

# APPLICATION OF STDM IN RURAL KENYA



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## IFAD supported Smallholder Dairy Commercialization Project

**TSLI-ESA**

### INTRODUCTION

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the UN-Habitat through Global Land Tools Network have established a partnership under the “Land and Natural Resources Tenure Learning Initiative for East and Southern Africa” (TSLI-ESA) to document, test and share tools and approaches that can strengthen land and natural resources tenure in IFAD supported projects and programmes. In Kenya TSLI-ESA is partnering with two projects: the Upper Tana Natural Resources Management Programme (UTaNRMP) and Smallholder Dairy Commercialization Programme (SDCP).

SDCP is an IFAD supported project that promotes dairy commercialization through the market oriented dairy enterprise (MODE) process that aims at increasing beneficiaries’ access to dairy markets. The MODE approach is being implemented in nine counties in Western Kenya, namely: Bomet, Bungoma, Kisii, Lugari, Nandi North, Nakuru, Nyamira, Trans Nzoia and Uasin Gishu. In these counties the project is

implemented through the dairy farmer groups called the Dairy Commercialization Areas (DCAs). The overall aim of the project is to increase the income of poor rural households whose livelihoods largely depend on production and sale of dairy products. This is achieved firstly, through promotion of market oriented dairy production, value addition, productivity improvement and provision of information on market opportunities. Secondly, by enhancing income opportunities of the poor smallholder dairy producers through strengthening their bargaining power by enhancing their farmer organizations and groups. SDCP acknowledges that women and youth are more disadvantaged as they lack the necessary resources and investment opportunities, as they do not have assets such as land for use as collateral to generate income. As such, the project specifically focuses on and targets resource poor women and youth.

## LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TENURE CHALLENGES

A joint scoping mission by GLTN, SDCP and RECONCILE to SDCP operational areas in Bomet county in July 2014 identified some key challenges related to land and natural resources tenure security. The land and natural resources tenure arrangements in the area vary markedly between the medium to high potential (highland, cool, moist) areas bordering the Mau Forest Reserve and low potential (lowland, semi-arid) areas bordering the Masaai pastoral areas. These differences arise out of the different historical settlement patterns, ecological and climatic conditions, government land policy and political factors. These factors over the years have led to differing tenure arrangements which have greatly impacted land and natural resource management regimes, use and productivity.

From the 1950s to 1970s the medium to high potential areas have largely all been titled, and most members of the SDCP

affiliated dairy groups are owners of the land or have been granted use-rights by their families. Farmers in this area, mostly practice zero-grazing intensive dairy production, having their own water-springs, and fodder production plots. With continuous rainfall, fodder is produced continuously throughout the year. Their animals are mostly high milk-yielding pure exotic breeds and hybrids. The land and natural resources access and tenure security issues in these high potential areas are: a) some women and youth dairy farmers face land access challenges due to limited farm sizes vis-à-vis competing uses. Owners of the land titles, mostly old men are reluctant to reduce their tea farm portions to pave way for dairy animals/fodder production, mostly done by the youth and women; b) lack of institutional arrangement for access and use of Mau Forest (to feed and drink animals) especially for the farmers who live on the borders with the Forest Reserve, who are often apprehended for illegal entry.



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Communal grazing is practiced in the drier (low potential) areas that border the Masaai pastoral region. The lowland areas are also parceled for individual households' farm plots, though most of them are relatively bigger in dimensional sizes and do not have registered titles. Seasonal droughts make it difficult for farmers to practice zero grazing as the fodder that the lowlands farmers produce on their gardens only last for 3 months. The area has few perennial water springs and most are designated for communal use. Due to limitations of water and fodder, and high incidence of parasites and diseases (as animals physical interact in communal drinking, dipping grazing areas), lowland farmers prefer low milk-yielding local and hybrid animals as these animals are easy to feed and resist most parasites and diseases.

*However, in both high and low potential areas communal cattle corridors, grazing lands, water-points and dipping tanks are highly degraded - with poor water quality and pasture, due to resource over-exploitation and lack of proper management. Again, some communal grazing lands are being encroached limiting the area available for communal grazing, especially during the dry season.*

### LOCAL INITIATIVES EMPLOYED TO ADDRESS TENURE ISSUES

Both high and low potential areas have local institutional mechanisms for making decisions on land surface alterations in order to ensure protection of water flows from natural streams and to ensure access to that water for all. All farmers within the village can take their animals for drinking as major communal water points, located on the perennial rivers and water springs, are accessible. These communal grazing areas, water points and dipping tanks, are accessed through designated cattle corridors or paths – that are areas cutting across peoples' gardens set aside as animal routes.

### SOCIAL TENURE DOMAIN MODEL AS A SOLUTION

GLTN together with SDCP and Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE) plan to cooperate and implement the application of STDM in an agro-pastoral setting. This is a new and innovative approach between GLTN and partners organization that have a strong background implementing programmes in rural land and natural resources. Although STDM has mostly been applied in urban and peri-urban areas in Kenya, Uganda, Colombia and Haiti and used for agricultural value chain

projects in Uganda and Zambia, SDCP and RECONCILE hope to utilize GLTN's flagship pro-poor land information tool to document land and tenure issues through their various diary groups to ensure access and security of tenure for the poor rural farmers and ensure they are better able to increase their yields and productivity. STDM will assist farmer map communal water points and grazing lands to protect them from encroachment and ensure controlled grazing.

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