Senegal Dairy Genetics: Establishing a unique information resource on low-input dairy systems

Karen Marshall, Stanly Tebug, Jarmo Juga, Miika Tapio and Ayao Missohou

Data on the productivity and profitability of alternate breed-use in developing country livestock production systems is scarce. The Senegal Dairy Genetics project is generating such data, resulting in a unique information resource.

Data overview
- 250 households with 3500 animals
- 800 animals with milk records
- 4 main breed groups
- 15 month monitoring period

Productivity data
- Milk quantity and quality
- Reproduction
- Survival

Economic data
- Benefits - income from milk and calf sale, home milk consumption, manure use
- Costs - labour, health-care, feed, water, animal housing, marketing

Gender data
- Who pays costs or provides labour
- Who receives benefits

All animals are ear-tagged with a unique number
Field staff visit each farmer monthly to collect data
Milk measurements are taken from all lactating cows

This information will aid the identification of appropriate livestock development interventions, contributing to reducing the livestock yield gap between developing and developed countries.