

The gender –livestock-climate change connection

local experiences & lessons learned from Morocco



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Objectives

- **Integrate a gender dimension into the assessment of livestock – climate change linkages and evolutionary trends in Morocco**
- **Demonstrate the changes in the role of women in livestock production systems in Morocco**
- **Share learned lessons**

Methods

- **Available statistics (FAOSTAT)**
- **The literature on the role of women in livestock**
- **Gender analysis and focus group techniques**

Livestock in Morocco

Species	Number (000 head)
Sheep	17.026
Goats	5.358
Cattle	2.728
Donkeys	0.985
Mules	0.525
Horses	0.155
Camels	0.036

Source: FAOSTAT 2004

Importance of livestock (MADRPM, 2005)

- **20% of active population**
- **36% of agriculture add-value**

The national demand

- **87% of dairy products**
- **98% of red meat**
- **100% of poultry meat**

Nonfood functions of livestock

- **Celebrating the Aid Al Adha (sheep)**
- **Keeping the traditional Fantasia (horses)**
- **Transporting water (donkeys)**
- **Land tillage, transport of people & merchandise (mules)**

Results: 3 entry points

Characteristics of livestock farms

- Diversity of livestock production systems (pastoral , agro pastoral, intensive)
- Livestock practiced in 75% of total farms
- Average herd size: sheep (21), Cattle (3)
- 66% of sheep population & 75% of cattle raised on less than 10 ha farms

Labor

- 80% of farms use permanent family labor
- 5% of farms use permanent salaried labor
- Women & children main sources of the labor supply

Evolutionary trends

- Greater intensification + specialization
- Cattle (improved breeds + dairy)
- Less dependence on climatic conditions for feed
- More dependence on the market for feed
- Better policies and programs

Results: What does CC have to do with it?

- **Decrease in rainfall amounts throughout Morocco**
- **Increased frequency of droughts over the last five decades (1955-2004)**
- **5 of 7 most severe droughts occurred since the 1980's**
- **Substantial losses in livestock in 1982**

Results: Costly but valuable lessons

- **The "programme de sauvegarde du cheptel" for livestock protection** (feed subsidies, vaccine programs, water points on rangeland, etc)
- **No sheep slaughtered for « Aid Al Adha » in 1996**
- **Herders change practices** (destocking & restocking in relation to yearly conditions, attention to animal diseases, purchase of feed, etc)

Results: Role of women in livestock strengthened

- **In the past, women used to weave tents, set them up & milk animals**
- **Now women responsible for 70% & 40% of work required in dairy cattle and sheep respectively**
- **D'man sheep & dairy goats (women's cooperatives in oasis & mountain areas)**

Results: How & Why?

- **Intensification brings livestock home**
- **Improved cattle breeds & sheep fattening call for daily, timely and steady care**
- **Women responsible for livestock (farm type + size, migration of family male members)**

Conclusions

- **Women's labor vital to livestock production**
- **But women's contributions still ignored because of prevailing perceptions.**
- **The need to integrate a gender dimension in studying the livestock sector for greater social equity and better performance**

Implications

- **Women's role in livestock considered an extension of their reproductive roles**
- **Women do not benefit from opportunities associated with livestock production (training, recognition, incentives)**
- **Women should be involved in programs for improving husbandry practices**

A gender perspective can help

- **Improve our understanding of who cares for livestock**
- **Address women's practical needs & strategic interests**
- **Improve production efficiency, sector development & sustainability**
- **be instrumental in reducing the vulnerability of livestock to climatic hazards at the farm level**