

The Brooke Policy Report Launch: “Invisible Helpers: Women’s views on the contributions of working donkeys, horses and mules to their lives”

Hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Agriculture and Food for Development

Wednesday 14th May 2014, 6:00 – 8:00pm, Macmillan Room, Portcullis House

Chair: Lord Cameron of Dillington, Chair of the APPG

Speakers:



Elizabeth Waithanji, Gender and Livestock Specialist, International Livestock Research Institute

Elizabeth Waithanji holds PhD in Geography, an MSc in Clinical Studies and a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM). She is currently a gender consultant with ILRI Biosciences – CBPP vaccine and ILRI’s Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) Policy, Trade and Value Chains projects.

Other areas of research focus include gendered analyses of livestock value chains, and inter- and intra-household asset disparities in livestock and food crop production, disparities in market and technology access and decision making within the household. Her past work was located in Africa and Asia focused on understanding gender in terms of measuring empowerment and gender empowerment gaps as well as assets and gender asset gaps. She uses her findings to inform projects that target the narrowing of gender gaps; looking at the roles of men and women in livestock value chains and how gender influences these roles and men and women’s ability to build and own assets. Findings on most of these studies have been published in academic journals, research/policy briefs, chapters in books and have been presented in multiple conferences.

Relevant work on women and donkeys:

- Findings of a preliminary anthropological survey on donkey welfare in Mwea, Lari, and Limuru, Kenya. KENDAT 2009.
- Waithanji E.M. 1999: Gender Issues in Animal Traction in South Sudan. Section 3: Gender Issues in Animal traction. In: Empowering Farmers with Animal Traction. Eds. Pascal Kaumbutho, Anne Pearson and Timothy Simalenga. Pages 131 – 134.



Daniela Battaglia, Livestock Production Officer and Focal Point for Partnerships in Animal Production and Health, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Daniela Battaglia is currently Livestock Production Officer in the Animal Production and Health Division FAO. Within the organisation she is responsible for the activities in support of Animal Welfare. Prior to joining the FAO in 2001, Daniela worked for nine years for the European Commission (Directorates-General Development, Directorates-General External Relations and the Europe-Aid Co-operation Office). During that period, she was involved in a wide range of activities and co-operation programmes and projects in the fields of animal production and health; livestock and rural development, mainly in Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East. Daniela has also worked for some years in the field of livestock and rural development in several countries: Peru, Bolivia, Suriname, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Israel and Tunisia.



Fred Ochieng, Regional Representative, Brooke East Africa

Fred has implemented and conducted projects and research in various fields including animal traction technologies, conservation agriculture, extension management and rural transport services. Between 2009 and 2011, he was the chair of Animal Traction Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (ATNESA), a regional networking organisation which comprises of animal traction networks in 12 countries across Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. Prior to joining the Brooke, Fred was a Programme Manager at Kenya Network for Dissemination of Agricultural Technologies (KENDAT) and Team Leader for the “Heshimu Punda” – a Brooke funded programme implemented in Central and Mt Kenya regions. He also served in the executive committee of Animal Welfare Action Kenya (AWAKE), a partnership that looks into policy, advocacy and extension issues regarding animal welfare in Kenya.



Delphine Valette, Head of Advocacy, The Brooke UK

Delphine Valette holds a PhD in Law from Bristol University and a Masters in Law from Essex University. She has over 12 years’ experience in advocacy and policy at country level (Africa, Asia, Middle East) and internationally. Her advocacy experience includes country programme capacity building, policy research and high level lobbying. She previously worked at Save the Children UK where she led their policy and advocacy work on hunger reduction. Delphine joined the Brooke 2.5 years ago, where she manages the Brooke’s advocacy programme. Delphine manages the Voices from Women research and is the author of the report being launched.

Event Notes

Introduction by the APPG Chair, Lord Cameron of Dillington

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development brings together Parliamentarians concerned with agriculture nutrition and food security in the developing world. The Group promotes support for the developmental needs of the 450 million smallholder farmers who feed 2 billion people worldwide. It engenders progressive and informed debate within Westminster and beyond by bridging the gap between policy makers, agricultural development specialists and practitioners in the field.

The APPG was established in October 2008 in response to growing concerns over the heightened Food Crisis and a steady decline in the funding of agricultural development both by bilateral and multilateral organisations over nearly two decades. The APPG is a cross-party initiative drawing members from both Houses of the UK Parliament which brings together Parliamentarians concerned with both the technical, and social science elements, of agricultural development in poorer parts of the world. It uses its cross-party membership to raise the understanding of developmental needs of smallholder farmers and other stakeholders in developing countries and hence facilitates debate on the level of support given by the British Government and other major donors. In doing this, the APPG recognises the pivotal role that agricultural research outputs have in helping smallholder farmers to increase their productivity and in eliminating global poverty.

Africa is on the cusp. If we really focus hard, we can make certain that we go out of the intergenerational poverty and rolling in and out of possible famines and starvations and crises, and into an era where Africa becomes more of the bread basket of the world, which it is entirely capable of being if the countries really focus on improving their agriculture (improving roads, storage, land registration and so on).

What we're here to talk about tonight is the reliance of farmers in the developing world, women farmers largely, on animals, and in particular the 112 million working equine animals (mostly donkeys, mules and horses), which are absolute godsend to these women farmers. They are almost certainly better than machinery, which many of them crave, because I'm a farmer in the West Country and I know as a farmer that agricultural machinery breaks down around once every three weeks. And unless you have a whole infrastructure to support the machinery, then that is a disaster. The number of tractors you see sitting around falling to bits in the shade on African farms is too many to recount. Whereas animals, admittedly you have to treat them as one of your own children and look after them really well, but they are part of the family and they are on the whole much more reliable, so they are extremely important to women farmers.

Introduction by Chairman of The Brooke, Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter

- Thanked Lord Cameron and the All-Party Parliament Group on Agriculture and Food for Development for hosting the event.
- Noted this is a very important initiative for The Brooke as it is our first international policy report, which forms part of our advocacy strategy, which is so important to persuade governments and other international organisations of the place of equids in agriculture, and in this case, the relationship between them and women.
- Introduced a short film on the work of the Brooke.

Speaker Presentations

Delphine Valette

- Greetings
- So, let me tell you about the Voices from Women project which led to the publication of the report we are launching tonight.
- Voices from Women is a participatory research project which aims to build the evidence on the linkages between women and working equine animal welfare. The project explores the roles and contributions of working donkeys, mules and horses in the lives of women from equine owning communities.
- The emphasis of the research is on women telling their experiences, their views, their needs and priorities. It is therefore very much qualitative in nature.
- The report is based on the findings from the research which we carried out in 4 countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan and India. We conducted 22 Focus groups with women from male and female-headed households and some individual interviews.
- Women we met with owned donkeys, horses and/or mules. However the largest number of equids owned by women we met across the 4 countries were donkeys.
- We are very lucky to have country representatives from those 4 countries where the Voices from Women research took place here today and I would like to take this opportunity to let you know who they are should you have any questions for them later on – Fred is on the panel but we also have:
 - Mr Madan Lal Sharma (CEO Brooke India)
 - Mr Farooq Malik (CEO Brooke Pakistan)
 - Mr Tibebu Demissie (Country Representative for Brooke Ethiopia)

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

1. MAIN FINDING: WORKING EQUIDS PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT DIRECT AND INDIRECT BENEFITS TO WOMEN

Donkeys are a lifeline for us
My donkey is my backbone

One of the key elements of the support system, if not the most important for women, is the help working equids provide for labour and household chores.

- Without exception all groups told us about the positive difference that working equine animals make to their daily household chores. All women used working equids for homestead purposes.
- The household tasks they carry out were almost identical across the four countries and primarily involved transporting water for the families and other livestock in rural areas, firewood, household goods from the market, transporting animal feed and manure.
- 91% of the groups ranked working equids first compared with other livestock, primarily for the help they provide with household chores.
- And when we spoke to those women, we could certainly understand why they would rank them first:
 - PHYSICAL BENEFITS – It makes household chores easier (and safer) – women do not have to carry heavy loads and as a result are in better health and do not suffer from problems such as back problems. Women told us of the devastating consequences of carrying heavy loads on their health including when pregnant.
 - TIME BENEFITS – It makes household chores quicker to complete – In Chak Chakera (Pakistan), participants told us that women who have a donkey cart can bring wood and fodder home in 1hr30 whilst it takes four hours for women who do not have a donkey. This was echoed by another group in Barthanwala, Pakistan who also said that donkey carts can transport a whole month's worth of firewood in a single day, whereas women who carry wood on their heads have to fetch it every day.
 - CHILD CARE BENEFITS – Women have more time to spend with their children. In Kenya and Ethiopia women told us that with the help of the donkeys they can take their babies with them and carry them on their back whilst donkeys carry the water or the firewood.
 - CARING FOR OTHER LIVESTOCK – Women told us that donkeys help them care for other livestock as they are the ones carrying water and fodder for the other animals.

Working equids also provide direct and indirect benefits to women (and their families) due to the income they bring to the family and the savings they enable them to save by transporting goods and members of the family for personal use.

- The 2nd reason why women ranked working equids 1st or 2nd compared with other livestock is because of their income generation role and the direct and indirect financial benefits they get from those animals. They emphasised that equids generate income that is regular (daily) and disposable.
- Except for 8 women, all women we spoke used working equids to earn money (either themselves or their husbands).
- Equids are involved in 1 or more types of work and in some communities they are the main or only source of income. This is the case in the rubbish collection communities in Pakistan. The type of work carried out by the animals can be summarised as transport of goods and people – but goods include agricultural produce, construction materials including bricks, water and wood for sale, rubbish collection and hire (gharry horses in Ethiopia).
- Having equids also saves women and their families money as they don't have to pay for transporting goods or for going to the market to buy or sell products.

How income is used for all aspects of women's and their families' expenses:

- To buy household good and food
- To enrol children in school

- To pay for healthcare – Lucy in Kenya described her baby as “a child of a donkey” – she paid her maternity using the income owned by her donkey and she provides for her baby (clothes, food) using that income
- To buy other livestock
- To pay for other livestock healthcare
- To take up loans to buy other livestock / land

Women told us of the critical importance of working equids in helping them carry out social functions and increasing their opportunities for community engagement

- JOINING SOCIAL/WOMEN’S GROUPS: Income from equine work is used by women to join groups requiring payment of a monthly contribution. Women told us those groups are extremely important in enabling them to contribute to the community’s life and as a result giving them a sense of pride. But they are also important to build the knowledge they need to take care of their animals and to then to disseminate that knowledge to other people. They are “agents of change” in their communities and take pride in being so.
- In India Women’s Equine Welfare Groups provide women with a platform to learn from each other about equine treatments and equine needs and husbandry but they also give women a voice in the community and raise their status by enabling them to act as a group. The groups deal with women’s issues and give women support to address problems they are struggling to deal with alone.
- LENDING: Working equids are often lent by women to neighbours and relatives in times of need (funeral, ambulance etc.) or for community projects. They make a contribution that is recognised and women are seen as valuable members of the community because they support it.

Because of all the contributions that working equids make to women’s lives, the sickness or death of an animal has a significant impact on them and their families.

- In terms of the impact on household chores, they have to carry loads themselves, which affects their health and impairs their ability to care for their children.
- Women have to adopt coping strategies such as cutting down on nutritious foods and switching to cheaper less nutritious food due to a loss in income.
- Children have to drop out of school.
- They have to drop out of social groups.
- Reduction in household expenses.
- Lack of manure has an impact on harvest.
- Other animals are not as well fed and it impacts on food outputs such as milk production.

As a participant from India told us, no donkey, no income, no food.

Concluding remarks

- For women from equine owning communities, working equids are essential assets or, as some women put it, they are an additional member of the family or an additional limb of the body.
- Animal welfare is often perceived as trivial because it is hard to consider the suffering of animals when people suffer. This is particularly true for animals which are not seen to have any value because they do not produce food. (I come from the development sector – I worked on child malnutrition, food insecurity etc. – so I understand this well.)
- The value of working equids is in fact unique as they carry out functions that other livestock don’t and the research makes this very clear. When you think about it – by definition they work for the people – they are called “working” equine animals.
- Working donkeys, mules and horses are invisible in livestock policy debates and initiatives, including those aimed at women and we very much hope that this research will get policy

and decision makers to think about working equids, and donkeys particularly as more than just donkeys.

- For women from equine owning communities, working equids are essential assets or, as some women put it, they are an additional member of the family or an additional limb of the body.
- Yet working donkeys, mules and horses remain invisible in livestock policy and initiatives, including those aimed at women.
- By showing the crucial link between working equids and women I very much hope that this research will serve as a catalyst for initiating a dialogue with policy makers and implementers working in livestock.

LUCY (KENYA) "The donkey affects each and every aspect of my life as a woman. On a typical day the donkey fetches water, which I use to do the laundry, to do the dishes, to clean the house and for bathing. It also fetches sawdust which I use to cook all meals, then I hire it out and it brings in income on a daily basis that I use to buy flour for the evening meal. In other words, I eat, drink, dress, live off the donkey and more so as a woman and one not employed, I work hand in hand with the donkey. Basically the donkey is like me but to put it plainly, the donkey is me."

"I am lacking words to fully explain how grateful I am and how really my life depends on donkeys." (Faith Wamalwa Kinyua, 29, Mutithi, Mwea, Kenya)

Fred Ochieng

How useful donkeys are in women's lives in Kenya

- **Faithful worker:** Many women in Kenya's donkey owning communities depend on donkeys to carry goods for both domestic and commercial purposes, they transport farm inputs and produce to/from the farms, bring firewood and water for home use, take children and sick mothers to hospital – whether on their backs or on carts. Sometimes the donkeys may be sick, tired from whole day's work without rest, emaciated from lack of proper feeding, and often pulling two wheeled carts that are over weighted and badly balanced or made to carry heavy loads on their backs with hardly any padding. They still work, faithfully – and women without donkeys therefore have to take over the burden themselves.
- **Income earner:** For many women, and especially single and widowed women, donkeys are their only source of income. They use them to carry their goods to the market and also transport goods for others, thereby earning income. The research from Kenya is full of narratives where women state that 'donkeys educated their children', or 'donkeys have become their husbands or co-wives', and those whose 'lives were shattered and [who] got ill when they lost their donkeys, their only source of income' (e.g. Faith, Mwea).
- **Social status:** For many women donkey owners, belonging to a social group is one of status and prestige – it gives you a voice in the society amongst your peers. However, many who lose their donkeys often have to withdraw from the groups because they cannot continue to pay their membership.

Good animal welfare matters

- In Kenya, there is a popular saying that 'whoever has no donkey is a donkey'. This is perhaps more common amongst women whose only means to any significant livelihoods is the donkey, and so when they lose these animals it is devastating to them and their family (Beatrice, Kiambu, who has 'literally become the donkey').
- An example of the devastating consequences of the loss of a donkey from the research was Mary Mukuba, a widow from Limuru – *Mary owned a donkey for over 12 years and when it died in 2006 it had a massive impact on her life. She used to be able to use the donkey to*

carry the wood, water and animal feed for her cows she needed for free, now she has to buy grass and firewood, and during the harvest she has to pull the cart by herself, relying on the assistance of other women. The heavy duties have taken a heavy toll on her health, resulting in her being in and out of hospital with leg and back injuries as well as mental stress. However, she still has hope as she is saving to buy another donkey, more than 7 years after hers died.

- Ensuring good welfare of working donkeys is therefore not just a luxury, but a necessity for women and their families.
- There are simple cheap measures that can be taken towards improving working animal welfare – such as stopping beating, and sheltering the animal under a tree and providing water during rest. Such simple measures help make donkeys healthier and happier, so they can continue to provide women with the many benefits they bring.

Listening to the voices of women

- The research found that women have enormous potential to make a difference to the welfare of their animals if involved in efforts and initiatives to improve donkey welfare.
- **Women as change agents / “donkey ambassadors”:** Women are generally more empathetic to the suffering of donkeys and are greatly affected if they lose their donkeys. The research, for example, refers to a lady ‘saddened by the loss of a family member’. Women are also strong advocates for their animals and are often referred to as “donkey ambassadors” in Kenya. Mercy from Mutithi noted: *“I always recognise if anything wrong has been done to the donkeys. If they have been whipped a lot or are tired, they are immediately released from their harnesses and they come to me, which makes me notice that something is wrong. I will then talk to my husband and tell him politely to either stop whipping them or give them a day of rest.”*
- **Women are influencers in policy decisions:** There are current efforts within the local county governments in Kenya to empower women in various ways to greater leadership and responsibility in policy discussions and development agendas in their areas, such as making funds available to working equine owning women’s groups for taking care of sick animals.
- **Learning experience for both the Brooke and policy makers:** The research shows a clear need for policy makers to listen to the priorities of women in livestock policy, but the research has also been a learning experience for the Brooke. Through the research, we have listened to women’s voices in order to understand the challenges they face in taking care of their donkeys and to seek their involvement in creating an enabling environment for improving the welfare of donkeys. The Brooke EA with its partners is now increasingly involving women in initiatives that target welfare improvements of working donkeys in their own communities.

Elizabeth Waithanji

Introduction:

Anthropocentrism, which is regarding humankind as the central or most important element of existence above other life forms, might be the largest contributor for poor equine welfare. Among the poor equine welfare indicators include overworking, wounds, foot problems, bad harnessing, poor nutrition, inadequate watering and poor shelter (The Brooke, nd). A change of attitude to biocentrism, which is the view that the rights and needs of humans are not more important than those of other living things, would place equines where they warrant justice and welfare. In addition

to a change in attitude among communities is a need for research and development policy makers to recognize working equids as livestock. Currently, what counts as livestock is what produces food and/or fibre for human appropriation. This removes working equids from the list of livestock research and development priorities.

The Brooke's voices from women study on "Invisible Helpers... (Valette 2014)" has added to the growing body of evidence that women smallholder farmers, from Africa and Asia, who work with equids, respect equids and have learned to mind their welfare without, or with minimum, prior exposure to contemporary animal welfare advocacy. Waithanji (2009) also demonstrated this among men and women smallholder farmers in Kenya. Women and men smallholder farmers, however, lack the technical capacity to address some basic needs of working equids and work in a policy environment that is oblivious to, or simply disregards, the need to enhance the capacity of these equids' companions to optimize their welfare as well as that of their equids. The emphasis by the voices for women report on the need for a clear link in policy and practice highlights this policy inaction. The report also notes the absence of commitment by policy makers to issues of working equids in their exclusion from livestock in most development and research agendas.

A Kenyan perspective of the first mile – a starting point for intervention by policy makers:

In Kenya, smallholder men and women farmers whose livelihoods have already been improved, or have the potential of being improved, by working equids produce up to 95% of horticultural products from the country. One of the most impressionable stages in the agricultural value chain where most working equids make a contribution is the first mile – hauling produce through the "first mile" of the logistical journey of the value chain. The first mile is constituted by the distance between the point of production and the point of efficient transportation using vehicles travelling on all-weather roads to the consumer markets. In parts of Kenya, the first mile has been established to be about 1.5 to 13 km, which constitutes 0.4% to 10.6% of the entire logistical chain (KENDAT et al 2014). The study also revealed that 20 – 37% of all transport costs are expended in the first mile and they are borne by the producer because they constitute a "transport planning blind spot". It appears like beyond this first mile, welfare of equids in Kenya might be precarious. This is because the current road infrastructure and transport policy do not adequately accommodate intermediate means of transport (IMT), particularly haulage by working equids (Waithanji 2009).

Women, more than men, tend to be concentrated at this first mile, which constitutes part of the bottom of the value chain where labor intensity is high and capital demands low. At this point too, 30 – 60% and sometimes, even 100% of post-harvest losses due to transport challenges are documented (Kaumbutho, personal communication). Losses vary with product and are associated with a product's sensitivity, handling, no-show transport, packaging, loading and transmission on often very rough rural roads.

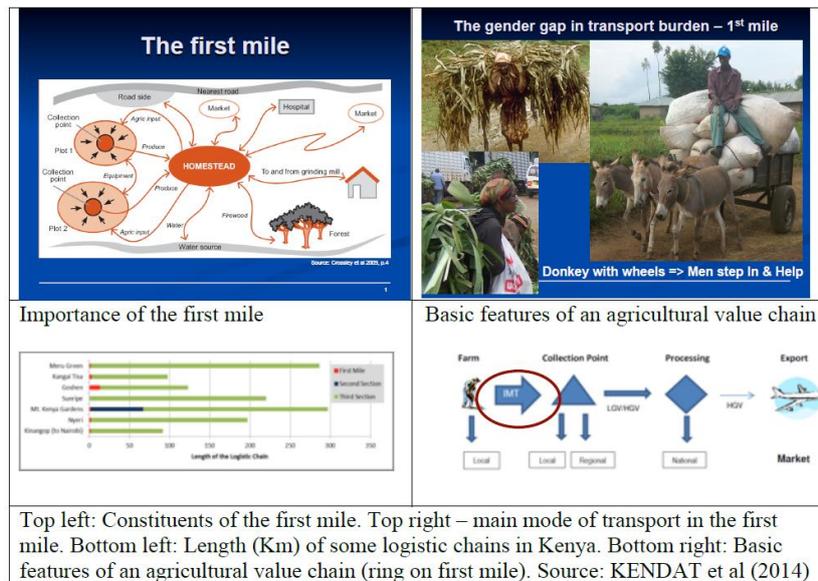


Fig 1: Illustrations of aspects of the first mile in Kenya

In the first mile, French beans will last only a day, baby corn, still wrapped in its covers can last 3 days, tomatoes if overripe perish in hours, especially if still in pressured crates or sacks. Produce is often picked in what farmers can find, e.g. large yellow plastic paper-bags, where it chokes and is cooked and reaches market 100% spoilt etc. These losses at the first mile are borne by the smallholder producer who is often the transporter at this first mile. This too is the space of interaction among working equids, women and men and a space of intervention in order to transform and make equitable animal and human welfare as these must be conducted in tandem. Let us, therefore, focus on balancing the men-women-equids welfare at this first mile as this will be the most effective context.

Policy recommendations

In order to address the gender and working equids' welfare needs comprehensively and close the gaps, gender and livestock research and development policy makers need to concentrate on the context of the first mile and within that context include working equines in mainstream livestock research and development policy. Some priority R&D activities may include:

1. Document the gender gaps in ownership of, and benefits from, working equids and establish ways of narrowing these gaps.
2. Establish the potential benefits for women and men if their capacity to improve the welfare of these equids were to be enhanced.
3. Establish and quantify the benefits for women, in terms of reduction of time, financial and decisionmaking poverty, if interventions catalyzing the narrowing of welfare gaps among men, women and the equids were to be implemented.

References:

- KENDAT, IFTRD and TCP 2014. From farm to market: Horticultural value chains. A picture story compiled by the Kenya Network for Dissemination of Agricultural Technologies (KENDAT) in partnership with International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD) and Transport Consulting Partners (TCP) International GmbH.
- Valette, Delphine 2014. Invisible helpers: Women's views on the contributions of working donkeys, horses and mules to their lives. The Brooke's Voices for Women International Report. Launched at Portcullis House, London, Wednesday 14th May 2014.

Waithanji, Elizabeth 2009. Findings of a preliminary anthropological survey on donkey welfare in Mwea, Lari, and Limuru, Kenya. Kenya Network for Dissemination of Agricultural Technologies (KENDAT) Report.

Daniela Battaglia

- I would like to start by congratulating the Brooke for this additional contribution to the already very valuable work carried out for the advantage of working equine animals, but also for the benefit of all the people that own them and benefit from their work, in most of the cases being women. FAO highly values the commitment of the Brooke on this important matter. I would like to congratulate the Brooke on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, but also on my own behalf having had the privilege of knowing and collaborating with the organisation for a number of years.
- FAO has the objectives and mandates to decrease malnutrition and under nutrition in the world, to decrease rural poverty and to contribute to agricultural and rural development. In this context, we care for the welfare of the animals and we believe that it is very much associated with the welfare of the over one billion people in the world that depend directly on animals, most of them being women.
- Animals contribute to the welfare of these people and represent a source of food, income and in the case of working animals, traction, draft power and a source of manure for instance, but also social status and cultural identification, which are very important for a lot of populations in the world. They do of course depend on people for care, feeding and good handling.
- In this particular case, we do appreciate the benefit and the contribution of working animals including the over 100 million working equids in the world and the direct impact on women – women that, as latest FAO data and calculation has found, have a huge importance in the agricultural and rural sector.
- The economic involvement of women ranges from 20% in regions such as Latin America up to almost 50% in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. Therefore, given the numbers, the importance of the contribution of working equines is very high.
- However, despite being the backbone of agriculture in many countries, women's role is still not well-considered. They don't have enough access to resources, land, credit, agricultural inputs, training and education. Despite their role being very well-recognised, they don't get enough attention, and I would not exaggerate to say that in many countries they are almost invisible in the eyes of policy makers. This is very similar to working equine animals.
- This may lead to working equids being excluded from critical interventions such as vaccination campaigns and other animal health related initiatives. The lack of recognition of working equine animals' importance and their chronic neglect by institutions and governments also means depriving women of the additional benefits they could obtain from them.
- So echoing what the previous speakers have said, I will call here to have more socio-economic research to back up our argument in favour of working equids, using a common protocol to build up a critical mass of useful data (FAO is ready to collaborate at this scope), but also having more adequate legislation and policies that support the animals, technical knowledge and capacity development.
- But most of all, I would call for a constant, concerted call for action to bring back working equine animals to the centre of attention in development efforts where they belong and to allow them to contribute more to the benefit of women and to alleviate the work burden of daily life.
- To conclude, I would like to remind everybody that this year, 2014, is the International Year of Family Farming. When we consider farming families all over the world, we have to acknowledge that not only pets, but also farm animals (including working equids) are

considered part of the family. Therefore, when we work for the benefit of family farming, we have to very much take into account the benefit and the welfare of all those animals which are an integral part of the family.

- Thank you very much for your attention.

Question and Answer Session

Questions:

- Tim Roberts, TAA – Spoke about the problem of abandonment of gharry horses in Ethiopia and asked what the Brooke is doing about this issue.
- Andrea Powell, CABI – Asked whether veterinarians in developing countries are well equipped to address health and welfare issues of working equids.
- Joanna Francis, Concern Worldwide – Asked how much a donkey costs to a family and how many working equids on average families had.
- Lord Cameron – Asked if there was a good breeding programme in communities.

Panel responses:

- Delphine Valette
 - Ethiopia – As part of the research, we met with women who own gharry horses and lend their animals to users, and we raised the point that users, as they don't own the animals, wouldn't take as good care of the animals, and some women said that if the users didn't take good care of their animals, they wouldn't lend them to that user again. Gharry horses are often the main source of income for these women and if the horse stops working they are left with no income whatsoever. Gharry horses are probably in the worst condition where we had the research in Halaba and the Brooke is working with communities and the gharry horse owners to improve the situation.
 - Cost of donkeys – It was primarily a qualitative piece of research, so there are things we didn't explore, including the actual income that was generated by the animals. Through the research we found out if working equids were the only source of income or one of the main sources of income, and I think that in most cases they were either the only or main source of income. One of the important things about working equids is that they produce daily income, it is disposable income, and donkeys in particular work all year round, whereas other livestock don't produce cash on demand. Donkeys go out, work and bring back the cash and it's one of the reasons that even if they are not the only source of income, they are still very important to people because then they have cash available if they need anything.
- Elizabeth Waithanji
 - Veterinarians – I'm a veterinarian from Kenya and when we studied veterinary medicine there was hardly any mention of the donkey. We learnt about equine medicine with the race horse in mind. But when you come out of there you are confronted with a donkey or an abandoned horse and you have to use your intuition. I remember I was in big trouble with the university because I shaved off the mane of a horse because the horse had lice and I didn't know what to do then. So I asked "Why do you think I did the wrong thing? What should I have done?" and the person said they didn't know. So really there is a lot of trial and error, but now with groups like the Brooke, KENDAT and the KSPCA, there has been some sensitisation. So this is changing.

- Cost of donkeys – If you buy a donkey in the market now in Kenya, it's between \$100 and \$200. Usually donkeys are low maintenance. They eat hay, they are not super-supplemented, but they generate income for themselves.
- Breeding programmes – I don't know if you know what happens when there's a donkey on heat in the neighbourhood... It is total chaos, they go wild, so I don't even think there can be a well-organised breeding programme. Nobody can handle any of the male donkeys. So maybe we need someone to investigate how we can have a controlled breeding programme, because there's probably a lot of in-breeding because the strongest stallion gets the mare.
- Fred Ochieng
 - Veterinarians – In Kenya there are quite a lot of vet professionals now, but as Liz rightly said, equine welfare has not been a big part of the veterinary curriculum. But we have recently been working with the University of Nairobi to get equine welfare into their curriculum and this has gone quite well. But I think the problem we will still face is that many of the vets are concentrated around major towns and urban areas and so access to those services will still be a problem in rural, arid and semi-arid areas, where the demand is greatest. I think the other issue is around access to drugs. Within major towns you may find it is very easy to access these drugs, but away from these areas, getting the right drugs, and particularly equine drugs, can be a problem. We have been able to support a lot of veterinary professionals in training and in being able to access the right tools, so that they can provide the best service for these animals, but it's a work in progress.
- Delphine Valette – At the end of the day, I think the skills and capacity around equine health and welfare is a major issue in all the country programmes we work in and we work to develop the capacity of health professionals in the countries where we work, so we are very much aware that there is a massive gap there.
- Daniela Battaglia – In terms of vets, not only in Kenya but in most countries, the problem would be not only the lack of information on animal welfare and more specifically the welfare of working equines, but also the availability of veterinary services. Nowadays, in most developing countries, the public veterinary services have been shrinking and whatever is there is devoted to food-producing farm animals, because obviously, that is where the economic result of any particular problem is clear and direct. Therefore, the very limited resources are very rarely available to working equids, where no direct income is available and where there are no resources to pay private vets.

Questions:

- Stephen Blakeway, Donkey Sanctuary – Spoke about the call for working equids to be recognised as livestock, and asked if all animals should be considered sentient beings and if any women in the research mentioned an emotional attachment to their animals.
- Julia Smith, Donkey Sanctuary – Asked whether Daniela Battaglia would be able to provide any advice to NGOs on how to improve the profile of donkey welfare and well-being in the policy arena.
- Guy Poulter, Natural Resources Institute, Greenwich University – Asked about the long-term future of equines in agriculture as people move away from animal power to machines.
- Patricia Mbithe Mtunga – Asked how donkey welfare can be taught in Kenya when even lecturers do not know about the topic and whether external international support will be sought.

Panel responses:

- Daniela Battaglia
 - Advice to NGOs – In terms of how to make the policy maker aware of the importance, it is important not to lose any opportunity to develop and bring up our socio-economic data on the economic importance, the direct importance and the contribution of working equines in agricultural development – for instance, this work is already a very valuable contribution, but pairing this kind of qualitative study also with quantitative studies. Somehow, we all have very limited resources, but there are many of you that contribute with little pieces towards this building up of data. What would be useful is having comparable results – results that could be summed up to make evidence and convince policy makers to take care of working animals. Already for instance having some common protocols and common methodology, so that all the results from different countries and different organisations could be comparable and could really build up a critical mass of data to convince on the economic and social importance of working equids. This brings us to the issue of including working equids in the definition of livestock. Starting from the agricultural census, a lot of the time it's very difficult and working equids are not recorded. They're really invisible. At the FAO, we have a huge amount of agricultural data, and still it's not always obvious and easy to find enough data on working equine animals. So starting from the research and building up of the statistical data is the only way we can have evidence on the importance and convince policy makers to take adequate action.
- Elizabeth Waithanji
 - Animal sentience – Where we want to be with donkeys and other animals eventually is to recognise that these animals have feelings. This is the ultimate goal amongst many of us. But unfortunately when you are talking to policy makers, and I know there are quite a number here, they don't like the touchy feely stuff. So it's good to approach them with statistics. Then once you've addressed that level, you can move to the next level.
 - Future of working equids in agriculture – On the question of if successful smallholder farmers want to shift from donkeys to tractors, no, because I think that to move to mechanised power you need a certain size of land and that is currently not available amongst the communities practicing smallholder farming. I'm sure if you asked the men, they would like to, because men like toys, but in reality, I don't think it's practical.
 - Lack of skills/inclination for veterinary teaching on animal welfare – It's a difficult question, but I think that if there is funding for something, there develops interest. So I think funding would be one of the motivating approaches. They will go for training and they will put it in the curriculum if it is funded. If it's not funded, it's unlikely that it's going to be high priority.
- Fred Ochieng
 - Lack of skills for veterinary teaching on animal welfare – We recognise that there is a lack of expertise in equine welfare in many of the universities, but we also felt that including equine welfare in the veterinary curriculum is a step in the right direction and it is up to the university to request whatever support they need to be able to deliver on that. I know that there is an increasing interest from the professors on this, and we as the Brooke have also given a few materials, including our equine veterinary manual for them to be able to study, but there is ongoing engagement on how best that should be delivered. I have confidence that because it is in the curriculum, they will do something about it and get students trained on that.

- Future of working equids in agriculture – I would rather have donkeys working less and resting more, but I know that will probably not be the case because the current situation now is that about 80% of agriculture in many parts of Africa draws its power from human power, so in many governments the drive is to be able to reduce that proportion so that more animals are put into use. I think that what we will need to do is probably to put more effort in ensuring that animal welfare is really integrated in all these efforts from policy to development agendas, so that as people use animals, at the top of the agenda is also to ensure that the animals they are using are in good welfare and they are taking good care of them.
- Delphine Valette
 - Future of working equids in agriculture – If anything, in some countries, there has been an increase in the number of donkeys being used because of the increase in fuel price rises. They are cheap, they're easy to maintain.
 - Emotional link between women and working equids – It depended on the country and it depended on the setting. In urban areas this emotional link didn't really come across that strongly. In Pakistan, we had two groups in rubbish collection communities and those animals are for business, they do the work and that's that. Whereas in rural communities, particularly in Africa, there is definitely a strong emotional tie between the animal and women, and women were using quite strong words when they were describing the pain of losing a donkey like "I've lost a member of my family" and there is a mourning period. For some women, it is a real shock to lose a donkey.

Lord Cameron thanked the panel and the audience.

Reception and close.