

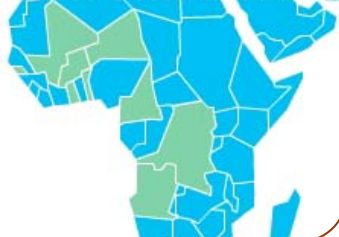
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Our mission

SNV is dedicated to a society where all people enjoy the freedom to pursue their own sustainable development. We contribute to this by strengthening the capacity of local organisations

West & Central Africa



Knowledge development and sharing in the context of a learning organisation

Introduction

We are pleased to present to you our first edition of the SNV *Livestock and Pastoralism Knowledge Network News*, a news bulletin in English and French for our partners, clients and our own SNV advisers describing our activities in West and Central Africa in the Livestock and Pastoralism sector. For this edition we've chosen to introduce our Network, its objectives and activities. We hope that you enjoy reading our first edition and that it will be the start of a new adventure together.

The Knowledge Network

The knowledge network on Livestock and Pastoralism was created April 2008. It was the result from an elaborated process of analyses and repositioning related to the implementation of the new SNV Strategy 2007-2015 « Global presence, local impact » which can be found on: <http://www.snvworld.org/en/Documents/Strategy%20Paper%202007-2015.pdf> .

Five out of the eight SNV countries in West and Central Africa (WCA) have chosen to work in the livestock and pastoralism sector. These five countries are: Benin, Cameroon, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso.

More so than in other sectors the cross-border aspect of this production system obliged us, SNV advisers, to broaden our horizons past our country borders and expertise level. The knowledge network regroupes all SNV Livestock/pastoralism advisers from WCA thereby, creating a large pool of knowledge and expertise which can be accessed by our clients and partners. The Network also aims at bringing together these clients and partners to promote debates and exchanges on the main challenges faced in the pastoral livestock production system.

A similar Network is created for the East and Southern Africa SNV Region in which through close collaboration we aim at a more coherent approach and better comprehension of the livestock sector as value chain.

The Network's interests

- Commercialisation of livestock and its products
- Dynamics in Pastoralist livelihood systems related to gender relations, climate change, decentralisation, politics etc.
- Access to and control of pastoral resources by pastoralist communities
- Training modules on pastoralism
- Cross-border initiatives in favour of Pastoralist communities
- Stakeholder platforms in the decentralised context on pastoral livestock issues
- Improved Lobbying and advocacy capacity of pastoralist associations



Its clients and partners:

- Pastoralist associations/organisations and networks
- Decentralised institutions
- Research institutes
- ONG
- Regional organisations

The Objectives

The main objectives of the Network are:

- Identification/analysis of main bottlenecks ;
- Exchange/sharing of knowledge and experiences ;
- Production and diffusion of knowledge.

It furthermore aims at:

- Collecting and making available to SNV advisers, clients and partners knowledge resources on pastoral livestock systems and assuring and active exchange internally and externally to further enrich these resources
- Quality improvement of SNV services, by keeping advisers up to date on all developments in the livestock and pastoralism sector for the benefit of our clients and partners;
- Promoting certain coherence between the different country approaches, with focus on their cross-border approach;
- Initiate, lead and/or collaborate with research projects on issues related to pastoral livestock issues.
- Support all efforts of capitalisation and best-practices from our field experiences;
- Building constructive partnerships

Means and products

There are a few elements that describe the potential of our Network:

1. Internal electronic discussion group for all topics of interest
2. External forum or discussion groups are envisaged
3. The network shall have its own web-page serving as knowledge data base on pastoralism for all of those interested
4. The network represents about forty SNV advisers from different backgrounds, working on the livestock and pastoralism sector in five countries of the West and Central Africa Region;
5. The different ecological zones offer a unique opportunity of cross cutting perspectives, knowledge and experiences;
6. The development and diffusion of training modules on pastoralism
7. Publications based on best-practices and research studies
8. A substantial budget is given to the Network to promote trajectories of knowledge development, exchange and capitalisation of experiences following international standards.



The other Networks in the WCA region:

- Cotton
- Health & Education
- Water and Sanitation
- Agriculture
- Timber & Non-Timber Forest products
- *Governance for Empowerment (cross-cutting)*

Raphael Yimga Tatchi

Knowledge Network Leader

E-mail:

ryimgatatchi@snvworld.org

Herma Mulder

Knowledge Network

Facilitator

Livestock/Pastoralism

E-mail:

hmulder@snvworld.org

Tel:

+ 227 20 75 36 33

+ 227 20 75 20 52

The People

As mentioned earlier the network represents about forty SNV advisers from different backgrounds, working on the livestock and pastoralism sector. In each of the five countries there is a focal point responsible for coordinating activities on country level.

The Knowledge Network has its own Network Leader and Facilitator, managing the operational side of it. A Network Sponsor (Country Director of SNV-Mali) supports and guides the Network Leader and facilitates relationship building.



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