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*IDRC GRANT / SUBVENTION DU CRDI : - TRANSFORMING THE VACCINE DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR CHICKENS AND GOATS IN GHANA: WHAT APPROACHES AND WHAT BENEFITS FOR WOMEN?*

# **WOMEN REAR PROJECT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP**



**TAMALE**

**DATE: JULY 7, 2023**

**VENUE: REGAL HOTEL,**

## **REPORT**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The workshop was a hybrid; in-person and virtual with about 50 participants comprising donor representatives, implementing partners, project beneficiaries, government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and officials from the Veterinary Services Directorate/Department, staff members of CARE Ghana, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders.

### **2.0 Background of the project**

In Ghana, backyard poultry and goat production systems are the most predominant and play a key role in the livelihoods of smallholder farmers especially women, who are usually in charge of these species in the household. However, women do not get the full benefit of rearing these species because of many factors including diseases such as Newcastle, *peste des petits ruminants (PPR)*, and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, which are the main causes of death for chicken and goats. These are viral diseases that have no treatment but can only be prevented through vaccination against the disease. Although vaccines for these diseases exist in Ghana, they are often inaccessible to women due to a variety of barriers, including delivery systems that are not centered on women's needs, preferences, and capabilities; mobility challenges for women goat owners; and gender norms that affect women's ownership and management of chicken and goats. The Women Rear project aims to contribute evidence to influence practice and policy for a gender-responsive vaccine delivery system. It has the following four key objectives:

- To identify, test, and monitor two approaches — one gender accommodative and one gender transformative — to developing the vaccine delivery system for ND-chicken and PPR/CCPP-goats in selected districts of Ghana.
- To create knowledge on institutional requirements for a vaccine delivery system that is responsive to the needs of both women animal health service providers and women farmers.
- To identify women's capabilities needing support and gender norms that need addressing for all animal health service providers and women farmers to benefit from an improved vaccine delivery system.
- To determine how the combination of a social (gender transformative) and technological (strengthened vaccine delivery infrastructure) approach affects women farmers' access to

vaccines at scale.

**2.1 Gender Transformative Approaches** are policies and programmes that seek to transform gender relations to promote gender equality and achieve program objectives by fostering critical examination of inequalities and norms. GTA focuses on transforming the underlying social structures and broadly held social norms that perpetuate gender inequalities.

**2.2 Gender Accommodative Approaches** are policies and programs that acknowledge but work around gender differences and inequalities to achieve project objectives. Although this approach may result in short-term benefits and realization of outcomes, it does not attempt to reduce gender inequality or address gender systems that contribute to differences and inequalities.

The methodology for the project is organized at two levels: the community and household level on one part, where the research is taking place; and at a higher level, i.e., regional or country level, which aims at influencing decision-makers, regulators, and information service providers. At the community level, the cumulative effects of the various project interventions (either Gender Accommodative Approach -GAA only or GAA with Gender Transformative Approach-GTA, depending on the sites), led to women who keep chickens and goats getting their animals vaccinated and benefiting more from the resulting improved chicken and goat's productivity. At the higher level, for the delivery systems to be sustained after project support, the project will share evidence of the relative benefits of the two approaches. Hence, this requires early and strong engagement with relevant decision-makers, regulators, and various actors along the vaccine delivery systems. The expected project outcomes were:

- Improved livelihoods and gender equality in rural households.
- Increased coverage of gender-specific issues by service providers and chicken and goat' keepers in existing animal health service delivery.

### **3.0 Objectives of the Workshop**

The Women Rear project identified, tested, and monitored two approaches — one gender accommodative and one gender transformative, and developed a vaccine delivery system for ND-chicken and PPR/CCPP-goats in the Bawku West and Pusiga districts of Ghana. The impact of these two approaches was assessed. The dissemination and engagement workshop shared and validated the project achievements and lessons learned with donors, project beneficiaries, and implementing partners. The objectives of the workshop included:

- To validate the project's policy brief by receiving input from stakeholders to ensure their views inform policy recommendations.
- To share preliminary results from our research and lessons from tools and approaches used to support the implementation of gender-responsive livestock vaccine delivery system that benefits female farmers and Animal Health Service Providers in Ghana.

#### **4.0 Workshop Approach**

- Zoom presentation by ILRI team.
- In-person presentations
- Video documentary viewing/sharing of success stories.
- Testimonies sharing
- Media interviews
- Group reflections
- Open forum

#### **4.1 Participation**

Generally, the workshop attendance was impressive and very participatory.

The total attendance was 68 (20 females: 48 males) including 10 project team members (internal stakeholders).

For the external stakeholders, 26 were government officials, 9 implementing partners, 8 CSOs, 5 were project beneficiaries, 7 were media personnel (3 media houses) and 3 were drivers for government officials.

#### **4.2 Preliminary Results from the Research**

Following the successful implementation of the Women Rear project in the project districts, the evaluation team from the International Livestock Research Centre (ILRI) conducted the project endline studies and shared the results of the two approaches (Gender Accommodative and Gender Transformative) with the workshop audience. First, women's access to vaccines has improved leading to healthier. The results also revealed that women have become more empowered, and their livelihoods improved as a result of them keeping and benefitting from livestock. Additionally, the results showed lessened gender norms that limited women's active

participation in livestock rearing. Consequently, many women rear and own animals, unlike pre-project where no or fewer women reared animals in the project communities. Even though, both Gender Accommodative and Gender Transformative approaches recorded significant improvement in women empowerment and livelihood indicators through livestock rearing, the impact was greatest in the Gender Transformative intervention communities where there was a shifting of gender norms through integrated gender activities.

#### **4.3 Testimonies from Community Participants**

Community representatives shared almost similar testimonies of the project's impact on their own economic and livelihood activities and that of their communities. The testimonies from the project participants affirmed the results shared by ILRI in their presentation to the audience. An achievement of significance is the empowerment of women in different capacities. They have observed that women are able to contribute to their household needs from the proceeds of their livestock. The female participants feel empowered to participate in decision-making at both household and community levels. Moreover, they have become recognized in their communities. Some have become role models to other women in their communities which motivated them to engage fully in the livestock business.

It was also revealed as mentioned by a community chief that project participants have gained the confidence to openly declare the count of their livestock. Also, women have become empowered to purchase and sell their livestock and negotiate for competitive prices. However, the community leadership added that market formation especially on livestock prices is not readily available to women. Notwithstanding, women rely on multiple sources to validate the average price of livestock.

#### **4.4 Video Documentaries Screening**

Video documentaries that were developed by the project were screened for the viewing of the audience. The documentary which was in many scenes projected the key project activities as they were implemented, and the impact of the project on the community members from the perspective of the different stakeholders including the District Director of Agriculture. Some of the scenes also showed a typical market activity with women transacting livestock business in the market. Again, the nutritional implications of the project were also shown to the workshop audience. This was meant to give the participants an appreciation of the activities conducted

during the project implementation and the outputs realized.

#### **4.5 Cowtribe's Innovative Platform for Vaccine Delivery**

Leveraging innovation for improved livestock vaccine accessibility for smallholder women farmers has proven effective using a digital platform developed and managed by Cowtribe.

Cowtribe shared with the audience that a gender-responsive technology on which women livestock keepers were onboarded and supported to access vaccines for livestock production was successful. The platform is user-friendly and less accessible to all farmers. Over 4000 women livestock keepers have been registered on the platform and are using the platform to request and receive vaccines thereby making vaccine accessibility timely and less stressful. Among the women livestock keepers registered on the platform are Lead Farmers and AHSPs who lead in vaccination campaigns. They also administered i-2 vaccines for chickens against Newcastle disease.

#### **4.6 Media Interviews**

Some of the project participants and key project stakeholders were interviewed by the media personnel on the project's impact and approach. Both the print and television media houses were there to conduct the interviews. Among the stakeholders interviewed included a male Gender Champion, a Chief, a female livestock keeper, and a Community woman leader were all interviewed by the media. The Principal Investigator of the project was also interviewed.

The rationale of the media engagement was to share the gains and approaches of the project with the wider Ghanaian community for adoption, especially development organisations and institutions.

#### **4.7 Open Forum**

An open forum gave the participants of the workshop to seek clarifications on some issues that were not addressed during the presentations. Some concerns raised include.

- Leveraging on the successes of previous development projects when implementing development projects to ensure there is synergy in project design and implementation. When there is synergy in projects, the likelihood of repeating similar interventions in the same project areas will be minimized.
- Ensuring there is always regular scientific evaluation on the impact of vaccination on women livestock farmers to access the nutritional impact of livestock keeping on women.



- Share relevant information with the Veterinary Services Directorate for review adoption.

#### **4.8 Lessons Learnt**

- The recruitment of female Animal Health Service Providers (AHSPs) to target women's livestock keeps increasing the accessibility of vaccines and the participation of women in livestock production.
- Female AHSPs have become as confident in delivering animal health services as their counterparts male AHSPs because of the acceptability of women AHSPs in the communities resulting from the easing of gender norms through Gender Transformative interventions.
- Women's access to vaccines improved significantly due to the use of Cowtribe's digital platform for the registration of farmers and vaccine supply. The system has improved vaccine delivery modules-requisition, supply, and payment as it has proven to be user friendly and real-time data application.
- The gender Transformation approach ensures gender-responsive livestock vaccine delivery with a focus on women livestock keepers who benefit less from the status quo. The Gender Transformative approach was successful among others because of the involvement of community leadership as the Social Analysis and Action Working Group.
- The involvement of Lead Farmers as community vaccinators ensured timely and wider coverage of livestock vaccination especially 1-2 vaccines against Newcastle disease.

#### **4.9 Policy Brief**

The content of the Policy brief document was shared with the audience for their review and recommendations. It entailed the approaches and lessons learned from the implementation of the project. Hence, it is meant to serve as a gender-responsive policy guide for policymakers. Consequently, policymakers in the livestock industry will use the document to influence decision-making when targeting the different gender groups. After having reviewed the document, the participants made the following recommendations for integration into the final document.

#### **4.10 Recommendations from stakeholders for integration in the final document**

- Ensure more female vets are recruited and improve male vet services to target more women.
- A call for more female veterinary Officers to be enrolled in veterinary colleges.
- Encouraged close collaboration between government and private sector for sustained vaccine delivery.
- Empower women to Lead Farmers to upscale livestock vaccine delivery.
- Engage formal and informal institutions to address practices that limit women's access to vaccines and control productive resources.
- Increase the supply of quality drugs and vaccines in remote areas by improving cold chain and vaccine delivery infrastructure.

#### **4.11 Recommendations/Group Reflections**

- Commit funds for the training of more female Veterinary Officers to bridge the Vet Officer to livestock farmer ratio.
- Institute a quota system in veterinary training colleges to focus on increasing female admission.
- Increase community engagement and awareness to empower women in livestock production.
- Create awareness and demand for vaccines through continuous sensitization.
- Upscale project results in project districts for continuous quality animal health service delivery.

#### **4.12 Outputs of the Workshop**

The stakeholder engagement and dissemination workshop produced the following results:

- Implementing partners, participants, and stakeholders became abreast with project activities, results, and recommendations.
- Success stories and photo exhibitions of beneficiaries were captured to demonstrate project results for partners and stakeholders.
- Feedback on policy brief and recommendations
- Impact of project assessment on participants and beneficiaries

- Appeal to social enterprises to come on board to provide smaller doses of vaccines so women livestock farmers can afford them.
- Appeal to the Veterinary Services Directorate to consider posting more women vets with enticing packages to attract them to accept posting to remote areas.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

The stakeholders acknowledged that women must be allowed to participate actively in the livestock value chain, especially in keeping and owning livestock. Significant inputs were made by stakeholders to streamline the policy brief for adoption by policymakers. The policy brief would be a guide to inform development partners and government agencies to deliberately target women for transformative interventions.

## WORKSHOP PICTURE GALLERY



*GAC Representative addressing the workshop participants*



*Dr. Insoh, Northern Regional Veterinary Officer contributing to policy brief review.*



*Alaba Awelinga, Community Chief sharing testimonies of the Women Rear project impact in his community*



*Daniel Sampanbire and Hasia, Pusiga District Veterinary Officer, and the Women in Agriculture Development Officer respectively*



*Chrys Pul, CARE AGREE Governance Specialist addressing the participants on behalf of the Head of Programmes of CARE International in Ghana*



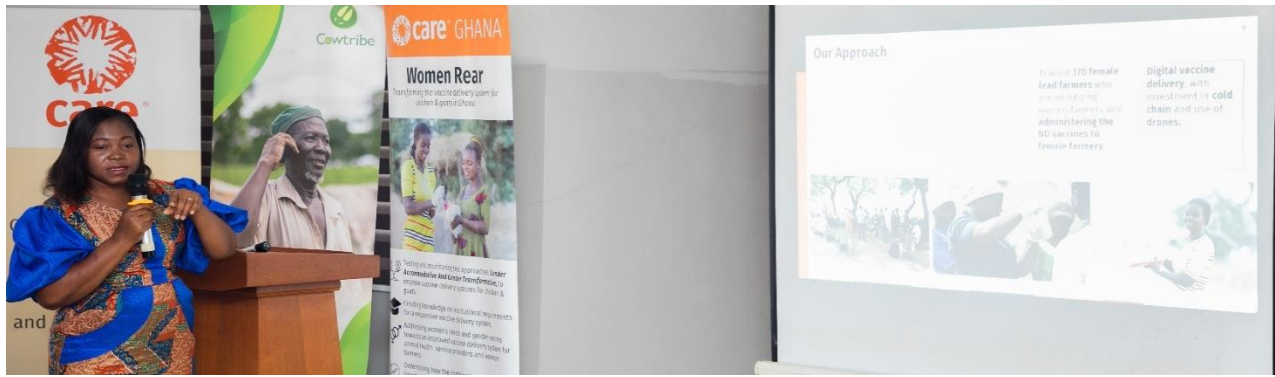
*Bonaventure Kyiiru, Bawku West District Veterinary Officer sharing his experience about the Women Rear project*



*Glady's Atiah, Program Gender Specialist of CARE International in Ghana explaining to participants the gender approaches*



*Deputy Director of Animal Production Directorate Delivered speech on behalf of Minister of Agriculture*



*Agnes Loriba, Principal Investigator of Women Rear Project sharing with participants an overview of the project*



*Peter Awin, Cowtribe CEO explaining Cowtribe's Technology platform to participants*



*Cross section of participants at the workshop*