TPGS Scoping Visit, Kenya, January 18-26, 2023

Nutrition-Sensitive Intervention filed visit report.

The Kenya trip aimed to assess smallholder farmers regarding chicken performance, livelihood, nutrition, and school feeding. A meeting between ILRI staff and KARLO representatives started the visit. During the meeting, agenda points such as overall TPGS planned activities, an overview of SAPLING-activities in Kenya, the status of the breeding programs in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya, on-farm chicken performance Testing (OCPT) SAPLING, an overview of SFP in three countries (Eth, KN, and Tz), the proposal of the School Feeding Program (SFP) in Eth, KN, and Tz), the business model for the OCPT, discussion on the work and action plans (OCPT & SFP), and action points and a way forward was discussed and agreed.

11/12/2022

Meeting with Rosan (Muranga county)

• Rosan established a BSF unit in 2019. The challenge for establishing the BSF unit was getting pig manure waste as feed for the BSF. She worked on getting a waste of 10 tons to produce a ton of BSF. For this purpose, Rosan partnered with a pig farm that produces 400 tons of waste daily. According to Rosan, the better option is feeding the chicken and selling chickens than selling BSF. The BSF unit will be established at KARLO with a close partnership with Rosan.

16/02/2023

Bomet county, Meeting with Hand-in-Hand East Africa NGO

• This NGO provides capacity strengthening to private enterprises in a group that does chicken farming. The NGO creates saving groups in rural areas. This NGO gets funding from the IKA Foundation. In most of the Bomet areas, tea farming is a priority, and this NGO is creating awareness in the community to focus on animal rearing for better livelihood and consumption. The NGO reaches almost all counties in Kenya, and they have already provided farmers with training to develop innovative chicken feed. KARLO has been working with this NGO during the TPGS phase one project. They also provide advice and training on non-conventional feeding for chickens.

Kakamega county, Shumelya village

• Farmers in the village visited do not have access to eggs. They get access to eggs imported from Uganda. The staple food in the area is mostly Ugali, made of maize. The community has groups of women working together. A locally available hatchery unit is helping the group members get day-old chicken. Children are not consuming eggs as required. Nutrition education is required to promote the consumption of animal-source foods. Kakamega county was selected as the SAPLING site in which three villages will be selected.

21/01/2023

Bomet East- Chepalungu sub county

• This is the previous TPGS beneficiary county. We met with these beneficiaries. We have understood that people eat eggs and chicken meat regularly.

23/01/2023

Bomet Central- Silibwet

• The major cash crop of this region is cashew nut. Some farmers keep poultry, but they do not consume chicken products. The situation is severe for the women who almost do not have access to chicken meat. Still, chicken is used as a source of income to improve their daily life. Farmers need training on chicken rearing and chicken product consumption. In the district, children of some families eat scrambled eggs. Men eat chicken meat in the form of soup at the restaurants. Visited households stressed the importance of nutrition education. Ugaly, made of sorghum flour with rice, is the most frequently eaten food in the district. Most people may not eat chicken meat in six months' time. Only 10% of them may eat chicken meat once a month. Promoting the consumption of chicken products is required to improve this figure.

24/01/2023

Lindi Region, Ruangwa district

• The district nutrition officer said there are no cattle in the district, and consumption of ASF is minimal as the malnutrition rate is very high. She added that the habit of eating chicken meat and eggs might be improved after the implementation of this project. Most farmers do not want to keep layers; egg consumption is almost nonexistent. This is because farmers prefer keeping broilers for selling at three months of age. Keeping layers is not cost-effective due to the high cost of feed. On average, children eat eggs once a month. Improving the availability of eggs and promoting chicken product consumption should be a strategy in this district.