



Small ruminants in the smallholder production system in southern Benin: prospects for conservation through community-based management

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Cuvillier Verlag Aug 2007, 2007. Taschenbuch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - The main objective of this study was to develop a framework for community-based management (CBM) actions aiming to better utilize and to conserve the local small ruminants genetic resources in southern Benin. Hence, the study was designed in such a way as to: i) understand the livelihood contribution of each species of small ruminant to smallholders and identify a priority species (sheep or goats) for CBM activities, ii) collect and collate existing information on phenotypes and conduct surveys to map the phenotype structure of local populations of the targeted species, iii) record and understand farmers' traditional breeding strategies and practices and iv) analyse the opportunities and constraints for CBM. In the study area in southern Benin, the majority (78%) of rural households were keeping small ruminants. This confirms the important role of goats and sheep in the livelihood strategies of rural families. The ownership of goats was higher (91%) than sheep (35%) because goats are not affected by any ethnic or cultural restrictions. Goats are also perceived to be a less risky to invest into compared to sheep. Women represented 71% of the keepers of goats. Owners of small ruminants...



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