



**REPORT OF THE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FOR THE TRAINING IN ANIMAL  
HUSBANDRY FOR THE TESO, LANGO AND ACHOLI REGIONS  
MARCH-APRIL 2009**



Part of Kalongo village in Pader district where Lagiti Regina lives.

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## Executive Summary

In the months of March and April 2009, follow up activities for the training of farmers in Animal Husbandry from Teso, Lango and Acholi regions were conducted.

Activities included a training of trainers (ToT) and field monitoring visits.

The objectives of the follow-up were:

- To acquaint participants (would be trainers) with the training guide on animal husbandry
- To create / 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 during the training
- To awaken those farmers who may have become reluctant to adopt some of the good animal husbandry practices.

The ToT attracted 29 Participants out of the expected 30. Gulu district was represented by 4 participants instead of 3 while Katakwi and Kaberamaido districts were each represented by 2 instead of 3. Out of the 29 participants, only 1 was a woman.

The training was facilitated by Ms. Everse M.I Ruhindi from PENHA and Dr. Tom Ogwal, the district veterinary officer for Oyam district. Present also was Andrew Atingi, the FFS assistant- Soroti.

Discussions mainly focused on internalizing the training guide, getting tips on how to conduct adult training and strategies of how to go about the work after the training. The following way forward was proposed:

- Trainers would introduce themselves to the local leaders and officials and sensitise them while asking them for a hand in mobilizing communities.
- Request the community development officers to mobilize the farmers that are not members of FFS.
- Start with the FFS executive members where FFS have already been established, then request the executive members to sensitise their respective members.
- Sensitisation of LC officials who are part of the FFS / networks would be done.
- Identify categories of interested and / or potential farmers based on the animals of their interest. This would be helpful in enabling the trainers to target the right people for the right topic.
- Trainers from Kitgum, would try to find out the field schedule for the FAO staff and go with them in the field. The FAO staff would leave them in one area doing the sensitisation and pick them on their way back home.
- Since transport to very distant places would be a problem, some of the trainers would start with the sub-counties that have been represented because they are able to ride bicycles within their respective sub-counties. Sensitisation would also be done during the sub-county network monthly meetings.
- Attempts would be made to work with the district production officers and use their motorcycles or vehicles. The only challenge with this is that they would require money for fuel. If it was possible, FAO would make available the fuel.
- Give the report of this training and reports of subsequent sensitization sessions to the sub-county authorities.

In respect of the field monitoring visits, people could be seen struggling to do something, though conditions are still tough. The following is the summary of observations made:

- One of the things that the farmers took very seriously during the training was the need to house animals. Almost everybody had put construction of an animal house in the action plan. This is being implemented ranging from grass thatched to iron sheets. The only challenge is getting the feeds for animals once they are housed. Most people in these regions are just going back to their original homes and are not in position to buy feeds. The alternative of planting feeds would be less expensive and more sustainable but it also requires some time moreso that people are just starting to plant in their gardens. In light of this, most animals are still being managed by free range system.
- Farmers have a misconception that only exotic breeds are good enough despite this having been emphasized during the training. When you ask how many chickens a person has, he/she is quick to say ***“I don’t have, I only have our local chickens”***
- Different sub-counties in different districts are at different levels of accessing government services. There are some sub-counties that have no sub-county veterinary staff. This was highly attributed to the District Service Commission and also the Ministry of Public Service (MPC). The District Service Commission has failed to recruit staff because there is no money at the district to pay for the sitting allowances for the members of the Commission and the where the MPC is concerned, the allowed number of paid staff is not equal to the number of required staff at sub-county level.
- There seems to have been a problem in demarcating districts and the sub-counties that should belong to a respective district. Some sub-counties are extremely far from their respective district headquarters, yet very close to neighbouring district where they don’t belong.
- The farmers lack skills of strategic planning in the way they plan / do their projects. A case in point is when a group decides to buy 20 female goats with an objective of cross breeding but forget to think about buying an improved male goat. Another case is where an implementing agency gives 10 male goats without any females and the FFS members don’t seriously question that.
- In almost all these districts where farmers are keeping cattle that are not for ploughing, they leave the cows with a herdsman to take charge of them and he takes all the milk as his salary/ wages leaving the owners of the cows unable access any milk. The main question as far as training farmers is concerned therefore becomes; ***‘should we target the owners of the cows in the training or the herdsmen, since the owners have very little to do with the management of the cows?’***
- There have been many challenges of keeping animals in the camps. Some of the reasons being that people’s incomes were very low and they could not afford to buy feeds for the animals to be able to keep them in the houses. This resulted into leaving the animals to loiter everywhere looking for feeds. With this type of management, they would contract some diseases and even be stolen by the other people in the camps.
- The people trained have been overzealous with controlling ticks and they are even spraying beyond the recommended frequency. This they say is because there are too many ticks and when they are minimized, they would start following the recommended frequency.
- In as much as the training was very useful and practical and trainees are trying to practice some of the skills acquired, there is still need for placement of some of the trainees to get more hands-on experience. This is evidenced from the Amuria group which was very interested in

programmed hatching but still felt that they needed someone who has been doing it over a long period of time to help them.

- Taking group dynamics into account, it is very difficult to find groups where members have the same interests and priorities. The question therefore is ***“how can we strike a balance between different individual interests who are already under one FFS?”***
- There is some degree of seriousness of the DVOs to help farmers increase their animal production. For example in Apac, the DVO had planned a programme in one of the sub-counties to show farmers how to drench pigs and disinfect animal houses. This was to be done at a farm of one of the major pig farmers. All interested people especially those who own pigs had been invited. In Apac, the DVO is putting a lot of emphasis on piggery because of the high returns. Further, in Oyam district, the DVO has put an incentive that who ever keeps above 100 chickens, he would be providing vaccines for the new castle disease, even if the government stopped giving free vaccines.
- The issue of record keeping is still not being taken seriously by more than 95% of the trainees who were visited. This is just to do with mindset.
- Pader district needs a lot of support. It is doing worse than all the other districts in the region.

## **Conclusion**

The knowledge and skills acquired from the training have been spread to many more people in the communities. Though we cannot get the actual numbers because of the weakness in documentation and record keeping by the trainees, we can confidently say that some work has been done.

Most of the people who were trained are trying to implement a few things, though the conditions are still not very favourable. Most people are getting back to their original homes and need some time to settle and put things in order.

There is some value adding in intensifying follow-up and monitoring while working closely with the district staff.

## **Recommendations**

- Sub-county Networks should compile an inventory of who owns what asset (especially those that have an impact on increasing productivity) and circulate it to all FFS members. The inventory should include people who are not necessarily FFS members. This will facilitate linkages of farmers.
- Since there are some Sub-counties where there are no improved male goats, arrangements should be made with the groups where Lalobo Wifred comes from (Lokodi village, Punena Parish, Burangira Sub-county) to take away some of the male goats probably by exchanging with female goats. This will relieve the Lalobo group from looking after male goats only and will also help the other groups to cross breed their local goats with improved male goats. This exchange can be done with the FFS groups in Lonick village, Panokrach parish, Alelo sub-county, where Ocarlit Alfred comes from. The 3 groups have 60 female goats with no male goat.
- Pader district needs a lot of support. It is doing worse than all the other districts in the region