

Imperatives for sustainability of AIR in smallholder farming in Africa

Planning and Economics of AIR

**Animal identification and recording (AIR) systems for
traceability and livestock development in SSA
Pretoria, South Africa, 14-16 April 2015**

Starting up

- Extensive consultation required
 - Be prepared for meetings without end
- Reasons for implementing system must be clear
 - Performance recording, traceability - for what?
 - Reasons must be compelling
- Benefits must be substantial
 - Who benefits? What are the benefits? Dis-benefits
 - Immediate, medium-term, long-term
- Funding arrangements
 - Cost, farmers contributions, subsidy

Identifying animals

- Selecting animal numbering system
 - Shortest possible
- Selecting method of identification
 - Branding, tattooing, notching, tagging
 - Cost, ease of application
- Selecting the identification devices
 - Cost, convenience, ease of application, multiple uses
- Extensive training
 - Application of identification system selected

Recording task

- Use of records
 - Distribution of tags
- Type of records
 - Simple and as few as possible
- Frequency of recording
 - Less frequent is best
- Methods of recording
 - Simplify forms, examples, equipment
- Practical training
 - Ongoing

Implementation

- Involve smallholders in system design
 - Be practical
- Integrating existing systems
 - As much as possible
- Progressive implementation of requirements
 - Phased implementation
 - Start with iD, then recording, fewer then more
- Enforcement strategies
 - Educational
 - Avoid resentment and resistance

Imperatives for sustainability

1. Needs must be compelling
2. Participation in system design
3. It must be affordable
4. It must be simple
5. Integrate existing systems
6. Phased implementation
7. Ongoing support and training

Thank You!