

Project Update: November 2016

I have completed interview of farmers in all the chosen districts and have visited some of the grazing pasture in some villages. In the study area, farmers raised seven types of livestock, among which cattle was the most preferred livestock type, because it required the least amount of care and management. Next to cattle, farmers raised poultry for eggs. Very few households owned horses, due to improvements in road and transport facilities. Horses were mainly used in remote areas where there no motorable roads, and areas where there are tourist attractions, especially in Gasa Dzongkhag.

Farmers in the study area lost their livestock to four main wild predators, such as tiger, dhole, leopard, and Himalayan black bear. Summary of livestock losses in the last 3 years is provided below:

Geog	Dzongkhag	Dhole	Leopard	Bear	Tiger	Total
Lingmukha	Punakha	31	71	0	3	105
Genye	Thimphu	49	11	12	1	73
Khatoe	Gasa	16	2	0	2	20
Khamoe	Gasa	70	24	7	27	128
Shengabjimi	Punakha	6	5	0	5	16
Kawang	Thimphu	5	8	0	0	13
Total		177	121	19	38	355

There are four types of livestock management practices were recorded in the study area: 1) *Stall feeding* - animals were always raised in sheds where they were fed, and they were never left freely grazing in the forest; 2) *Free grazing with herder* - animals freely grazed in the nearby state reserve forests, but accompanied by a herder; 3) *Free grazing without herder* - animals were left freely grazing in the nearby state reserve forests without accompanied by a herder; 4) *Free tsamdro grazing* - animals were left freely grazing in a fenced pasture land without herder.



Left: Local breed cattle freely grazing in the Conifer Forest. Right: Local breed horses freely grazing in the Conifer Forest.