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. For example:

- In Nepal, livestock ownership was associated with improved nutritional outcomes for children through increased animal-source food consumption.
- In Uganda, the Peste des Petits Ruminants project aims to assess women’s entry into livestock vaccine delivery services using an abbreviated Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture tool.
- 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.
- 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.

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

- In Uganda and Malawi, women were more likely to control income from the sale of poultry and milk close to the home, while men controlled income from sales of larger livestock away from the home.
- In Rwanda, men are more involved in milk cooperatives and hold more leadership positions. Similarly in Nepal, women comprise only 28% of milk cooperative members.
- In the Ethiopian highlands, women clean cowsheds, milk cows, look after calves and sick animals, cut grass for feeding, and make butter and cheese.

Empowering Women in Livestock Systems

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

It is crucial to consider gender norms and roles when designing interventions to empower women in livestock systems. This includes providing women with access to inputs and services, recognizing their essential contributions, and ensuring they have equal access to livestock markets and decision-making power.

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