

Activity report

Stakeholder meeting for Kilimanjaro and Arusha: African Dairy Genetic Gains Data platform

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CGIAR is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food-secure future. The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock provides research-based solutions to help smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists transition to sustainable, resilient livelihoods and to productive enterprises that will help feed future generations. It aims to increase the productivity and profitability of livestock agri-food systems in sustainable ways, making meat, milk and eggs more available and affordable across the developing world. The Program brings together five core partners: the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) with a mandate on livestock; the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), which works on forages; the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), which works on small ruminants and dryland systems; the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) with expertise particularly in animal health and genetics and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) which connects research into development and innovation and scaling processes.

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Background

The African Dairy Genetic Gains (ADGG) Data platform has been developed to enable collation, evaluation and feedback of phenotypic and genomic data from dairy animals in Africa. The platform provides an opportunity to revolutionize dairy production in Africa. Using information and communication technologies (ICT) including mobile phone-based data capture and information sharing, data on productivity from different farming systems is captured, collectively stored and evaluated to inform decisions in dairy productivity from the farm to the national policy level. The data platform has been designed and tested among livestock producers in Tanzania and Ethiopia, priority countries for dairy improvement under the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock (CRP-Livestock).

To support adoption and scaling of the platform for decision-making at the national level, a workshop was organized with key stakeholders in Tanzania who have been involved in a national dialogue on improving dairy productivity in Tanzania in collaboration with the CRP-Livestock and the ADGG project partners. The main objective of the workshop was to demonstrate the functionality and potential outputs from the new ADGG data platform and facilitate its broader use by the different stakeholders.

Stakeholder identification

Stakeholders in the dairy sector of Tanzania were engaged and identified through a series of dialogue interactions. Both government and private sector stakeholders were identified and sensitized through a consultative process on the vision of the ADGG platform. Central in engagements related to the ADGG platform were the national government line ministries supporting livestock production, the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and the National Artificial Insemination Centre (NAIC). From the private sector, stakeholders included cooperatives, private companies and service providers in Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions of Tanzania. A total of 62 stakeholders participated in the workshop (54 in person and 6 online) as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Stakeholder workshop participants categorized by institutional affiliation and gender

Groups of participants	Number of participants by Gender		
	Men	Women	Total
Farmers (cooperative members)	3	2	5
Leaders in cooperatives	3	4	7
Farmers (non-cooperative members)	3	0	3
Medium and Larger scale farmers	3	1	4
MLF and its institution	4	1	5
Inputs supplies and AI technicians	8	6	14
LGA and RA leaders	4	2	6
Milk processors	2	1	3
<i>Online participants</i>	4	2	6
Total	34	19	53
Supporting staff: TALIRI	3	0	3
Facilitators: ILRI/TALIRI/ECI-AFRICA	4	2	6

Workshop content

The workshop activities were under four main categories:

1. Overview of the ADGG project
2. Demonstration of the ADGG data platform
3. Plenary discussion on the ADGG data platform
4. Group work to determine and outline possible functions and roles of different stakeholder groups in sustainably adopting the ADGG data platform

The presentation on the ADGG project provided information on the project objectives, geographical coverage, achievements to date and areas requiring further attention. This was followed by a comprehensive demonstration of data capture and the functionality of the ADGG data platform. Questions on the functionality of the platform were addressed directly during the demonstration.

Four breakout groups were formed involving the following categories of stakeholders:

- i. Farmers (small-, medium- and large-scale),
2. Dairy cooperatives and milk processors
3. Input suppliers and service providers
4. Ministry representatives, public institutions and online participants

In each group, participants discussed their observation from the demonstration of the ADGG platform and their perceived benefits through its adoption. Groups outlined the three most important attributes of the ADGG platform and what stood out for each of them from the demonstration. They also gave suggestions on ways to improve engagement of stakeholders in the use of the digital platform and ensure its long-term sustainability.



Opening speech from RAS-Kilimanjaro



Presentation on ADGG progress



Group discussions



Presentations from group discussions

(Photographs by E. Lyatuu, ILRI)

Action areas proposed for follow-up

1. Translation of the ADGG project policy briefs into Kiswahili
2. Development of a policy brief on use of data on the ADGG platform and its value to different stakeholders.
3. Strengthen communication with stakeholders through the social media, 'WhatsApp group', for spacing the learning and get feedback on participants' commitments.

Groups	Action points–Stakeholder perception of the platform values
Dairy farmers	Supporting transformation towards more business orientation for increased income Supporting access to good genetics to ensure availability of improved animals for commercial dairying Supporting record-keeping
Dairy cooperatives and processors	Creating linkages with processors to access more milk of high quality Providing timely data and information on milk supply and quality to enable production of high-quality dairy products.
Service providers – Extension and inputs	Availability of quality data and statistics at Local Government Authority level that providing business opportunities and increasing markets
Ministry level and public institutions	Availability of quality data along the dairy value chain that will enable informed decision making
Researchers and academicians	Availability of reliable data from research for informed decision making

Issue	Action points
Emerging issues and recommendations	<p>Liaise with officials in Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) and PO-RALG (TAMISEMI) to discuss ADGG issues and strengthening of the platform at the lower levels and address sustainability issues such as availability of ear tags.</p> <p>Make the system more user friendly and train more stakeholders to effectively participate on the platform instead of the current reliance on Performance recording agents (PRA) and extension officers.</p> <p>Work closely with more stakeholders including policymakers and network providers to strengthen mobile and online services.</p> <p>Scaling of project activities to all regions and districts to have a national coverage</p> <p>Capacity building for the project PRAs and extension officers on communication skills to reach out for more stakeholders.</p> <p>Review of the data and information in the data base to ensure all value chain actors benefit from the platform instead of the current design, which benefits farmers mostly.</p>
way forward-strategies for sustainability	<p>Strengthen collaboration and working together for the ICT officers in the MLF, TALIRI and ADGG. Involvement of new ICT officer at TALIRI headquarters is important for this process.</p> <p>Broaden stakeholder engagement to include policymakers. The project team will produce two policy briefs to raise awareness among the policymakers and support policy formulation on data management as well as availability and accessibility of networks.</p> <p>Engage mobile network service providers to participate.</p> <p>Make the system more user friendly and simpler for stakeholders.</p>

Workshop facilitation team

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2. Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI)
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 - Daniel Komwihangilo
 - Gilbert Msuta
 - Neema Kelya
3. Sokoine University of Agriculture Tanzania: Athumani Nguluma (Consultant for CGIAR CRP-Livestock)
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