Gender Sensitive Evaluation of the Goat Value Chain in the Lowveld of Swaziland

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Methods
The methods I used for my field practicum data collection were:
- Surveys
- Key Informant Interviews
- Focus Group Discussions

A total of 137 surveys were conducted. Key informant interviews were conducted using a semi-structured format with a key informant questionnaire used as a guide. Two focus groups were conducted, 1 with women who owned goats and one with women who did not. This was done in order to identify barriers to entry in the goat value chain.

Results
Below is a map of the value chain of the Lowveld of Swaziland. In the bottom, in grey, is the enabling environment. Above that is the production portion that includes small scale producers. The top portion of the value chain includes the market portion. As the chain shows, 56% of producers surveyed used their goats for self-consumption, includes cultural purposes. A total of 44% of respondents participated in the goat market. Of the 44% who participated, 41% sold to local consumers including neighbors and 3% sold to butcheries and restaurants.

Conclusions
- This study found that while the interest in farmers to produce and sell more goats is there, organized marketing channels including services and facilities is lacking.
- There is a difference in the roles men, women and children play in goat production in the Lowveld. Women and children tend to be involved in more sporadic, income generating activities such as the slaughtering and selling of goats.
- Women farmers expressed a desire to be more actively involved in the business of selling goats but felt that they lacked the training to do so effectively. Targeting women goat producers is impactful as women have expressed a desire to become more active in the chain and they already have access to goats.
- There is room for growth in the goat sector of Swaziland. Goats are the second most frequent livestock animal found in Swaziland, following cattle.

Recommendations
- Bridge the gap between goat buyer and goat seller.
- Training activities that reach a wider population of the Lowveld would be beneficial. Farmers were interested in attending workshops but were either unaware of workshops going on or workshops were too far away for them to attend.
- Research
- Research on the goat sector and its potential should continue in the Lowveld of Swaziland.

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