

EU Partners

FAO

Government of Kenya (GoK)

Local communities

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: € 315 516 (8% of total cost)
- Duration: 2009-2011
- 29 districts using the pen for disease surveillance and livestock movement control and over 1825 reports sent using the pens
- Capacity of more than 150 GoK staff enhanced on the DPT application in disease surveillance



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Rural development

Enhancing Livestock Production (ELP) to support vulnerable populations in Kenya affected by volatile food prices

“We are grateful to FAO and the EU for building the capacity of our officers in the use of Digital Pen Technology (DPT). This technology is motivating, interesting, fast and time saving. It will make reporting more efficient”.

Government of Kenya officer's closing remarks during training on DPT in Garissa



Context

Enhancing Livestock Production is part of the food facility instrument funded by the European Union in response to the soaring food prices. As part of this effort, the current project was designed to support livestock production in Kenya. One of the key factors that limit pastoral production is a lack of access to markets. This project addresses this challenge through support to markets' management by using a revolutionary technology: the digital pen - a battery-operated writing instrument that allows the user to digitally capture a handwritten note or drawing. The use of the digital pen has drastically improved the disease reporting system, thereby reducing transaction costs for traders and enabling pastoralists to sell healthy animals at better prices.

Objectives

- To improve health nutritional status and value of pastoral livestock.
- To improved profitability of targeted small holder dairy units.
- To strengthen livestock markets in pastoral and small scale dairy production areas.

Impact

- Improved coverage and timeliness of disease surveillance in districts as a result of geo-referencing of disease reporting sites.
- Higher livestock prices for livestock farmers.
- The Government has factored the roll out of Digital Pen Technology in its budget.

Rural development

EuropeAid

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“My name is Geoffrey Kirea. I am a livestock technician working with the Ministry of Livestock Development (MoLD). Before I was trained in the Digital Pen Technology (DPT), I used to walk 7 km to deliver reports manually to the District Veterinary Office in Kitui town. I am now able to fill the DPT form and send the report using the digital pen. It works like magic. It is easy also to be monitored if one is not working as the names of those sending are also captured. The use of this technology is very motivating”.



Mr Kirera