Diversity of innovation processes: Experiences from imGoats Mozambique

im Goats

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ImGoats project aims to

- Increase incomes and food security by enhancing pro-poor small ruminant value chains
- Transform goat production and marketing to a profitable enterprise that taps into a growing market
- Increase market opportunities through Innovation Platforms (IP)

Innovation processes

- No blueprint to enhance innovation
- Recognize diversity of innovations
- Adaptation to local and changing conditions
- Require high flexibility of actors
- Limited documented experiences on dynamics

Partners

- ✓ CARE (Mozambique)
- ✓ BAIF (India)
- ✓ District and provincial veterinary authorities

Poster objective

To reflect on the diversity of innovation processes in three intervention areas of the imGoats project in Mozambique

Points of attention in intervention areas

Context; Type of innovation and actors involved; Initiative; Changes; Flexibility; Results

Improving access to animal health services

- ✓ *Context*: no animal health services for goats CARE had experience with training paravets (community animal health worker) for cattle
- ✓ *Innovation*: technological and organisational (paravets provide animal health services)
- ✓ *Initiative*: CARE/ILRI at project start
- ✓ *Changes*: limited - refined existing extension and training models
- ✓ *Flexibility*: limited – planned intervention, CARE and ILRI took initiative based on proven model
- ✓ *Results*: 16 paravets trained, smallholders use and pay for services

Innovation process: planned, clear, CARE/ILRI led, familiar stakeholders, straightforward activities, *predictable*

Improving market access

- ✓ *Context*: irregular goat sales, no goat markets CARE had experience with cattle fairs
- ✓ *Innovation*: organisational and institutional (increased coordination between VC actors, introduction of weighing scale)
- ✓ *Initiative*: IP members and CARE/ILRI
- ✓ *Changes*: goat market demand lower than anticipated, buyers reluctant to use scale
- ✓ *Flexibility*: quite high - CARE and ILRI experimented with different market models e.g. local market, private sector, markets at longer distances
- ✓ *Results*: 6 goat fairs organized to date

Innovation process: partially planned, led by IP members with CARE/ILRI, familiar and new stakeholders and activities, *rather unpredictable*

Development of communal pasture areas

- ✓ *Context*: most goats tethered, limited documented experiences in Mozambique
- ✓ *Innovation*: organizational and institutional (collective action between smallholders, community leaders, paravets and local government; legalisation of areas)
- ✓ *Initiative*: IP members
- ✓ *Changes*: unexpected, not planned by CARE/ILRI
- ✓ *Flexibility*: very high – joint experimentation CARE supported local government to act on existing land use strategies
- ✓ *Results*: Communal pasture areas identified and re-used in 8 communities, but challenges remain (e.g. theft, lack of herders, uncontrolled fires)

Innovation process: unplanned, led by IP members and other actors with strong input from CARE/ILRI, new stakeholders and activities, *unexpected*

Conclusion: different innovation processes coexist in the same project context; all are justified and contribute to development outcomes

Three strategic lessons on:

Delivering science

1. Innovation processes are highly diverse; this requires flexibility in and reflection on the roles of research in R4D
2. Different types of innovation are closely interrelated; this requires an integration of different types of knowledge and scientific fields
3. Participatory M&E is needed which captures the dynamics of innovation processes and learning

Developing capacity

1. Project partners and stakeholders need skills to facilitate innovation processes
2. Innovation capacity requires effective linkages between project partners and stakeholders
3. Innovation processes ask for joint experimentation and learning

Influencing decisions

1. Decision makers need to be engaged in the process to ensure that innovations are embedded in government strategies and policies
2. R4D organizations can catalyze the innovation process by acting on existing policies
3. Project design and donor funding should allow for a certain degree of flexibility

Unlocking livestock development potential through science, influence and capacity development

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