

MID TERM PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DAIRY GOAT DISPERSAL PROJECT - IGEMBE, KENYA

Reporting period (October 2013 to August 2014)-10 Months



Jerusa Nkatha (lady beneficiary) with her dairy goats project gift



Akui group member's farm with increased banana production from application of goat manure. Support is due to increased weight.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Topics	Page no.
1. BACKGROUND	3
2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES	3
3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES (10 Months)	4
3.1 Training	4
3.2 Monitoring and evaluation	4
3.3 Procurement / placement of animal husbandry equipments	4
3.5 Visits	5
4. PROJECT OUTCOMES	5 and 6
5. FUTURE PLANS	7
6. APPRECIATION	7

1. Background

This report covers the annual progress (October 2013 to October 2014) i.e. from funding time to date. Kujenga Maisha East Africa (KUMEA) which is the NGO, humanitarian wing of the new apostolic church received funds for a dairy goats project for two farmer groups (Nkiiri mothers union and Akui Neema women groups) in Eastern Kenya, Meru County. The project received a total of Euros 33,000 at an exchange rate of 113 to 1 Euro which amount was therefore equivalent to Ksh.3,729,000/= . Fifty families, who are members of the two farmer groups benefited directly with one female dairy goat each. A total of ten (10) breeding bucks were also placed with the group at strategic points, kept by selected members on behalf of the groups. The breed of choice was the toggenburg, a good milk producing goat that is also able to endure harsh climatic conditions. The breed also adapts very well to given climatic conditions.

2. General project objectives

1. To provide alternative means of income for at least 75% of the targeted women in Meru County who had initially relied on the well paying 'Khat 'crop, now under ban, as a sole means of income. The sale of dairy goats, surplus milk and surplus food from increased farm production due to use of goat manure will improve household incomes.
2. To increase food security of at least 50% of members through use of the rich goat manure to increase soil fertility for higher crop yields.
3. To increase the local genetic base of dairy goats through upgrading local goats using pure breed bucks and pure breeding of the project toggenburg goats.

It is worth noting that objective (1) is a longer term objective since farmers have to initially pass live young goats before breeding to sell off offspring and considering also that livestock interventions generally take longer to show herd increase and related benefits. Lactation increases with parity and so surplus milk is expected from second year. Increase in crop yield and milk will in the first year satisfy the local family food/nutritional requirements before sale of surplus from second year. More will be expected from the second year of implementation.

Objective 2 is a shorter term considering that they are crop related and therefore satisfactory results will be recorded in the first year of implementation.

Objective 3 is a means to achieving objective 1 and therefore some results will be recorded.

3. Project activities in the last 10 months (October 2013 to August 2014)

1. Collaboration and partnership

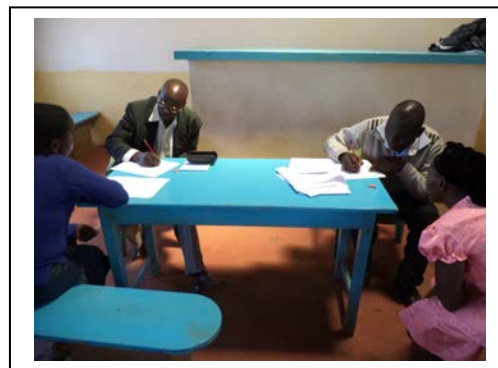
KUMEA's core values include partnership and collaboration with relevant organizations in development. The Ministry of livestock development in Igembe south is a major stakeholder in the dairy goat project; the staffs participate in training farmers and M&E. This is important for the sustainability of the project.



The Livestock production officers and KUMEA staff work closely for the success of the dairy goat project in Igembe south, Meru County

2. Project development

- a) Gathering information from the beneficiaries. The information included baseline information, demographic data, resource mapping and names and location of the beneficiaries.



KUMEA staff during project development sessions at Akui and Nkiiri groups.

- b) Contract agreements and signing of the agreements between the group and individual members.



The local chief signs individual project contracts to check defaulting

3 Training of beneficiaries

The 50 original beneficiaries were targeted and were actually trained on- farm for three days on dairy goat husbandry skills in January 2013 just before placement of the dairy goats. The training involved goat husbandry skill, group dynamics, understanding contract agreements for passing on the gift extension methodology, record keeping and resource mobilization (group cash saving and loaning) and fodder nurseries establishment and management.

The second round of training for all the original beneficiaries was in July/august 2014 after a monitoring exercise which revealed some technical gaps. The gaps were mainly with regard to breeding skills, housing of the dairy goats, feeding and disease control. These were adequately addressed during the three days on- farm training.

Over 90% attendance was recorded in both training sessions at which the farmers arranged for their own lunch and training venue and commuted to the training venues each day. The local livestock production officers trained the farmers in their local language. The training curriculum was developed jointly between KUMEA programs Manager and the livestock officers and KUMEA facilitated the officers for the training



During monitoring (follow up visits), the production status of the female dairy goats in terms of # kidded and for bucks # of females served was assessed for information and further action .

4 Procurement and placement of animal husbandry equipment with farmers

A set of animal husbandry equipment were purchased and placed with the farmers in March 2014. These included;-

- Five (5) foot pumps for spraying to control diseases, 3 for Nkiiri and 2 for Akui groups
- One burdizzo for castration of males to control breeding (Shared)
- 2 of 12meters Dehorning wires, one for each group for dehorning
- 2 Disbudding Iron for subduing young horns, one per group
- 1 tattoo set for identification of the dairy goats, shared between the groups
- 2 Hoof knives for cutting overgrown hoofs, one for each group
- 2 litres acaricide, one litre per group as start up spray for contro of external parasites
- 2 litres dewormers , one litre per group as strat up dewormer for control of internal parasites



Akui group members receive a set of animal husbandry equipments

5 Procurement and delivery of fodder seeds

As a follow up to the training on fodder establishment and management, Seeds for fodder (caliandra, leucaena and sesbania) were bought and shared to the farmers who used them to establish fodder tree nurseries to supplement fodder. The groups established tree nurseries for sharing seedlings.

6 Visits to the dairy goat project- Igembe

The monitoring visits were done by the government extension officers with guidance from the programs manager, KUMEA. During this period, the donor representative from NAKK karitativ also visited the project twice, in February 2014 and in August 2014.

4. Project outcomes in relation to set objectives in 10 months of implementation

A mid-term evaluation of the project has been planned to take place early next year to establish the actual quantified impacts of the project by an external evaluator to be engaged by the project. This report will only give the general areas and trends of progress noted during farm visits during the implementation period.

Objective	Progress trends/areas	Comments
To provide alternative means of income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project buck services are charged at Ksh 100/= per member and 200/= per non member. By end of August, a total of 52 services had been recorded in both groups raising some income. • Some farmers are already selling goat milk to neighbors. The goat milk is preferred to cow milk. It sells at Ksh60/= while cow milk is Ksh 30/=. • Some farmers reported selling goat manure to non members to use for planting crops since organic fertilizers are expensive. A wheel barrow goes for Ksh 300/=. • The farmer groups have advanced plans to have kitchen gardens with vegetables grown by goat manure for food and sale for income • The cash generated from sale of goat milk, manure, and vegetables is used to purchase daily needs in the household including paraffin for lighting, salt, vegetables and even books, pens and school uniforms. Some have paid school and church levies from sales related to goat products. • At least six male kids are being reared to be sold off as breeding stock to generate cash for the group accounts – Group contribution. Each buck at 9 months will cost at least Ksh10,000/=. 	<p>This is a long term objective</p> <p>Community members are yet to fully embrace the concept of upgrading</p> <p>Milk production increases with parity(# births)</p>

<p>To increase food security through use of goat manure to plant staple food crops –plantain bananas, maize and beans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several farmers are using goat manure to increase production of the staple food crops. Many reported a threefold increase in cereal production from their usual farms. • Bigger bunches of plantain bananas can be seen at group members’ farms in sharp contrast to their neighbors who are non members without goat manure. 	<p>Organic fertilizers are both expensive and not easily available. Goat manure is a cheap available substitute which is even better in terms of soil structure improvement for sustained farm productivity</p>
<p>To increase genetic pool of dairy goats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 10 Does had already kidded to live young kids in the two groups. Most of the kids born are Male. • Service records have increased considerably as the communities around the groups realize the faster growth rate of the upgraded goats and the good milking ability of the dairy goats which produce more milk per day than the local Zebu cows. At Nkiiri group, in March 2014, bucks serving was at 10 % one buck of the 10 placed, by august 2014, all the 10 bucks had served an average of 7 goats each. The trend is expected to increase. 	<p>All the original dairy goats placed are Alive.</p>

5. Future plans for the remaining one year of implementation

- To train farmers on compost manure making and utilization of the compost manure for crop and vegetable farming. The compost will also be sold for income.
- To have a midterm evaluation of the project by an external evaluator early 2015.
- To replace breeding bucks to avoid in-breeding. This will be done in March 2015.
- Support bulking of more nutritious fodder for increased milk production in the two groups
- To take group officials on an education tour to challenge them to start up a dairy goats farmers’ association.
- To link farmers to potential local and external milk marketing channels

- More training on dairy goat husbandry for improved knowledge and skills in dairy goat farming.
- To train farmers on value addition for their milk for better pricing.
- To train local dairy goats inspectors and register the dairy goats with the Kenya stud book.

It is recommended that the balance of funds should be released as soon as possible to facilitate the future project plans as outlined above.

6. Appreciation

The project beneficiaries are indeed grateful for the support of NAKK Karitativ for the dairy goats project which they believe will help them alleviate poverty in the long run. They are also grateful for the concern and visits paid to them by the donor representative which helped them to re-focus on their objectives.

The KUMEA project staff also extends their appreciation for NAKK Karitative's support. We are committed to support communities by empowering them to improve their livelihoods.