

## Goat taskforce for Kenya and Tanzania

Goats have become so popular in Kenya and Tanzania as a way of improving people's livelihoods, that waiting lists for the animals are running into their thousands.

In response to demand, the governments of both countries are setting up a national task force jointly with FARM-Africa to look at constraints facing goat development and to come up with an action plan to improve the situation.

Joseph Munyao, minister of livestock development in Kenya, made the announcement at a televised press conference, with FARM-Africa's chief executive, Dr Christie Peacock, who said she was delighted with the government's action.

The task force will look at ways to speed up breeding so that the huge demand can be met. Last year, the Toggenburg Breeders Association in Tanzania supplied 347 goats for sale, despite having a waiting list of over

2,000. A similar waiting list exists in Kenya.

Dr Christie Peacock said it was good both governments were tackling these issues head on and making use of FARM-Africa's expertise. "There is now a real chance of scaling up the successes we've achieved with dairy goats across the region.

"People's lives have been transformed by the humble goat and although we are currently spending more than £1 million a year on goat projects, there is still unsatisfied demand. So we're looking forward to working collaboratively with both governments, the private sector and other NGOs, to facilitate improved breeding programmes across East

Africa, so that even more people can benefit."

In addition to the shortage, the task force will tackle the inconsistent supply of the vaccine against Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia, which kills goats across East Africa. Kenya is currently the only supplier of the vaccine and the task force will look at ways to improve supply and distribution.

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Such is the demand for goats in Kenya and Tanzania that a taskforce has been set up to see how goat breeding can be speeded up.

*Credit: FARM-Africa*