

Digital Database Training for Sheep-Fattening Data Management

A Training Report

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Photo: Data entry into the Dtreo Recording Platform in Doyogena, Ethiopia

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Overview

Under the CGIAR Initiatives, Sustainable Animal Productivity (SAPLING) and Sustainable Intensification in Mixed Farming Systems (SI-MFS), a training was conducted on the use of the performance recording system, Dtreo platform, for crowdsourcing of sheep fattening data in Ethiopia.

The importance of utilizing livestock performance data in decision-making for research and development is critical. However, its application is frequently hindered by the scarcity of such data, especially on a large scale. Dtreo, the performance recording system has been developed and implemented for the ICARDA Community-based breeding program in Ethiopia. This platform provides access to a continuous flow of quality performance data, enabling timely decision making at different levels. The platform generates analytics and reports in real time, including visual, printable, and dataset formats. Researchers and CBBP managers utilize these results to assist in decision-making processes, specifically in choosing rams and bucks for sale or for inclusion in village breeding herds. The data originates from households and villages and can also be used to inform decision-making on-farm (household and village). Collection of performance data for sheep fattening has been integrated into the Dtreo platform. This will enhance the efficiency of data recording, data retrieval and interpretation by field officers engaged in routine field work related to sheep fattening, particularly at village household level in rural Ethiopia.

The training on the use of Dtreo targeted Animal Nutrition National researchers, development agents and enumerators from the sheep fattening project implementation sites of Areka, Bonga, and Basona Worena. The objective of the training was to equip participants with the necessary expertise to accurately collect and record livestock performance data. This includes understanding the parameters to be measured, how to measure them, and ensuring data accuracy.

The training was conducted in Bonga, Doyogena, and Basona Worena between 20th November - 15th December 2023, engaging 32 participants. Training sessions were designed to be highly interactive. Specific objectives of the training included equipping participants with the skills to understand the importance of data, to familiarize them with the Dtreo platform, to standardize data collection, best practices in data management, data utilization and problem solving.

Training Objectives

The objectives of the training were as follows:

- To train participants about the significance of performance data in sheep fattening. This involves understanding how data-driven decisions can improve growth, productivity, and overall farm management.
- To train data enumerators on the effective collection and management of sheep-

fattening data.

- To ensure accurate and consistent data recording and reporting.
- To familiarize participants with the digital Dtreo database recording system and its functionalities, including data entry, navigation, and troubleshooting.
- To assist participants in using performance data for long-term strategic planning, such as feed and resource allocation as well as market targeting.

Participants

The 32 training participants (28 male and 4 women) comprised of Animal Nutrition researchers from National Agricultural Research Centers, development agents and enumerators. Resource persons were CBBP researchers.



Photo credit: Berhanu Bekele, Doyogena

Course Implementation Approach

Pre-training preparations and logistics which included the availability of training resources, such as tablets, and sheep fattening farmers were organized by respective NARS centers.



Training Delivery

- The training methodology adopted a practical approach, emphasising hands-on exercises to enhance participants' understanding and skills.
- Through demonstrations, participants were trained on effective data collection techniques to gain proficiency in entering data into the "Dtreo" database system.
- Group discussions and interactive sessions to promote active engagement, knowledge sharing, and collaborative problem-solving among participants.
- Training material in form of Tablets were provided, to facilitate learning and ensure that participants have the necessary tools and support for successful training outcomes.

Evaluation Assessment

A feedback evaluation from participants recommended continuous refinement of data collection procedures, strengthening data quality assurance, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing, exploring advanced features of the Dtreo system, monitoring, and evaluating system performance, continuously training and updating skills, expanding the training program, and documenting best practices and lessons learned. These recommendations aim to enhance the effectiveness of sheep-fattening data management practices.

Consent

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