

Local Livestock Improvement through Community Breeding Programs



International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
Tunde Amole

Transforming Ruminant Farming Together

This program sets up special herds: a main group with chosen female sheep and goats, plus excellent male sheep or goats. A group of local community members choose and oversee these animals, paying attention to their best qualities. We track progress using measurements, sometimes with special computer tools."

This technology is **TAAT1 validated**.

 Scaling readiness: idea maturity 7/9; level of use 9/9

Project adoption 1
Technology integrated in the ENSURE project.

Inclusion assessment 4

Climate impact 3

- ### Problem
- Poor genetics and diseases limit small ruminant productivity.
 - Mixed herd structure complicates breeding and tracking genetic progress.
 - Lack of breeding records hinders genetic management.
 - Crossbreeding with exotic breeds yields mixed results.
 - Technical skills are needed to establish breeding programs and support breeders.

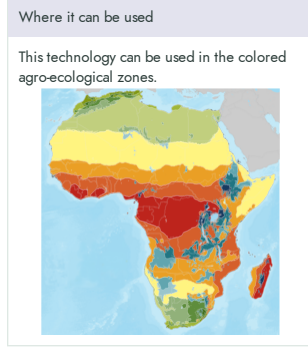
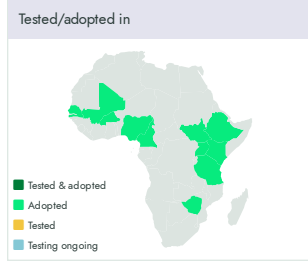
- ### Solution
- Improved genetics through structured selection.
 - Targeted breeding efforts for specific male breeders.
 - Data recording aids informed mating decisions.
 - Focus on community-based selection for better outcomes.
 - Breeders receive technical support and training.

Technology from
ProPAS

Commodities
Small livestock

Sustainable Development Goals

Categories
Production, Practices, Seed system



Target groups
Breeders

Key points to design your program

Community-Based Breeding Programs improve the genetic quality of local goat and sheep populations through community-led selection and evidence-based breeding decisions. By replacing uncontrolled mating with structured breeding systems, the technology increases livestock productivity, strengthens climate resilience, and conserves locally adapted genetic resources. It contributes to SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 13 (Climate Action), while strengthening community livestock enterprises and improving rural livelihoods.

To successfully integrate this technology, consider the following key actions:

- Identify livestock production areas where poor genetics, inbreeding, and low productivity limit small-ruminant performance.
- Establish partnerships with ILRI, livestock institutions, veterinary services, breeder organizations, and extension services to coordinate community breeding programmes.
- Strengthen community breeding committees, animal identification and performance recording systems, and farmer capacity on animal selection, reproductive management, and genetic improvement.
- Monitor genetic progress, livestock productivity, reproductive performance, household income, adoption of breeding practices, and programme outcomes.



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Enquiries e-catalogs@taat.africa