Women Livestock Keepers - Making Progress

THE ISSUE

Two-thirds of poor livestock keepers are women.¹

Women often have less access to markets than men, reducing their access and control over income generated from livestock.²

Women often have less access to resources needed for productive livestock value chains than men do.¹

Across developing countries, on average:

- Women farmers receive only 1% of extension services. ¹
- Of loans granted to farmers, only 10% are to women. ¹
- Only 15% of agricultural extension agents are women. ¹
- Less than 20% of landholders are women.

If women farmers had more equitable access to resources, crop yields could increase by up to 30% per household and agricultural output could increase by 2.5 to 4%.³...

… these increases could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 100-150 million.⁴

When women have control over income and assets, child nutrition, health, and education are improved.⁵

Female vs. male share of income expenditure on their families:

| 30-40% | 90% |

THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPOWERING WOMEN

Women are responsible for preparing food for the household; empowering them to make decisions can result in increased consumption of more nutritious foods, especially animal-source foods.⁶

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS⁴

- Who does what, where, when and why in livestock value chains?
- Who has access and control of resources needed for production and marketing?
- Who benefits from livestock products sold?
- What constraints do women farmers face in realizing a fair share of benefits, including income, from livestock production?
- How is consumption of animal source food products distributed among household members?
- Who in the household makes decisions about the use of income and about nutrition?

PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS⁶

- Improve women’s access to technology. Help them obtain information about prices. Connect them with buyers and other marketing groups.
- Increase women’s access to affordable loans and help them to align cash flow with expenditure needs.
- Reduce drudgery to minimize time spent on domestic tasks and increase the number of women generating income for the household or provide some leisure time.
- Provide child care options so facilitate women’s ability to participate in training opportunities and in labor markets.


Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems

www.livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu
References:


