Dairy production improvement of small-holders for supplying “Laiterie du Berger” (L.D.B), an industrial dairy processor in northern Senegal, west Africa

Key Messages
• From limits of traditional dairy production of small-holders, how to improve it with news models of dairy mini-farms and farms of cattle in a context of climate change and scarcity of pasture land.
• Changing dairy production models in a sustainable way, required:
  o field-training on best-practices,
  o access to livestock services and inputs,
  o support for access to cross-breed cattle, shed and fodder crops for pilot approach.
• Field case of changing dairy production models of small-holders, mind-set adaptation and need to valorize local resources in a context of multiple environment changes (economic, social...).

Livestock-based solutions
• About traditional practices on dairy production, the main issue is access to livestock services and inputs to improve local dairy cattle productivity, to promote new models of dairy production and to sustain an emerging dairy value chain based on small-holders linked to competitive market.
• Approaches for improving models of cattle dairy production are:
  1. use livestock services and inputs for improving traditional system within the limits of dairy productivity of local cattle;
  2. beside traditional system, step on news models of dairy mini-farms and farms with sustainable levers on sheds models, valorization of local resources, fodder crops and cross-breed cattle.

Results and evidence
• Results and outcomes updated in April 2017:
  a. Consolidation of forage service by bundling sugar cane straws delivered in forage deposit for small-holders; availability of local feed inputs database and software of ration for dairy cows;
  b. About 800 small-holders organized in a dairy cooperative;
  c. Improving practices on fodder crops as cowpea forage, sorghum, maralfafa (Pennisetum purpurreum), for dairy animals feed
  d. Support of a pilot farm for field training and implantation of 2 pilot mini-farms and a training center in progress
• Multiple benefits observed and trade-offs or synergies:
  - securing access for feed, animals and straws to produce milk;
  - maintaining milk production year-round with less seasonality effects for small-holders and news farmers;
  - launching news models of dairy production with sustainable levers in feed supply, skills management....

Multiplier effects
Particular multi-stakeholder aspects
- small-holders organized around services as straw delivery...
- improved dairy production for revenues growth in sustainable environment

Opportunities or challenges:
- dissemination of new models of dairy production for mostly small-holders;
- extension of milk collection area with news models and collection centers

Unique result or benefit directly attributed to multi-stakeholder collaboration
developing proximity of livestock services and inputs to improve cows productivity and milk production, based on small-holders organization.

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