

Spate Irrigation: Livestock Breeds



Introduction

- Spate areas have produced important species
- Own large and rich livestock resources which are genetically diverse
- **Why is it useful?**
 - Understand local production and breeding systems and constraints
 - Some breeds have special merits that meet the specific requirements of the semi-arid regions
 - Understand well-adapted local breeds that are kept without special feed concentrate or preventive health care
 - Para-veterinary services to improvement of fodder availability within the irrigation command area

Strong Livestock varieties

Type	Landrace	Characteristics
Cattle	Arado	Small body size, medium sized horns, low in milk production, adapted in all areas
	Begait (Barka)	Larger body size, short horned, good meat and milk production, adapted to low lands
	Bahri	Large body size, small horns, excellent milk and meat production, adapted to lowlands
Sheep	Bahria (Kirchie)	Flattened fatty and short tail, high milk yielding (3lt/day), 2 lambing /year
	Tsaeda (Hamadi)	Long tailed, tall stature, high milk production, high market demand, low feeder
	Barka (Begait)	Tall, long tail, consume are large amount of feed, good meat and milk production
	Kaieh	Short stature, low in milk, good meat producer
Goat	Zhe	White colored, reproductive efficiency, preferred for meat, adapted to lowlands
	Ware	Black colored, adapted to lowlands
	Tzaadit	Medium sized, high milk yielder, 2-3 lit/day, high market demand

Table 1: Indigenous livestock and their characteristics of Eritrea (Source: Haile 2003).



- **Red Sindhi Cattle (from Pakistan):**

- Dairy breed with a milk yield per lactation from 1200 to 2000 litres
- Adult male weigh 400-500 kg and the female 300-350 kg
- Adapt very well to stressful environments



Red Sindhi Bull, Pakistan

- **Bhagnari Cattle (from Pakistan):**

- Low milk yielders
- Adult males weigh 450-600 kg, while females weigh 325-425 kg
- Males are suitable and excellent for heavy draught work

Recommendations

- To make substantial contributions to livestock production:
 - Fodder and rangeland improvement within irrigation command area
 - Livestock watering
 - Veterinary or para-veterinary services
 - Processing and marketing of livestock products
 - Breeding and exchange programs
 - Animal genetic resources conservation