



## **REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PASTORALISM: A Report on the Youth Pastoralists Workshop Held at Lukenya University, Makueni County, Kenya on 27<sup>th</sup> To 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**REF: LU/REG.R/001/2022**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The youth workshop hosted by Lukenya University from September 27-29, 2022, brought together participants from Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya. This collaborative initiative was made possible through the generous funding provided by esteemed organizations such as the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The primary objective of this workshop was to create a platform for young pastoralists to engage, learn, and collaborate on matters pertaining to pastoralism, particularly in the context of the Eastern Africa region. By facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering a sense of shared responsibility, the event aimed to address challenges and explore sustainable solutions within the pastoralist communities.

### **2.0 INTRODUCTION AND KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

The inaugural day of the workshop, September 27, 2022, began with an enlightening introduction by Dr. Kamau, the Dean of the School of Agriculture, Technical, and Natural Sciences at Lukenya University. Dr. Kamau shared valuable insights into sustainable development, emphasizing the critical role of ruminants in fostering symbiotic relationships with micro-organisms. He highlighted the multifaceted impacts of climate change and stressed the urgent need for environmental restoration and adaptation.

Following Dr. Kamau's introduction, Dr. Ibrahim Haji, a practicing pastoralist from North Eastern Kenya, took the stage. Dr. Haji's discourse centered around the significance of agro-pastoralism, portraying livestock as an untapped opportunity for economic growth. He shed light on the rising temperatures, underlining the transformation of Kenya from 50% agro-pastoralist in 1980 to an astounding 89% in recent years. Dr. Haji's insights extended to specific examples, such as the

MacKinnon farm specializing in livestock breeding for export and Ratna Square in Mombasa adding value to meat products for supermarkets and export.

In essence, the inaugural day set the stage for a comprehensive exploration of pastoralism, blending academic perspectives with practical insights from those deeply rooted in the pastoralist way of life. The keynotes provided a robust foundation for the subsequent discussions, allowing participants to delve into the challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions surrounding youth pastoralism in Eastern Africa.

### **3.0 CHALLENGES OF YOUTH PASTORALISTS**

The challenges faced by youth pastoralists across Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda were comprehensively addressed during the workshop. These challenges encompassed a wide spectrum, reflecting the multifaceted nature of pastoralism in the Eastern Africa region. The identified challenges included:

#### **1. Lack of Opportunities and Infrastructure:**

- Insufficient opportunities for youth pastoralists coupled with inadequate infrastructure hindered their growth and prosperity.

#### **2. Nomadic Lifestyle:**

- The frequent transfer of pastoralists from one location to another posed challenges in maintaining manageable herd sizes, particularly during dry seasons.

#### **3. Climate-Induced Conflicts:**

- Conflicts arising from climate change, such as scarcity of resources and territorial disputes, presented a significant challenge to the youth pastoralists.

#### **4. Educational Disparities:**

- Issues such as limited access to education for women, children, and individuals with disabilities emerged as concerns within pastoralist communities.

#### **5. Livestock Management and Breeding:**

- Inadequate knowledge of effective livestock management systems, breeding practices, and the need for adaptable breeds were notable challenges.

#### **6. Water Scarcity:**

- Water scarcity, exacerbated by a lack of conservation measures, emerged as a critical obstacle to sustainable pastoralism.

#### **7. Economic Constraints:**

- Limited financial resources, coupled with challenges in accessing credit facilities for research and dissemination, hindered the economic viability of pastoralist activities.

#### **8. Resistance to Change:**

- Unwillingness to adopt new policies and practices, especially concerning climate change and modernized pastoralism, posed a hurdle for youth pastoralists.

#### **9. Land Insecurity:**

- Lack of secure land tenure and management systems contributed to the vulnerability of pastoralist communities.

### **4.0 MITIGATION MEASURES AND WORKSHOP OUTCOMES**

In response to the identified challenges, the participants actively engaged in discussions to propose effective mitigation measures. The workshop served as a collaborative space where participants, drawing from their diverse experiences, formulated practical strategies to address the challenges faced by youth pastoralists. Some of the mitigation measures proposed included:

#### **1. Establishing Sustainable Water Sources:**

- Implementation of initiatives to ensure sustainable water sources in pastoralist communities.

#### **2. Adopting Adaptative Livestock Breeds:**

- Promoting the use of breeds that are resilient to climate change and well-suited for arid and semi-arid regions.

#### **3. Implementing Hay Bailing and Supplementation:**

- Utilizing hay bailing techniques and providing supplementary nutrition to animals during challenging periods.

#### **4. Promoting Drought-Tolerant Pasture Feeds:**

- Advocating for the use of pasture feeds that can withstand drought conditions.

#### **5. Enhancing Financial Resources:**

- Facilitating financial resources for research, dissemination, and the overall economic empowerment of youth pastoralists.

#### **6. Advocating for Climate-Smart Agriculture:**

- Encouraging the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices to enhance resilience and sustainability.

## **5.0 POSITIVE OUTCOMES AND OPPORTUNITIES GAINED**

The workshop yielded several positive outcomes and opportunities for the participating youth pastoralists:

### **1. Empowerment and Community Impact:**

- Participants gained the opportunity to effect positive change within their communities through the application of newfound knowledge.

### **2. Knowledge Sharing and Networking:**

- The workshop provided a platform for youth pastoralists to share experiences, learn from each other, and establish meaningful connections for future collaborations.

### **3. Inspiration and Personal Development:**

- Youth pastoralists found inspiration and avenues for personal development by engaging with peers and mentors during the workshop.

### **4. Capacity Building for Farmers:**

- The workshop aimed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge needed to train farmers on different farming practices.

### **5. Mentorship and Meaningful Connections:**

- Opportunities for mentorship and the establishment of meaningful connections within the agricultural sector were highlighted as valuable outcomes.

In summary, the mitigation measures and positive outcomes underscored the collaborative and solution-oriented approach adopted during the workshop, aiming to empower youth pastoralists in overcoming the challenges inherent in their way of life.

## **6.0 LIFE OF A YOUTH PASTORALIST**

This section delves into the intricate details of the daily life of youth pastoralists, shedding light on the challenges they encounter and the profound impact of climate change on pastoral communities.

### **1. Grazing and Livelihood:**

- The life of a youth pastoralist involves the daily tasks of grazing cattle, collecting firewood, and engaging in milking activities.

### **2. Shared Resources:**

- Both humans and animals often rely on the same water sources, emphasizing the shared challenges faced by pastoralists in accessing essential resources.
3. **Cultural Significance:**
    - The youth pastoralists expressed a deep connection to their cultural heritage, often passed down through generations, which places a high value on livestock.
  4. **Social Dynamics:**
    - The respect and status within the community are often linked to the number of camels owned, showcasing the social dynamics at play.
  5. **Climate Change Impacts:**
    - Youth pastoralists narrated the challenges faced due to climate change, recounting stories of significant livestock losses during extreme weather events.
  6. **Community Turning Points:**
    - Education, particularly for women, was highlighted as a turning point in pastoralist communities, bringing about positive changes and opportunities.
  7. **Rivers as Assets:**
    - In various regions, rivers were identified as crucial assets, with their significance extending beyond water sources to impact the livelihoods of pastoralists.
  8. **Enormous Livestock Losses:**
    - Instances of massive livestock losses due to climate-related factors and conflicts were shared, emphasizing the economic and cultural significance of pastoralism.

## **7.0 GROUP ACTIVITIES AND DECLARATION BY AFRICA YOUTH PASTORALIST NETWORK (AYPN)**

This section encapsulates the collaborative efforts and collective vision of the workshop participants as they engaged in group activities and culminated in the formation of the Africa Youth Pastoralist Network (AYPN).

1. **Group Activities Summary:**
  - Participants engaged in group activities centered around three key themes:
    - **Youth as Agents for Change:**
      - Advocating for youth involvement in pastoralism through various strategies, including education and innovation.
    - **ICT in Pastoralism:**

- Exploring the potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for fostering agri-food systems in pastoralist communities.

- **Pastoralism and SDGs:**

- Discussing the role of pastoralism as an enabler to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

## 2. **Declaration by AYPN:**

- The Africa Youth Pastoralist Network (AYPN) was officially established during the workshop, outlining its goals, purpose, and commitments.
- The declaration emphasized the need for policies supporting pastoralism, economic growth, and transparent access to information on pastoral activities.

## 3. **Commitments of AYPN:**

- AYPN committed to expanding its network to more African countries, producing network ambassadors, conducting research, and ensuring active youth participation.
- The network aimed to contribute significantly to discussions at the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt.

## 4. **Feedback and Suggestions:**

- Participants shared their feedback on the workshop, highlighting the importance of local language in communication, environmental sustainability, and the integration of indigenous knowledge.
- Suggestions included the need for collaborative innovations, active involvement in addressing challenges, and the integration of minority issues into broader discussions.

## 5. **Future Actions:**

- Future actions were discussed, emphasizing the importance of knowledge exchange, community involvement, and addressing challenges collectively.
- The workshop participants expressed the need for continued collaboration and the integration of diverse perspectives to promote sustainable pastoralism.

In essence, the formation of AYPN and the outcomes of group activities reflected the collective determination of youth pastoralists to address challenges, leverage opportunities, and contribute to the sustainable development of pastoral communities in the Eastern Africa region.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

The youth workshop hosted by Lukenya University from September 27-29, 2022, marked a pivotal moment in the collective efforts of youth pastoralists from Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya. Funded by ILRI, IFAD, and FAO, this gathering provided a platform for profound insights, collaborative discussions, and the establishment of the Africa Youth Pastoralist Network (AYPN).

## **9.0 RECAP OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **1. Key Insights:**

- The workshop commenced with enlightening speeches from Dr. Kamau and Dr. Ibrahim Haji, highlighting the critical role of sustainable development, climate change adaptation, and the significance of ruminants in pastoral communities.

### **2. Challenges Identification:**

- Youth pastoralists from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda came together to identify and discuss the multifaceted challenges they face, ranging from lack of opportunities and infrastructure to climate-related conflicts and low rainfall.

### **3. Mitigation Measures:**

- Participants actively engaged in discussions to formulate effective mitigation measures, including sustainable water sources, adaptative breeds, afforestation, and the integration of indigenous knowledge.

### **4. Group Activities and AYPN Formation:**

- Group activities focused on youth as agents for change, ICT in pastoralism, and pastoralism's role in achieving the SDGs. These activities culminated in the establishment of AYPN, an initiative committed to promoting pastoralism, fostering economic growth, and advocating for transparent information access.

### **5. Farm Visits and Practical Learning:**

- The workshop included farm visits, offering practical insights into maximizing water harvesting, adopting climate-smart technologies, and improving financial linkages.

## **10.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **1. Empowerment of Youth:**

- The workshop empowered youth pastoralists to voice their challenges, share experiences, and collaborate on innovative solutions. It served as a catalyst for personal development and meaningful connections.

## **2. Formation of AYPN:**

- The establishment of AYPN signifies a collective commitment to address challenges collectively, expand networks across African countries, and actively participate in the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt.

## **3. Knowledge Exchange:**

- The workshop facilitated knowledge exchange, emphasizing the importance of indigenous knowledge, environmental sustainability, and collaborative innovations.

## **4. Community Engagement:**

- Participants recognized the need for active involvement in addressing challenges, promoting environmental sustainability, and integrating the voices of minority groups.

## **11.0 POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTIONS**

### **1. Continued Collaboration:**

- The workshop's success lies in the ongoing collaboration among youth pastoralists, researchers, and policymakers. Continued knowledge exchange and collaboration will contribute to sustainable pastoralism.

### **2. Policy Advocacy:**

- AYPN, as a network, is poised to advocate for policies supporting pastoralism, economic growth, and transparent information access. This advocacy will play a crucial role in shaping the future of pastoral communities.

### **3. Innovation and Adaptation:**

- Future actions should focus on innovative solutions and the adaptation of climate-smart technologies to ensure the resilience of pastoral communities in the face of climate change.

### **4. Community Involvement:**

- The involvement of local communities, integration of diverse perspectives, and addressing the unique challenges faced by minority groups should be at the forefront of future actions.

In conclusion, the Lukenya University youth workshop was not merely an event but a catalyst for change. It fueled a movement of empowered youth pastoralists committed to sustainable development, climate resilience, and the preservation of pastoral traditions. The journey continues



with the collective vision of AYPN, fostering a brighter, more resilient future for pastoral communities in Eastern Africa.

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