

Workshop recommendations and follow-up

Deliberations at the ATNESA/SANAT International Workshop and 3rd General Assembly saw some excellent and down-to-earth presentations capturing a wide range of professional and other experience in rural development. The wealth of the range of disciplines and countries present naturally led to new-look discussions on recurrent as well as new issues in specific localities of the in-homogenous Eastern and Southern Africa region and beyond. This in turn led to a special enrichment of the South African participants and particularly so, the farmers and field workers. South Africa has previously missed out on the learning that could have been brought by interaction with the rest of the continent. This is particularly true for those in smallholder agriculture. Special interaction came through field visits and the demonstrations.

Action plans with realistic definition of scope and timeline were proposed by interest groups, merged and discussed in plenary session. Special issue considerations were also highlighted. Both of these are presented here, with timelines presented in brackets where applicable. Participants volunteered to carry out different aspects of the action plans. Where external funding will be required, actions will be effected subject to availability of funds. Cross-cutting tasks were given first priority. Other tasks were assessed and those that participants had capacity to accomplish were taken up and are presented as "Realistic Action Plan".

Policy

1. Lobbying
 - Get senior government officials to attend field-days in order to get first-hand input about the needs of users and the role of animal traction.
 - Include and involve donors and influential others in e.g. district level and national tillage and rural transport competitions, prize giving days with media coverage.
2. Collaborate with other networks and forums to create a "critical mass" to organize events.
3. Work towards forming a funded national coordinating unit within government structure to stimulate national training, extension policy etc. Justification being, "past neglect, present ignorance and future importance of animal traction".
4. Identify end-user felt needs in areas and domains where there exists development funding and influence interventions towards meeting these needs.

5. Identify attractive and positive-image activities and disseminate information on benefits of animal traction use to influence policy makers e.g. pamphlets, posters and calendars.

Socio-economics

1. Where it has not been done, identify, document and disseminate information on 'user - felt' needs through participatory methodologies including gender analysis. Publicize and service these needs through networking activities e.g. workshops involving all stakeholders and especially farmers.
2. Carry out studies, document and disseminate findings on good and bad credit experiences. Develop guidelines on feasible credit schemes in collaboration with existing credit organizations and their beneficiaries. Potential partners might be NGO's and international organizations.
3. Carry out a survey on the image problem and how to address it. In the meantime, develop youth oriented publicity posters, cartoons, video, primary school books, T-shirts, competitions, etc.
4. Quantify, document and disseminate social and economic costs and benefits of animal traction identified through studies and workshops.
5. Monitor, evaluate and assess the impact of ATNESA past activities on end users. Based on the findings, develop guidelines and a strategic plan for future interventions.
6. Establish an ATNESA web-site with a page for each nation, strengthen national and regional secretariats (perhaps in collaboration with other related organizations) and improve contributions to networking newspapers e.g. *SANAT Newsletter*, *Draught Animal News*, *The Rural Livelihoods of KENDAT* etc.
7. Publicise activities related to animal traction participatory techniques at national and regional levels (for example articles in SANAT/ATNESA Newsletter and web-site).

Technology

I. Commercially available animal traction technologies

1. ATNESA to assist national networks in compiling an electronic and paper catalogue of commercially available products and retail suppliers.

2. ATNESA and other organizations to become a legal entity to promote animal traction as KENDAT in Kenya or ZIMTRADE in Zimbabwe.
3. ATNESA to compile and communicate trade fairs or agricultural shows and demonstration lists to other national networks in the region.

II. Novel but under-developed animal traction technologies

1. Inventory of new designs, products and on going research activities to be published on ATNESA web-site and on paper.
2. Dissemination of above inventory to national networks.
3. Electronic and other exchange of drawings of products.

III. Animal traction technologies for small and medium enterprises (SME's)

1. Facilitate training of artisans and fabricators through existing national agricultural extension services (AGRITEX, SAMEP etc.).
2. Generate suggestions for new products for local SME production.
3. Develop guidelines for national networks and organizations for practical support of SMEs (relevant products).
4. Lobby governments and other authorities for lower import duty on materials and components.

Animal issues

1. Establishment of a web-site by September 2000.
2. Produce a directory of members and interested parties in DAP by June 2000.
3. Develop guidelines for training of trainers in participatory methodologies by the end of 2000.
4. Develop training packages which are based at national networks level, on participatory methodologies by end of 2001.
5. Guidelines on training paravets and farmers by the end of 2000.
6. National networks to identify other institutions that could link up with the ATNESA by June 2000.

7. National networks to promote collaboration programmes with other institutions by 2004.
8. Collate existing information on Ethnoveterinary (EV) Practices and Indigenous Knowledge (IK) by the end of 2000.
9. Evaluate promising EV/IK practices by 2000.
10. Evaluate recommendations on DAP feeding on-farm.
11. Lobby institutions or organizations involved in livestock breeding to consider work-animal traits in their programmes by 2004 (on-going).
12. Quantify reproductive indices of donkeys in different situations e.g. work and non-work, draught, transport, environment by 2004.
13. Recommend to policy makers and other individuals or institutions, the inclusion of DAP in their plans by June 2000.

Action plan

1. Establish an ATNESA web-site with a page for each nation, strengthen national and regional secretariats (perhaps in collaboration with other related organizations) and improve contributions to networking newspapers e.g. SANAT, Draught Animal News etc. (Action by C. Oram and G. Gebresenbet by September 2000).
2. Directory of members/interested parties and where possible a brief data base on their areas of interest and specialization (Action by P. Starkey, E. Nengomasha, SANAT and P. Jones by June 2000).
3. Produce and circulate addresses of workshop participants and produce workshop report (Workshop secretariat, immediately).
4. Guidelines on workshop courses on animal traction e.g. training of trainers for extensionists (participatory methods) (Action by J. Turton, SANAT, E. Mwenya, E. Waithanji and GTZ - Zambia by end of 2000).
5. AT training packages (Action by SANAT, P. Jones, R. Shetto, Palabana and national networks).
6. Collate existing information on Ethnoveterinary Practices and Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and

7. Evaluate promising EV/IK practices (Action by J. Turton, A. Maltick, A. Lewa and P. Talavera by the end of 2000).
8. Evaluate ongoing (on farm) feeding strategies (Action by L. Ndlovu, A. Pearson, E. Waithanji and national networks - long term).
9. Donkey reproduction - Quantify reproductive indices of donkeys in different situations e.g. work/non-work, draught, transport, environment (Action by A. Pearson, L. Ndlovu and G.W. Alemu by 2004).
10. Curricula be developed and used to beef up campaigns in our schools, and agricultural colleges. (Action by National networks to set up a dialogue with policy makers and educational institutions to facilitate inclusion of DAP in their curricula. Initiated by June 2000).
11. Lobbying and advocacy for a positive image of animal traction. Carry out a study on the image problem and how to address it. In the meantime, develop youth oriented publicity posters, cartoons, video, primary school books, T-shirts, competitions, etc. (Action by W. Kumwenda, E. Namalambo, National networks and individuals long term campaign).
12. Carry out studies, document and disseminate findings on good and bad credit experiences. Develop guidelines on feasible credit schemes in collaboration with credit organizations and their beneficiaries. NGO's and International organization partners. (Action by S. Musa, KENDAT, CIRAD and M. Makaota)
13. Cost - benefit analysis. Quantify, document and disseminate social and economic costs and benefits of animal traction identified through studies and workshops (Action by Palabana, L. Ndlovu, KENDAT, University of Fort Hare and P. Webster.
14. Develop guidelines on how to keep farmers actively involved in Networks (Action by TADAP, KENDAT, E. Waithanji, GTZ - Khatu).
15. Investigate ways in which different hitching practices affect performance of different animals. (Action by Bertha Mudamburi; part of her ongoing research).
16. Monitor, evaluate and assess impact of ATNESA past activities on end users. Based on findings, develop guidelines for future interventions. (Action by Kumwenda, Steering Committee to get an external evaluator).
17. Inventory of new designs, products and on-going research activities to be published on ATNESA web-site and on paper. (Action by IMAG, National networks, Palabana, ARC, Mbanje, ENAP/ENAT - Melesse, Nazaret, CIRAD, RELATA)
18. Catalogue - electronic and paper exchange of SME information of products and drawings (Action by C. Oram, M. Saidi, IMAG and Palabana to start with Zambia, Wanders, Stevens, Mbanje)
19. Develop guidelines for national networks or organizations for practical support of SMEs (relevant products, IMAG, Nazaret).
20. Information on fairs, demonstrations and other image improving activities to be fed to Draught Animal News and SANAT Newsletter. Plan an ATNESA fair? (National networks).