Sustainable breeding strategies for The Red Maasai sheep

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How could we conserve Red Maasai sheep and increase productivity for better livelihood for livestock keepers?

- Red Maasai sheep are indigenous sheep in Kenya and neighbouring countries
- Known for resistance to endoworms and drought
- Have been indiscriminately crossed with the meat but less hardy South African breed Dorper
- Population is drastically declining and becoming endangered

Way forward
Design of appropriate breeding strategies for conservation and improvement of the Red Maasai sheep are being developed. Progress and results have been shared with farmers and stakeholders at workshops and have led to new partnerships to upscale the activities.

How we do?
Baseline survey on production system, markets and social aspects of sheep production system has been carried out. Data on weights, fertility and health are being recorded by 19 farmers and at research stations.

Breeding objectives were assessed with participation of farmers, middlemen and butchers participation both at farmers’ own farms and at research stations.

What farmers like in their sheep

- Growth and Body size
- Condition
- Milk production
- Mothering ability and Reproduction
- Drought and Disease resistance

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