



Brussels Rural Development Briefings
A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues

Briefing session n° 12
THE ROLE OF LIVESTOCK FOR ACP COUNTRIES:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

1st July 2009 – 8h30 – 13h00
European Commission, Berlaymont Building, Room R. Schuman
<http://brusselsbriefings.net/>

Background

Livestock keeping is critical for many of the poor in the developing world, often contributing to multiple livelihood objectives and offering pathways out of poverty. Recognition of both the role livestock plays in household and of the opportunities offered can enhance its ability to contribute to development¹. In terms of the importance of livestock to poor households in the developing world, it has been estimated that globally at least 550 million of the poor depend on livestock². Livestock plays an integral part in rural life notably in the ACP Group of States: it is estimated that over 65% of the rural population participates in livestock related activities. Moreover, in ACP countries, it contributes, on average, for 14-30% of the agricultural GDP. Livestock also contributes to nutritional security through the provision of proteins and provides important farm inputs such as draught power and manure to sustain crop production for food and feed. Animals also serve as investment sinks and sources of cash income in times of need, as providers of transport for goods and services³. Livestock represents more than half the capital held by rural inhabitants in sub-Saharan Africa. The mixed agriculture-livestock production systems widely practised in the region improve the environment by reducing the effects of soil degradation, especially through the recycling of nutrients by domestic animals.

Livestock rearing is a driving force for agriculture, food and nutrition

Animal products play a direct and indirect role in reducing food insecurity. The intake rate of animal proteins in the daily diet is an important indicator of a country's development level. Livestock rearing, even on a small scale, is a supplementary source of income for people employed in jobs other than farming and plays a determining role in increasing the yields of cereals and certain cash crops. In many mixed crop-livestock systems, larger animals function as farm equipment, providing traction power for transportation and crop production, and to be hired out as well. Livestock waste (manure) is often an important input for maintaining soil fertility, and so contributes to greater crop production for food. Dung for fertilizer and building material is often a marketable commodity and in some areas is also used as a fuel⁴.

Market access for livestock products

The global demand for meat and milk is growing, as populations increase and incomes rise: FAO estimates that global meat and milk production must double by 2050. However, the estimated 550 million poor people who rely on livestock are unlikely to benefit: much of this increase will come from industrialised production, which often excludes and undermines small producers⁵. Although Africa is one of the continents with the largest feed resources, growth in livestock production has in the last decade not matched growth in the human population and consequently Africa has increasingly become a net importer of livestock products⁶,

¹ OECD, Livestock and regional market in the Sahel and West Africa. Potentials and challenges, 2008

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/10/8/41848366.pdf>

² ILRI, Mapping Poverty and Livestock in the Developing World, 2002,

<http://www.ilri.org/InfoServ/Webpub/Fulldocs/Mappoverty/index.htm>

³ CTA, Improving Livestock Development In ACP Countries: The role of Science, Technology and Innovation in addressing the challenges to food security and economic empowerment, ACP Policy Brief n.1, 2009

http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/download/21263/255792/file/Livestock+Policy+Brief+Final_090529.pdf

⁴ Role of livestock in human nutrition and health for poverty reduction in developing countries in Journal of Animal Science, n. 85, 2007, pp. 2788-2800, <http://jas.fass.org/cgi/reprint/85/11/2788.pdf>

⁵ IDS, The growing demand for livestock: will policy and institutional changes benefit poor people? id21 insights 72, 2008

<http://www.id21.org/insights/insights72/insights72.pdf>

⁶ FAO, Livestock Report 2006, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/a0255e/a0255e00.htm>

with African countries contributing just 2% of global livestock trade⁷. Several recent studies have shown that livestock exports remain of minimal importance to the poorest countries: globally, 90% of livestock and livestock product transactions are domestic and international trade is dominated by a small number of players, with just 9 countries accounting for 96% of beef exports. Africa exports about 1% of the world's total volume of meat and milk and this proportion has been declining in recent years. The low volumes available for export and failure to diversify vertically into high quality, value-added products have resulted in the region not being competitive internationally⁸.

Regional trade: an opportunity

Livestock rearing occupies an important place in macroeconomic terms, and notably as a contribution to GDP and job creation. But the failure to capitalise sufficiently on this potential because of inadequate policies has resulted in imbalances at several levels. First, at the regional level, animal production is far from meeting a demand that is now growing and there is a low level of trade in animal products among the various zones of the region, which could instead capitalise on their complementary assets in terms of geographical position or agroecological potential. Then the livestock sector receives little support in the form of public investment in infrastructure and lacks policies to stimulate regional trade in animal products. Imports from outside Africa are becoming more competitive than similar products from within the region. This situation is also a challenge for the development of the livestock sector. In the absence of effective measures to improve productivity and stimulate trade, it is feared that, despite the potential of its livestock sector, regions in Africa such as West Africa will find it hard to capitalise on the regional opportunities offered by a growing demand for food products of animal origin⁹.

Identifying challenges to today's livestock sector

Over the past 2 decades, livestock and their products have received negative publicity in higher-income countries due to health and environmental concerns. Livestock production, for example, is assigned responsibility globally for 18% of current greenhouse gas emissions in CO₂ equivalents. Highly publicized outbreaks of emerging diseases, such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza have contributed to consumer nervousness about livestock products. Such views might make international agencies and donors hesitant to be seen promoting livestock to alleviate poverty.

Objectives of the Briefing

In order to improve information sharing and promote networking, CTA, the EC-DG Development and EuropeAid, the ACP Secretariat, Euforic, Concord and IPS organise bimonthly briefings on key issues and challenges for rural development in the context of EU/ACP cooperation. The briefing on 1st July 2009 will discuss "***The Role of Livestock for ACP countries: challenges and opportunities ahead***" by (i) raising awareness on existing and emerging key challenges; (ii) promoting exchange of information and expertise; (iii) feeding in the debate various perspectives on livestock and development issues.

Target group

More than 100 ACP-EU policy makers, representatives of EU Member States, civil society groups, research networks and development practitioners, international organisations based in Brussels.

Outputs

Input and comments before, during and after the meetings will be included in the Briefings blog: <http://brusselsbriefings.net/>. Short reports (briefings) in printed and electronic format will be available shortly after the meeting. Articles by IPS Europe, partner in this event, will be widely disseminated.

⁷ IDS, The growing demand for livestock, cit.

⁸ IDS and al., Transboundary animal diseases and market access: the future of beef marketing in southern Africa Roode Vallei Country Inn, Pretoria, South Africa 7 – 8 April 2008 Workshop Report, www.steps-centre.org/PDFs/VetScience_Workshop%20report.pdf

⁹ OECD, Livestock and regional market, cit.



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8h00-8h30 Registration
 8h30-8h45 Welcome remarks: *Director of DG Development, European Commission, Secretary General of the ACP Group, Director of CTA*

08h45-10h30 **Panel 1 – The role of livestock for ACP economies and the drivers of change**
 This session will review the key role that livestock plays in most of ACP countries in terms of livelihoods, economic development, human nutrition and rural poverty alleviation. It will also identify emerging challenges such as the recent trends on livestock food demand, the accelerated (re)emergence of diseases affecting animals and humans, the climate change impact and the challenges to meet market quality requirements.

Panelists:

- Trends and driving forces in livestock production and trade
ILRI
- Accessing high-value export markets: challenges for ACP in meeting the SPS requirements
Dr Howard Batho, Head of legislation sector, imports and OIE, DG Sanco
- Addressing animal and human health constraints: a global and regional priority
Dr. Vittorio Cagnolati, Expert, AU/IBAR
- Livestock and the environment challenge : issues and options
Dr Henning Steinfeld, Chief, FAO's Livestock Information and Policy

Discussant: ACP Ambassador

10h30-10h45 Coffee break

10h45-13h00 **Panel 2 – Future policy challenges and opportunities for the ACP livestock sector**
 Given the rapidly growing demand for animal products and the important contribution of livestock to the ACP economies, what public and donors' support is needed (investment and favorable policies) to stimulate regional trade in animal products? How can the livestock sector become an effective driving force in strengthening the regional market in animal products? What are the conditions under which ACP exporters can access EU and international markets? How can complementarities between commercial and small-scale production be strengthened?

Panelists:

- Responding to the growing demand of livestock products: Challenges in livestock trade exports
Beedeeanan Hulman, Senior Programme Manager, Livestock, SADC
- Regional cooperation to stimulate livestock trade
Dr Francis Asiedu, CARDI
- Is livestock back in the agenda of multilateral agencies?
Jimmy W. Smith, World Bank
- The key role of donors and the urgency to put back livestock in the development agenda
Philippe Steinmetz, European Network on Livestock, ELIDEV

Discussant: ACP Ambassador

Conclusions

13h00-14h00 Networking Buffet Lunch