



# Endogenous Livestock Development in Cameroon

Livestock contribute to the livelihoods of at least 70% of the world's rural poor. Especially for women, livestock represent one of the most important and widely held assets, and one of the most rewarding income-generating activities available. However, long-term sustainable impact on poverty reduction through livestock development is still a major challenge. Many projects foster dependency rather than creativity. In this context Endogenous Livestock Development, an approach that puts livestock keepers' own strategies and culture at the centre of development efforts, is a welcome innovation.

This book and the accompanying film provide an introduction to the Endogenous Livestock Development (ELD) approach and various related livestock development efforts in Africa. It is the outcome of a joint effort between farmers and extension workers in Cameroon, and consultants from various backgrounds and nationalities. Together they have explored the potential of endogenous development and its implications for livestock development. In this approach the multi-faceted role of livestock is acknowledged, including the social and spiritual components. Livestock keepers' ways of learning and organising themselves are the starting point for development.

This book and film (17 minutes) can be used to address the issue of the nature of livestock development, based on the question: where does development come from? It will generate debates about dependency, and stimulate a re-interpretation of local values and potential in livestock development efforts.

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Exploring the potential of local initiatives  
for livestock development

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