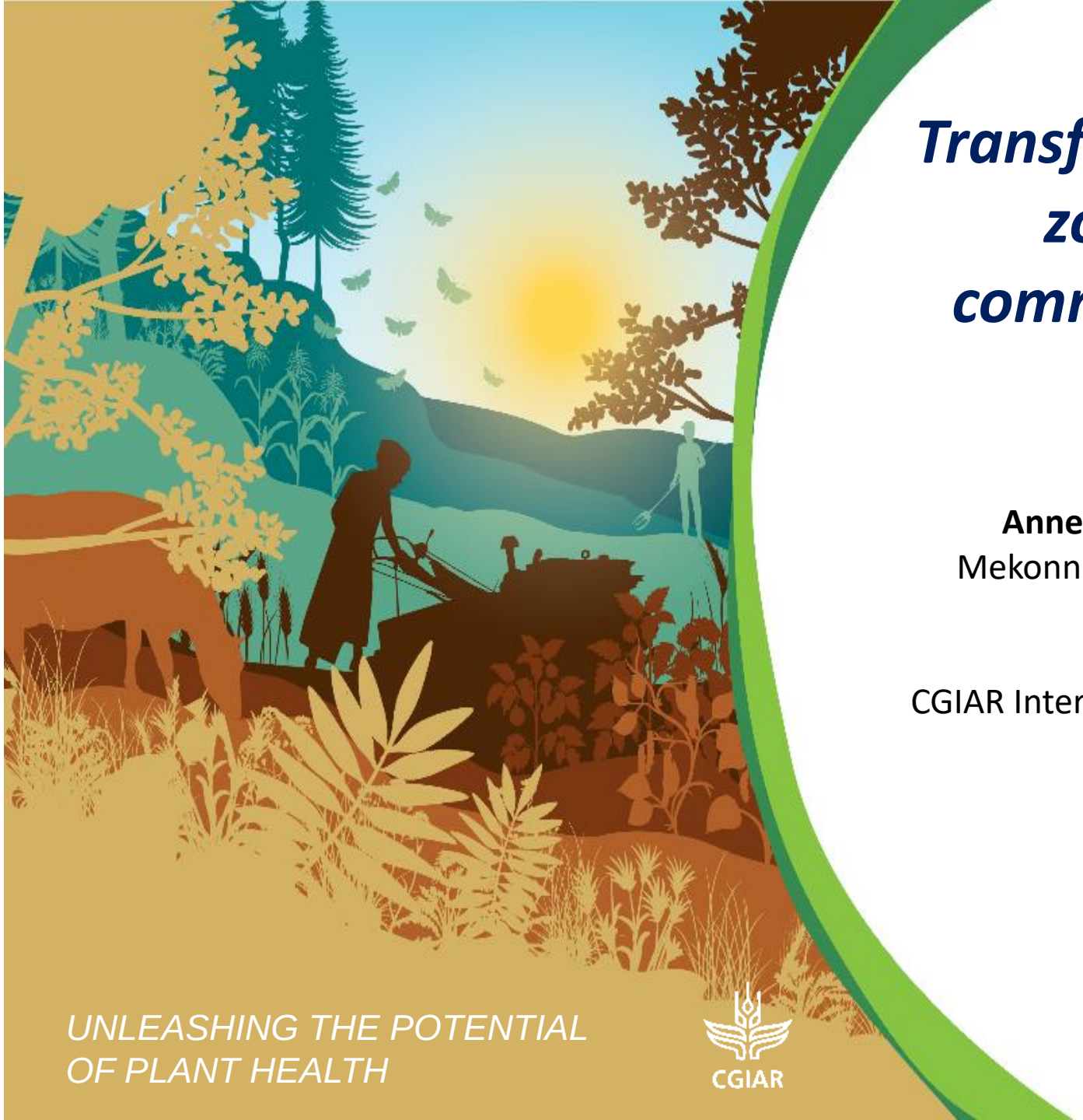


Transforming gender relations and zoonotic disease risks through community conversations in rural Ethiopia

Annet A.Mulema, Wole Kinati, Mamusha Lemma, Mesfin Mekonnen, Biruk G. Alemu, Belay Elias, Yifru Demeke, Hiwot Desta, Barbara Wieland

CGIAR International Year of Plant Health Webinar on Integrated Pest and Disease Management, 10 March 2021

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF PLANT HEALTH

CGIAR

In celebration of

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH 2020

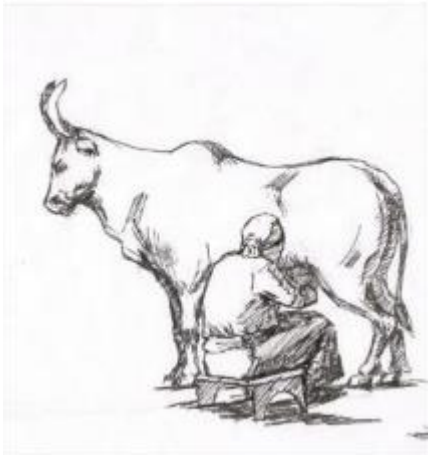
Introduction

- Ethiopia has one of the largest livestock populations and the second largest human population in Africa
- About 80% of the population depends on agriculture and has direct contact with livestock or other animals
- Ethiopia ranks high in the health burden of zoonotic diseases due to:
  - Poor livestock management practices,
  - General lack of knowledge on zoonotic diseases,
  - Common animal-source food handling and consumption practices
- The gender-based differences in roles and power dynamics disproportionately expose household members to the risk of zoonotic diseases

Zoonosis and division of labour

Brucellosis, Chlamydiosis,
Q fever, Anthrax, Orf

Anthrax, Salmonella, E coli



Campylobacter, Orf

Zoonosis and division of labour

Toxoplasmosis, Q fever, Anthrax, Leptospirosis

Chlamydiosis, Q fever, Anthrax, Orf

Anthrax, Leptospirosis, Campylobacter

Zoonosis and division of labour

Anthrax, Brucellosis, Q-fever, Orf, Leptospirosis




Children are especially vulnerable:

- Less knowledge
- Close contact to livestock
- Consumption of raw milk

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH 2020

CGIAR

Action Research

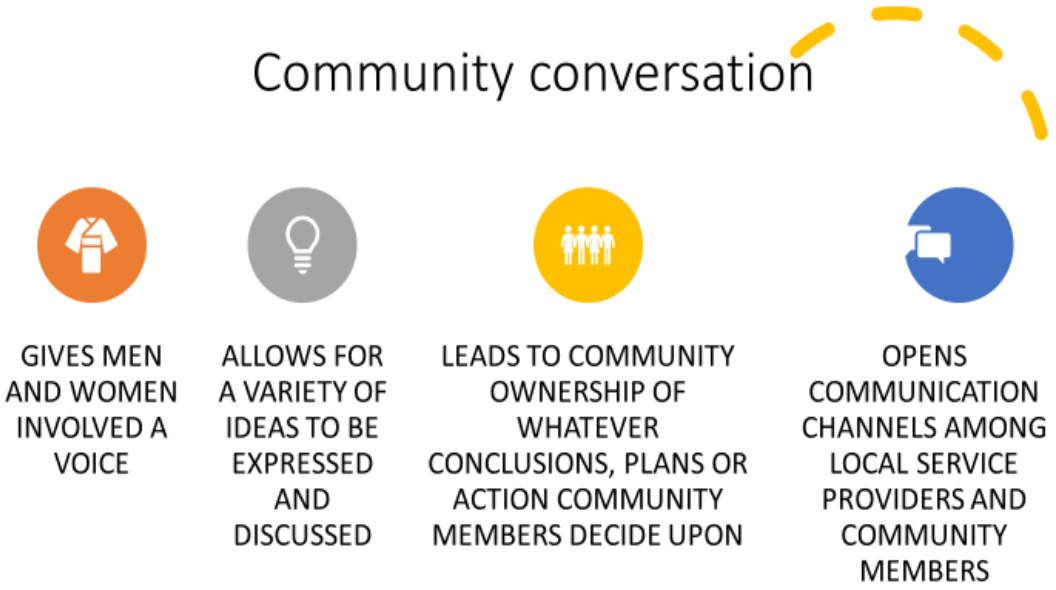
- Participatory community engagement and social learning
- Community conversations (CC)
- We addressed two key questions:
  - How do CC effect change in gender relations and practices that expose individuals to zoonotic diseases?
  - Under what conditions does change occur?

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH 2020

CGIAR

Community Conversations

- Facilitated discussion and social learning process
- Community members work with facilitators to collectively identify and analyze issues most usefully targeted to achieve their goals
- Creates an informal interactive space for community members to find solutions

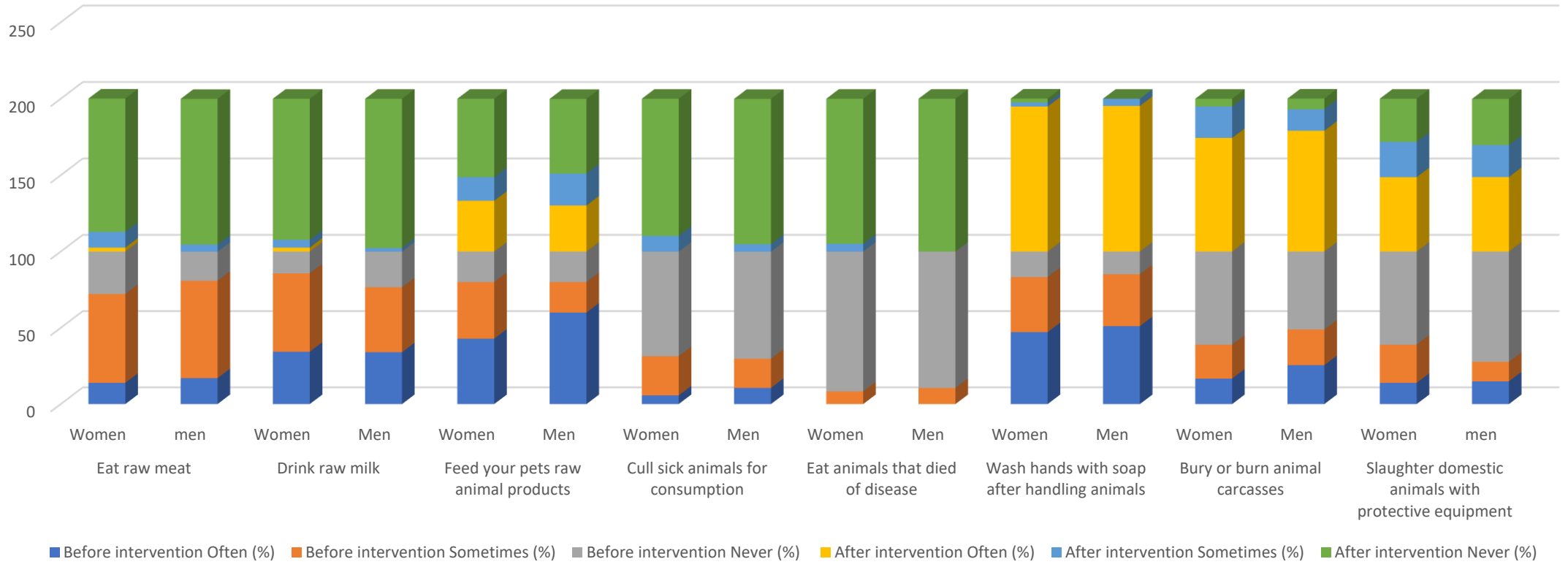


Action Research

- CC piloted in four villages in three woredas (districts) of Ethiopia
  - Doyogena, Menz Gera Midir, and Menz Mama

- CC approach designed and implemented through a sequence of steps
  - Situation analysis in 2017 using participatory epidemiology and gender analysis techniques.
  - Designed action research outlined in a CC facilitation guide
  - Formed a team of local facilitators (women and men) in each site
  - Engaged a cross-section of the larger community (60-70 participants)
  - Conducted baseline and end-line studies (mixed methods)

Proportion of women and men practicing safe handling of livestock and animal source foods



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH 2020

CGIAR

Conclusions

- The CC helped facilitate changes in knowledge, attitudes, and practices that expose humans to zoonoses.
- There were noticeable changes in attitude and practices among men and women regarding unsafe handling of animals and consumption of animal-source foods.
- Self Determination Theory postulates that internalization of new behaviors progresses most effectively if the personal utility of the activity is understood.
- The dialogues engaged participants at both cognitive and emotional levels to foster an understanding of the benefits of change.
- The effectiveness of the approach depends on social structures and institutions, facilitation skills, complementarity with ongoing interventions that demonstrate the practical value of new knowledge and practices.

More

Mulema, A.A., Kinati, W., Lemma, M., Mekonnen, M., Alemu, B.G., Elias, B., Demeke, Y., Desta, H. and Wieland, B. 2020. Clapping with two hands: Transforming gender relations and zoonotic disease risks through community conversations in rural Ethiopia. *Human Ecology* 48: 651–663.

https://doi.org/10.1007/s10745-020-00184-y