

**AFRICAN ANIMAL WELFARE VIRTUAL  
CONFERENCE**

**(7TH-12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 PRESENTATION  
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## Freedom from Hunger and Thirst

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# THE PLACE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY, FOOD SAFETY AND ANIMAL WELFARE IN AFRICA-(FARM ANIMALS)

## **What is Indigenous Knowledge**

Local and indigenous knowledge refers to the understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings. For rural and indigenous peoples, local knowledge informs decision-making about fundamental aspects of day-to-day life.

Indigenous Knowledge therefore has a big role to play in Food Safety Food security and Animal Welfare in Africa

## What is Indigenous Knowledge Contd.

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- Tribal communities are often viewed as living in harmony with nature, and their traditional knowledge is regarded as essential in the sustainable use of resources and central to their inclusion in the development process. *Mayori Sengupta-India*
- The use of indigenous knowledge is as an alternative way of promoting development in poor rural communities in many parts of the world.
- Main problem of its usage fully is the binary tensions between western science and indigenous knowledge systems;

# Food Security

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Food security is when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Thus, food security has four interrelated elements: availability, access, utilization and affordability/stability.

# FOOD SECURITY-GENERAL OVERVIEW-Heifer Int.



## FOOD SECURITY THE THREE DIMENSIONS

AVAILABILITY OF FOOD

ACCESS TO FOOD

UTILIZATION OF FOOD

AGRICULTURE



INCOME



EDUCATION



HEALTH/SANITATION



Production Diversity/  
Infrastructure

Improved Cropping,  
Storage and Marketing

Livestock  
Management

Natural Resource  
Management &  
Environmental  
Protection

Enterprises

Savings/ Credits

Marketing

Improvements:  
Curriculum,  
Teachers,  
Infrastructure

Health Knowledge &  
Practices

Vaccinations

Growth Monitoring

Nutrition

Clean Drinking Water

# Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Food Security in Farm Animals - Livestock Production

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## Breed Selection

- Based on IK our parents/grand parents used phenotypic characteristics (skin color of ruminants, plumage of poultry size) to select breeds
- Other characteristics used are, temperament and suitability for the performance of their cultural practices.
- This knowledge therefore helps in the conservation of biodiversity and the environment and thus promoting sustainable agriculture and food security.
- Local breeds, such as dairy buffaloes or the West African dwarf goats and the muturu, are the outcomes of centuries of selection. At first sight, they may produce less than introduced breeds, but they may not score as poorly if both input costs and outputs are considered, instead of only the outputs.
- Local breeds are presently receiving increased attention in connection with attempts to conserve their dwindling genetic resources.

# Role of IK in Food Security in Farm Animals - Livestock Production

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## **Feeding- (Freedom from Hunger and Thirst)**

- The indigenous people use only locally available feedstuff which abounds in their diversity for the feeding of their animals.
- With IK indigenous people feed their animals with specific herbage which promotes fecundity, growth and care for lactating animals etc.
- Farmers carry headloads of such feed from their farms at the end of the day to their animals
- Crop residues –groundnut haulms, bean vines and dried cassava peels etc are fed to their animals
- Farmers give ordinary salt to their ruminants
- Practically indigenous people feed their farm animals on almost what they also eat as animals are always part of the “household system”
- Attempts are always made to provide water

# Role of IK in Food Security in Farm Animals - Livestock Production

## Animal Health Delivery- Ethnoveterinary Practice (*Freedom from Pain, Injury, or Disease*)

- In ethnoveterinary practice indigenous knowledge is very widely used.
- It is holistic, interdisciplinary study of local knowledge and its associated skills, practices, beliefs, practitioners, and social structures pertaining to the healthcare and healthful husbandry of food, work, and other income-producing animals with the ultimate goal of increasing human well-being (food security) via increased benefits from stock raising.
- Ethnoveterinary practice is not limited only to the use of medicinal herbs but also covers bone-setting, branding, and careful management practices, handling of minor surgical cases castration, managing poor mothering, managing vicious animals, etc.
- Knowledge used here are all indigenous from the local human sources: