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## 6th International Colloquium on Working Equids



### Learning from Others:

drawing inspiration from the fields of international development, social science, human health and education to break new ground for working equids

### Post-conference Report

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India

November 29th – December 2nd 2010

Sponsored by:

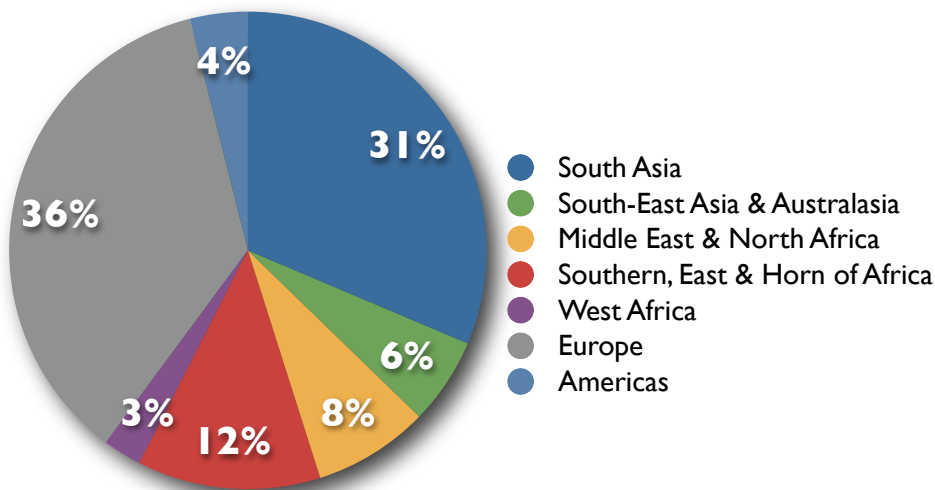


## The Event

'**Learning from Others**' was the theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Colloquium on Working Equids held in India. Keynote speakers from the fields of international development, social science, bioethics, disaster risk reduction, human health and education and other working animal species shared their experience and expertise with delegates. In a series of discussions, demonstrations and interactive sessions, participants made **links between keynote presentations and their own experiences** working with draught and pack animals. Individuals identified learning points to inform their own work and expressed intentions to continue **learning and sharing** with others after the event.

### Who came?

The Colloquium brought together local, national and international non-governmental agencies, veterinary and other animal health workers, policy advisors, managers, practitioners, trainers, community development specialists and field staff from diverse agencies. Delegates travelled from as far afield as Guatemala, Vietnam and Australia to share their experience and explore ways in which working animals and their owners could benefit from the knowledge of others to improve animal health, welfare and effective utilisation.



### ICWE 2010 AT A GLANCE

157 participants  
32 countries  
62 organisations, including  
24 local, national and  
international NGOs and  
20 universities/ institutes  
9 keynote speakers  
3 representatives from  
intergovernmental  
organisations (FAO, OIE, EC)

### Proceedings

The Colloquium was rich in knowledge: oral and poster presentations can be found in full in the Proceedings Book and CD, and online at [www.thebrooke.org](http://www.thebrooke.org) from January 2011. Keynote presentations are also available online with the kind permission of speakers.



### Opening Ceremony

Major General Kharb, Head of the Animal Welfare Board of India, opened the Colloquium by reminding delegates of Mahatma Gandhi's famous words: *"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated"*. He described the populations of working equids, camels, buffaloes and bullocks in India, their contribution to the national economy, the laws which exist to protect them and the great deal of work still to be done to protect their welfare.

### Theme 1: Effective project planning, monitoring and evaluation



The presentation by the keynote speaker, Tina Wallace, entitled “Monitoring and evaluation in development work: why involving local people matters and how it can be done” set the Colloquium off to a great start. It demonstrated many similarities between the draught and pack animal sector and other areas of international development. These included challenges in measuring impact, and balancing the demands of accountability to donors with accountability to communities.

- **Genuine involvement of local people in planning, monitoring and evaluation:** Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are about both accountability and learning. More rigid planning, demonstrating success, logframes and seeking results against targets have become the dominant paradigm in development work, with less participatory work being carried out now than ten years ago. M&E systems are designed for projects, but people’s lives are not projects - they have a high level of complexity. Participation of local people requires belief in their knowledge and understanding of their context and needs, as well as respect for their views and experience. It is not good enough to take messages to people and expect them to respond. Ownership is critical. Local participants should be involved at the planning stage, not just at M&E stages, of projects and programmes. Tina challenged the delegates to consider how to improve this to involve or enhance the engagement of local people in improving the welfare of working animals.
- **Encouraging participatory ways of working among our own teams:** Delegates were challenged to consider if they spend enough time understanding why real participation matters or if they allow time for listening. Are listening, learning and bringing the learning back into our work encouraged and rewarded, even when existing assumptions and plans are challenged as a result? Tools are only tools. Don’t get overly preoccupied by them. More important are a genuine understanding of why real participation matters and humility in our work.
- **Impact:** Measuring impact is challenging. Sharing information as this develops helps others not to reinvent the wheel. Evaluating projects a number of years after they finish is very important for real understanding of impact.
- **Holding up the mirror:** Delegates were challenged to reflect on their own work: to undertake more M&E of their own organisations and ways of working; to invite external evaluation and constructive criticism. **Joint evaluations** of each others’ work may be possible.
- **Golden opportunity:** Unlike in many areas of international development, amongst the draught and pack animal charities there is currently very little institutional funding, which provides a great opportunity for flexibility and for developing a long term view.

#### ICWE 2010 AT A GLANCE: PLENARY AND INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

- ★ 9 plenary sessions
- ★ 8 discussion sessions with keynote speakers
- ★ Share and Learn Marketplace
- ★ Panel discussion on The Future of Working Equine Welfare Research
- ★ Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards
- ★ Participatory Tools and Methods
- ★ Demonstration of Modern Horse-drawn Equipment by the European Draft Horse Association

## Theme 2: Balancing the needs of humans and animals - the ethics of working animal use

The keynote: Peter Sandøe challenged delegates in his presentation entitled “Working animal welfare – a case of cultural imperialism?” to consider whether imposing animal welfare standards on developing countries is an act of cultural imperialism. He described how the ‘west’ practices double standards with respect to animal welfare, such as intensive production of food animals and a “quantity of life” approach to pets.

- **Euthanasia** was a dominant theme of discussions, including the types of cases warranting euthanasia; standard operating procedures; cultural attitudes to and different religious views on euthanasia and how these can be balanced with animal welfare needs. What can be done to meet needs of the animal, the owner and the vet?
- **Different cultural attitudes to pain and death:** There is no single cultural definition of unacceptable pain, so tolerance for pain in humans and animals differs across cultures. Some countries appear to deny illness and death for humans and also for animals. “In the west we kill thousands of animals just to keep everything in order, we don’t want unhealthy animals around... We see people (such as the elderly) living tough lives but don’t think it is acceptable that animals live tough lives.”



- **Conflicts between productivity (human needs or choices) and animal welfare:** Participants were challenged to consider whether they imposed values and beliefs onto animal owners without equal consideration of their own viewpoints. Discussion centred around increasing conflict and divergence between productivity and welfare as developing countries become more industrialised: as we empower farmers they may choose increased productivity over welfare, as seen in ‘western’ agriculture. We need to be aware of **potential consequences** in the planning stages. Is there also a possibility that by improving working

equine welfare now, the **unintended consequences** are welfare problems later on, as animals work harder, for longer hours and longer lifespans?

- **What is the value of animal life?** With intensification of production, the cost of treatment is often higher than the value of an individual animal, so it is cheaper to kill. In developing countries the livelihood value of an animal is high compared to cost of treatment, so people are more likely to try to treat than kill, which may affect attitudes to euthanasia and the value of animal life.
- **Harmonising divergent agendas:** There are important discussions to be developed as to where animal welfare fits with issues such as intensification of agriculture to mitigate climate change and with food security. There is also a need to **look at animal welfare in the context of other ethical issues** (such as drug residues, greenhouse gases) so each can be improved but not at the expense of others. Agendas need to be consistent with and even supportive of human health, food security and the environment.
- The keynote speaker concluded that promoting good welfare is not cultural imperialism but that cultural differences should be taken into account in our work. There was a clear message that it is important to **reflect on the ethics of our own programmes.**

### Theme 3: Livelihoods, rural transport and the global context

The keynote speaker, Deborah Fahy Bryceson presented a paper on “Modernising rural livelihoods and transport in Africa: directions and dilemmas”. The **relationship between animal transport and motor vehicles is different in different countries**. Where non-animal transport is increasing in importance, animal husbandry skills and knowledge can be lost in a relatively short space of time.



- **Policy issues:** There are many constraints, such as under-representation of the contribution of draught animals to national GDP and the transport sector. Without change at policy level significant and sustainable improvement in animal welfare will be difficult to achieve. It is necessary to understand how policies are developed and to promote policies that can actually work. Is there optimal implementation of existing policies? Is there work to be done in improve implementation both at national and local levels?

- **Research to inform policy:** There is a need for more research to build a body of evidence to convince policy makers and support work. Organisations need to fund and source research to support this process. This requires long term vision and a commitment to the process. A specific area mentioned was the **contribution of working equines to livelihoods**.

### Theme 4: Facilitating human behaviour change

The keynote speaker from the sanitation sector, Amit Agrawal, gave a very lively presentation on “Facilitating human behaviour change for improving the livelihoods of the poor”. Many parallels were seen with challenges in working to bring about behaviour change in animal owners, carers and users as well as service providers. Valuable lessons have been learnt in the area of human health in this regard.

- **Changing human behaviour is very hard**, not only in the draught and pack animal field but also in other areas of development. This is true particularly in areas not initially identified as problematic by communities themselves, such as sanitation or working equine welfare. There are many similarities and similar struggles.
- **Traditional ‘professional’ mindset** can make tackling problems more challenging: subsidising or giving things for free hasn’t often worked in the human health sector. Treatment-based or symptoms-based approaches can take the focus away from prevention or causes.
- As outsiders, we make **assumptions** about the reasons people do things and the “solutions” required. Without insider collective desire to change, is a lasting change possible? We need to empower and inspire communities to analyse their own situation, and to believe that they know their own context and needs.
- **Focus on the end game:** for example in sanitation it is critical to focus on reducing the disease load (not on constructing a particular number of toilets) and accepting that people will do this in different ways. In the area of draught and pack animals, if improved animal welfare is the end game, focus on this and accept that there are different ways to do this.
- **Different tools and techniques:** Tools need thought and judgement in using them. There is no standard way of applying them. Methods don’t have to be shocking! Language and approach should be tailored to what works best in different cultures.
- Some examples of **collective action** already exist in the animal welfare field. A compelling argument is needed to persuade people to change things for themselves.



## Theme 5: Decision-making in health and disease

The two keynote speakers were Farid Hasan Ahmed who spoke on “Disaster risk reduction: the Bangladesh story” and Berhanu Admassu who gave a presentation on “Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS): livelihoods-based livestock interventions in disasters”



- There are many examples of **disasters affecting working equids**: examples this year include flooding in Pakistan and drought in Ethiopia.

- There is a **disconnect** between development approaches (requiring elaborate planning, results against targets etc) and emergency interventions (“truck and chuck”) although they are often funded by the same donors.

- **LEGS** aims to assist people to protect and rebuild key livestock related assets. Animal welfare should be taken into account in the next **review of LEGS**, such as

humane slaughter in destocking. Governments, up to Ministerial level, should be aware of and support LEGS. Training is required.

- There is a shift to community awareness and **preparedness** prior to disasters hitting. NGOs (animal and human) must work together in coordinated response plans.
- **Inappropriate health care decisions** can waste resources and have little impact on equine welfare or owners’ livelihoods. Identify timely, appropriate, economically and logistically feasible animal management and treatment solutions.
- Engender **participation, responsibility and ownership** of health care and disease recognition in the community.
- **Critical assessment of impact** of veterinary advice and treatment. Consult others and invite constructive criticism.

### ICWE 2010 AT A GLANCE: KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Tina Wallace (UK) - Research Associate, International Gender Studies, Oxford University and freelance researcher

Peter Sandøe (Denmark) - Professor of Bioethics, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen

Deborah Fahy Bryceson (UK) - Reader, Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow

Amit Agrawal (India) – Deputy Commissioner, Palwal District and formerly champion of Community-Led Total Sanitation in Panipat District, Haryana

Farid Hasan Ahmed (Bangladesh) – Independent expert on Disaster Risk Reduction

Berhanu Admassu (Ethiopia) – Field Technical Coordinator for the Pastoralist Livelihoods Programme, Feinstein International Centre, Tufts University

Peter Poore (UK) – Vice-Chair of Evidence for Development and formerly Health Advisor to Save the Children

Sherine Ibrahim (Egypt) – Independent development consultant on strengthening M&E capacities in the MENA region

Seng Sokerya (Cambodia) - Human Resources Development and Training Coordinator, Centre for Livestock and Agriculture Development, Phnom Penh

## Theme 6: Animal health and husbandry systems

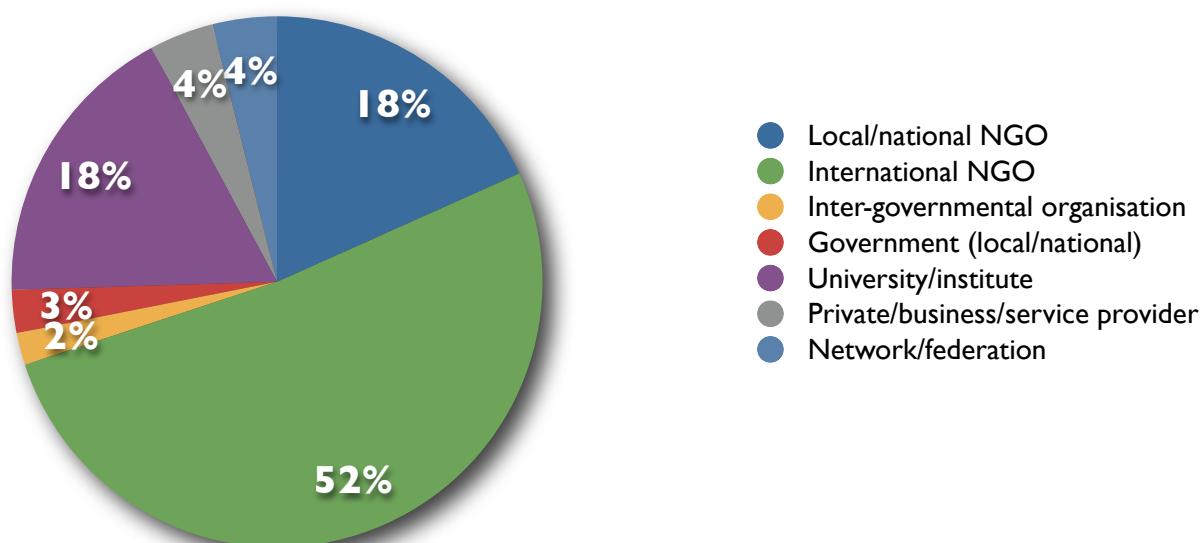
The keynote: Peter Poore gave a presentation entitled “The real and recurrent cost of developing and sustaining effective health care delivery systems: ‘the elephant in the room’”. He explained that **health care services are only one of many components** that contribute to good health and welfare.



- **Choices** made by owners in health care (whether for themselves or their animals) are based on factors like direct financial cost, quality and trust.
  - **Causes** of illness are preventable, predictable and multiple.
  - Health systems are ultimately the **responsibility of the national authority** so governments need to be involved. Work on animal health systems in Ethiopia mirrors patterns seen in the human health sector.
  - **Existing local services** respond directly and are self sustaining, whatever their shortcomings. They are evidence that people do care about health and welfare.
- What are the **real costs of animal health services**, particularly the recurrent costs? There is no such thing as ‘free’ treatment – someone is paying. It is important to be clear as to the real and recurrent costs of health care delivery systems. Mobile clinics have **high recurrent costs**. Introduced veterinary equipment, such as for hoof care and dental care, requires regular care and replacement. The high cost of training is not adequately recognised. It is also important to recognise the **true costs of animal health services to the community**, for example costs of access.
  - Are good health and welfare wealth-dependent luxuries? If not, what are **minimum acceptable standards** and how are these decided and negotiated within a community or society? Can health and welfare services become oppressive, with over-treatment and social pressure to overspend?
  - Promote **sharing of experiences and better measurement** of progress and impact. ‘Scaling up’ is easy to say but expensive to do. We need to be more honest and humble about what can be achieved as a result of what we do.

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### Sector analysis of ICWE 2010 participants



## Theme 7: Education to engage the next generation

The keynote speaker, Sherine Ibrahim, gave a presentation entitled “Reshaping the learning agenda: experiences from the General Authority for Adult Education and Literacy in Egypt”, explaining that there has been a **paradigm shift**: from regarding illiteracy as a deficit, to seeing acquisition of literacy as part of a long term process in which a community or society seeks to effect its own social and cultural transformation (the notion of **societal literacy**).

- Literacy and adult education is being associated with **training, practical and social skills development and income generation**, especially for adult learners, youth and women. There is an opportunity for NGOs and international organisations to contribute to these flexible learning programmes, including equine welfare components. This type of non-formal education can lead to more general **empowerment and respect** within communities. Could this in turn lead to increased respect for and valuing of working equids?
- How do we **measure improvement** related to education of children in animal welfare? Do we have good baselines?
- **Partnerships in education** provide rich opportunities to improve welfare, livelihoods and more. Can we learn more from the broader education community?

## Theme 8: Lessons from working oxen, buffalo, camels and elephants

The keynote speaker, Seng Sokerya, gave a presentation entitled “The challenges of working with smallholder farming communities keeping large ruminants: experience from the Centre for Livestock and Agricultural Development (CeLAgriD) in Cambodia”

- Under this theme there were discussions on promoting **positive reinforcement** (such as clicker training) rather than negative training (some traditional methods), especially with elephants and other large mammals.
- In the elephant mobile clinic in Lampang, Thailand it was noted that there was a need not for better vets or more sophisticated equipment but for **close regular contact with people** working with the animals.
- Successes with farmers, extension workers and young scientists working together raised the profile of working animal research and gave people the skills to develop their own projects in Vietnam. Linkages across countries (Indonesia, Vietnam). Animal welfare is still a **new concept** and a **strange concept** for researchers and extension workers as well as farmers in Vietnam.
- How can **self-sufficiency** be estimated in livelihoods analysis, in order to target policy-making institutions?
- Better communication is needed in order to **share research activities** and **disseminate and apply outcomes** more effectively.

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### COMMENT

“The gathering was fantastic. People with diverse views and backgrounds were present - from community work to human development to animal health. There was humility and a positive energy in the gathering, resulting in a very useful four days of discussions. I learned a lot and really valued this wonderful opportunity.”

**Rayappan Cyril Roy, Department of Health Management, Atlantic Veterinary College, Canada**



## Interactive session : Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards

The main question addressed in this session was “Where do animal welfare and working equids fit into the Livestock Emergency Guidelines & Standards (LEGS)?” The guidelines and standards are based on the contribution of livestock to livelihoods, so equine elements come under livelihood contribution. The alert, alarm, emergency and recovery phases in times of drought also apply to equids and there is a need to supply feed, shelter and health controls in the same way as other livestock. The LEGS manual (available free online at [www.livestock-emergency.net](http://www.livestock-emergency.net)) contains information, useful tools and training course details. Some delegates who have done the training felt a need for more animal welfare content, including around slaughter and transport or abandonment of animals.

LEGS was felt to be a good, balanced document to address some perceived conflicts between saving people and animals, because for the last 40 to 50 years aid agencies have concentrated on emergency feeding and water for humans only. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) also has clear animal welfare standards and guidelines to prevent spread of disease. Both of these need to be made known to governments and other policy-makers who are ultimately responsible for disaster preparedness and response. Experiences of animals having a sense of impending disaster have not been captured (for example before tsunamis or earthquakes) – is there potential to use this in early warning systems?



## Interactive session: Participatory tools and methods

Lisa van Dijk and S.K. Pradhan facilitated a workshop for participants to experience the use of participatory action tools for animal welfare (PATAW) and to explore the process of improving the welfare of working animals through collective community action. After a short introduction on the purpose and evolution process of the tools, small groups went outside to practice the “If I Were a Horse” exercise, which enables communities to bring animal needs and feelings to the centre of their analysis. Participants were asked to pretend to be an animal owner, carer or user and simulate the use of the tool together with an experienced facilitator from the Brooke India team. The use of a single tool was explained as being part of a participatory process in which owners, users and carers monitor the welfare status of their own animals, which ignites community action for welfare improvement. A discussion of possible challenges included issues such as dealing with communities who are illiterate, the time the process takes and the importance of the facilitator in the process. The session was consolidated through reference to the manual ‘Sharing the Load’ which includes the PATAW toolkit and a detailed description of the community action process. ‘Sharing the Load’ is available on Amazon and directly from Practical Action Publishing ([www.developmentbookshop.com](http://www.developmentbookshop.com)).



## Panel Discussion: The future of working equine welfare research

- **Requirements and limitations of research into working animals:** Karen Reed chaired the panel, which concluded that further research into draught and pack animals was required and that limiting factors are lack of funding opportunities and an enabling policy environment, as well as the low-status of working animals on the radar of most funding agencies. Funding opportunities can be sought from different sources: for example when considering zoonotic disease funding may be sourced from agencies targeting human health issues. It was strongly emphasised that a lot of research from the past 10 years is not easily accessible to those working in the field. Publications like Draught Animal News provided a good place to share information. Is there a possibility to bring something similar back?
- **Research planning:** There was a lot of discussion around the responsibility to plan research strategically, collaborating with others (local institutions, universities, other NGOs) when appropriate and disseminating information promptly and efficiently. It was appreciated that formal publication of work takes time but ultimately has benefits for future funding. This discussion also considered the drivers of research (animal needs, donors and policy-makers). The research question will drive the process and we have to ensure those asking for research to be carried out are ultimately going to use the results.
- **Research design:** Research methods should be appropriate and practical. Quantitative methods and results can be complimented by qualitative data.
- **Priority areas for research:** The value of working animals in people's livelihoods is an important area for research. Suzan Bishop, Brooke Ethiopia elaborated briefly on the current study in Ethiopia examining these links.

## Interactive session: Modern horse-drawn equipment

Erhard Schroll from Starke Pferde-Verlag ran this session. He introduced the FECTU website ([www.fectu.org](http://www.fectu.org)), which aims to inform and act as a link between people using working animals (horses and oxen) in temperate climates. Its main focus is on implements available throughout the world. Erhard then showed a film he had made on "Horse Progress Days" - an annual event in the USA organised by the Amish community as a showcase for new animal-drawn implements. Originally the Amish used traditional implements but quickly realised they would not last forever, so they now design and manufacture new implements to meet their requirements. Some make use of animal power to drive belts and others use small motors to complement animal power. Erhard pointed out that Amish farmers work on a large scale with up to eight draught horses in a team, very different from the needs of lighter soils in the tropics where minimum tillage can be appropriate.

Following on from the video, discussions included the economics of animal power in various situations, the role of implements that need a high draught force to operate effectively, ways to link 'large' draught power with 'small scale' operations and what can be learnt from each other.

## Interactive session : Share and Learn Marketplace



The Share and Learn Marketplace provided a creative, interactive opportunity for delegates to share ideas, innovations and practical examples of their work, tools and equipment and to learn about others' experiences with working animals and their owners. The marketplace was set up with display tables and spaces for posters, photos, demonstration models, harnesses, horseshoes, PRA and community engagement tools and methods, educational materials, games and songs, a plough and many other items. The session was very popular and felt like a bustling marketplace throughout the afternoon.

## Posters

Sixty-three posters were accepted for presentation at the Colloquium. The standard was very high and poster authors were commended for the work that went into producing them. The winner of the poster competition ballot was entitled 'Epizootic lymphangitis in cart mules: a community-based clinical trial in Bahir Dar, North-West Ethiopia' by Teshome Worku, Nahom Wagaw and Bekele Mekonnen from the Donkey Sanctuary Working Worldwide Ethiopia Programme.



### COMMENT

“The challenge to the 2010 participants is to identify and come away with some promises of collaboration. It is hoped the working horse, donkey and mule can be seen as a key component in multi-disciplinary projects to increase livelihoods and raise the income of some of the poorest people in the world ”

**Dr Anne Pearson, Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh, UK.**

## Summary of learning and action points

In the final plenary session, delegates were asked to note one action that they will do differently or are now thinking about as a result of what they have learned in the meeting, and one action that they will do with others (another individual, organisation or agency). The preliminary responses to both questions were similar, so they are aggregated and summarised here for information:

### Networking, collaboration and communication



Necessity to **understand more clearly** what other organisations are doing, **get to know colleagues better** within own organisation, **promote our own behaviour change**, **increase efficiency** and **prevent overlaps**. This can be done by **networking** between organisations, regardless of size. **Document and share** experience, field evidence, innovations, development tools and approaches. **Engage more** with online discussion forums and knowledge-sharing sites. Potential areas for collaboration include prevention of welfare issues; exposure visits; research methods, findings and specific research projects.

### Planning, monitoring and evaluation

Priority action points included **joint evaluation** of each others' work, and economic or **cost-benefit analysis**. Participants suggested **better baselines** before starting or prioritising new projects, more **objective methods for monitoring** and the need to bring together both **qualitative and quantitative monitoring data**. We also want to **involve all stakeholders** (particularly communities) in planning, monitoring and evaluation and to search for the root causes of welfare problems as well as responding to symptoms.

### Demonstrating impact

Participants recognised the need for more **evaluation of impact**, especially a few years after exiting a project, to assess lessons learned and whether any refreshing is required. Both **measuring and communicating impact** more effectively are important, including asking for professional (external) evaluation of our work. Specific actions mentioned were impact assessment of **education components** (children and community) and measuring the impact of welfare improvement on the **value of working animals**.

### Understanding and involving communities

Many action points were based around **consulting with** and **increasing our accountability to owners and end-users**, listening to their grassroots **experience** and developing their self-esteem and **ownership of projects** through greater use of **participatory methods** as well as the importance of being **humble** about our achievements. Delegates want to involve the community in many aspects of programmes including needs assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation and development of materials (including adapted PRA tools). Several points mentioned considering everyone involved in a project, putting ourselves in owners' shoes, having greater insight into their lives and specifically understanding the power dynamics of class, caste, gender and wealth which affect communities.

## Ethical considerations

Participants are more aware of **double-standards** in their own veterinary and animal welfare work and wish to consider animal ethics from point of view of people they work with. Some will also look in more depth at **general development ethics** and the ethics of **public relations** (for example, not taking photos of poor people).

## Influencing

Points included engaging with **policy-makers/ government** on **welfare issues** and helping **donors** to better understand the **role of communities in animal welfare**. Specific examples of influencing actions included taking part in the working animal e-consultation with FAO, and using research to raise awareness of animal welfare.



## Learning, joint training and sharing Information-Education-Communication (IEC) materials, methods, tools and good practice

There were many action points on specific areas for **future learning and training courses**: LEGS, farmer training, training of service providers (farriery, harness and nutrition) and training in use of horse-drawn equipment and sustainable transport systems. Action that delegates will take to **change their approaches** include: refining training methodologies to reduce animal use; using more diverse IEC materials, including non-formal adult education techniques, skills and songs, e-learning, website materials and other forms of open distribution, and using simple language. A specific action was to ensure that research for development is integrated into programmatic work.

## Children's education

Participants intend to explore how to get **animal welfare into the school curriculum** and the **best ways of engaging children**, including informal education sessions and children's clubs.

## Other specific action points

Explore potential **environmental impacts/ risks of draught animal power**. Organise a **market place** at other conferences and events.

## Thinking outside the box

Many delegates aim to **continue looking outside our own field**, communicating with and learning from others in not obviously related fields of work before starting our own projects, and involving them in future conferences and events. Participants also want to **think more broadly** and from various points of view and to try new methods described during the colloquium, such as those used in Community Led Total Sanitation.

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### COMMENT

"It was a great moment for me to be sponsored to attend the colloquium in India. Everything went really smoothly and it was a good opportunity to learn from others about how to better help working animals."

**Dr Thomas W Kahema, Tanzania Animal Welfare Society.**

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## Next steps

### FAO E-consultation



Daniela Battaglia, Livestock Production Officer in the Animal Production and Health Division of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, announced an e-consultation on the role, impact and welfare of working animals, to be organised jointly by FAO and the Brooke. It will take place from 1st to 28th February on the FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare ([www.fao.org/ag/againfo/themes/animal-welfare/en/](http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/themes/animal-welfare/en/)). All interested organisations are invited to register for the e-consultation at [WorkingAnimals@FAO.org](mailto:WorkingAnimals@FAO.org) and to send relevant documents to the same address: these will be posted on the Gateway website for participants to read before the consultation begins.

### Proposed e-consultation themes

The e-consultation will run for four weeks:

Week 1: Review of the current state of knowledge on the contribution of working animals to livelihoods (food security, poverty alleviation, income generation, gender equity etc.) worldwide.

Week 2: Analyse in more detail the role and contribution of working animals to one or more of the livelihood components described above, selected on the basis of participants' contributions and areas of importance highlighted in the first week.

Week 3: Identify existing existing standards and guidelines, case studies and good practices addressing the health and welfare of working animals.

Week 4: Policies, legislation and recommendations for further action at national and international level.

### Expert meeting

Based on the outcomes of the e-consultation, FAO and the Brooke will host an expert meeting in Rome to make recommendations for successful implementation of relevant international standards and good practices. A call for suitably qualified experts with professional or practical experience in the area of working animals will be made following the e-consultation.

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### 5th Pan-Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, Accra, Ghana, 21st - 25th March 2011



The theme of the 5th Pan-Commonwealth Veterinary Conference is: The Role of Veterinarians and Livestock Farmers in Food Security and Poverty Alleviation.

A full day workshop on working animals will be held as part of this conference and will include a summary of FAO e-conference outcomes. There will be presentations and working groups on the role of working animals in livelihoods, food security and poverty alleviation; working animal health and welfare and policy; and legislation relating to working animals. Registration details are available on the conference website at <http://5pancomvetconf2011.com>

## COMMENT

"An excellent week. Many opportunities to meet with people with a wide range of experience and depth of knowledge that can be applied to working animal welfare. There was a clear recognition of the importance of working together with people to improve the welfare of their working animals, always respecting their knowledge, experience and the realities they face."

**Dorcas Pratt, Director of International Development, The Brooke, UK.**



## COMMENT

"The Colloquium provided a unique opportunity for field experts, policy makers, educators, researchers, veterinarians and sociologists to exchange their valuable knowledge and experience, spend quality time discussing current and emerging issues relating to working equids, and discuss workable solutions. The outcomes and information provided through the Colloquium will be used by international animal health and welfare organisations as an important contribution to further work [including] the CVA's specialist session on working animals at its 5th Pan-Commonwealth Veterinary Conference and the FAO/ Brooke-facilitated e-consultation and expert panel to develop recommendations. This will all be invaluable background for use by OIE in its consideration of international animal welfare guidelines for working equids."

**Peter Thornber, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, Australia, representing OIE.**

## The Next Event

It was agreed that the nature and timing of the next event(s) should be planned according to the needs of working animals and the individuals and organisations who work with them. This will be based on consultation between representatives of delegates to the 6th International Colloquium, as well as some who were unable to attend. Discussions about funding of any future event(s) will follow once a proposal has been developed.

The Animal Traction Network of Eastern and Southern Africa (ATNESA) has expressed an interest in coordinating a steering group to explore potential future events. A call for those who would like to take part in the steering group will be sent out in the first half of 2011.