



Tropentag, October 11-13, 2006, Bonn

“Prosperity and Poverty in a Globalised World—
Challenges for Agricultural Research”

Community-based Management of Animal Genetic Resources: Experiences in Implementation of Participatory Processes

WORKNEH AYALEW¹, ADAM DRUCKER², CLEMENS WOLLNY¹, OLOROUNTO D. KOUDANDE³,
FAUSTIN VIDOGBENA⁴, HIPPOLYTE DOSSA⁴, LEMMA GIZACHEW⁵, ULFINA GALMESSA⁷

¹*International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Ethiopia*

²*Charles Darwin University, School for Environmental Research, Australia*

³*National Institute for Agricultural Research, Benin*

⁴*Georg-August-University Göttingen, Animal Breeding and Husbandry in the Tropics and Subtropics, Germany*

⁵*Oromia Agricultural Research Institute, Ethiopia*

Abstract

Community-based management (CBM) of existing animal genetic diversity in developing countries has been argued to support the improvement of the livelihoods of poor livestock keepers while also ensuring the conservation of the genetic resources. ILRI in collaboration with partner national institutions in Benin Ethiopia and Kenya has been implementing a 3-year CBM research project since September 2004 by developing a framework to fully engage communities in the management of these resources. CBM involves series participatory processes to elicit livestock development priorities of target communities in tandem with preferences of market actors, and to design as well as implementation appropriate interventions that serve community needs while also improving effectiveness and sustainability livestock genetic improvement activities through collective action. In the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), participation also entails application of the principle of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) in research involving biological material and indigenous knowledge. The project already started to create essential community structures as a basis to operate. This paper critically looks in to what constitutes a community in the context of this project and examines experiences with implementation of these participatory processes. The participatory processes opened up broad opportunities to identify livestock development priorities, elicit and incorporate local knowledge and enhance collective action of community members. However, participatory exercises and community preferences were shaped by previously established priorities of the project and perceptions of researchers. These highlighted the need for capacity building at community level and encouraged collective action. In terms of PIC, the project countries have not yet developed the essential institutions that would implement them, and at the community level there is need for capacity building for the communities to fully grasp the implications of PIC. It was therefore concluded that lessons in participatory processes are learned by doing.

Keywords: AnGR, CBD, CBM, community participation, PIC