

TH1.2: Exploring Gendered Entry Points in the Goat Value Chain in Senegal



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Background

- The number of goats in Senegal increased dramatically over the **last three decades from around 2 million heads to over 6 million heads in 2017** (FAOSTAT 2019).
- Goats and other small ruminants are generally **managed by women**
 - Women also tend to **control incomes** from the sale of goats and goat products.
- Goats are considered to be **climate resilient**, especially to droughts (Diallo et al. 2021).



Background

- Goats are also used as a store of wealth and are more easily traded following shocks, which can **increase household resilience**.
- Because goats are typically given as gifts, almost all agricultural households own at least some goats (Sow et al. 2021).
- Goats constitute an **important animal source food**, as goat milk is generally consumed by young children in the household and goat meat is consumed as part of many religious ceremonies (Traoré et al. 2018).
 - **Goat products could be leveraged further** in the context of under- and malnutrition, particularly for young children and mothers.



Study Objectives

- Assess the potential for goat production and the **value chains for goats** and goat products to **support women's empowerment, climate resilience and improved nutrition** in relation to other animal source foods
 - To **identify bottlenecks** in the chain and help identify corresponding solutions aimed at mitigating those bottlenecks.
 - To **examine entry and exit points for nutrition** along value chains has become increasingly important in order to increase access to nutrient-rich foods.
 - Important **food safety and health risks at later stages** of the value chain should also be identified and addressed to ensure that goat meat provides maximum nutrition benefits without the health risks.
 - To identify opportunities for women along the goat value chain in order to identify **opportunities for women's empowerment** and to strengthen the nutrition outcomes.

Research Questions

- How does **consumption of goat products** contribute to the Senegalese diet relative to other animal source foods?
- What **risks does climate change pose to the goat value chain** relative to other key value chains for comparable animal source foods?
 - What **advantages or disadvantages does goat keeping have** in terms of climate resilience and other environmental trade-offs compared to other livestock types?
- What is the role of goats and the goat value chain for climate resilience, women's empowerment and improved nutrition in Senegal?
- What are **key entry points** for strengthening climate resilience, women's empowerment and improved nutrition in the goat value chain of Senegal?

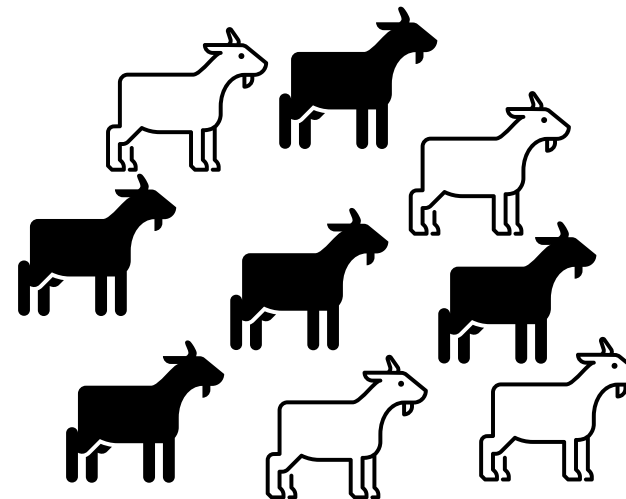
Methodology

- FGDs and KIIs in June and July 2022
- 3 districts – Dakar (urban), Niakhar (agro-pastoralist), Dahra Djolof (pastoralist)
- 6 male FGDs
- 6 Female FGDs
- 18 KIIs with various actors along the value chain



Preliminary Results – Focus Group Discussions

- In both study areas, women are increasingly **focusing on goat rearing** because of the benefits
- Goats are an important source of income for households that own them, **especially for women and young people**
- Women and young people own the goats themselves and **manage the income** from them as they see fit
- They develop **resilience strategies** in the face of climate change
 - Destocking, storage of fodder, fodder cultivation



Preliminary Results – Focus Group Discussions

- “As a coping strategy, we are forced to sell some of our goats to buy feed for the rest of the herd. We do not use storage and fodder reserve techniques. We cannot grow fodder crops due to lack of financial means and lack of water. To dig a well requires a lot of money because the water table is very deep in this locality. We can only store small quantities of straw harvested in the area.”
 - Woman in Dahra Djolof



Preliminary Results – Key Informant Interviews

- At the level of the Ministry of Livestock, they do not distinguish the goat sector as a separate sector, but reason in terms of the small ruminant sector by combining sheep and goats.
- MoL has set up a national CIMEL (centers for the modernization of livestock farming) for the development of the goat sector. This CIMEL is based in Niakhar (Fatick)
- Projet d'Amélioration de la Filière Caprine (PAFC) was set up to **strengthen the empowerment of goat producers, particularly women.**
 - The PAFC then set up the Regional Association of Goat Producers (ARECAP), which covers only two regions for the moment (Fatick and Diourbel)

Preliminary Results – Key Informant Interviews

- The Ministry of Livestock intends to duplicate the ARECAP model on a national scale in order to develop the goat sector.
- PAFC coordinator: the main constraints facing the goat sector today include
 - **food constraints** related to the lack of fodder and the high cost of livestock feed
 - **Health constraints** related to animal diseases, particularly Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), and the lack of veterinary vaccines to ensure vaccination
 - **habitat constraints** related to the lack of infrastructure to protect goats, especially at night or when it rains
- According to an ISRA researcher specializing in goats, **goat meat** is one of the types of red meat that **has the lowest cholesterol**.



Next steps

- More analysis! Any suggestions on approaches?
- Share results with USAID and Senegalese stakeholders



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