

Non-State Actors Communiqué on Livestock Sector Development in Tanzania

A Call to Action

In this communiqué, the undersigned Non-State Actors (civil society, pastoralist, research, private, farmers' unions and other stakeholders) champion a call to action and outline recommendations on livestock policy advocacy strategies that take into consideration the unique conditions and opportunities of the livestock sector development in Tanzania.

Summary

The livestock sector is an engine of economic growth in Tanzania where 50 percent of households in the country rely on some form of livestock for part, or all of their income.¹

Tanzania has the third largest livestock population on the African continent after Ethiopia and Sudan and while a variety of livestock products - including livestock, meat, poultry, eggs and leather goods - are produced in Tanzania, the country continues to depend on imports to meet the growing demand.

Today, more than ever, the livestock sector warrants close consideration and attention if the country is to fully realize its potential as a driver for inclusive transformational growth. The livestock sector is seen to contribute to the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025 and a recent analysis found that the sector has contributed between 7.4% to 10% of the national GDP,² although the sector's development budget remains small, shrinking in recent years to 10.6 billion Tsh in 2016/17.³ Livestock is a sector that is growing and transforming rapidly and the demand for animal products and bi-products is rising, driven by higher disposable incomes of the growing middle class and increasing rates of urbanization. Its potential contribution to achieving many of the national development goals represents a unique opportunity for far-reaching transformation.

¹ Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries "Smallholder Livestock Sector: A review based on the 2012/13 National Panel Survey, February 2016: <http://www.mifugouvuvu.go.tz/wp->

² Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries "The State of Livestock Development in Tanzania: Evidence from the 2012/13 National Panel Survey" presentation. May 2015 TLMI Workshop

³ ANSAFs analysis of the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives' (MAFSC) budget and the 2015/16 and 2016/17 livestock development budgets

Background

Livestock production in Tanzania, like crop production, is predominantly by smallholder keepers and pastoralists, many of whom are women, who have limited access to inputs, services and markets. Livestock are often used as collateral for millions of families with no access to formal financial services and for women farmers who do not own land.

Common practices for smallholder keepers in the country are basic, with only 20% reporting accessing extension services, and few farmers owning more productive breeds.⁴ Many keepers struggle with preventable diseases due to the lack of availability of proper veterinary care, with only 50% of keepers reporting access to animal health services.⁵ In addition, there are a variety of direct and indirect policies that affect the performance of the agriculture sector at large, and the livestock sector specifically, including issues related to agricultural taxation, agro-industry, rural roads and energy, importation of agro-produce and packaging materials.⁶ The resulting low productivity is at odds with both the country's increasing demand for animal-source foods and products, and the fact that livestock significantly contributes to rural poor families' incomes and livelihoods.

The livestock sector in Tanzania has the potential to boost economic growth but there is need to increase public financing, as well as create an enabling environment supportive of smallholder keepers and pastoralists to realize this.

Recommendations

The recommendations below were jointly developed by a group of Non-State Actors including civil society, pastoralist, research, private, farmers' unions and other stakeholders who participated in a TrustAfrica and ANSAF-coordinated advocacy convening, held in Dodoma, Tanzania on February 20 and 21, 2017. These recommendations offer a framework for maximizing the potential of the livestock sector to engage smallholder keepers and pastoralists and leverage their contributions to the development of the sector and the Tanzanian economy.

⁴ Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries "Smallholder Livestock Sector: A review based on the 2012/13 National Panel Survey, February 2016: http://www.mifugouvuvu.go.tz/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/1_MALF_Tanzania_smallholder_livestock_sector_Report.pdf

⁵ Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries "Smallholder Livestock Sector: A review based on the 2012/13 National Panel Survey, February 2016: http://www.mifugouvuvu.go.tz/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/1_MALF_Tanzania_smallholder_livestock_sector_Report.pdf

⁶ ANSAF, "Final Budget Analysis 2015-2016

1. **Greater recognition of the substantial contribution of livestock to the national economy translating into increased government and private sector support and funding for the sector.** Increased investments in small-scale producers could accelerate growth in the livestock sector and has the potential to stimulate economic growth, contribute to national food and nutrition security, meet the increased demand for animal-sourced foods and reduce poverty. The growing visibility of the strategic importance of livestock sector in Tanzania's economic development and the East Africa Community should attract increased public and private resources and the formulation of policy and strategies that harness this potential.

2. **Increased participation by Non-State Actors in the identification and formulation of small-scale keeper- and pastoralist-friendly livestock policies.** It is well understood that improvements to breeding, animal health, and feed strategies, along with better access to extension services and markets could significantly boost small scale keepers' and pastoralists' productivity and meet the growing demand for livestock products.⁷ Similarly, a reduction in the prohibitive transaction costs required to contribute to the value chain would be beneficial to small scale keepers and pastoralists and help to meet the growing demand through domestic production. Through greater dialogue and collaboration with the civil society, the government, private sector and others would better ensure the formation of a stronger enabling regulatory environment for smallholder and pastoralist inclusion in the development of value chains and processing plants, ensuring greater integration.

3. **Participation of women and youth in livestock value chains.** While women are the main actors in the dairy and poultry production sector⁸, government livestock policies do not yet clearly articulate how to empower women to effectively participate in the sector. Also, the livestock sector provides as-of-yet untapped employment opportunities for entrepreneurial youth. Ensuring women keepers' and young people's integration in the livestock value chains would improve not only their livelihoods but contribute to the national food and nutrition security goals.

⁷ Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries "The State of Livestock Development in Tanzania: Evidence from the 2012/13 National Panel Survey" presentation. May 2015 TLMI Workshop

⁸ Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries "The State of Livestock Development in Tanzania: Evidence from the 2012/13 National Panel Survey" presentation. May 2015 TLMI Workshop

4. **Ensuring responsible investments by the private sector providing inclusive development opportunities to small-scale livestock keepers' and pastoralists'.** While increasing private sector investment has boosted production in the livestock sector and further investment is desirable, there is a need to continue championing inclusive development in the livestock sector like those under the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor (SAGCOT) and the Livestock Master Plan. Such initiatives should provide mutual benefits for small-scale farmers and livestock keepers. Sustainable production systems and transparency are essential components to attaining responsible private sector development of the livestock sector.

This document is endorsed by the following groups and individuals who have created a livestock advocacy network that leverages multiple approaches to policy advocacy to influence a more inclusive and transparent approach to the transformation of the livestock sector.

