

Empowering Women in Livestock Systems

Gender norms influence livestock systems from production to consumption. Two-thirds of livestock keepers are women, but despite their contributions to livestock production they often have limited access to, and control over, resources and benefits from livestock production^{1,2}. For example:

In Nepal, livestock ownership was associated with improved nutritional outcomes for children through increased animal-source food consumption9.



Compared to men, women have less access to inputs and services that are critical to improving livestock production systems3.



In the Ethiopian highlands, women clean cowsheds, milk cows, look after calves and sick animals, cut grass for feeding, and make butter and cheese4.

Women are primarily responsible for food preparation and consumption, but lack of decision-making power can limit the nutritional status of women and children8.

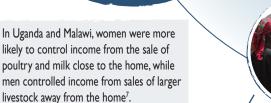






There are distinct gender roles in livestock production that vary by species and context. Yet women's essential contributions to livestock production are often unrecognized2.

Women face barriers to accessing livestock markets and controlling income from the sale of livestock and livestock products2.







Women predominately process animal-source foods at the household level, but are less likely to participate in formal processing cooperatives⁵.





In Rwanda, men are more involved in milk cooperatives and hold more leadership positions⁵. Similarly in Nepal, women comprise only 28% of milk cooperative members6.

Our Activities to Empower Women



Inputs

In Uganda, the Peste des Petitis Ruminants project aims to assess women's entry into livestock vaccine delivery services using an abbreviated Women's Empowerment in Agriculture tool.



Marketing

In Nepal, women's cooperative groups are testing a virtual collection center, through a mobile-phone based platform, in order to increase the sale price of their goats.



Consumption

In Burkina Faso, preliminary results of the "One Egg Per Day" project suggest that when women are empowered with adequate knowledge and training, egg consumption by children under 2 increased.

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems

www. livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu

Photo credit: top left: ILRI/Susan MacMillan; top right: ILRI/Apollo Habtamu; bottom left and right: ILRI/Stevie Mann











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