CAMEL MILK VALUE-CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Camel Milk Value-Chain Development Project is a four year project (Dec 2012-Dec 2016) funded by USAID Ethiopia to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the camel milk value-chain sector in Somali Region so as to increase incomes and enhance nutritional status of targeted households in the Siti (Shinile) and Fafan (Jijiga) zones of Somali Region. The project has three components: increasing camel productivity, improving milk hygiene and quality, and strengthening market access and trade linkages. The project also addresses nutrition by creating awareness and behavior change.

Key actors include the Somali Region Bureau of Livestock, Crop and Rural Development; Somali Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Research Institute; and processors, traders, community animal health workers, animal feed producers, suppliers, aggregators, transporters, etc. to address constraints and harness opportunities.

Component 1: Increasing Camel Productivity:

Despite a large camel population in the region, the milk yield per animal is low due to various factors such as limited skills and knowledge in camel husbandry practices, feed shortages and animal diseases. Working closely with the Somali Region’s Bureau of Livestock, Crop, and Rural Development Bureau, and the Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Research Institute, the project will develop appropriate technologies and approaches in animal husbandry techniques in the areas of breed improvement, animal feed and fodder, and animal health service delivery especially on building the capacity of community animal health workers to diagnose and treat camel disease.

Component 2: Improving Milk Hygiene and Quality:

Under this component, the project will support and work with producers, milk collectors, and aggregators such as milk marketing groups (mainly women) to improve milk hygiene and quality so that producers supply quality milk to processors and retail outlets. Key activities include developing training materials, training milk collectors and aggregators, and providing milk containers. The project will promote quality based payment systems.
Component 3: Strengthening Market Access and Trade Linkages:

Using a value chain approach, the project will identify key actors, constraints and opportunities and work with various actors to address constraints and harness opportunities. As a starting point, the project will undertake a camel milk value-chain assessment to better understand the value chain relationships, challenges and opportunities and develop specific activities. In addition to the assessment, the project will facilitate quarterly milk fairs and forums to tackle and address major marketing constraints such as cold-chain and storage, hygiene, quality and transport services.

Nutrition:

As a cross cutting activity, the project will promote and support nutritional activities among the targeted households. In pastoral areas, milk is a critical diet for children and households and contributes to household nutritional status. While the project will promote milk marketing, it will also promote consumption to ensure a balance between milk sales and consumption. During dry periods, access to milk is limited and affected as animals migrate long distances in search of fodder and water. Building upon the Milk Matters research findings, the project will support fodder production activities and create nutritional awareness to ensure milk consumption, especially by children.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Households benefitted: 50,000
- Jobs created: 500
- Increase milk yields by 30 percent
- Increase incomes by 30 percent
- Households reached with nutrition outreach: 10,000

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