

Public-private-producer partnerships (4Ps) in small ruminant value chain development in India

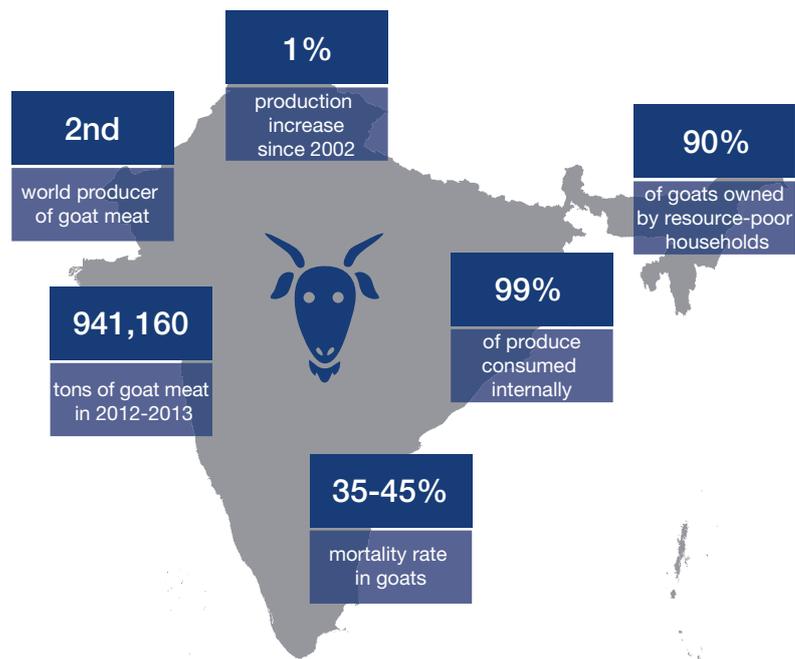


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The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an international financial institution and a specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1977. IFAD's unique mandate is to improve rural food security and nutrition, and enable rural women and men to overcome poverty. IFAD finances programmes and projects that increase agricultural and livestock productivity and raise rural incomes, and advocates at the local, national and international level for policies that contribute to rural transformation. IFAD also brokers partnerships among the diverse parties working in development – particularly governments, producers' organizations and private-sector players.

In August 2015, a grant agreement was signed between IFAD and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to “demonstrate that the goat subsector in India has a great potential to contribute to poverty alleviation and offers opportunities where donors can partner with private sector, public sector, and producers to effect large-scale productivity improvement in small ruminant value chains in Bihar, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh states”.

The goal of the Gates Foundation's agriculture strategy is to "reduce hunger and poverty for millions of farming families in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia by increasing agricultural productivity in a sustainable way". Agricultural development is one of the largest initiatives of the Foundation, which, to date, has committed more than US\$2 billion for this purpose. Livestock is a key part of farming in developing countries and is crucial to the livelihoods of more than 900 million people in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. To ensure that farmers can benefit from animal health and genetic technologies, the Gates Foundation tests models for providing farmers with the knowledge and tools they need to increase on-farm production and connect to stable markets. Particular attention is given to women. The Foundation's strategy relies on partnerships with donor countries, multilateral institutions, private foundations and other organizations.



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Why goats?

India is the world's second largest producer of goat meat, second only to China, producing 941,160 tons (or less than 1 million tons) in 2012-2013 (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries, Government of India), but due to trade restrictions and high local demand, 99 per cent of produce is consumed internally. Although there is significant demand for goat, its production has remained flat, increasing at the rate of only 1 per cent since 2002, compared with China, where the growth rate stands at 4 per cent.

Goats are multifunctional animals and play a vital role in the economy and nutrition of landless, small-scale and marginal farmers in the country. About 90 per cent of goats are owned by resource-poor households belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other disadvantaged castes. Goats can efficiently survive on available shrubs and trees in adverse harsh environments in low fertility lands where no other crops can be grown. In pastoral and agricultural subsistence societies in India, goats are kept as a source of additional income and a form of insurance against adverse climate changes. Goats are also used in ceremonial feasting and for the payment of social dues in case of emergency.

India has the world's lowest yield for goats, at 10 kilograms per animal. Endemic diseases (foot and mouth disease, goat plague (PPR) and goat pox) and a high incidence of endoparasites, coupled with poor access to preventive and curative health care, result in a high mortality rate (35-45 per cent). The low productivity of goats is also due to lack of awareness about superior quality breeds, inadequate feeding caused by complete dependence on free grazing, lack of preventive health care, and poor connectivity to markets. The adoption of good goat management practices along with value chain development can transform small goat keepers, including women, into microentrepreneurs and pave the way for accelerated development of the weaker sections.

Gates Foundation's goal:

"Reduce hunger and poverty for millions of farming families in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia by increasing agricultural productivity in a sustainable way."

Proposed activities

The activities and outputs of the Goat Enterprise and Market Development Initiative will be achieved through a three-step approach structured into the following components:

- **Component 1. Goat value chain analysis.** The objective of this component is to undertake an in-depth assessment of the goat industry and related value chains in the intervention area in order to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for socio-economic investments and business development (from input supply, production, processing, marketing and consumption).
- **Component 2. Innovation platforms and policy analysis.** This component aims to establish a process in which all relevant stakeholders engaged in the goat sector (private and public) in the targeted area will have the opportunity to contribute in a participatory manner.
- **Component 3. Goat enterprise and market development planning.** The objective of this component is to design a portfolio of innovative, scalable and sustainable goat enterprise and market development initiatives in India. Some of the initiatives may be submitted to the Gates Foundation and IFAD for consideration for joint funding, others may be taken forward by other donors and investors independently.

These components will be completed over a nine-month period with the help of national and international experts and other organizations.

Cooperation sought

Anyone who is interested in contributing to the initiative financially, intellectually or in any other way is invited to attend the workshops planned in Bihar, Delhi, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. Medium- and large-scale goat producers, input suppliers, traders, processors, exporters, NGOs, technical agencies and academic bodies are welcome to participate and to interact with government representatives, donors, investors and members of financial institutions.



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