

INTRODUCTION

- Over 12 million Ethiopians rely on agro-/ pastoral production systems
- Shift of traditional cattle pastoralists towards camels due to their drought tolerance
- Limited (no) published research on camel milk production and marketing and their potential role to sustainably manage degrading natural resources in Borana and Fentale areas

METHODOLOGY

Baseline survey in Borana and Fentale areas in two zones of Oromia regional state

- Structured interviews
 - Camel herders: Borana n=21, Fentale n=9
 - Experts: Borana n=7, Fentale n=2
- Focus group discussions n=3
- Feedback workshops n=2

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Examine challenges and identify pathways for future research for sustainable camel milk production and marketing in Fentale and Borana areas in Ethiopia

RESULTS

Camel husbandry and health



Figure 1. Camel during browsing

- Shortage of natural pasture
- No supplementation, except salt (Fig. 1)
- Diseases and calf mortality
- Water shortage
- Different camel types
- Plantation and protection of fodder trees
- Raising farmers' awareness
- Migration of camels to areas outside the (tsetse) fly belt
- Improve veterinary services



Figure 2. Offering salt

Camel milk marketing



Figure 3. Street market

- No well-developed organized milk market
- No protected marketplaces (Fig. 3)
- No cooling and processing facilities
- Inappropriate transportation means
- Seasonal milk prices (Fig. 4)
- Training of herders
- Establishment of women cooperatives for collection and processing of camel milk
- Formerly established cow milk value chain as model for a formal camel milk value chain

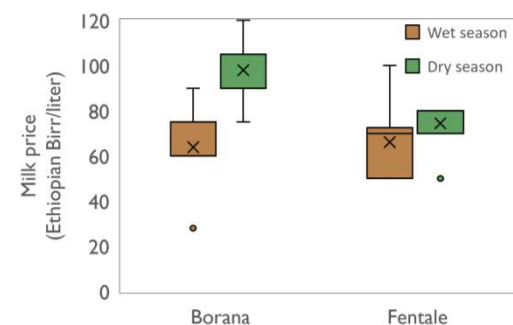


Figure 4. Seasonal producer prices for camel milk

CONCLUSIONS

Future research should focus on

- Solving feed problems through improved feeding management and protection of fodder trees
- Improving health care and breeding management, establishing veterinary care services for migrating camel herds
- Improving milk hygienic practices, developing organized market infrastructure, and establishing dairy cooperatives