

Objective: To profile parameters for measuring gender equity and women's empowerment in small ruminant livestock programs in Sub Saharan

Importance of small ruminants in Sub-Saharan Africa-

According to FAO, Africa kept 8.67 billion heads of sheep and goats combined in 2019 (Figure 1). Therefore, rural communities of Sub Saharan- Africa have benefited from rearing small ruminants both for direct consumption and as an economic asset. Sheep and goats are sources of animal protein. A small ruminant carcass can be consumed within a few days, with minimal food waste. Owing to small stature and versatility, they can withstand high temperatures in regions afflicted with heatwaves and other intensifying stressors due to climate change. Rearing small ruminants (picture2) should be a key livelihood diversification strategy (Alilo, Beyene and Mola, 2015).

Keeping small ruminants is a viable adjustment pathway for smallholder farmers (many of whom are intrinsically livestock farmers) from larger livestock such as cattle (Peng et al., 2019).

The larger population of smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa are women (Doss, 2014; Njuki et al., 2013) (Picture 1).

It is not clear whether gender equity and empowerment benefits are being realised by both male and women small ruminant livestock programs.

To achieve various 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, broader gender equity and empowerment from small ruminant livestock programs is needed along with more widespread analysis to differentiate rhetoric from reality regarding the level and scale of equity and empowerment outcomes that can be achieved from such programs

This study advances **seven domains** consisting appropriate parameters (Box) required to evaluate and appraise performance for measuring impact of small ruminants on women empowerment in Sub Saharan Africa. Read this review to get more on these.

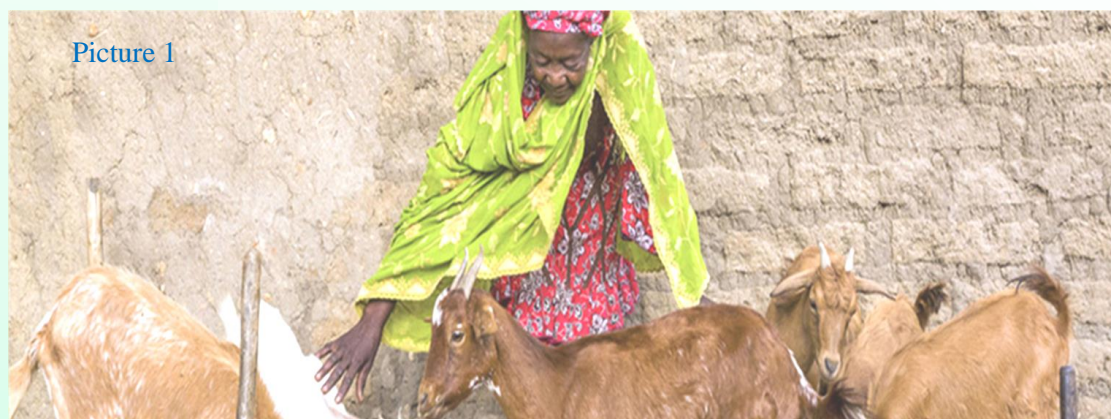
Research question: What parameters of women's empowerment can be advanced through small ruminant livestock projects in Sub-Saharan Africa? To address this question, **three subsequent questions were raised:**

- What parameters of change are impacted by small ruminant development interventions in smallholder livelihood systems?
- What parameters are used to measure women's empowerment in **smallholder livelihood systems?**
- What evidence is there that women's empowerment is impacted by small ruminant programs in smallholder livelihood systems in Sub Saharan Africa?

Methodology:

Peer reviewed and gray literatures in electronic form were collated using databases such as Academic Search Complete, CG space, FAOSTAT, Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar.

Picture 1



GOATS	4.59E+08
SHEEP	4.08E+08

Population Proportion

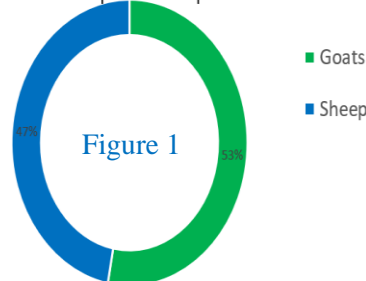


Figure 1



Picture 2

Domains of women's empowerment; Food security, Access to resources, Leadership, Agency, Control of income, Access to & control of opportunities, and Control of workload time.