

DIAGNOSING CONSTRAINTS TO MARKET PARTICIPATION OF SMALL RUMINANT PRODUCERS IN NORTHERN GHANA

AN INNOVATION SYSTEM ANALYSIS

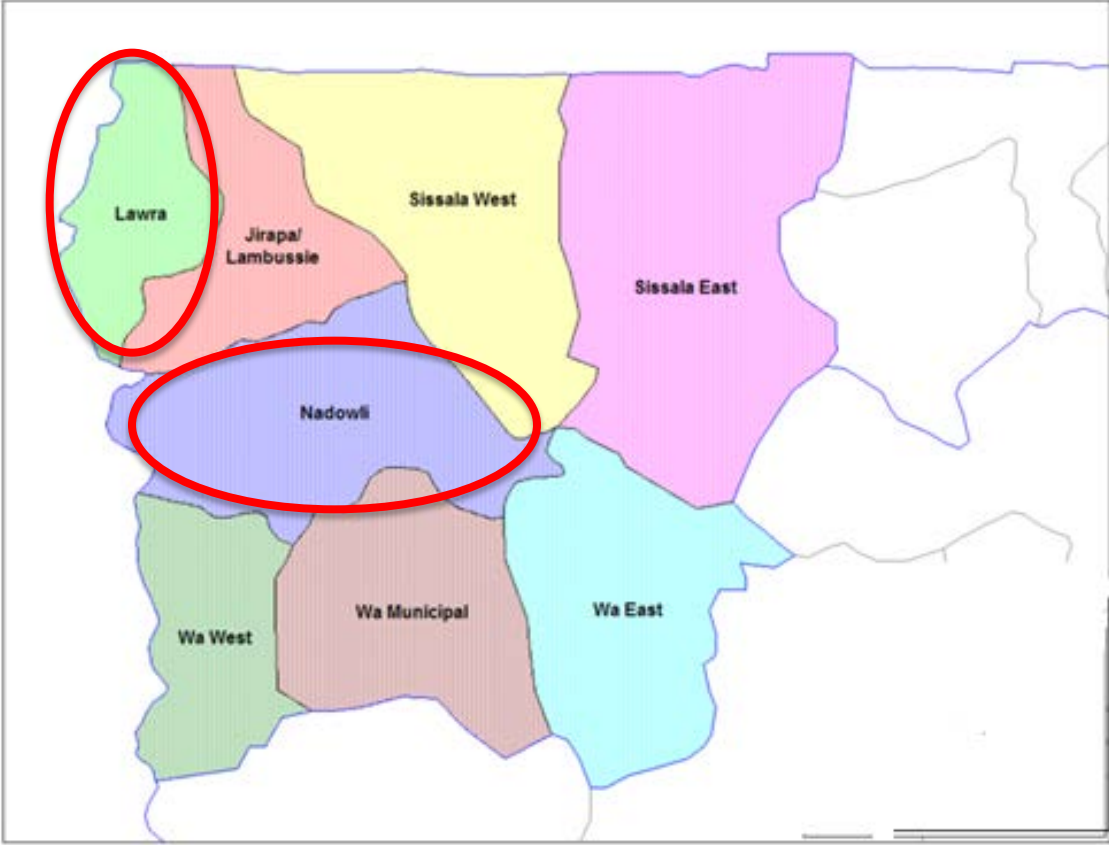
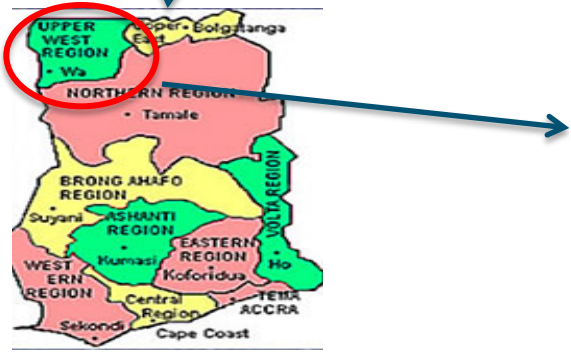
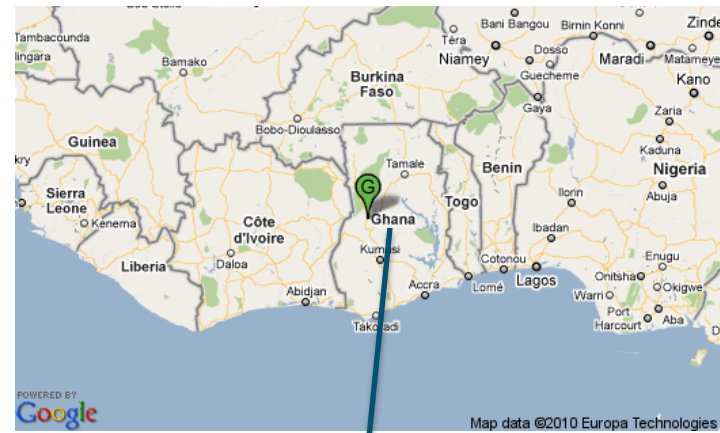
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Smallholders





OUTLINE

- **Background**
- **Research objectives**
- **Sensitizing concepts**
- **Methods & case description**
- **Findings**
- **Implications**



Background

- Ghana produces 30% of meat requirement
- Part of rest imported from Burkina Faso, Niger & Mali
- 70% of local production from Northern Ghana
- Smallholders account for bulk of production
- Local demand for livestock products unexploited



Background



- Why is smallholders participation in market for small ruminants relatively low in Northern Ghana?



Sensitizing Concepts

Household Food Security: 2 dimensions

- consume what it produces
- *sell what it produces to purchase food*

Innovation

- process of transforming new ideas into useful outcomes
- innovation hindered due to institutional constraints

Institutions

- rules, standards or principles that prompt actions
- *manifested as drivers of change*



General Objective

To provide a descriptive understanding of reasons for smallholders' low production and participating in livestock markets.

Research Questions

1. What are the prevailing practices of small ruminant production and marketing in smallholder households?
2. What are the farm level and higher level constraints that hinder innovation in small ruminant production and market participation by smallholders?



Methods

- Five communities purposively selected and systematic sampling of households in Lawra and Nadowli Districts.
- Interviews with the supply chain actors.
- Focus group discussion and ranking of constraints
- Stakeholder workshop for analyzing institutional reasons
- Thematic data analysis: classify data (i.e. categories), make notes and identify connections among categories.



Characteristics of smallholder communities

Community	Population (n/village)	Households (n/village)	% hh keeping goats	% hh keeping cattle
Orbili	302	51	96	16
Tankyara	321	66	85	35
Tangasie	1009	131	71	6.1
Kumalsa	381	66	NA	NA
Tabiasi	219	37	77	71

Livestock species: goats, sheep, cattle, pigs, chicken, guinea fowls.

Crop production system: maize, sorghum, millet, groundnut, cowpea.

- Total farm size 1.7 – 3.4 hectares



Findings

Prevailing practices

- Tethering during the rainy season
- Free-range management during the dry season
- Market-related off-take: mostly distress sales
- Minimum investment in feeding and health



Findings

Constraints experienced:

1. Lack of water during dry season

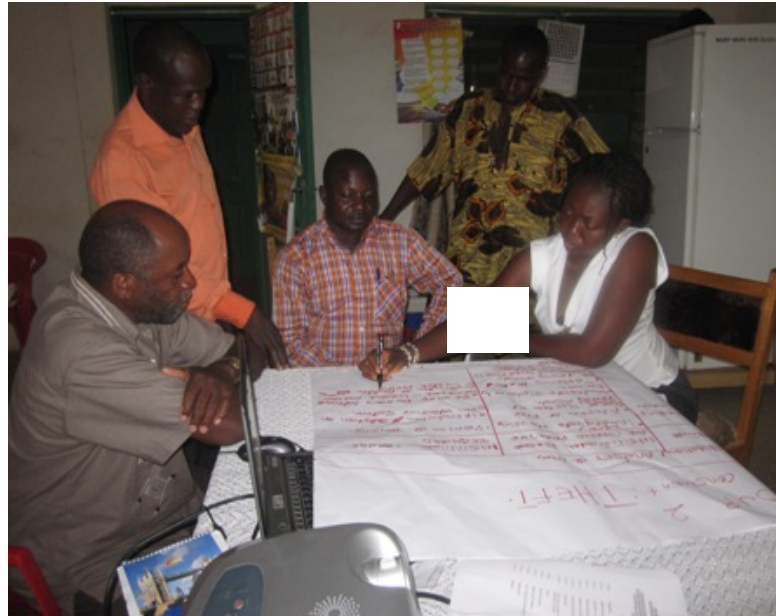


2. High mortality reflect on low input in veterinary services:

e.g. in 2010: 63% among kids (less than 1 year);
47% among adult goats (over 1 year)

Findings

Institutional analysis of key constraints



Findings

Levels of institutional reasons

1. Community

- limited arable land
- low input principle of livestock production
- weak traditional structure for control of theft

2. District

- weak formal structures for justice delivery
- weak interaction between community and district organisations for water provision

3. National

- weak structure for animal production and health services delivery.



Findings

Resilient strategies of most smallholders entail:

- > diversified sources of livelihood
- > maintaining the herd as a capital stock and insurance.
- > low input use in small ruminant production



Conclusions:

Only few smallholders (i.e., 'positive deviants') and self-organized groups increase investment in animal husbandry.

Generally, market- production or intensification - increase external input - is not a viable option.



Implications

- 1) Institutional constraints other than market access should be addressed (i.e. development coordination)
- 2) Explore different types of small ruminant innovation system pathways
e.g. co-creating approach to development





likely to continue

resolving joint
technical and institutional
issues is a necessity



END

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