result of poor gender relations. In all livestock keeping communities, women are the most important labour force, engaged in multiple ways in animal, crop and family related work. Because livestock

production and management are joint activities in rural households, this sector offers an excellent entry point.

In relation to the promotion of gender aspects in rural areas of developing countries, the livestock sector offers advantages over other agriculture sectors because of the fact that in most societies all household members have access to livestock, whereas access to land is often biased towards men.

In contrast to crops, livestock activities are a daily occupation and animal products such as eggs and milk are produced, processed and marketed during the whole year. As livestock production is not subjected to seasonal restrictions, it is an interesting sector for promoting gender aspects in an ongoing process.

In most societies all household members are involved in livestock production, but decision making processes within the family and the division of labour for activities such as feeding, milking, health care, processing and marketing differ between regions, societies and households. Livestock production systems offer the potential for introducing a wide range of project activities relating to gender promotion, including improved production methods, redistribution of intra-household tasks and responsibilities, family nutrition, processing of products, marketing, increasing household economy, sustainable environmental practices, etc. (3).

In livestock systems, it is easy to show how gender imbalances affect productivity and the possibilities of change are often more evident than in other sectors. For example, if the men realise how their wives' commitment to livestock management changes and leads to better animal health and higher milk output when women have access to the proceeds from milk sales, the men's willingness to change increases (1).

All those who participated in this survey are in agreement that the livestock sector is a privileged entry point to promote gender related issues. However, to do this and achieve sustainable results will require an adaptive approach and proper training. Some of the main reasons reported by the respondents as why the livestock sector is a privileged entry point are:

- In all African societies, men, women and children have access to livestock, while access to land is often restricted to men. In transhumant societies, property rights for land are often not well defined. In contrast, livestock are a main source of household income and have a defined ownership. Nevertheless, the entry point of a project and the approach are interrelated; only with an appropriate approach can sustainable results in animal husbandry can be achieved (3).
- All household members, men, women and children have responsibilities in livestock production (4).
- Activities in the livestock sector can be addressed by households of different social and economic levels and all household members are involved (5).
- Livestock projects are related to subjects as processing, market, environment and nutrition. These subjects are interrelated and to promote gender aspects is a overarching issue for a project (7).
- Long term gender promotion through livestock interventions lead to sustainable development (6).

## Responses from the questionnaire

- (1) Tanzania, Intercooperation, Vera Mugittu, Lucy Maarse
- (2) India, SDC, Andhra Pradesh, Uma Ramaswamy, Anuradha Prasad
- (3) Niger, SDC, Elhadji Moutari Mansour
- (4) Burkina Faso, H el ene Le Hir
- (5) Rep ublica Dominicana, Helvetas, Mercedes Garc a Mar n
- (6) GTZ, Risto Heinonen
- (7) IFAD, Ahmed Sidahmed
- (8) Sudan, V t rinaires Sans Fronti res Suisse
- (9) Mali, Helvetas, Maud Krafft
- (10) India, SDC, Orissa
- (11) World Bank, Mmaduchhanda Mukhopadhyay
- (12) Mozambique, Helvetas, Ruth Mkhwanazi Bechtel

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# Annex 1

## Questionnaire on gender and livestock

Dear colleague

SDC (Swiss development cooperation) is collecting and capitalising experiences on the contribution of livestock projects to gender issues. Gender aspects are to be understood as the “practical needs” on one hand (access to technologies, welfare) and as the “strategic needs” on the other hand (revising rules and regulations, long term improvement of women’s position). SDC main focus in this study to examine the following hypothesis:

Is livestock a privileged entry point to address and promote gender aspects in rural areas of developing countries?

In this context I would appreciate if you could report and comment your experiences regarding the following points and questions:

1. **General conditions:** Across all regions in the world, both women and men are engaged in livestock production. However, the division of labour, level of responsibility, and ownership differs widely among societies. Social cultural, economic and political factors as well as institutional structure and legal parameters have a strong influence on the promotion of gender aspects. In your opinion, what are the most important points to consider in this context?
2. **Access to land, capital and knowledge:** Livestock ownership patterns appear more equitable than that of other assets (land, capital, knowledge). What are your experiences in term of access and/or control of livestock ? What are special points and pitfalls which need to be taken into consideration?
3. **Ownership of different livestock species:** Men and women tend to own different animal species. Often cattle and larger animals are owned by men, while goat keeping and backyard poultry production are largely women’s domains. Do you share this opinion and what are your experiences? Does the number of livestock have any influence?
4. **Responsibilities and division of labour:** Men and women tend to have different responsibilities regardless of who owns the animal. Women are often responsible for the care of young animals, for keeping stalls clean or milking. Herding, breeding, slaughtering and management and administration are, in many societies, mainly done by men . What are your experiences? Do traditional responsibilities and division of labour change over the time?
5. **Role of livestock in household nutrition:** If women are involved in livestock production (cows, goats) nutrition level of the family tend to improve. Projects with a gender component in livestock production tend to have stronger impact on nutrition level of the family than gender components in crop production sector. Do you agree with this opinion?

6. **Marketing of livestock products and household economy:** At household level, transformation of milk is mainly done by women while the sale of (greater quantities) products is often executed by men. If this hypothesis is holds, it means that cash resulting from selling of milk products is controlled by men and often invested in sectors than livestock. What are your experiences in this context?
7. **Gender aspect in project formulation:** For an increasing number of organisations participation of farmers is becoming an important goal. Many project papers mention the importance of gender aspects and gender aspects are often included in the overall project goals. But looking into the operation plans, gender aspects are often lacking. How do you think gender aspects could be better integrated in operation plans and what would be the consequences?
8. **Training and approaches:** The overall aim of gender training is to increase the awareness, knowledge, skills, and behaviour in relation to gender of all participants Today mostly participatory methods are used to initiate gender training. Which experiences have you made in gender training (best practices, pitfalls)?
9. **Strengthening of gender aspects:** In relation to the promotion of gender aspects in rural areas of developing countries, there are two different attitudes. Some people are of the opinion that the approach is more important than the content of the training. On the other hand it is reported that the entry point is very important for achieving sustainable results in gender promotion. In this context livestock sub-sector is a privileged entry point. What is your opinion and your experiences regarding the approach and content of training? Do you think that livestock sub-sector is a privileged entry point and why?
10. **Best practices and pitfalls in livestock projects:** In your opinion, which are best practices and pitfalls in livestock projects in relation with gender aspects. Please comment your experiences.

I thank you for providing comments on the above mentioned points in English, German French or Spanish. If you have interesting literature to underline your opinion, please forward it to me. Please send your comments until **end of march 2000**. The findings of the study will be presented on may 12, at a workshop which SDC is organising in Bern on the topic of Livestock's contribution to development.

I am looking forward to your comments

Sincerely yours

Heidi Bravo

Send your comments to: [bravo@agri.ch](mailto:bravo@agri.ch)