**Focus groups and DDA visits – 17/11 to 19/11 or 20/11**

**Farmers – RECEIVING ASSISTANCE**

* What types of assistance do they receive?
  + Stainless steel/aluminium cans
    - Is this assistance provided in the form of new cans or renting the cans?
    - Do the farmers get to own the new cans or they have to return them?
    - If they are renting the cans, how is the rent paid? They pay the rent immediately after they take the can, they pay the rent from part of the selling price they are supposed to receive from the buyer or they pay the rent later?
  + Veterinary services : Good categorization needed
    - Which are the most common veterinary services provided? Acaricides? Vaccination? Payment for visits to veterinary doctors? Payment for regular check up of animal health?
    - Are the veterinary services dependent on the type of cows the farmers have? For instance, if the exotic cows are producing more milk and the buyers are aware of it, they may want to invest more in those cows for better and larger quantity of milk compared to the local cows. This would also mean that farmers with more exotic cows will be more prone to getting this assistance from the buyers. So, better assistance for the farmers already doing better than others?
  + Acaracides
    - More info on this.
    - What are the costs for the farmers if they want to buy themselves?
    - Do they contribute towards the costs of the buyer?
    - They receive the acaracides based on an agreement that they will pay back the buyer later?
    - They receive the assistance totally for free?
  + Vaccination
    - How is this assistance provided?
    - Is it just something like, they agree to administering the vaccinations and the farmers themselves have to buy? OR The assistance is provided with a full package, that is access to the vaccination for free, administering the vaccination procedure etc.
    - What are the costs of these vaccinations? If the farmers buy themselves, is it more expensive or not free? Even if the milk buyers provide this assistance, do the farmers still have to contribute some money towards the vaccinations?
  + Animal feeds
    - Do the farmer get better feeds if they receive support from the buyers?
    - Cost of feeds for farmers.
    - Details about how the feeds are supplied to the farmers. Are they supplied on credit or for free?
  + Advances (usually the smaller amounts)
    - Do the farmers have to pay interest or abide by any rules? Is there a maximum amount that they can receive? Who decides whether the farmer should receive an advance?
  + Investments (usually the larger amounts)
    - Do the farmers have to pay interest or abide by any rules? Is there a maximum amount that they can receive? Who decides whether the farmer should receive any support for investments?
* Any other assistance types possible?
* Generally, for all types of support, we need to know if the farmers can actually give a monetary value (cost of the support) if they were receiving it, if they were contributing for it partially, if they were not receiving it. The actual value of the support should come from FARMER’S COSTS IF THEY WERE PAYING FOR IT THEMSELVES – COSTS THEY HAVE TO BARE IF THEY ARE GIVEN THE SUPPORT (if any contribution towards the support + costs for receiving the support, for instance, to transport the animal feeds or milk cans + interest if paid any).

**Traders / MCCs – PROVIDING ASSISTANCE**

* What types of assistance do they provide?
  + Stainless steel/aluminium cans
    - Is this assistance provided in the form of new cans or renting the cans?
    - Do the suppliers get to own the new cans or they have to return them?
    - If they are renting the cans, how is the rent paid? They pay the rent immediately after they take the can, they pay the rent from part of the selling price they are supposed to receive from the trader/MCC or they pay the rent later?
    - What are the costs borne by the trader or MCC (in case of new cans or rented cans)?
  + Veterinary services : Good categorization needed
    - Which are the most common veterinary services provided? Acaricides? Vaccination? Payment for visits to veterinary doctors? Payment for regular check-ups of animal health?
    - Are the veterinary services dependent on the type of cows the farmers have? Is there a greater preference for suppliers who have more exotic cows?
    - What are the costs borne by the trader or MCC?
    - Do the suppliers contribute too?
  + Acaracides
    - More info on this.
    - What are the costs borne by the MCC/trader? Do the suppliers contribute too?
  + Vaccination
    - How is this assistance provided?
    - Is it just something like, they agree to administering the vaccinations and the suppliers themselves have to buy? OR The assistance is provided with a full package, that is access to the vaccination for free, administering the vaccination procedure etc.
    - What are the costs of these vaccinations? Cheaper for the MCC or trader?
  + Animal feeds
    - Do the traders/MCCs provide better quality feeds?
    - Cost of feeds for MCC/trader.
    - Details about how the feeds are supplied to the suppliers.
  + Advances (usually the smaller amounts)
    - Do the suppliers have to pay interest or abide by any rules? Is there a maximum amount that they can receive? Who decides whether the supplier should receive an advance?
    - From the trader’s/MCC’s side, is it hard to arrange advances? Do they take any loan/credit to do so?
  + Investments (usually the larger amounts)
    - Do the suppliers have to pay interest or abide by any rules? Is there a maximum amount that they can receive? Who decides whether the supplier should receive any support for investments?
    - From the trader’s/MCC’s side, is it hard to arrange larger amounts? Do they take any loan/credit to do so?
* Any other assistance types possible?
* Overall, are the different assistance modes cheaper for the MCCs/traders if they get them in bulk to provide to multiple suppliers? (should be asked for every assistance type)

Overall, is it possible to get some market based data about prices of milk cans or acaricides or veterinary doctor visits, animal feeds, vaccinations etc.? Maybe from DDA?

This will help a lot to determine the actual value of the different assistance types which are harder to have monetary values assigned.

**DDA –** We need to get more MCC names. We now have 37 from SW and 55 from Central. We need 40 from SW. So, we need 3 from SW and 5 from Central.