

Animal Husbandry Training for FAO Farmer Field School Facilitators In the Lango, Acholi and Teso Districts of Eastern and Northern Uganda

Project Description

With financial support from FAO, PENHA conducted 6 training workshops in Teso, Acholi and Lango districts. These trainings were conducted between 15th December 2008 and 31st January 2009. The target districts involved were: Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Amuria, Oyam, Lira, Apac, Pader, Gulu, Kitgum and Amuru.

PENHA staff with participants at the conclusion of an animal husbandry training workshop in Teso.

Objectives

PENHA-Uganda delivered a series of animal husbandry training workshops for FAO Farmer Field School Facilitators, who will provide training and support to local farmers in areas that have suffered from 20 years of war and livestock raiding.

These are areas that can be classified as agro-pastoral, where livestock, particularly cattle, contributed very significantly to local livelihoods and incomes, before the impact of war and cattle raiding. The project aims to restore lost animal husbandry skills and promote new ones, particularly in the management of small stock – goats, poultry and pigs - that are not subject to raiding. Farmer Field School Facilitators will use their new skills in restocking programs and support for poor households in eastern and northern Uganda.

The training falls under the following FAO projects:

OSRO/UGA/713/NOR - Comprehensive support to improve the productive agricultural livelihoods and income security of the displaced and returning communities in Northern Uganda

OSRO/UGA/801/EC – Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods Support for Northern Uganda

OSRO/UGA/802/SWE - Comprehensive support to improve the productive agricultural livelihoods and income security of the displaced and returning communities in northern Uganda

Activities undertaken

1. Preparation of a comprehensive training guide/curriculum and schedule for a 3-day intensive animal husbandry/livestock management training.
2. Identification of suitable venues, appropriate to provide full board accommodation and required training facilities for 35 participants for each of the six training workshops to be carried out, in the respective regions.
3. Agreeing content and methodology with trainers/resource persons.
4. Producing training materials/handouts.
5. Providing logistical support, materials, and secretarial services.
6. Delivering a 3-day training, helping participants to develop action plans and make recommendations for subsequent livestock management activities.

7. Monitoring the quality of the training.
8. Monitoring and evaluation of project activities, including routine collection of M&E data for analysis.
9. Preparation of inception and final report detailing the workshop proceedings.

A total of 204 participants took part in the training, out of which 50 were women.

Follow-Up Activities:

Training of Trainers Follow-up Workshop - 2 months after the initial training

Objectives

- * To conduct a training of Trainers and acquaint Farmer Field School co-ordinators with the training guide on animal husbandry
- * To create and strengthen a pool of community based trainers in animal husbandry
- * To give hands-on technical support to the farmers in respect of the action plans drawn up during the training
- * To encourage those farmers who may have become reluctant to adopt some of the good animal husbandry practices.

The Training of Trainers follow-up workshop attracted 29 participants. Discussions mainly focused on internalizing the training guide, giving tips on how to conduct adult training and strategies on how to develop their work after the training. During the monitoring it was noted that most trainees, though with a lot of challenges, were trying to implement their action plans - construction of structures for animals, planting feeds for the animals, spraying the animals with acaricide, and in some cases, trying out programmed hatching (of chickens). At the farm of one of the major pig farmers, District Veterinary Officers had organized a meeting to show local farmers how to drench pigs and disinfect animal houses.