

Brief report on field visit to Kaolack, Senegal

On 30 October 2008, a visit was made together with Raoul Snelder (SNV/WCA) and Abdoulaye Fall (ENDA) to two randomly selected villages (Lamaramé and Mbouna) near Kaolack city, an area predominantly inhabited by an ethnic group called Serer. They combine agriculture and livestock keeping. We paid visits to a few households keeping cattle, observed their holdings and tried to get more general information about practices in the area.



Cattle keeping practices: In the two villages visited, 5 to 10% of the households were keeping cattle¹. It was found that most cattle households graze their animals for 6 to 8 hours per day and stable them in their compound with a rope or in a basic stable.



¹ This percentage is lower than estimated in the survey conducted by Raoul who arrived for the Kaloack region at a percentage of between 25 and 33% households stabling four or more cattle over night on a year-round basis. The villages visited this time were located near the main road, while Raoul expects cattle keeping being more predominant in villages more distant from the main road.

A few examples of artificial insemination were seen to improve milk and meat cows, which may be a sign that farmers are interested to engage in innovative activities once they see the benefit.



Manure is used to fertilise the fields at the time of planting, while water was available through boreholes (CFA 1/litre).



Family size and cooking: The visited families were rather big, even bigger than the 10 to 15 members assumed by in the SNV feasibility study report. There was only kitchen for each family showed to us for daily cooking, with rather big stoves fuelled by firewood. Dung cakes were not used. Most of the firewood was purchased. For the families visited, it is clear that the potential amount of biogas will not be sufficient to fully satisfy the cooking demand of the family. The main cooking takes place in the late morning, with some other cooking done in the evening (up to 20.00 h.) and early morning (between 06.00 and 07.00 h.).



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