

Goat Project Update

I sincerely apologise for the lack of information regarding this project for such a long time. As you are aware IcFEM is a community-based organisation and we were seeking to find the most effective way of using your generous donation. The poor rural people of this area have insufficient land to keep cows and there is as a shortage of dairy products. Traditionally they raise goats for meat but IcFEM wanted to introduce the new concept of milk goats. I will not concern you with the many hurdles that we have overcome along the way but the situation on the ground is as follows.

- We have obtained an extremely good book on all aspects of goat keeping from Farm Africa in Nairobi. Your contribution allowed us to purchase this.
- We have liaised with farm Africa for them to train two of our staff on goat welfare and veterinary practice. As their teaching area is a long way across Kenya from where we are we have not yet proceeded along this path, but we are holding some of your contribution so that it can be used for this.
- We have liaised with KARI (Kenya Agricultural Research Institute) at Kakamega to obtain the special Togenberg milk goats. Unfortunately the purchase of the goats proved much more expensive than we had been initially advised which means that we have a smaller breeding colony than was our initial intention and this will produce a slower start to the programme. The aim is to produce a goat, which is three-quarter Togenberg and one quarter local goat as the local component gives it disease resistance and hardiness in our area. We have also obtained two other goats and are in process of starting our breeding programme.
- We now have 14 local transformation units on the ground, with over 30,000 members of IcFEM in the community. The aim is to provide each of these local units with a small breeding colony with trained local volunteers who would then take the breeding program out into their area so that each transformation units become self-sufficient.
- The people in this area are not used to consuming goat's milk or producing products from it and this is another area where we have to move the community forward.

I hope you will be encouraged by our considered stepwise approach to using your valuable contributions wisely to ensure that we have a sustainable final result.



Local Goat



Togenberg 1



Togenberg 2



Togenberg 3