Benefits PM/ DL Village Harms Men

The importance of cattle

Children under five and sick persons are prioritized for milk consumption due to the health benefits.

Cattle used as a type of bank/currency; dowry

Seen as status symbol: Cattle is a sign of wealth

Manure is used as fertilizer, cattle are used to transport goods, and plow land

Frequent and rooted primarily in informal land ownership and inheritance practices as well as the topics of exclusive breastfeeding and safe milk consumption practices is required by in-country Leaders, Gender Specialists, and Development Workers.

Community Health Workers, Agricultural Extension Workers, Village Leaders, Policy Makers/District Leaders, Gender Specialists, and Development Workers.

The investigation showed that gender disparities are prevalent in decision-making, land rights and intra-household economic power. This results in a need for awareness education on women’s land ownership and inheritance rights to strengthen access to local markets. Significant intervention on the topics of exclusive breastfeeding and safe milk consumption practices is required by in-country partners. Furthermore, the dairy systems could be strengthened by increasing collection centers and tradesperson networks to buy milk from farmers. In addition, land conflicts are frequent and rooted primarily in informal land ownership and inheritance practices as well as general ignorance of local and regional land use policies.

Objectives

Address how gender sensitive decision-making determines intra-household allocation of milk and women’s valuation of time and labor.

Identify the linkages between (1) dairy production and (2) management systems to nutrition and health with a focus towards infants and mothers.

Determine how formal and informal land policies among cattle keepers and non-cattle keepers affect dairy and cattle systems and social relationships.

Methodology

Focus Group Discussions

In-Depth Interviews

Intensive & Extensive Communities

Cattle Keepers

Non-Cattle Keepers

CHW

ADW

Village Leaders

PM/DL

Gender Specialists

Development Workers

Women

Men

Women

Men

Abbreviations Used: ADW: agriculture extension agent; CHW: community health worker; PM/DL: public management district leaders

Results

The Importance of Cattle

Provides an Important Source of Household Income

Food, clothing, cooking supplies, school fees, constructing houses, purchasing vehicles, starting home businesses

Dairy Provides a Readily Available Protein Source for Households

Children under five and sick persons are prioritized for milk consumption due to the health benefits

Enhances Social Standing

Cattle used as a type of bank/currency; dowry

Seen as status symbol: Cattle is a sign of wealth

Agricultural Value

Manure is used as fertilizer, cattle are used to transport goods, and plow land

Gender & Livestock Management

Cattle Management

Women’s Responsibilities:

• Milk cows, sell milk, process milk into ghee, butter, and yogurt and distribute for household consumption

• Feed & water indoor cattle

Men’s Responsibilities:

• Buy, sell and breed cattle, graze and water cattle, and treat sick cattle

Cattle Ownership

Women:

• Own cattle only if widowed or self-purchased

• May express her opinion, but cannot make decisions without the husband’s approval

• Only have ownership of money that comes from milk sales

Men:

• Considered the only true owner of cattle

• In charge of cattle sales and purchases

Milk & Children’s Health

Community Perceptions

• Benefits of drinking milk: improved health, more energy, better weight gain, and children cry less

• Harms of drinking milk: diarrhea, rashes, worms, erectile dysfunction, and no perceived harmful effects

Role in Child Nutrition

• Exclusive breastfeeding is strained because of women’s daily responsibilities, including livestock keeping

• Cow’s milk is first introduced anywhere after the first week of life

• Milk is almost always mixed with water

• Majority of women report boiling milk dilution prior to consumption

Table 1. Intra-household Allocation Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Response</th>
<th>1st Priority</th>
<th>2nd Priority</th>
<th>3rd Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children &lt;5</td>
<td>Sick persons</td>
<td>Boys &gt;5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men’s Response: Children <5

Women’s Response: Fathers

Mothers

Land Policies, Practices & Conflicts

Intensive Cattle Systems:

Village bylaws outline land use policies

Village bylaws are in line with national policies

Citizens are aware of policies

Land designated for agriculture and livestock keeping are clearly demarcated

Extensive Cattle Systems:

Land use policies are varied

For villages with policies, it is not known whether they are in line with national policies

Villagers know they exist, but adhere to them

Land designated for agriculture and livestock keeping are not clearly demarcated or known

Conflicts:

Majority of conflicts arise between cattle keepers and non-cattle keepers because of poor delineation of plot boundaries

No communalities on timing of conflicts (dry season vs. wet season)

Conflicts are resolved by going to the village leader or land committee

Economic

• Create milk collection centers (either community-based or commercial entities) to generate increased profits

• Utilize local tradespersons if collection centers are not easily accessible or viable

Gender

• Raise awareness of women’s land ownership and inheritance rights

Nutrition

• Explore ways to increase exclusive breastfeeding

• Educate community members on safe milk consumption practices

• Improve and formalize systems for milk distribution/sales during the wet season

Land

• Clearly define land for agricultural vs. livestock-keeping purposes to lessen conflict

• Strengthen (or create) village land committees and conflict resolution processes

• Develop system to track land allocation

• Strengthen existing (and support creation of) village land use policies and policy enforcement mechanisms

Next Steps

Data will be disseminated to in-country development and research partners to improve existing and future programming in Tanzania, specifically in reference to the Tanga and Morogoro regions.

Data may be utilized to further research on nutrition and gender linkages in future global health projects funded by other organizations.

Catelynn Kenner (MPH candidate) will use gender-related data, in addition to data she collected piloting a Tanzania-specific Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index that she developed, to assist in creation of a global Women’s Empowerment in Livestock Index.

Sarika Mathur (JD candidate) will compose a report on land use laws and policies based on study results.

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