Role of Small-Scaled Livestock Keepers while working on SLA

Key Stakeholders Meeting GAA/SLA
Nairobi

23 January, 2013
GAA/SLA Idea and concept

*Global Agenda of Action is being built on the concept that;*

1. Demand for livestock products will continue for decades to come, as incomes and human populations continue to grow
2. Declining natural resources (especially land, feed and water resources)
3. Also, the question of climate change (methane 28%?), both adapting and mitigating
4. Animal welfare (no harm to animals) issue is included later on
Scope and Focus Areas

• The scope is continuous improvements of practices (technologies, management or policy making) to ensure a more efficient use of natural resources

• Stakeholders have agreed that the agenda should initially focus on three specific areas:
  – Closing the efficiency gap
to close the gap between attainable efficiency rates and those actually achieved
Cont...

– **Restoring value to grasslands**

Improving grass land through technology, policy etc (no access and rights issues are included)

– **Towards zero discharge**

• Recycling and recovering nutrients and energy contained in animal manure, particularly from intensive and confined livestock operation
For us, Important Scopes are

• FA 1 (Resource use Efficiency
• FA 3 (Restoration value to grassland
Adaptive heterothermy

The ability of an endothermic animal to allow its body temperature to fluctuate in response to some form of environmental stress.

Saving significant amounts of energy and water.

Maximum fluctuation during 1 day: 6.2 °C
CLOSE TO WILD ANCESTORS

Which make those animals resistant to:

*Droughts*
* Diseases
* Highly diversified
* Long walks
* Season and climatic variations
OLD CIVILIZATIONS AND LIVESTOCK BREEDS

Excavated bull seal from the ruins of Mehergarh and present day Bhagnari bull
CULTURE
EXOTIC BREED FAILURE
Migratory Routes

Livestock Migratory Routes

Map showing migratory routes in the region with labels for Afghanistan, I.R. Iran, Punjab, Sindh, Arabian Sea, and NWFP.
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT
Small-Scaled and Pastoral livestock is Underestimated

• Misconception and rangelands’ cattle
• That the cattle free roaming on ranges (with feed based on high fiber content) produces 7 times more methane compare to hi-tech cow
• That small ruminants especially goat deteriorate rangelands
• That this system cannot fulfill the demand of growing population
In Response to that concept

• We have some arguments;
• Millions of people around the globe practice small/pastoral livestock farming (2/3 in Pakistan livestock is small scaled)
• They rely (in many cases, especially nomads) on resources which are otherwise waste
• They are maintaining and developing precious animal genetic resources (majority of the breeds) in tune with the climate change (mitigating)
• They are skilled with the TK and do not demand for modern skills and techniques
• They produce health friendly, consumers’ demanded and eco-friendly livestock products
• They produce enough food in exchange of very scarce natural resource
• Such system is integral part of agricultural farming in many countries, hence acting as weed control and scavenger of many agricultural by-products and waste
We can offer to Agenda

• Information exchange on small scaled livestock keeping
• Range lands restoration
• Diversity to this process
• Research opportunities
• Coordination and networking