

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 24 May 2021 08:30 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Lesotho Small Holders Farmers determine the food system they want
CONVENED BY	Lesotho National Farmers Union
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20162/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Lesotho

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

3 0-18 10 19-30 15 31-50 15 51-65 4 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

23 Male 24 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

25	Agriculture/crops	Education	Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	Communication	Nutrition
18	Livestock	Food processing	National or local government
4	Agro-forestry	Food retail, markets	Utilities
	Environment and ecology	Food industry	Industrial
	Trade and commerce	Financial Services	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	Workers and trade union
	Large national business	Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	Local authority
47	Small-scale farmer	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	United Nations
	Local Non-Governmental Organization	International financial institution
	International Non-Governmental Organization	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	Consumer group
	Science and academia	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

We invited farmer representatives from LENAFU member associations in the 10 districts of Lesotho. We used the 3 (three) factors to guide to organize invitations to the farmers and these were (1) commodity representatives, (2) gender, and (3) youth. While the type of farming practice is an umbrella factor that guided our groupings, we ensured that there is a balance of gender in the dialogue as well as ensuring that the youth is represented. Further to that, the invited participants came from the three agro ecological zones; Lowlands, Food Hills and Mountains. The meeting was held on the 24th May, and was both in person and virtual. We started with an information session designed to inform/educate and update participants on the background to the UNFSS, its structures and processes. Two key virtual presentations were made by SACAU on background on the UNFSS emphasizing the principles of engagement. This was complemented by a presentation by the FAO Lesotho Resident Representative which summarized the concept of the food system. We first tried a simultaneous translation of the presentations but it could not work well for us. So we opted for direct English presentations in which most of the delegates understood. However, in accord with the core principles of engagement, we followed up on the presentation with a summary translated into Sesotho to level the language barriers amongst the delegates. The second segment was a facilitated discussion in Sesotho where participants raised issues emerging from the SACAU and FAO presentations. In the third segment, the delegates were divided into gender-mixed breakaway groups clustered along commodity lines as follows: Livestock groups - Wool and mohair farmers, dairy farmers, piggery, poultry, apiculture farmers; Cropping Farmers: Cereal crops and horticulture farmers. The first set of questions was along a force field analysis into each group sought to unpack the current state of the food systems in their commodity. The second followed a normative approach to project a futuristic state of a food system they want.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

First the reflection of urgency and commitment to the United Nations Food System Summit. Farmers were made to understand that they are the primary key players in the agriculture and food production system. They have to be proactive on the production of food and also determinant to respond to the requirements and standards agreed with other players in the food system. The delegates were drawn from a range of farmers associations and collectives across all 10 districts of Lesotho. Farmers dedicated themselves with commitment to the exercise as guided and facilitated by questions. Each group was excited about presenting how they have analyzed their food system underlining urgency of reforms and need for players to commit to the transformation of the food system for each commodity. Farmers appreciated their roles and the roles of other actors in the food system. They understand that they operate in a complex and dynamic environment. They are part of a larger collection of people including other farmers, suppliers, traders, transporters and processors, each of whom has a role to play in the value chain. It was underscored that farmers are faced with many challenges, and they become even more problematic when they are fragmented. As a result, the independent dialogue organized by LENAFU was a mix of farmers from different sectors; livestock, horticulture, field crops and apiculture and the representatives from youth and women clusters that are within LENAFU fraternity. The main focus was to build a joint statement on the food system the farmers want that will ensure profit maximization and bearing the consequences for humans' health and the environmental safety.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

The principles of engagement should be regarded as a basic toolkit for the undertaking of the independent dialogue on food system. The conveners have to understand that the food system is not only about the challenges within their scope of work, but it goes beyond that. They have to understand clearly how they interlink with other players in the food system so that they can determine the best and profitable food system that would be useful to all while also ensuring the safety of the environment. We need to all appreciate the urgency of having a well-organized food system so that the world is able to feed the people. It is with our wholehearted commitment that we can improve the availability of desired food quality and quantities at all different levels of the value chain. The dialogue conveners should ensure that the events are organized to build the message that promote collaborations amongst the players and complementarity effect on the efforts of different players in the food system. In order to have meaningful discussions and productive resolutions at the end of the day, our advice is that conveners allocate at least two days to really reflect on the food systems. In the first session, we would dedicate time to workshopping the food systems concept and taking one commodity and dissect it along the food system framework. This step is critical for farmers to appreciate the complexity and inter-linkages in the core elements of the food systems and the performance of the value chains structures and players. The follow up session to that would be a breakaway group session to make a facilitated discussion on commodity grouping and interrogating the current state. Ideally, farmers tend to focus on their problems and challenges not the resolutions or strategies. It takes some skill to take them out of the victim mode and have them analytically break down their current state of food chains and how it is structured, how it functions or performs and the nature of problems and challenges inherent in the status quo. again we need a well-organized facilitator

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The following guided the dialogue process on our selected commodities for the discussion;

- (i) Advancing equity, openness, and fairness in the governance of value chains, including in international trade,
- (ii) Enhancing availability and equitable access to factors of production,
- (iii) Technological innovations and adaptations,
- (iv) Investing in the next generation of farmers,
- (v) Shifting to sustainable and nature positive production,
- (vi) Priorities for public and development investments

Our focus was rolled out into two key steps:

The first was to analyze in detail the current state of food systems by commodity in Lesotho. This was a force field analysis of the current state of food systems.

1. This was set to built towards a farmers' position paper/ statement on the Food system they want covering the following issues:

1.1 Externalization of production processes, to ensure profit maximization by the farmers and bearing the consequences for humans and the environment. In these output, we shall seek to design systems' structures and functions as they occur in the current real world as the basis on which a positive concept then identifies points of entry for desirable systems' changes (Positive Approach)

Questions for Discussion

- a) Please outline the structure of the food system for your specific commodity. Who are the players? What are the key nodes in the structure?
- b) What are the factors limiting production, productivity, profit margins, farm livelihoods and the environment in your commodity? For each factor, please identify entry points for improvement of current systems.
 - ii) How are these factors affecting your production processes?
 - iii) How are these factors affecting productivity?
 - iv) How are these factors affecting profits?
 - v) How are these factors affecting farm livelihoods?
 - vi) How are these factors affecting the environment?

1.2 A normative statement for a Lesotho Food System that farmers want. The statement shall indicate capacity to deliver immediate benefits to farmers and provide a vision for other value chain players. At this level, we shall seek to postulate a set of objectives and aims to shape the systems to serve the stated objectives of a desired food system.

Question for Discussion

- a) Make visionary statement of the Lesotho you want in agriculture.
- b) What factors will influence your capacity to deliver immediate benefits?
- c) Provide vision statements of the value chains in your commodity.

1.3 A participatory, systems-oriented innovation concept statement emphasizing capacity strengthening of farmers with particular attention to women and youth empowerment. Here we seek to take a positive approach to improve the existing system structure.

Questions for Discussion

- a) Analyze the situation in your commodity today?
- b) Where would you want to be in 10 years' time?
- c) What factors can derail your vision and dreams for the farmer you want to be?
- d) What factors can derail your sectoral vision for the sector you want to be?
- e) What capacity development is needed to keep your sectoral vision on the rails.
- f) List and discuss any capacity development needs particular to women and youth?

1.4 A statement on the food system or value-chain approach that link farmers and local traders to markets.

Questions for Discussion (Force Field Analysis)

- a) Please project (futurist) a value chain system that links your commodity to local traders and markets nationally?
- b) What are the constraints in your commodity that limits your participation in local trading and marketing arena in your districts and Lesotho?
- c) Please make suggestions on how these challenges can be overcome.

1.5 Formation of a loosely structured coalition of farmers and other local stakeholders that facilitate and manage the agricultural innovation process. The objective here is to explore complementarity of the positive and normative approaches in the theory of food systems.

Questions for Discussion

a) Please design a network structure (s) that can help your commodity association /club and other local stakeholders (consumers, traders) to facilitate and manage the agricultural innovation process in your commodity.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
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- ✓ Policy
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- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The main finding for all commodity groups point to a food system stuck in a subsistence production node trying hard to make a transition to a semi-commercial /commercial value chain point. Two livestock commodities are a model for all others. These are the wool and mohair on the one hand, and the dairy production on the other.

The first is anchored by a National Wool and Mohair Association which dates back to the 1950s when a drive was initiated to improve the breeding and selection of Angora goats and Merino sheep as the mainstay of the wool and mohair industry. The production node is characterized by a collective of smallholder farmers depending on intensive grazing in the rangeland commons. It has also been supported by government subsidies in terms of veterinary services and supply of drugs. The greatest failure of the wool and mohair industry has been the inability to develop a processing node in Lesotho rather than exporting a raw product. The natural resource dependence of this industry is often blamed for the current environmental problems in the rangelands commons characterized by soil erosion and land degradation.

The second is the dairy industry. This also has evolved under promotion of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security over the last 50 years. The mainstay of the food system has been the promotion of Brown Swiss and Friesian dairy breeds and government support of the breeding improvement programs. This is also plagued by dependence on South African fodder supply because the farming systems in Lesotho have failed to fill up the niche for fodder production with investment in the appropriate farm level technologies to drive and support fodder production. There is a decentralized milk aggregation system in the lowland districts with local district town based milk collection centers supplying the milk processing plant in the capital city. The processing plant has a recognized dairy brand, processed as fresh-pasteurized and sour milk products which has successfully penetrated the wholesale and retail chain stores in Lesotho. Despite this moderately strong footprint in the economy, this odd foot system lacks processing diversity into other milk products and is as a whole plugged by the subsistence supply constraints at the production node of the value chain.

The third is the poultry industry with two sub-systems of egg and broiler production. This food chain has evolved under a strong support and subsidy of the Government of Lesotho. The performance of this food system has fluctuated significantly since its inception and has experienced its fair share of political and corruption shocks over time. The feed supply supporting system has always been strongly South African although the emergence of the local flour mills provided a strong local investment in animal feeds which continues to the present day albeit strong competition. The chick supply value chain node has also been characterized by lack of investment locally rendering its dependent on import of chicks and/or laying point chickens. In the early days of the egg industry, a national aggregator system emerged in the form of the now defunct Egg Cycle Institution which was a private sector cooperative initiative with decentralized collection and marketing centers throughout Lesotho. At its height, the institution could meet the egg demand of the country to the exclusion of the South African import. It will suffice to say the institution was shocked to extinction by political and corruption forces within the food system. Currently, the marketing node of the egg industry is disorganized at best but still has a strong weak footprint in the local supply chains although the lions share of the local market is dominated by imports.

The broiler production, was similarly promoted and supported by the Government. The production node of the value chain in this food system is also characterized by subsistence level production chains from small farms a few hundreds to large farms of 1000s of broilers. The stock supply chain has gone from failed Government attempts to catalyze chicken supply farms to the current system fully dependent on broiler chick imports anchored by local private sector business players playing a middle man role. Local investment drives for chick production in this sub-sector have been tried but success are far outnumbered by failures despite the apparent potential of the industry. This includes attempts at local aggregation through local investment in abattoirs or slaughter houses. The local demand for poultry meat products far outstrips the supply capacity hence a very strong import supply into the country.

The crop based sub-systems of the food chain i.e. cereal production and horticulture (vegetables and fruits) reported a consensus that the current state of the food system is rudimentary and undeveloped. It is characterized by subsistence level operations for production with farm gate sales with undeveloped value chains. In horticulture, in particular, the production nodes are characterized by lack of investment in irrigation and protected agriculture initiatives. There is, however, an emerging World Bank supported initiative for fruit production with potential to provide niche production of fruits with a lead time of about two weeks ahead of the South African supply chain. The system was put to a test in the current season and was able to supply high quality apples for a period of three months with import channels closed.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/7

Piggery Development

Envisaged Piggery Food System: The Food System Producers want

Producers perceive access to agricultural lands as the most important especially because piggery industry requires well-drained sites far from homestead. Production of breeding stock was highlighted imperative since the standards can easily be regulated and breeding material storage be established. The dream is to have stable and sustainable piggery production, through adequate production to meet the demand and supply international markets. The necessary prerequisites should include: established local input supplies, access to financial recourses, continuous technical support from extension service providers, diversification of piggery products to increase income and active participation in formal markets. The importance of having access to proper sites cannot be over emphasized because the piggery industry require proper drainage systems to protect the environment. The voice of the producers with special attention to women and youth must be considered in the formulation of policies, incorporating among others e-extension services and the clientele be empowered to use these ICT platforms. Open trade needs regulation based on local supply levels.

1.1 Current situation

There is a growing involvement of women and youth in piggery industry, with the majority operating at subsistence level and only a few smallholder producers participating in the markets. There are limited agricultural competitive grants in the form of projects that have specified tenure, implying that only a few have access to financial aid. Women and youth do not possess land and this stalls up scaling of enterprises and access to credit facilities. Women and youth in piggery enterprises have technical needs such as know-how on executing veterinary operations.

1.2 Visionary statement

Active involvement of women and youth to undertake the piggery industry successfully where their voices are heard and have access to the necessary resources needed for an enterprise to be stable and sustainable. There should be equitable distribution of land to women and youth to enable maximized production and participation in the markets.

1.3 Factors that can derail attainment of the vision

Policies that are formulated following a top-down supply driven approaches that do not consider the voices of women and children. To keep the sectorial vision on the rail, policy dialogues giving women and youth an opportunity to give opinions. The UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and national farmers' unions (LENAFU) provide technical support and hold farmers' forums where farmers can discuss issues in the industry.

1.4 Value chain linkages

Breeder-----producer-----market (formal and informal) consumer

1.5 Challenges

- Low and unsustainable production.
- Most producers operate as individuals and cannot meet the market demands.
- Absence of a regulatory body of standards.
- Lack of skills to produce acceptable products in the markets, and this reflects lack of extension services.

1.6 Solutions

- Establishment of agricultural innovation grants to support farmers and easy access to financial resources.
- Farmers be organized to work as groups to encourage collective yields that can meet market demands. Out grower contracts that entails sub-contracting of smallholder farmers by developed producers also makes it possible to meet market demands, thus enabling participation in local trading and marketing.
- Establishment of an authoritative body to regulate and enforce adherence to standards.
- There is a need for frequent monitoring by extension service providers.

1.7 Coalition of Farmers and other Local Stakeholders that Facilitate and Manage the Agricultural Innovation Process

A structure that allows interaction among and between all stakeholders using stakeholder forums, group social media, regular meetings.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/7

2. Fruits and Vegetable Development

Envisaged Fruits and Vegetables Food System: The Food System Producers want

Farmers envisage a food system where research station is actively involved in generating technologies that adapt to the local environment. Reliable input supplies of high quality standards must be ensured. Access to agricultural land must be granted to those who have interest in engaging large scale production at reasonable costs. The need to grow diversification of production should go beyond canning and drying must be overemphasized. Farmers wants to see fruits and vegetable production undertaken in protective structures to protect against harsh environmental conditions. Sensitization of insurance companies to establish agricultural insurance is imperative. Continual and regular trainings to capacitate farmers on upcoming technologies. Ensure use of climate smart agriculture given unending climatic challenges. Organic farming must be rapidly explored as it yields high profits. To ascertain this vision, farmers recommended that adequate budgetary allocations be considered to ensure that research develops, test and adapt technologies and for extension to disseminate and equip farmers with the skills and knowledge to implement the technologies. Formulation of policies that harmonize the operations of different stakeholders to avoid duplication and waste of resources are also necessary.

2.1 Current situation

Participation of women and youth in horticulture is relatively lower than that of males and there are no support programmes for women and youth. They are disadvantaged in terms of possession of land resources.

2.2 Visionary statement

There should be education and support programmes that are specifically developed for youth and women to enable them to participate in production of fruits and vegetables. Equal access to land as their male counterparts.

2.3 Factors that can derail attainment of the vision

Perceptions that horticultural endeavor is more inclined to males given the labor requirements which might explain the lack of interest of women and youth. In order to develop capacity of women, custom-made education and support programmes must be developed to encourage them to participate, these include field days where motivation can be instigated from other women that are already in the industry. Promote equipment that does not require immense manpower.

2.4 Value chain linkages

Research and development-----Input suppliers-----Primer-----production-----Harvesting-----aggregation-----storage-----Packaging-----Distribution-----agro processing-----Markets and consumers

The farmer plays almost every role, as they produce, process and take the products to markets.

2.6 Challenges

- Low and unsustainable production hinders the farmer from participating in formal markets as they require reliable and consistent supply.
- Lack of farmers' dialogue sessions to discuss different aspects of a product from farm to folk was considered as a stumbling block towards participation in local trading and marketing.
- Farmers are not organized in cooperatives but in silos that hinder them to produce adequate quantities to meet the market demands.
- Producers do not meet contract farming agreement requirement due to unreliable supply and lack of bodies that regulate quality standards.
- Producers do not have relevant technical and managerial skills consequent to poor extension services to produce quality marketable products.

2.6 Solutions

- Introduce frequent producer meetings to discuss different production aspects.
- Develop horizontal and horizontal networks that link all players.
- Introduce aggregation sector and promote contract farming.
- Conduct value chain and skills capacity development trainings.
- Conduct farmer buyer forums to pave way for the producer producer-buyer expectations.

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/7

Apiculture Development

3.1 Envisaged Apiculture Food System: The Food System Producers want

Farmers dream to have different bee varieties to accumulate as much production and other products as possible. Access to sites that are suitable for bee farming to maximize yields and protect the communities. This will enable increased profits that will support farm livelihoods. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food security should negotiate with financial resource providers to create revolving funds that aid producers to buy modern equipment that support production of high quality and larger quantities. Farmers want to see beekeepers as empowered individuals who can run bee enterprises and compete in local and international markets. All the stakeholders successfully engaged from farm to fork. We need to secure sites that favour the production of different kinds of flowers. Exposure to educational trainings and field tours is much needed to develop the knowledge and skills required for production of bees. Similarly, business skills are also considered important. Local suppliers of the equipment could reduce the heavy costs.

3.2 Current situation

Since the industry is still in its primary stage, it is too early to determine the extent to which women and youth participate in this industry. However, women and youth show interest but are discouraged by seasonal profits.

3.3 Visionary statement

Farmers envision 60% of women and youth participating in beekeeping as this industry does not require weighty manpower, women and youth would do well.

3.4 Factors that can derail attainment of the vision

Lack of knowledge and skills thus, training and exchange visits are imperative.

3.5 Value chain linkages

Producer ----- Processor ----- Markets and Consumers

3.6 Challenges and solutions

Locally produced honey is not available in the formal markets, as production is still very low and farmers are the ones who determine the selling prices without considering the market prices. Expertise on apiculture is needed.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/7

4. Cereal Cropping Development

Envisaged Cereal Food System: The Food System Producers want

Farmers' vision embrace increased production of cereals adequate to meet the country's needs. This will be made possible by local availability of reliable suppliers of quality inputs that are suitable for our soils. Access to land regardless of age and gender is critical as this enables equal participation of all groups in cereal production. A future with farmers that are resilient to vulnerabilities and shocks, and access to contingency funds in such times.

Formulation of plans and policies cognisant to the current hindrances is urgent. Adoption of conservation and climate-smart agriculture are recommended to address the challenges brought by climate change must be upheld.

4.1 Current situation

Males have landholding rights, while women and youth may have none, posing a challenge to their endeavours in this industry. High unemployment is forcing people to try other means of living that include agriculture, yet the desire of women and youth to tap into cereal production is stalled by lack of access to land, financial, technical skills and knowledge.

4.2 Visionary statement

Equal access of all parties to land. Trainings and support tailored for women and youth to flourish in cereal production. Financial aids in the form of loans and grants to support the take-off and expansion of existing enterprises.

4.3 Factors that can derail attainment of the vision

Lack of enforcement of land laws as agricultural sites are being given up for residential purposes.

Lack of clear contracts on block farming.

Land should be given to youth and women who are willing to venture in agricultural activities.

4.4 Value chain linkages

Producers recommended that buyer-seller meetings and farmers' market day are frequently held

4.5 Challenges

Low production and quality of produce

Lack of continuous open markets available to farmers

Lack of education on markets

Lack of joint operations by farmers

4.6 Solutions

Trainings on participation in markets, technical skills and knowledge.

Establishment of open markets for farmers to continually sell their produce.

Establishment of commodity groups for collective yields that can meet market demands.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/7

Wool and Mohair Development

Envisaged Wool and Mohair Food System: The Food System Producers want

First and foremost, producers perceive rangeland improvement very important in the improving of the industry. Thus, all relevant stakeholders must play their role to ensure sustainable rangeland management which will in turn improve productivity of wool and mohair in the country. Supplementary feeding was also highlighted as imperative so that when rangelands did not produce adequately due to several factors such as climate change, animals will still have feeds. They perceive the industry to have knowledgeable and skilled producers with technical backup support regarding fodder production and ration formulation.

Farmers also confirmed that it is highly important to have local breeders so that the economy of the country increases. Currently, there are efforts to identify and train some of the progressive farmers to become breeders through WAMPP. There should be a consistent mountain of knowledge and skills to ensure that they produce stock that can compete in international markets so that farmers are not tempted to buy stock from outside the country. Establishment of parastatal premised on sound regulatory and institutional framework to govern wool and mohair activities in the country. Wool, specifically, is the number one agricultural commodity. Thus, government support is necessary for wool and mohair to immensely contribute to the economy of the country. The infrastructural development in woolsheds consistent with international woolsheds infrastructure must be developed. Lesotho has been producing wool and mohair for decades and selling to South Africa through brokers and livestock products marketing services (LPMS). However, there are no wool and mohair brands and this poses a challenge of how wool and mohair fibre can be sold in international markets.

5.1 Current situation

Women and youth inclusion or participation in the wool and mohair industry is encouraging as it is roughly estimated at 70:30 for men and women and youth respectively. They still need trainings and exchange visits to progressive women farmers to inspire them to participate in large numbers.

5.2 Visionary statement

Farmers envisaged active involvement of women and youth in equal numbers as men, competing in production of good quality wool and mohair. They foresee the industry re-engaging, attracting and maintaining youth particularly to be involved in wool and mohair processing. The sole purpose is to tap on their fresh and diverse mind creativity and innovativeness so to produce new designs of wool and mohair products that can attract international markets

5.3 Factors that can derail attainment of the vision

Regulatory and institutional challenges that eventually results in the development of wool and mohair industrial policies and regulations that are silent about the needs of women and youth. Hence, numerous policy dialogue fora must be held where different stakeholders with women and youth at the centre, are brought together to consider how they can work and move together for the success of the industry.

5.4 Value chain linkages

Breeder ----- Producer-----Wool and Mohair processors.

5.6 Challenges

It was emphasized that wool is number one agricultural commodity in Lesotho, nevertheless, there are no niche markets developed – the country is not strategic regarding which markets to sell wool and mohair products.

5.7 Solutions

There is dire need to establish niche markets where national wool and mohair products can competitively sell.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ Finance | ✓ Policy |
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| | ✓ Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/7

Dairy Development

Envisaged Dairy Food System: The Food System Producers want

Producers wish to produce good quality milk in adequate quantities to satisfy both local and international market demand, that is, they want to commercialize the dairy industry. Thus, a shift from purchasing feeds must be realized and emphasis be on fodder production as dairy cattle can potentially produce enough milk when grazed on fodder with limited supplementary feeding. Producers also perceive availability of milk collection centre in rural areas essential as that will cut off unnecessary costs and gravitate all the efforts towards improving the production and productivity. At least one processing plant must be established in every town and be independent but ensured that it is guided by and adhere to sound regulations. In an effort to accumulate more value on milk, processing must be diversified. This has proved to meet all customer needs and preferences whilst generating more revenue. Use of modern technology must be exploited especially during milking where producers should consider use of milking machines and Artificial Insemination during breeding.

6.1 Current situation

The sub-sector is dominated by men, that is, women and youth are rarely involved in dairy industry. Thus, extension service has a lot of work to do to ensure that women and youth see value in this endeavor.

6.2 Visionary statement

Sensitization and mobilization programmes must be pursued to capture women and youth interest and eventually inspire them to take action. The sole purpose should be to see women and youth actively engaged in rearing dairy cattle and earning a living.

6.3 Factors that can derail attainment of the vision

Societal perceptions that this endeavour can only survive and be sustainable in the hands of men can cloud and even discourage women and youth to consider taking it. Moreover, the fact that they do not own capital assets such as land, makes it difficult for them to acquire credit for lack of collateral. Thus, awareness campaigns and intensive training by extension services and advocacy by civil societies on inclusion and support for women and youth is essential.

4.1 Value chain linkages

Producer----- Aggregators-----Processors-----Markets and Consumers.

4.2 Challenges and solutions

The biggest problem that hinders producers to participate in markets is low production which is attributable to high costs of feeds. Hence, it is important that educational programmes on fodder production be held for farmers to empower them.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 7/7

Poultry Development

Envisaged Piggery Food System: The Food System Producers want

The farmers' desire is to produce enough chicken meat and eggs meeting the demands of the country. This will be made possible by a local hatcheries that supply quality chicks, reliable supply of quality cages and feeding equipment and quality feed for the broilers and layers. Consistent access to water and agricultural sites will enable farmers to meet the standards of rearing, protect the communities against pollution, make expansion of enterprises possible and enable participation in formal markets. Farmers wish for a poultry industry with functional aggregators and abattoirs in all the regions of the country. The guidance of service providers is central as knowledge and skills on proper rearing is of paramount importance. Women and youth are active in this industry and programs that support and capacitate them are much needed.

7.1 Current situation

The participation of women and youth in poultry production is noticeable, but they are faced with challenges of food insecurity. Their desire and efforts could use support through trainings, organising them into groups and easy access to land and credit facilities.

7.2 Visionary statement

To have an education system that grooms children into agriculture from a tender age, this will instill and encourage youth to be valuable to these enterprises as some still view poultry industry as inappropriate for them. A support system for women and youth who are already in the industry in the form of trainings among others to capacitate them with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in poultry production. Farmers envisage a future where women and youth have landholding rights and simplified means of renting or buying land for production.

7.3 Factors that can derail attainment of the vision

Lack of training and support programmes to build on the required skills and knowledge to succeed in this enterprise. Policies and regulations that do not allow women and youth to have landholding rights and credit facilities could be another hindrance. Associations are needed for youth and women, to provide a platform where motivation will be drawn from each other, and this makes them easily reachable for trainings and other forms of capacitation.

7.4 Value chain linkages

Layers

Hatchery ----- Farmers ----- Markets and Consumer

Broilers

Chick Supplier-----Producers-----Distributor-----Processor-----Market

Interactions on poultry farming must include the following stakeholders:

- Research and development
- Policy makers
- Private Sector
- International Non-government organisations
- Extension service providers
- Farmers' associations

7.5 Challenges

- Lack of knowledge and skills on production
- Poor quality and low quantity of produce needed in the markets
- Lack of corporation within poultry farmers, as this would empower them to meet the demands of the market.

7.8 Solutions

- Organising farmers to work collectively to meet the market demand.
- Continuous and frequent trainings on bookkeeping, technical skills and knowledge for poultry production.
- Financial aids for farmers in the form of loans and grants.
- Establishment of an agricultural bank to meet the farmers' financial needs.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was a near total convergence of thoughts and analysis in terms of the food systems as they exist now and already summarized above. We, however, recommend that a series of focused commodity based workshops held amongst the farmers and with other actors in the food systems. This will allow the relevant stakeholders to discuss issues pertaining to the development of the food system they all want. While these may be implemented on frequent bases, the results would be a solid view and resolution by the stakeholders on the food system they want that is perceived to be profitable for all and also addressing issues of environmental safety. Under the current arrangement where we tried to extract this issues through simultaneous group discussions in at least seven sub-groups, the kind of focus herein probed was not possible within that short period of time.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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