

# South Asia Regional Workshop on Livestock and Development in a Changing Context



## Background

During a span of over 40 years, SDC and IC have gained rich experience in the livestock sector in India. India being a diverse country, the experiences are also varied in respect of climatic regions, type of farmers, farming systems, cropping patterns, animal species etc. In 2002, SDC-IC created a new programme - CALPI (Capitalisation of Livestock Programme Experiences India) with a view to contribute to address current and emerging issues in the livestock sector by capitalizing or building on past SDC-IC experiences. In this context CALPI has been influencing the policy frame conditions in the sector working specifically in new areas like 'traditional milk sector', 'livestock and environment' and 'veterinary education'.

In parallel the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is also exploring existing linkages between livestock development and research organisations to improve the application of research outputs as also the relevance of poverty focus of the research



undertaken. Livestock professionals are currently facing new challenges and demands on account of rapid changes in the consumption and production patterns and in the rapid spread of diseases. The anticipated impacts of climate change and the significant potentials of livestock as an adaptation mechanism are other areas where practical experiences and knowledge sharing mechanisms would help in flattening the learning curve. From various interactions, it has become apparent that there is a large body of applied knowledge that is useful for livestock professionals in India and possibly at the South Asia regional level but its existence is not widely known and the information is not easily accessible.

Against this background CALPI and ILRI are jointly organizing a knowledge-sharing workshop in the South Asia context on the theme **“livestock and development in a changing context”**. Key stakeholders from South Asian countries (India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka) are expected to participate in the workshop.

## Objectives

- (1) To understand the knowledge and information needs of key stakeholders working in the 'livestock-livelihoods-environment' domain in South Asia
- (2) To exchange relevant and new experiences and learnings in the above domain among the key stakeholders in the region.
- (3) To identify suitable mechanisms and the modalities to take the 'knowledge exchange' process forward

Besides identification of current and future needs of the participants, this workshop will provide an excellent platform to share their valuable experience and



identify mechanisms to take the knowledge exchange process forward. A field visit is also planned as part of the workshop.

### Themes

The workshop is planned to be structured around five main themes (discussed below). However, the content will be suitably modified based on the needs, interest and experience available among participants identified through a questionnaire (see nomination form).

The five themes currently proposed are:

- **Moving towards pro-poor policies.** The policy making process, in general largely remains confined to board rooms and is essentially 'top down'. In this theme, experiences of making the policy development process more participatory with the involvement of multiple stakeholders will be discussed.
- **Livestock environment interactions.** In the context of growing demand for livestock products, especially in the southern countries, there are increasing concerns on the enhanced pressure of livestock on the environment. In this workshop the experience of research work in the region on livestock-environment interactions, policy advocacy, and awareness creation through communication function will be shared.
- **Access to markets /traditional milk sector.** With growing investments in the last three decades, the organised dairy sector in the region has grown phenomenally. However the informal dairy sector continues to be largely ignored by researchers and policy makers despite its vast coverage, spread, reach and potential for impacting millions of resource poor in marginal areas. The experience of bringing the traditional dairy sector into the



focus through an action research will be discussed in the workshop.

- **Livestock research and development.** Cooperation between researchers and those responsible for development policy and practice is important to ensure that livestock research programmes are relevant to development needs. This workshop will present and discuss the links between livestock research and livestock development in South Asia.

- **Knowledge management.** The use of a wide range of knowledge management tools can help to ensure effective creation, sharing, storage and use of tacit as well as explicit knowledge. Different knowledge management activities carried out by various organisations including research institutions will be discussed in the workshop.

### Who can participate?

This Workshop is aimed at those who can make use of the learnings around the theme 'livestock-livelihood-environment' to influence field practices and policies in their region country.

### Venue and date

The venue is Hyderabad, India.

The workshop will be of two days duration, starting from 13<sup>th</sup> (14.00 Hrs) to 15<sup>th</sup>

(13.00 Hrs) October 2008. Those interested may please contact:



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