

IK Bridge to Innovation

through Endogenous
Development

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Karamoja



- Arid -Semi-arid cattle keeping/rustling corner of NE Uganda touching Sudan and Kenya

Coping mechanism

- Its harsh env & poor health infrastructure, has been the driving force for the K'jong to heavily rely on traditional elders' system & their indigenous knowledge



Traditional elders' leadership system

- historically been strong and the guiding principle in Karamoja
- gradually eroding due to leadership schemes introduced over the last 100 years
- policy to 'change the thinking' about their mode of production instead of seeking ways to improve the livelihood of those in the pastoral section.

Innovations focus shift

- NRM Innovations had been creative, but greatly diluted with guns foothold. NRM innovations peaked during 1980 famine
- The shift of focus on to security and off of NRM has greatly stressed the environment, the people, their livestock and their traditional IK systems

Aims and Objective

- specific objectives to: create local infrastructure, protection of natural resources and improvement of welfare
- It is expected that this information will help to preserve, promote and protect the EVK of Karamoja so as to encourage endogenous development

Methods

- Ethnography
- PLA
 - Participatory field trials
 - Training of trainers
- PRA
 - Direct observation
 - Semi-structured interviews
 - Scoring and Ranking
 - Group discussions

Results

- Ethnoveterinary knowledge information network, two Traditional Livestock Healers Associations and R&D NGO
 - 60 communities
 - EVK clubs in 4 schools
- They have spearheaded efforts to raise medicinal trees. Agro-forestry is not a component of the local culture, ‘God provides tress, and it is not for *us* to plant’

Results

- living fences -medicinal and fodder plants
- backyard pharmacies to prevent local degradation & provide ready treatment supply
- collect seeds of local slow-growing trees
- nursery lots in their manyattas
- create production woodlots, provides sufficient raw mat'l for concurrent dev'l of value-added medicine in tested, marketable form

Conclusions

- What is observed now that we have IK networks-
 - Increased conservation
 - Increased interest
 - Increased sharing

Hypothesis

- When elders share IK in an techno-blend env,
 - their children gain more respect for them & the culture
 - Their own self esteem increases
- When people gather to share EVK, they develop trust and increased security
- If people share EVK, livestock become healthier
- Working hand-in-hand with IK systems can help in both food and life security

Way forward

- We hope this would encourage endogenous development so as to help the Karamojong with the impending changes around them
- a strengthened traditional system would help K'ja, utilizing their traditionally dynamic system that has taken the back seat to external ideas from gov't, religious and NGOs as they try to 'help' or 'modernize' the Karamojong

Thank You -

- **“Go to the people. Live with them. Learn from them. Love them. Start with what they know. Build with what they have. But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the task accomplished, the people will say "We have done this ourselves"”**

Lao Tzu 600-531BC