

LS-2018-105 Project update August 2019

Feed Survey:

A comprehensive feed survey was carried out in Punjab and Sindh to gather information regarding the management of small ruminants on smallholder farms, particularly feed and resource availability, feeding strategies, seasonal impacts and the roles of different household members in goat and sheep farming. The survey has identified high-risk periods, commonly used feeds, resource availability and opportunities to better meet value chain requirements whilst considering barriers and risks. This survey component informs the project's first objective and the information collected will aid the identification of suitable feed types according to district, times of feed and water shortages and resource availability.

Creep Feeding:

This field research activity aimed to build engagement with farmers by involving them in a participatory field trial and test the benefits of providing high-quality feed and water to young animals. It hypothesized that providing better feed and water to young animals would improve growth, and hence saleability of animals, and reduce mortality. The longitudinal study was carried out for 6 months in 2 villages of Tando Allahyar (Sindh province) and 2 villages of Chakwal (Punjab province). Preliminary results indicated that there is better weight gain and less mortality on the creep feed farms. We are now piloting ways to provide feedback to farmers on the growth and production of their animals that meets the literacy of men and women within the participating households.

Zoonotic disease work:

This study aims to collect information related to knowledge, attitudes and practices of farmers rearing small ruminants related to zoonotic diseases—those that can be transmitted between people and animals. Its ultimate objective is to help fill gaps in the knowledge of different family members from households rearing goats and sheep, and change behavior and practices about zoonotic diseases in farming communities. The study used 'mixed methods' research, including a combination of farmer focus group discussions (FGDs) and surveys, to gauge community- and householder-level knowledge of zoonoses. The data will help us plan interventions to reduce the risk of zoonotic disease amongst smallholder farmers who keep goats and sheep.