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F A R M R A D I O I N T E R N A T I O N A L



LIVESTOCK HEALTH

The importance of livestock to African rural communities

This summer, Farm Radio International released its 88th script package on the topic of “Livestock Health”. Livestock plays a vital role in African rural life by providing food, power for soil cultivation and transporting goods to market, manure and urine for soil fertility, and a wide variety of other products, including wool, hides and skins.

Selling livestock – especially small livestock such as goats, sheep and chickens – is often the only ready source of cash to buy the necessities of life, and to prevent hunger in emergencies, such as crop failure. Small livestock, because of their high rates of reproduction and growth, can provide a regular source of income, both from sales of whole animals and sales of milk and milk products. Larger animals such as cattle act as a capital reserve. Families buy large animals during good times, and then sell them when crops are poor, or when there are large expenses such as weddings, funerals, or hospital bills.

Because animals play such a vital role, animal disease can have a devastating impact on small-scale farming families. Globally, animal disease is a major problem; these diseases act as a limitation on livestock production worldwide. For poor farmers, the impact of livestock disease on lives and livelihoods is especially serious. An outbreak of disease can mean the difference between having enough food and going hungry, between having a secure income and needing to sell off key household assets.

Our latest script package includes scripts on animal welfare and the link between the treatment of animals and their general health. Also included is a mini-drama involving a “paravet” and her advice on a common chicken disease and a dramatic script that provides guidelines on how to treat tick-borne diseases in cattle.

You can see the scripts from this package – and most of our other past scripts – at www.farmradio.org/english/radio-scripts/ (they are also available on-line in French).

RADIO SCRIPT COMPETITION on Smallholder Farmers Innovation

In July 2009, Farm Radio International, with the support of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC), IPS Africa, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other partners, launched a scriptwriting competition on smallholder farmer innovation in sub-Saharan Africa.

African broadcasters and journalists have been invited to submit a radio script that tells the true story of a knowledgeable and inspiring smallholder farmer (or farmers) from their region who has developed an innovation related to agricultural production, harvesting and storage. The script must include the voice and experience of local farmers. Scripts can take a variety of formats – for example, dramas, interviews or two-host conversations. The scripts will be reviewed by an international panel of judges and every script will receive feedback. The winning scripts will be assembled to make our script package in April 2010 and distributed to our full network of 320+ broadcasters across sub-Saharan Africa.

To build the scriptwriting skills of the broadcasters that are participating in the competition, we have created a unique, free, two-month online

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PARTNER PROFILE

2009 George Aktins Communications Award Winner: Gladson Makowa



Farm Radio International is pleased to announce that the 2009 George Aktins Communications Award winner is Gladson Makowa, a producer for the Story Workshop in Malawi. Gladson has written and produced many excellent scripts for Farm Radio International since 2004. His script, "Manure the Magic Worker", was one of the winning scripts of the 2008 scriptwriting competition "Farmers Strategies for Adapting to Climate Change." Please visit www.farmradio.org and go to the multimedia tab to

experience these and other video and audio clips. Most recently, Gladson was a contributor to our weekly electronic newsletter, Farm Radio Weekly (FRW). He wrote an article about villagers losing land to a sugarcane plantation in Malawi. This story was featured in a special FRW series on **land grabbing**.

Gladson was thrilled to hear the news that he won the award.

STOCK DONATIONS

With the stock market gaining ground this year, you may be looking for opportunities to reduce your capital gains tax obligations while supporting the work of your favourite charities. Now is a good time for you to consider donating publicly traded stock and securities. It is a tax-smart way to support Farm Radio International. You will receive a tax receipt for the full appreciated value of a donation of publicly traded stock or securities, and you will not be subject to any capital gains tax on the donated stock.

The transfer of stocks is easy and fast. Call us in advance and we can make the transfer as smooth as possible for you.

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scriptwriting training course. For those with limited internet access, the course is also available on a CD-ROM. CBC producers Marjorie Nichol, David Gutnick, and Nicola Luksic have volunteered to provide much-valued on-line feedback and coaching to the participants as they complete their training course. Over 240 broadcasters signed up for the course!

Here is what two broadcaster participants said of the online training offered by this competition:

"I've gained immensely from the scriptwriting course. I will surely miss it. As for the prizes - quite amazing. I never expected all that. But...with or without a prize this is worth the effort. I have learnt a lot. I would complete many more of such courses even if there was nothing to be won. Thank you Farm Radio International and all the sponsors. Keep me updated on such ventures. I'd be more than willing to participate." **Rosemary Nyaole**

"Thanks Farm Radio International! This is the greatest thing to happen in my life. What a rewarding course this is! Keep it up!" **George Odhiambo**

Supporting broadcasters in developing countries to strengthen small-scale farming and rural communities.

Contact us at:
Farm Radio International
1404 Scott Street, Ottawa
Ontario K1Y 4M8
Tel: 613-761-3650
Fax: 613-798-0990
Toll Free: 1-888-773-7717
Email: info@farmradio.org
Charitable Registration Number
(BN) 11888 4808 RR0001

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visit our website at
www.farmradio.org**

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Celebrating 30 Years



Navy Simukonda,
TRALSO Director

"The Board, management, staff and the rural communities serviced by the Transkei Land Service Organisation (TRALSO) salute Farm Radio International

on your 30th anniversary. As you celebrate, we share your commitment and passion to improving the lives of the poor resourced rural communities around the world whose livelihoods through your continued information dissemination. TRALSO applauds the contributions FRI has made to help strengthen the experience and knowledge base of community broadcasters, community development facilitators and agricultural extension workers".

"Farm Radio International boasts a long and proud history of equipping radio, broadcasters, community field practitioners and development workers throughout our the world with not only knowledge but also information necessary to contribute positively to addressing the socio-economic ills affecting farming families around the world. With the information we have received from Farm Radio scripts, we have managed to reach out more than 6000 rural farming households with useful information and tips on food production, climate change, nutrition and health as well as for sustaining their livelihoods in general".

"As you honour the past and build the future, let us continue to make one of the basic fundamental human rights - the right to education through information, a reality. TRALSO believes that together, we can make the dream of building economically vibrant and healthy rural communities a reality".