



Gender Sensitive Evaluation of the Goat Value Chain in the Lowveld of Swaziland

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Swaziland

The Kingdom of Swaziland (Swaziland) is a landlocked country in Southern Africa located between Mozambique and South Africa. Swaziland is a predominantly rural country; the majority of the population (about 70%) rely on agriculture for their livelihoods (CIA, 2017). Swaziland's government has made efforts to increase investments in the country's agricultural sector, these investments have produced limited results. The agricultural sector suffers from low productivity, food production not keeping up with population demand and rising food insecurity (World Bank, 2017).



Abstract

The purpose of this project is to evaluate the potential for commercializing goat production using a gender-focused value chain approach and provide the results to SWADE. In order to determine the usefulness of implementing development initiatives into the sector, including the inclusion of goats in an abattoir, it is important to first understand the goat value chain and the role of men, women and children in this chain.

Objectives

- Generate information about the current goat value chain in the Lowveld of Swaziland to identify areas of opportunities and constraints along the value chain.
- Provide a gender sensitive analysis of the goat value chain in order to identify each actor's role in the vale chain and how they are impacted by the value chain and use this information to identify the possible effectiveness of an abattoir that includes goats.
- Propose recommendations to improve the functioning of the goat market between communities and within supply chains in order to improve the potential that comes from goat raising in the Lowveld of Swaziland.



Methods

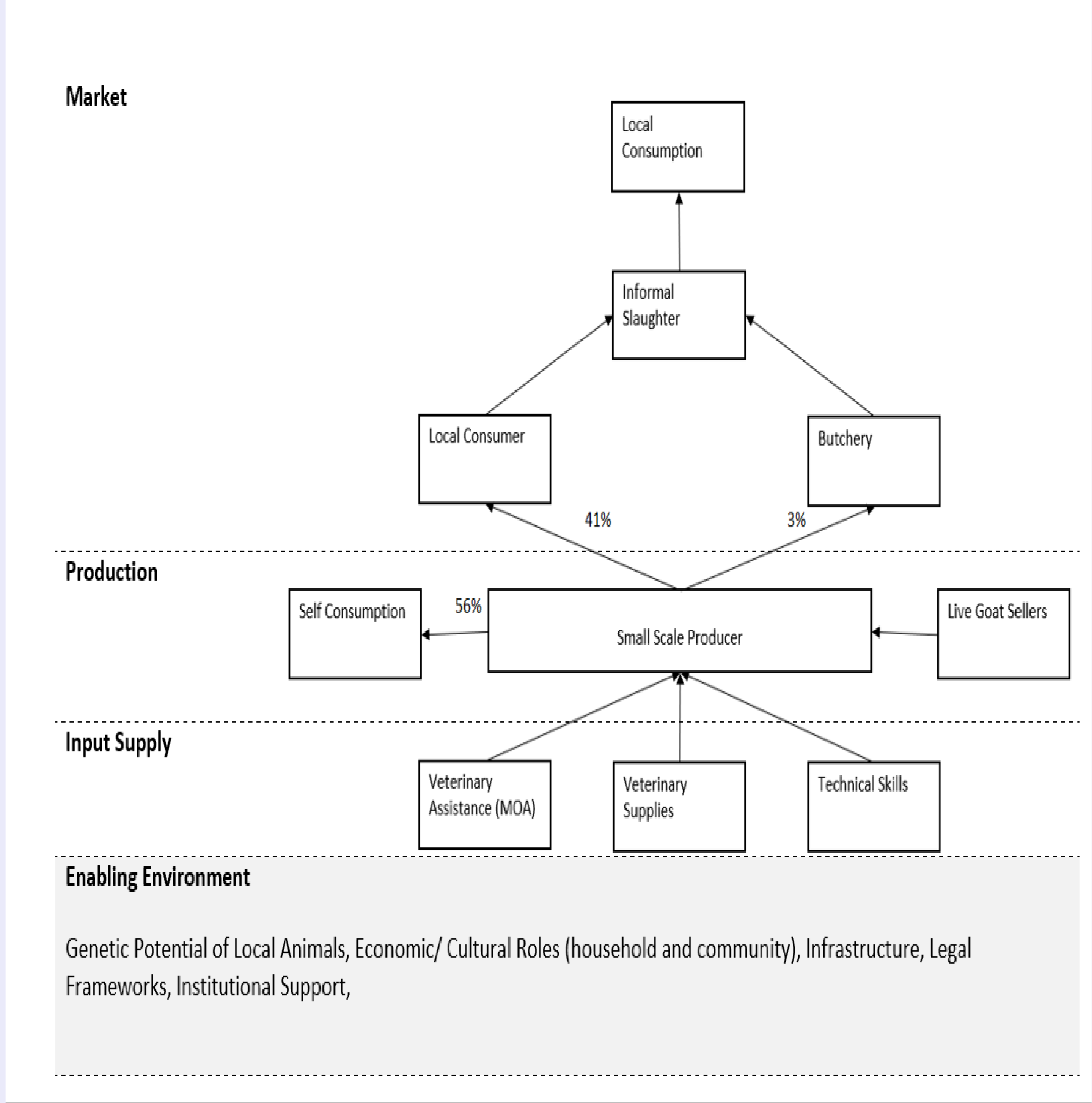
The methods I used for my field practicum data collection were:

- Surveys
- Key Informant Interviews
- Focus Group Discussions

A total of 137 surveys were conducted. Key informant interviews were conducted using a semi structured format with a key informant questionnaire used as a guide, Two focus groups were conducted, 1 with women who owned goats and one with women who did not. This was done in order to identify barriers to entry in the goat value chain.

Results

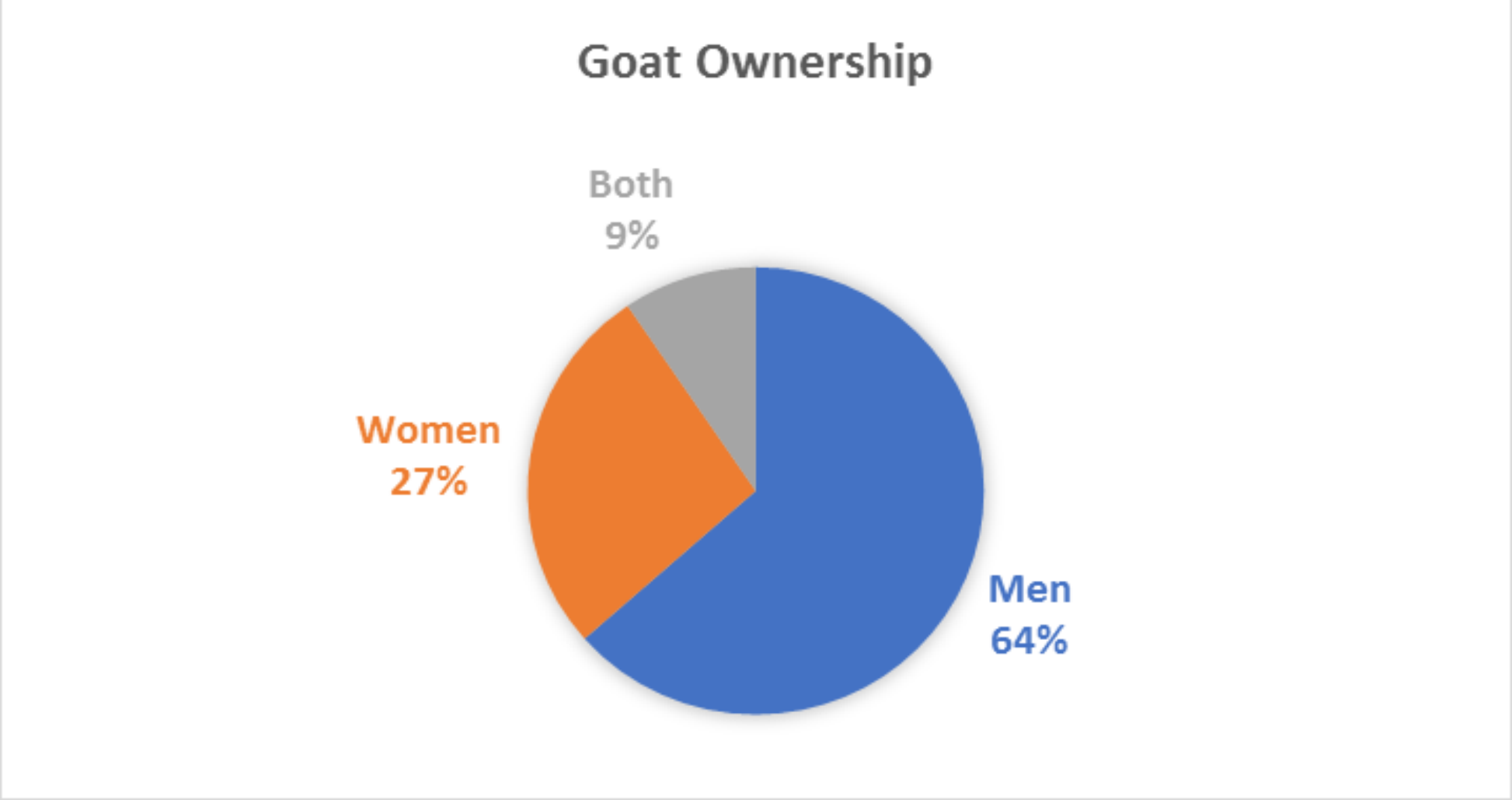
Below is a map of the value chain of the Lowveld of Swaziland. In the bottom, in grey, is the enabling environment. Above that is the input supply portion of the map which includes veterinary assistance, veterinary supplies and technical skills. Next, is the production portion that includes small scale producers. The top portion of the value chain includes the market portion. As the chain shows, 56% of producers surveyed used their goats for self-consumption, this includes cultural purposes. A total of 44% of respondents participated in the goat market. Of the 44% who participated, 41% sold to local consumers including neighbors and 3% sold to butcheries and restaurants.



Farmers were asked if they had received any kind of training on goat production. Of the men surveyed, 11% had received some sort of training that involved goat production while 6% of women had received training.



An analysis of survey results found that goat ownership varied by gender where more than double the amount of men surveyed owned goats than women.



Conclusions

- This study found that while the interest in farmers to produce and sell more goats is there, organized marketing channels including services and facilities is lacking.
- There is a difference in the roles men, women and children play in goat production in the Lowveld. Women and children tend to be involved in more day to day activities such as taking the goats out to water and graze. While men tend to be involved in more sporadic, income generating activities such as the slaughtering and selling of goats.
- Women farmers expressed a desire to be more actively involved in the business of selling goats but felt that they lacked the training to do so effectively. Targeting women goat producers is impactful as women have expressed a desire to become more active in the chain and they already have access to goats.
- There is room for growth in the goat sector of Swaziland. Goats are the second most frequent livestock animal found in Swaziland, following cattle.

Recommendations

Bridge the gap between goat buyer and goat seller.

A key informant interview with a cattle and goat buyer found that he was willing and able to buy 100 goats per month but was currently only buying 60-70 goats a month. The demand was there but the supply was lacking. The major constraint he listed was that farmers did not know he was buying goats. SWADE can be instrumental in helping to facilitate a connection between goat buyers and farmers who are willing to sell.

Training

Training activities that reach a wider population of the Lowveld would be beneficial. Farmers were interested in attending workshops but were either unaware of workshops going on or workshops were too far away for them to attend.

Research

Research on the goat sector and its potential should continue in the Lowveld of Swaziland.

In conclusion, supporting the establishment of an abattoir that can accommodate goats as well as cattle is beneficial as long as the above recommendations are met in order to avoid barriers to increased opportunity and to ensure that the number of goats needed to keep the abattoir running is met.



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SWADE

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