Proceedings of the Workshop on
Voices of poor livestock keepers in Migori District
Held at Gilly Hotel, Migori, Kenya
12th February 2003

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Voices of Poor Livestock Keepers in the Lake Victoria Basin

VPLK Document 3
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Opening Remarks
Isaac O Odhiambo - District Livestock Production Officer, Migori District

The challenge facing Kenya in general and Migori district in particular is to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth. The agriculture sector is known to be the mainstay of the rural folks contributing over 80% of livelihoods in the rural areas. However, in the last decade, agricultural production has stagnated, resulting in increased level of food insecurity and malnutrition. Suffice it to say at this point when the planners talk of food security little do they include livestock production and hence very little attention is given to the development of the same.

Meaningful poverty alleviation strategies are generally pegged on the growth of the agricultural sector, which in turn is linked to intensification and diversification with the availability of water and production assets crucial for sustainable increased production. In Migori district issues related to availability of production assets and ready market outlets for the produce must be central to any poverty reduction interventions. Constraining issues start with the accelerating prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS, followed by environmental degradation, low technology adoption and cultural beliefs, traditions and norms that generally impede agricultural and rural development.

Specific issues hinge on:
- Inadequate access to farm inputs
- Poor extension services
- Poor animal health, disease control services
- Lack of quality animal feeds
- Inability to access markets due to poor state of roads
- Gender imbalance in land ownership and
- Poor basic socio economic infrastructure

The Department of Agriculture and Livestock Extension has over the years developed various extension approaches to address these constraints but with mixed levels of success. Some of these have been:
- Better Farmer approach of the post independence and the 1970s
- The Training and Visit approach of the 1980s
- The Farmer Group and Community Support project of the 1990s
- The National Agricultural and Livestock Programme (NALEP) of 2000 to date

The current agricultural extension policy emphasizes a greater participation of the poor farmers and the private extension providers to spearhead agricultural extension services. Meanwhile the Ministry will play a regulatory and backstopping role when necessary. The research arm of the Ministry has come up with several recommendations on various technical areas much of which does not reach the farmer. Several NGOs have come up with very good packages on poverty alleviation but with little sustainability frameworks.

The lessons learnt from these past dismal performances indicate that there is generally poor dissemination of information and poor attitude towards farming technology adoption. The innovative farmers of the 1970s and 1980s were made to
believe that the government must provide them with various inputs and even in those circumstances they still lost their livestock through negligence in disease control. This attitude has not changed much in Migori and this has to be addressed if farmers have are to own their projects, and adopt farming as a business.

Various actors must therefore go out of their way to create awareness to the farming community to look at agriculture as an economic undertaking. It is in the background of this task that I would like to challenge workshop participants to suggest on how best they would like the various extension providers to reach them so as to increase their agricultural productivity.

With these few remarks, I would like to declare this workshop officially opened.

Overview of the Voices of Poor Livestock Keepers in the Lake Victoria Basin Study
By Njeri Muhia - Consultant, World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi

The UK Department for International Department (DFID) is sponsoring a study on Livestock Information Research Exchange in East Africa. Previous phases of the study have identified various government programmes, NGOs and community based organizations concerned with poor livestock producers in East Africa and identified the Lake Victoria basin as an area of high concentration of poor people and livestock. ICRAF is leading a component of the study that focuses on the Information and technology needs and sources for poor livestock keepers in the Lake Victoria basin.

Project activities have been implemented in parts of the Lake Victoria basin in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in collaboration with a number of partners. Data has been collected and preliminary analysis made in four districts in Tanzania, three districts in Uganda and three districts in Kenya. The specific districts in Kenya are Vihiga, Bondo and Migori.

The objectives of the study are:

a) Identify where significant numbers of poor livestock keepers are located in the Lake Victoria basin
b) Describe how those poor livestock keepers access new knowledge and technologies, with emphasis on knowledge and technologies pertaining to livestock
c) Identify what the levels of demand for new livestock related knowledge and technologies are and to what extent these information needs are being met
d) Document which civil society organizations operate in the Lake Victoria basin and to what extent they actually, and potentially, cater for the interests of poor livestock keepers
e) Suggest what ways civil society organizations can be empowered to enable poor people to better access new information and technologies

This workshop aims to share the preliminary results with stakeholders in Migori district so as to obtain reactions to our interpretation of the results as well as discuss what the results mean for agricultural technology development and information dissemination in Migori district. The workshop will proceed as follows:

(1) Nelson Mango will make a presentation of the main results obtained to date on
behalf of the study team; (2) we will have a plenary discussion of those results; (3) the participants will break into 4 working groups to discuss specific topics raised by the study; and (4) the working groups will report back to the plenary session.

Sharing of Preliminary results from Migori district
By Nelson Mango - Consultant, World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi
Migori district was carved out of the former South Nyanza district in 1992. It has a total area of 2505 square kilometres, 475 km² of which is composed of Lake Victoria. According to the 1999 population census, Migori district had a population of 516,770 people and a population density of 255 persons per square kilometre. There are approximately 115,000 households with 96,456 farm holdings. The average household size is 5 (national average is 4.3) persons. The altitude ranges from 1100m to 1700m above sea level. The district rainfall averages between 700mm to 1800mm and varies per division. 58% of the district population live in the absolute poverty category while 51% experience food poverty only.

Data was collected from four sublocations in Migori district, namely
- Kiwiro in Northeast Kadem location. Thirty household interviews were carried out.
- West Kanyuor in Central Kadem location. Thirty household interviews were carried out.
- Arambee in East Kanyamkago location. Twenty-one household interviews were carried out.
- Kamsaki in South Kanyamkago location. Thirty household interviews were carried out.

In addition to the household interviews, modified PRAs as well as key informant interviews were carried out with CBOs, NGOs and government personnel in the study areas and at district headquarters.
Map 1: Study sites in Migori District

Table 1: Selection criteria of study sites in Migori district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub location</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Status of Poverty</th>
<th>Concentration of Service providers</th>
<th>Market Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kiwiro</td>
<td>Northeast Kadem</td>
<td>Nyatike</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Kanyuor</td>
<td>Central Kadem</td>
<td>Nyatike</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arambee</td>
<td>East Kanyamkago</td>
<td>Uriri</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamsaki</td>
<td>South Kanyamkago</td>
<td>Uriri</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Key informant interviews by study team)

Agriculture is the main economic activity in Migori district. As shown in the table below the respondents reported that farming was their major occupation.

Table 2: Main occupations in Migori district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-agricultural casual</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>labour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employment</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal employment</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Analysis of household data collected by study)

Migori farmers grow some cash crops; 28% of them rely on tobacco, 17% on sugarcane, 13.2% groundnuts, 12% on beans and growing number on pineapples.

Major causes of poverty are cited as:
- High rate of population growth (strains factors of production)
- Increase in prices for basic goods and services due to economic liberalization
- Harsh climatic conditions in the lower divisions (esp. Nyatike and Muhuru divisions). Rainfall is inadequate and unreliable.
- Floods: this normally occurs periodically during heavy rains and affects parts of Nyatike division along the River Kuja basin, especially West Kanyuor, and causes crop destruction and temporary displacement of people living nearby
- The HIV/AIDS scourge has increased dependency and put pressure on the extended family set up
- Drought/famine: this affects the marginal regions of the district (Nyatike, Muhuru and Karungu) lead to crop failures, livestock deaths and ultimately famine.
- Formal and technical education has become unaffordable
- Joblessness among school leavers
- Poor communication infrastructure, particularly around the beaches which affects transport of fish and other agricultural produce
- Resources such as fertile land are concentrated in the hands of a few
- Lack capital to promote existing business ventures or to start new ones
- Quest for white-collar jobs and apathy towards farm work
- Lack of appropriate technology and tools, leading to low yields
- Lack processing of farm produce, e.g. pineapples, oranges into juice etc
- Poor marketing of produce, most produce being sold raw immediately after the harvest at extremely low prices
- Delayed payments to farmers for delivered produce especially sugarcane and maize
- Mismanagement of cooperative societies/poor community institutional development
- Restricted access to property and credit by women
- Destruction of forests, leading to erosion and reduced rainfall

Challenges to crop production
- Declining soil fertility (41% reported this)
- Labour scarcity for agricultural activities
- Marketing problems (poor prices, transport and declining demand)
- Inadequate credit sources. Most farmers rely on friends and relatives for credit, with sugarcane and tobacco farmers having some access to cooperatives.
• Inadequate extension services especially in low-lying districts. Kamsaki sub-location receives a lot of extension visits from Ministry of Agriculture due to its location near the divisional agriculture office and along the main Kisii- Migori highway (e.g. farmer training through farmers’ field days at Stella Focal Area by extension workers from the Ministry of Agriculture, farmer training on fodder trees by researchers from KARI-Kisii and farmer training on dairy farming by C-MAD an NGO, were done there last year).
• Destruction of farms by livestock grazing via free-range method.
• Dealing with crop pests and diseases
• Flooding during rains and drought.

Table 3: Crop enterprises demanded by farmers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>% of Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oranges and lemons</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kales</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passion Fruits</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pineapples</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other traditional vegetables</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangoes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paw paw</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avocado</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Potato</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Analysis of household data collected by study)

**Challenges to livestock production**
• Poor or inadequate veterinary services
• Inadequate extension personnel/services
• High animal mortality rates
• High cost of veterinary drugs and related services
• Poor marketing channels for livestock products
• Adulterated or ineffective farm inputs such as veterinary drugs
• Prolonged drought in the south of the district
• Flooding during the rainy season. Small livestock are lost in the floods
• The resurgence of tsetse flies in the district (from the lowlands towards the highlands). Possible reasons for the resurgence of the tsetse were suggested to include ineffectiveness of the traps, retrenchment of veterinary staff and the suds of Lake Victoria providing a breeding ground.

How farmers cope with livestock **diseases**
• Farmers buy and administer medication themselves
• Manual picking of ticking from the animals,
• Use of rugs or brooms to apply acaricides
• Use of Indigenous/traditional medication for examples herbs,
• Tattooing the ears to drain what is said to be bad blood
• Taking livestock very early to step in cold river water to control foot and mouth disease
• Extensive grazing of up to over 10km in search of better pasture along riverine areas and the shores of Lake Victoria.
• Giving out livestock to friends and relatives as caretakers during drought
• Free grazing of goats and sheep
**Community vigilante groups working with the local administration are reducing the problem of livestock theft and thus the large-scale movement of animals
< Poultry diseases (mainly Newcastle) - use of human drugs especially such as flagyl and tetracycline
• Trial and error use of herbs, e.g. aloe, red chilli, sisal etc for poultry diseases.

Knowledge demanded by farmers regarding livestock production
• Training on how to control livestock diseases on their own (Rinderpest and Foot and Mouth Disease)
• Re-introduction of AI services to raise production
• Establishment of community based animal health assistants and veterinary chemists
• Processing of livestock products to increase returns
• Provision of water in dry areas: construction of dams, sinking boreholes and digging wells
• Fodder establishment, management and preservation for their large herds of cattle
• Provision of information and training in the acquisition and management of dairy goats
• Upgrade of African Zebu cattle using dairy bulls from exotic cattle, and how to improve the performance of their own livestock using the breeds they have
• The right medicine for treating livestock in the liberalized market
• To effectively control tsetse flies (in the lower divisions of Migori)
• To access Information from ICIPE and Kenya Trypanosomiasis Research Institute (KETRI) scientists stationed at Mbita carrying out trials on tsetse flies and other scientific studies

Table 4: Information sought by farmers in Migori district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information sought</th>
<th>% of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to make quality goods</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing of demand</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Information</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Information sought by farmers in Migori district
Crops of high demand | 2
Alternative markets | 12
Formation of cooperatives | 2
Government intervention plans | 1

(Source: Analysis of household data collected by study)

Table 5: Sources of information in Migori District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>% of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOARD (Crops more than the Vet. Officer)</td>
<td>57.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbours</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family members</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own experience</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar attended</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local NGO (World Vision)</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other external agencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief’s Baraza</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry Department</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAT</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Analysis of household data collected by study)

Information and knowledge flow barriers

- NGOs and some CBOs complain that village elders were biased because they usually recommend close relatives (who may not be the very needy) for project benefit.
- The Chief Barazas are effective dissemination channels but the Chiefs themselves are not the best channels for relief distribution because some are corrupt or assumed corrupt by the community. There are reports that some Chiefs have mismanaged government relief in the past.
- Cultural practices, for example, wife inheritance and attitudes that go with it still impede the flow of information related to the spread and control of HIV/AIDS. The practice of wife inheritance is still widespread in Nyatike division and even some of the Chiefs expected to be the major change agents are caught up in the practice.
- clanism: The Kadem clans (who constitute 40% of the population of the district) see themselves as the "owners" of Nyatike and always want to be at the centre of leadership and control of vital information (Jodak vs. Kadem conflict). Nevertheless clans remain an issue in leadership and information flow even among sub-clans of the Kadem themselves.
Comments on Nelson's Presentation
Discussion yielded the following points:
1. Hippopotami are a bother to farmers with fields next to the beaches.
   Farmers need information from the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) on how far
   from the lake edge they should cultivate.
2. The issue of floods during the rainy season needs to be addressed.
3. Livestock and extension sectors contribute to poverty alleviation
   programmes because of the numerous people they reach.
4. Community vigilante groups have had a big impact on reducing livestock
   theft.
5. Farmers still want to know how they can control the Striga weed.
6. There are focal points for livestock diseases in the area (Kadem).
7. Communal ownership of land is also a significant problem.

OUTPUTS FROM WORKING GROUPS
GROUP ONE
Task 1: Define what a Community Based Organization is.
Registered community institution initiated by an individual or a group of people
(either through local or external influence) and run by the community based on
some goals/objectives towards socio-economic development of the people.

Task 2: What are the roles of CBOs?
• Helps people by increasing the productivity of animals
• Source of extension information and technology
• Source of market information
• Creates social cohesion among members
• Improves standards of living
• Point of entry by NGOs, government and other development agencies
• Promotes sharing of information and increased awareness about HIV/AIDS

Some CBOs in Migori are:
1. Grace Outreach (AIDS orphans) - Uriri division
2. Arambee Village Development Group (Dairy) - Uriri division
3. Rabuor Village Development Group (Dairy) - Uriri division

GROUP TWO
Task 1: Who is a livestock keeper in Migori district?
One, who rears, keeps and depends on livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, poultry,
pigs, bees, rabbits, donkeys) to a certain extent. The animals are kept either for
income, socio-cultural functions or for security.

Task 2: What distinguishes people as poor livestock keepers (indicators)?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poor keepers</th>
<th>Good keepers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor health condition</td>
<td>Healthy animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High stocking rate</td>
<td>Proper stocking rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low yielding breeds (low income)</td>
<td>High yielding breeds (high Income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor housing</td>
<td>Proper housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor pasture management</td>
<td>Good pasture management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor information networks</td>
<td>Good information networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low investment ability</td>
<td>High investment ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No record keeping</td>
<td>Keeps records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacks livestock equipment</td>
<td>Has equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low gross margins</td>
<td>High gross margins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 3: How do livestock keepers become poor or non-poor?
Livestock keepers become poor due to especially the numbers lost through:
- Theft
- Funerals
- Human sickness
- Livestock pests and diseases
- School fees
- Dowry/ socio-cultural
- Overstocking
- High costs of inputs
- Poor veterinary services - not available
- Poor market prices
- Low literacy level
- Land sub-division which leaves no grazing areas
- Inbreeding of livestock

Livestock keeper can become non-poor by:
- Change of attitude
- Having access to credit
- Improved infrastructures/markets (information)
- Proper stocking rate
- Up-grading
- Diversification of livestock breeds
- Recycling of livestock wastes to improve pasture

GROUP THREE
Task 1: What Information do livestock keepers in Miaori district need?
Livestock keepers require training and management of various livestock, disease control, feeding, housing, breeding, markets for livestock products, access/source of livestock breeds (various) and credit facilities to provide loans to acquire livestock.

Task 2: Are they getting this information?
Yes. Those who have been reached and those who are aware and go for the information.
No. There is lack of staff in the field and there are farmers who are unable to pay for the services.

Task 3: How can the gaps be filled?
- More extension workers should be deployed to reach farmers
- Formation of community based groups to address emerging livestock issues
- Training community based animal health assistants

Task 4: Identify who will fill the gaps.
The farmers themselves. They can seek information through groups from the Ministry personnel, other extension providers, donors and others.

GROUP FOUR
Task 1: Are there ways or methods for reaching poor people that would be more effective (e.g. schools, church groups, markets)?
- Chiefs and sub chiefs: can be especially important for mobilizing people to attend a baraza with a specific message or to announce specific activities
- Youth groups and women groups: are generally mixtures of middle and poor within a village. They can play important roles of receiving information, identifying and articulating the needs of the poor, and passing information through to the poor.
- Channelling information in local language through the use of the Luo language radio of the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC radio)
- Link information with the provision of relief food to the poor by the NGOs, government or community based organizations (although there are problems with the way food is provided because favouritism has been reported).
- Church groups: the main advantage of the church is that it is fair and will not disadvantage the poor.
- Markets: markets are difficult because most people have busy schedules those days.
- There may be some advantage of passive media like posters.
- Schools: schools are a good channel but best for providing general information. Farm families will still need to provide more specific information
- The private sector is very weak in Migori district, but it can be improved.

Task 2: List the alternative methods that would have good potential.
- Use of extension workers
- Home visitations
- Privatisation of public projects, for example cattle dips to boost the community members' apathy.
- Community based chemists and animal health workers have potential to do more
- Community drama
- Research organisations should be encouraged to report findings back to those who provided the information
- Organize workshops of the poor so that extensionists, policy makers and researchers can listen to peoples needs and for poor people to share information among themselves. Groups of poor people such as women groups, youth groups, widow groups and orphans could be organized.
Task 3: Are there any successful experiences in Miaori district?
Yes.

- Through provincial administration - Chiefs' barazas have been effective for announcing specific projects such as vaccinations for livestock.
- Widows groups coming together - CARE-Kenya started a group for poor people (women) by establishing a small shop for pharmaceuticals which could also handle veterinary drugs. They are in Lamadom in West Kanyuor sub location and Sigra in Kiwiro sub location.
- The on-going food-for-work programme by World Vision in Nyatike.
- Puppetry and drama especially for HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns.
- Community spray crushes under the former Livestock Development Programme (LDP) in Uriri division and Rongo, although success is not seen in the lower parts of the district.
- World Vision has supported the emergence of Nyantike Farmers Livestock Association (NYALIFA).

Conclusions and Overall Summary of the workshop
Brent Swallow, World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi

- There is a need to articulate a vision of how the livestock sector can contribute to the overall goals of economic growth and poverty reduction.
- The education system, the local culture and the high incidence of HIV/AIDS spread are biased against productive agriculture and livestock sectors in Mlgori District.
- Evidence of clustering of extension in the highland high potential areas, near to roads. This includes the Ministry of Agriculture and other extension providers.
- Need for a new multi-agency approach to sustained tsetse and trypanosomiasis control that would include communities, research organisations such as KETRI and ICIPE and the MOARD.
- Pluralist extension will require cooperation and dialogue among government, non-governmental organisations and community groups. It is disappointing that no NGOs representatives came to this meeting. Nonetheless it will be important to keep up the dialogue and work in new roles for the government.
- Forty years of encouraging dependence and control by the government cannot be quickly turned around by simple government edicts. There is need for sustained discussion and negotiation. There is need to train, build capacity, and build upon specific interests of poor communities.
- Some good and refreshing ideas on reaching and benefiting poor groups were discussed at this workshop. For example, participants raised the possibility of workshops targeted to particular groups of the poor. These could help to better understand their needs and to share information among the poor. Another method is linking up with relief programmes targeted at the poor. It was also beneficial to explore the strengths and weaknesses of schools, church groups and markets as sources of information.
- It is clear that the concept of a "poor livestock keeper" is more ambiguous than we had earlier thought. It can be defined according to the management of livestock, the value of livestock assets, or levels/sources of livelihood security and poverty of people.
There was a good definition of CBOs given in the working group discussion. One participant highlighted the need for CBOs to get more involved in HIV/AIDS awareness. He went ahead to define three categories of people in relation to the HIV/AIDS scourge: those who know about it but behave like they do not, those who know and protect themselves and those who do not know about HIV/AIDS. Residents of the beach areas of Lake Victoria are hardest hit by this disease.

- District development officers and the District Social Services Officer are vital when discussing the issue of community groups.

District Agricultural Officer’s final comments
Jennifer Polo - DAO Migori District

Mrs Polo emphasised collaboration between farmers and researchers. She was glad to see that both were in attendance in the meeting. She said that it was fortunate that Migori district was chosen for the study and that farmers, Ministry officials and representatives from community based organisations were invited to the sharing session. Mrs Polo said the agriculture is the backbone of Migori district and therefore everything must be done to improve it for the survival of the people. However, most farmers are poor. They may be poor because they cannot access information, technology or they lack awareness. Letting them access information is important because it will eventually raise their living standards. Although there are many organisations in Migori district trying to help them, they may only be providing information and technology about one issue. Farmers remain poor because their demands have not been established. On the other hand, not all organizations operating in Migori district are empowered to meet the demands of all farmers due to limited resources.

The non-governmental organizations, farmers and community based organisations must be able to clearly come out and articulate their needs openly for collaboration. The National Agricultural and Livestock Programme (NALEP) has been trying to do this. By experience, they have identified farmers’ needs. NALEP has realised its strengths and weaknesses as a programme and is keen on collaboration so as to offer farmers a basket of options.

Mrs Polo was very grateful to ICRAF for sharing the results of the study. She said the participants would benefit from the exchange of ideas. She also advocated for the correct targeting of Information for issues such as HIV/AIDS. She hoped that what had been shared would be helpful and that the participants would receive a copy of the proceedings.
Annex A: Some agencies providing services to farmers in Migori District  
(Source: Field work by study team in Migori District)

- **World Vision** - through its Area Development Programme (ADP) in collaboration with MOARD. It is involved in soil and water conservation, crop husbandry and promotion of livestock production through cross breeding programme. Through the Kenya Agency for Micro-enterprise Development (KADET) it is involved in credit schemes. It is also involved in school bursary programmes and health programmes.

- **Kenya-Finland Livestock Development programme (LDP)** - In Migori, this programme started a bull scheme for upgrading local African Zebu. It also used to scout for crosses of dairy breeds of cattle on behalf of other farmers and offers them to women groups in a cow-to-cow scheme, which is a revolving loan.

- **Community Mobilisation Against Desertification (C-MAD)** - an NGO established in 1995. It is involved in issues dealing with livestock, poverty, timber, horticulture and natural resource management. Work in collaboration with MOARD extension staff. So far the project has managed to issue 10 dairy cows, 7 dairy bulls to be used in upgrading African Zebu cattle and 3 heifers to women groups in Uriri division.

- **Agriculture and Environment programme (AEP)** - a church based NGO under the Catholic diocese of Homabay. Their objective is to increase milk production on local cows and introduce Improved breeds for milk. Its activities are concentrated in the south of the district. It mainly works in livestock improvement, crop production, post harvest grain storage and micro finance. In livestock its activities revolve around disease control through vaccination programmes, administer treatment to sick animals, have a veterinary doctor in charge, increase milk production farmers are encouraged to go for fodder crops and in poultry the project trains farmers on Improvement of local birds. Farmers are also trained on management practices of high-grade poultry that lay a lot of eggs. This programme is designed for the productive poor.

- **Oyani farm** - a government livestock multiplication unit totalling about 90.8 ha in area. Deals mainly with dairy cattle. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development run it.

- **Macalder sheep and goats** - a government farm dealing mainly with upgrading sheep and goats using dorper and boar bucks respectively.

- **Lichota farm** - established by Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA) as a livestock multiplication centre. Main enterprise is the crosses of dairy cattle.

- **MOARD extension officers** provide technical and regulatory services in support of agriculture, livestock health and home economics. This is usually done through the focal area approach where farmers are encouraged to form livestock commodity interest groups. Through field days, demonstrations, workshops, farmers and farm exchange visits, farmers in a focal area get trained. KARI - Kisii is the regional research centre covering up to Migori.

- **Friends, relatives, neighbours, women's groups and school/youth groups** were reported as major sources in every village.
Other organisations such as farmer cooperatives, dip communities and agroforestry committees were significant in some village.

- Stockists, traders and markets were mentioned as important sources in all the research villages and other agribusiness sources were important in some villages.

- Ethno-veterinarians were reported as major sources of knowledge in Nyatike division of Migori district, where they receive support from World Vision and AEP.

- Kenya Commercial Bank was listed as an important source of new knowledge in the district.

- BAT and Mastermind Tobacco offered farmers general information on agricultural activities besides tobacco.

- South Nyanza Sugar company (SONY) in collaboration with the MOARD was a source of information on livestock feeds such as molasses and use of sugarcane leaves to feed livestock during times of scarcity.

- Radio was mentioned as a medium of agricultural information in all the research villages, however poor livestock keepers did not mention radio and newspapers as a medium of knowledge transfer.

- Home Based Care Project (HBCP) a project under the catholic diocese that deals with HIV/AIDS awareness, guidance and counselling of HIV/AIDS infected and affected and amenity support for the sick and poor.

- Vitamin A Deficiency Diseases (VADD) - operates like a CBO with complimentary activities to HBCP.

- Lake Region Community Development Programme (LRCDP) - CBO based in Nyatike division. Affiliated to Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Supports orphans and vulnerable children.

Organizations with successful practices in Migori:

The role of the church and church based institutions cannot not be overemphasized in Migori, especially if the field of human health issues. Most successful institutions are those with a health agenda, as listed below.

1. Lake Region Community Development Program (LRCDP)-Affiliated to Catholic Relief Services
2. Vitamin A Deficiency Diseases (VADD)
3. Home Based Care Project (HBC)- Diocese of Homabay
4. Agriculture Development Project -World Vision

This one has reported resounding success due to the structure it has put in place which has enabled it reach very many farmers in the vast Nyatike Division.
Another very strong point of the organization is networking. It networks with many organizations as listed below:
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry Of Agriculture which has a seconded staff at AOP
- Water Department, which is involved in ground water, surveys in the division. Also had a seconded staff at ADP but who was recently recalled.
- Office of the President - ADP works a lot with the DC, DO and Chiefs
- Education Ministry
- CRS, AEP and Home Based Care (all share clients on awareness and community group activities
- KEFRI
- Forest Department also had a seconded staff at ADP but who is currently on a study leave.
- Lake Region Community Development programme share clients (needy children) with World Vision.
Workshop on Voices of the Poor Livestock Keepers in Migori District held at Gilly Hotel, 12\textsuperscript{th} February 2003, Migori, Kenya

**PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Moderator/Presenter</th>
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| 8:30 am| Welcome address
Introduction of Participants                                        | Isaac Odhiambo DLPO              |
| 9:30 am| Background on *Voices of poor livestock keepers in the lake Victoria basin* study | Njeri Muhia                      |
| 9:45 am| Sharing of preliminary results from the study - Part I                       | Nelson Mango                     |
| 10:00 am| Tea Break                                                                   |                                   |
| 10:30 am| Sharing of preliminary results from the study - Part II                      | Nelson Mango                     |
| 11:00 am| Working groups on thematic issues                                           |                                   |
| 12:15 pm| Summary of issues on opportunities and constraints to new information and technologies | Brent Swallow                    |
| 1:00 pm| Workshop closing
Lunch                                                           | Jennifer Polo DAO                |
Workshop on voices of the poor livestock keepers in Migori district
12th February 2003

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Participant list</th>
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<td><strong>Farmers</strong></td>
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