

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

The technology has been integrated in the **ENSURE project**: in 7 regions of the East African Community

Inclusion assessment
Climate impact

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

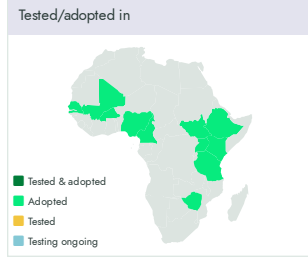
Commodities

Small livestock

Sustainable Development Goals

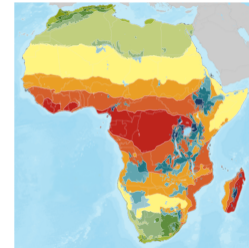
Categories

Production, Practices, Seed system



Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored agro-ecological zones.



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.

15 %
family income increase

 IP
Open source / open access



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<https://taat.africa/rme>

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