Enhancing skill-sharing within multi-stakeholder processes: an example from the small-scale dairy chain in Kenya

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Introduction

- The small-scale dairy value chain plays a major role in Kenya’s food security; as much as 80% of the country’s milk is marketed through this chain, and it is sold at about half the price of milk sold in the supermarket.
- Many livelihoods depend on this chain, including smallholder dairy farmers, mobile traders and retailers who sell milk ‘in bulk’.
- Yet members of the small-scale dairy value chain face several challenges, such as limited coordination, high seasonal fluctuations of milk supply, and the need for context-specific information.
- This research evaluates learning achieved by smallholder dairy farmers, mobile traders, and retailers who have been part of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), ROSALAMA, that was established in 2015 aiming to contribute towards inclusive value chain development.

Objectives

To analyse skill-sharing within a multi-stakeholder process in order to:
1. Evaluate how MSP engagement contributed to resolving problematic situations;
2. Categorize information and skills a) used by MSP members and/or b) shared beyond the MSP.

Conclusions

Problem solving was strengthened for addressing multiple problem situations through information and skill-sharing among MSP participants. This led to solutions implemented by MSP participants and also others within their value chain (e.g. farmers to other farmers, traders to other traders, traders to farmers, traders to retailers).

Consequently, this research shows the potential of MSP approaches to contribute to value chain improvement with diverse actors.

Results

1. Examples of problems, solutions and associated changes from the multi-stakeholder process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of milk for sales in dry season (IT2)</td>
<td>Sufficient milk production (IF2, IT2, IT3)</td>
<td>More milk to supply traders and farmers (IT2, IT3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High work load regarding harvesting (IF3)</td>
<td>More efficient harvesting methods (IT1, IT2)</td>
<td>Less work (IF2, IF7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding cows once a day (IF1)</td>
<td>Feeding cows twice a day (IT1, IT2, IF1, IF2, IF3)</td>
<td>New idea shared by a trader with farmers when he collects milk: “After teaching them [the farmers], the milk production increased. It's not like the time when I would lack milk. Now, its a lot. I never lack market because there is a lot of milk, people are getting enough” (IT1).</td>
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2. Categorising information and skills used by MSP participants and shared beyond the MSP

The organization of the MSP was designed to facilitate information and skill sharing among participants through peer-to-peer exchanges, group trainings (e.g. cold storage and yogurt making) and also through group reflection activities. During the narrative interviews, MSP members also revealed how this learning improved not only their own business within the small-scale dairy value chain, but also in some instances that of some of their trading partners or peers.

New idea implemented by a farmer in the MSP group:
“After many green feeds, I know that I can harvest them, store them, and wait for them to dry. Like now with this dry weather, I would be wondering what I can give my farmers on Saturday. So we build up trust between the farmer and me (IT2).”

Examples of skill sharing in the multi-stakeholder process:

- Building a cold storage
- Group reflection
- Yogurt making
- Fridge building training
- Yogurt training including insulation

Study Area

Six study sites in Nakuru County, Kenya

Nakuru County, Kenya

Small-scale dairy system

Milk is produced by smallholder farmers in rural areas, transported to Nakuru town by small-scale mobile traders, mostly on motorcycles and sold by milk retailers in so called ‘milk bars’ in Nakuru town.

Source of map: http://images.google.de; https://www.google.de/maps

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Methods of Data Collection

Data was collected from November 2016 until February 2017:
- Small-scale dairy multi-stakeholder platform meetings (activity planning & reflection)
- Peer-to-peer exchanges
- Group trainings (Fridge building training, yogurt training including insulation)
- Narrative interviews (Main question: Could you tell about a problematic situation that ROSALAMA helped you to solve?)

For this poster: 13 narrative interviews with farmers (n=9) milk traders (n=3) and milk retailers (n=1), where analysed.