



Sheep and goat health management study - Tanzania

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Implementing agency: DFID - Policy Division (PD) formerly DFID - Rural Livelihoods Department (RLD)

DFID Programme: Animal Health Programme

Countries: Tanzania

About the project:

Purpose:

The aim of this study was to formulate a suitable proposal for a research project in Morogoro region, Tanzania designed to investigate disease constraints in small ruminant production. Of particular interest was the epidemiology of helminth disease as affected by different management systems such as tethering. The research project was to form part of a post-graduate study programme for a member of staff from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro. The study included a review of disease in small ruminants in Tanzania and other African countries.

Background:

Goats form an essential part of pastoral and mixed farming enterprises in Tanzania and account for approximately 30 percent of red meat production. Furthermore, goats are used more efficiently than cattle with much higher annual offtakes and their meat is preferred to that of sheep. There is still plenty of scope to increase offtake however and in addition to meat, goats also provide milk, skins and manure. The goat population in Tanzania has been estimated to be 6.5 million head.

Information on management and disease constraints affecting goat production in Tanzania is extremely limited. Some researchers have

reported significant production losses due to helminthiasis though it is likely that management and climate factors will influence the severity of this condition. No reliable data is available on other potentially important diseases of goats, such as pneumonia, infectious abortion or footrot, or how the prevalence and economic importance of these conditions may vary according to husbandry. Such information would help Tanzanian farmers and smallholders to avoid losses due to disease and make maximum and sustainable use of local natural resources.

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