



## Buhemba Rural Agricultural Community (BRAC)

### Goat Project

#### Factsheet 1 : Background

- The project aims to support villages within the Buhemba region by giving goats to individual farmers in batches of 10 per village i.e. 10 farmers benefit immediately from the gift of one goat each, but the village sees corporate support.
- BRAC needed a herd of 300 goats for this project to be successful in the criteria set out in the feasibility study and business plan.
- Many villages have received the dairy goats (e.g. Kibubwa, Kisamwene, Busireme, Nyanza and Busegwe – photos of Busegwe recipients are in the pack)
- Villages have long waiting lists (see separate info on criteria for receiving the gift of a goat)
- This project is not only self sustaining but is enabling growth, self-sufficiency and enhancing education opportunities for children



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#### Factsheet 2 : The Current Situation and the Future

- The herd at BRAC is successfully increasing
- BRAC employs a goatherd specifically for this project
- The Diocese of Mara has supported this project by enabling 'barns' to be built to house the herd
- Goats are distributed following selection and training of recipient farmers
- The President of Tanzania has become involved in the project and asked that it be increased as it is so successful. Rather than increase the area of distribution (which would provide logistical challenges) BRAC has decided to expand the project by increasing the number of beneficiaries from 10 to 30 per village. This will not only cut down on supervision and monitoring costs but will also help to shorten the waiting period for individuals. Currently the waiting list can be anything from six to eighteen months depending on the number of females born.
- Following the visit of the President of Tanzania to BRAC and his interest in the project, BRAC is now also supplying breeding bucks to government projects elsewhere in the country. This means that BRAC can create extra income for other projects for local farmers and can also help to ensure farmers elsewhere in Tanzania get similar opportunities.
- Bucks born to the BRAC herd are sold by BRAC to private organisations / farmers and to the Government goat group programme, where BRAC sees the Government as "a good customer"!



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#### Factsheet 3 : How the system works

- The gift of a goat is awarded to a farmer using specific criteria
  - a) Income poverty is measured at the family receiving less than one US dollar per day
  - b) The family will own 0.5 to 2.5 acres
  - c) Special target groups for recipients are :
    - i) widows and widowers
    - ii) woman / child headed household
    - iii) orphans
    - iv) people living with HIV/AIDS
  
- The loan condition is “pass on and pass back” where beneficiaries of the project have a contract with BRAC to pay back three female kids out of the first five produced
  - a) The first female is kept by the farmer
  - b) The second female goes to another farmer in the project
  - c) The third female is kept by the farmer
  - d) The fourth female goes to another farmer in the project
  - e) The fifth female goes back to BRAC.After this, the contract is ended.
  
- Farmers may choose to keep or sell a buck, but care is taken that it is not inter-bred with the BRAC herd.
  
- Females born in the BRAC herd are distributed to the farmers
  
- Bucks born to the BRAC herd are sold to private organisations / farmers and the Government project
  
- To ensure that the herd is kept pure BRAC places three breeding bucks in each village. The bucks are rotated within the village. When the rotation is completed within the village, the bucks are moved to another village to avoid inbreeding e.g. village A to B and Village B to A. Monitoring and records are handled through BRAC
  
- Each village has a dairy goat committee which, amongst other things, is responsible for the preparation of new farmers due to receive a goat, the passing on of kids, monitoring and supervision of the project within the village and maintaining contact with BRAC. The committee (with the local knowledge) knows best which farmers have kids ready for passing on or passing back to BRAC.
  
- Currently goats are distributed in tens (i.e. 10 recipients) but there are plans to increase this to 30 (see previous fact sheet : The current situation and the future)



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#### Factsheet 4 : The Goats

- The goat breed is called 'saanen' (both white and sable i.e. coloured)
- Both does and bucks have beards and horns
- They are the largest breed of dairy goat : does weigh 150lbs / 68kg (average) whereas bucks often weigh over 200lb (91kg)
- They are gentle, calm and mild-mannered making them easy for children to handle (many children are bringing up families following parental death)
- Milk yield is up to 4 ltrs (1 gallon) per day (more than most cattle in Tanzania)
- Following birth, the kid suckles for four months during which time approx 2 ltrs of milk is available for the farmer
- Gestation is 150 days (5 months)
- Goats will be mated again between 45-60 days after giving birth
- Goats produce kids twice a year
- Assuming the goats are healthy, twins are common, triplets are rare and even more occasionally four kids can be born.
- A fully grown healthy female can fetch as much as £75 for the owner.
- Both does and bucks