

IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY OF GOATS IN SUDAN (SUD/5/025) D3 New

MODEL PROJECT

CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
1999	1/15	22,050	0	40,000	6/0	20,700	1/15	16,200	0	0	0	98,950
2000	1/15	23,175	0	10,000	3/0	10,800	0/0	0	0	0	0	43,975
2001	0/21	11,340	0	10,000	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	0	21,340

First Year Approved: 1999

OBJECTIVES: To identify the constraints to the productivity of goats on small farms and to develop an integrated strategy, including artificial insemination services, feed supplementation, training and extension programmes, in order to increase productivity.

BACKGROUND: The goat population in Sudan is estimated to be over 22 million. Goats are of particular value to poorer households because they have lower requirements than cows, and reproduce faster (three times every two years with a twinning rate of 1.4). Furthermore, Sudan currently exports about 100,000 goats per year to Arab countries. The Government started a goat improvement programme for milk production in the 1960s, introducing foreign breeds with US technical assistance, but because of inadequate research facilities and the poor economic conditions, the effort could not be sustained for long. More recently, the authorities have shown an interest in reviving goat improvement activities as a strategy for alleviating the critical shortage in dairy products, witnessed by projects such as the Khartoum State goat improvement project at Kuku, the small scale goat farm improvement programme for Southern Kordofan and two other projects supported by UNDP (the Red-Sea rehabilitation project and the Lower Atbara project). The Federal Artificial Insemination Centre at Kuku, in collaboration with the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, has already started producing semen which can be stored and transported in liquid nitrogen over long distances. Training courses for goat inseminators have also been initiated and trials on field insemination of goats are expected to follow. This integrated project aims at improving the standard of living of low income sectors through providing artificial insemination services to improve the genetic potential of goats, and a training and extension programme in goat management, feeding, disease control and other aspects of production. Three major national institutions will collaborate: the Faculty of Veterinary Science, the Federal Artificial Insemination and Improvement Centre and the Faculty of Animal Production, University of Khartoum. These institutions have equipped laboratories in their respective areas of competence, including an RIA laboratory, an artificial insemination laboratory for semen processing and evaluation, a diagnostic laboratory for veterinary diseases, and a nutrition research laboratory. The project will promote nuclear techniques for monitoring the performance and productivity of breeds, identifying constraints, and providing possible solutions.

PROJECT PLAN: The first phase of the project will focus on pilot scale activities within Khartoum State (estimated to have about one million goats) to verify and harmonize the various components of the overall programme. Activities will include (i) establishing procedures for the production of improved cross-breeds; (ii) establishing training and extension programmes for inseminators (to act as trainers during the second phase); (iii) developing and introducing practical and cost effective procedures for the production, promotion, and marketing of cross-breeds; and (iv) correcting possible shortcomings in the programme to minimize future resource wastages. Results from the first phase will be used as input to the second phase, when the project activities will be extended to other states.

NATIONAL COMMITMENT: Experienced and qualified staff; laboratories and facilities (including RIA) at different national institutions; artificial insemination laboratory and animal house; operational budget.

AGENCY INPUT: Expert services to evaluate and advise on feed supplementation strategies, data analysis and interpretation; relevant equipment; training in animal nutrition, artificial insemination, hormonal assay techniques and ultrasonography.

PROJECT IMPACT: Demonstrated success of the first phase will provide motivation for Government and farm owners to invest in extending and expanding the project activities nationwide. Eventually, the project is expected to help improve the standard of living of goat farmers, meet the growing demand for animal protein, and increase export earnings.