



**– International Fund for Agricultural Development –
– Identifying and sharing innovation in Western and Central Africa –**

– Village veterinary units –

I. Context

1. Name of the innovation

Village veterinary units

2. Country – Region

Mauritania: the whole of the project intervention zone

3. Organization

Poverty Reduction Project in Aftout South and Karakoro (PASK)

4. Who is the innovator?

PASK and its beneficiaries

5. Actors involved

- PASK
- Local people involved in the project
- Regional Directorates of the Ministry of Rural Development

6. Starting date

2004

7. Type of innovation

Technological and knowledge-sharing

II. Key concepts

8. Summary

The village veterinary units are comprised of young farmers trained and directly involved in the PASK with the support of Regional Directorates of the Ministry of Rural Development. These young farmers, who are also known as veterinary auxiliaries, are first trained in the field of veterinary science and then made responsible for local vaccination and livestock care, especially in view of the State's withdrawal from the livestock sector. The working capital of medicines with which the units operate is constituted directly by the local population and then handed over to the veterinary auxiliary after the training provided by the project.

9. What problems does this innovation seek to solve?

- Ensuring that livestock in the area have vaccination cover
- Reducing livestock diseases and epidemics, especially at the local level
- Introducing literate small farmers into professional life
- Halting speculation and overcharging with regard to livestock health matters and professional training for the livestock subsector

10. Factors for successful replication

- Income-generation for the veterinary auxiliaries
- Care provided directly by and for local inhabitants
- Keeping of men, livestock and households in the locality

11. Target group(s)

- Herders and livestock farmers
- Owners of household livestock
- Young people living in the villages involved in the project

12. Difficulties encountered

- The mobility of livestock for a good part of the year makes the veterinary auxiliaries' task difficult in terms of travel to livestock concentration zones
- Uncontrolled liberalization of the sale of medicines encourages the appearance of counterfeit medicines on the market
- Creation of unfair competition with products sold by the village veterinary units
- Difficulties in improving the skills of the veterinary auxiliaries

13. Costs and benefits of the innovation (financial, social etc.)

- Additional income generated by the sale of medicines for livestock care
- Keeping of men, households and livestock in the locality

III. Technical aspects

14.

As a knowledge-sharing innovation, the only technical aspect concerns the training of the veterinary auxiliaries, which is carried out mainly by the State's veterinary services.

IV. Further information

15. Key contacts

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16. Internet links

- www.fidafrigue.net/article435.html
- www.fidafrigue.net/rubrique117.html

17. Key documents (document title + link or contact or address)