

MONTHLY DIGEST (Livestock Sub-sector in the EAC)



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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN THE EAC (July, 2015)



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1) NEWS IN THE LIVESTOCK SUB-SECTOR IN THE EAC: JULY, 2015

1.1 Tanzania Launches a Livestock Modernization Initiative (2015/16-2020/21)

In July 2015, the President of Tanzania H.E. Jakaya Kikwete launched the Tanzania Livestock Modernization Initiative under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. The initiative seeks to increase the number of livestock in the national ranches by importing 2000 heads of cattle from Brazil, a move that is seen to be a way of the government incentivizing private investment in a sub-sector that experts sees as a potential for improving livelihoods for the poor. Although the original plan was to import embryos at a lesser cost, the President expressed confidence that the program will commercialize the industry and towards increasing its contribution to the national economy and improving the lives of livestock keepers.

<http://in2eastfrica.net/kikwete-censures-livestock-ministry-over-inaction/>

1.2 Regional Livestock Policy Framework for COMESA Countries Validated

Experts and officials from the livestock ministries in COMESA Member Countries convened in Lusaka, Zambia in early July 2015 to validate a comprehensive Regional Livestock Policy Framework, a premier move in bilateral cooperation within the Member States in supporting the livestock sub-sector. The African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), in collaboration with COMESA, has been facilitating the development and validation process of the framework over the past two years, through its VET-GOV Programme. Most importantly, the framework will be a cornerstone of guiding Member States in harmonizing control of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) that has curtailed intra and inter-regional trade in livestock and livestock products in the EAC. The document has also outlined modalities for facilitating access to inputs to augment livestock production, productivity and competitiveness in the region to respond to the ever changing market conditions.

<http://www.au-ibar.org/vet-gov/743-comesa-validates-a-regional-livestock-policy-framework>

1.3 Milk glut results in reduced prices for Kenyan dairy farmers by Giant Processors

Readily available fodder owing to bountiful rain during the March-May season has resulted in equally plentiful milk output in Kenya, a situation that has culminated into a plunge in milk prices of between Kshs 2-3 per litre of milk sold to formal milk processors. Confirming this, the Kenya Dairy Farmers Federation reported that the volume of milk had increased from 4 million litres in March to 6.1 million litres in May 2015.

The two major milk processors in the country: the state-owned New KCC and private owned Brookside said that the fall in prices is a result of demand and supply forces. In contrast, consumers are enjoying low retail prices as milk processors have passed the benefits of increased milk volumes. However, it is interesting to note that the rate of price decrease for processed milk at 17% has been more than that of raw milk at a paltry 4%. Brookside set precedence in lowering milk prices in June 2015 while other processors obliged soon after. The company 44% of the milk market followed by the New KCC at 20% while Githunguri Dairy Farmers Co-operative is ranked

third with 17%. Sameer – processors of Daima Milk and which was recently acquired by Brookside – commands a 6% market share.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/-/539546/2814556/-/12pjpgz/-/index.html> and <http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Brookside-cuts-farmer-milk-prices-on-rise-in-supply-volumes/-/539546/2786674/-/11tq9y9/-/index.html>

1.4 Fish from Northern Uganda crosses borders to find a Market in Kenya

Although Northern Uganda is not endowed with major water bodies, the region has not been excluded from fish production, and in a commercial way for that matter. Infact, fish farming in region's Kole dam produces the most fish in Uganda only rivaled by the Source of Nile (SON) Farm. The director of the dam reported cages at the dam are currently holding about 460,000 to 600,000 in Tilapia stocks. Amidst skepticism about availability of fish in Northern Uganda for sale across border, five tonnes of fish has already been delivered to a Nairobi trader through Busia, a border point between Kenya and Uganda at a cost of UGX 6 million/tonne. According to the director of the dam, the major harvesting window will happen in August 2015 where buyers from local and export market are expected to procure fish from the dam.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/670820-kole-fish-get-access-to-kenya-market.html>

1.5 Pig Farmers in Masaka District in Uganda counting Losses due to an outbreak of Africa Swine Fever

The African swine fever, a viral disease that is endemic in Africa south of the equator has hit Masaka, a neighbouring district of Kampala wreaking havoc to pig herds. Dozens of farmers in this area reported to have lost their animals to the disease which has no known vaccine. The disease is passed to animals through a vicious cycle between soft ticks, wild pigs and direct contact with infected pigs. Confirming the reports, a veterinary officer from one of the sub-counties in the district warned that the disease was still spreading and warned farmers to be ware and excise precautionary measures to avoid further infections. Also, the officer lamented that despite the quarantine that bars pig movement in the area, dealers still sneak into the affected areas and smuggle the infected animals to other places of the district thereby perpetuating the spread of the disease. In the aftermath, residents were called upon to be careful when buying pork products from pork joints whose adherence to health inspection was not ascertained. The severity of the problem has seen the Masaka District Pig Farmers' Platform seek the intervention of the Uganda office of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

<http://www.thepigsite.com/swinenews/40105/ugandan-pigs-suffering-from-african-swine-fever-outbreaks/>.

1.6 Impact of ILRI's IBLI and the role of Public and Private Sector in Upscaling of Livestock Insurance in Kenya

In a workshop hosted by the Index Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) project of ILRI in Nairobi Kenya in June 2015, participants were informed of the its impact as an example of evidence-based research and lessons learned for wider policies to support livelihoods in pastoral production

systems. Since its inception in 2010, the innovative product that was designed to protect livestock keepers from drought-related asset losses in Northern Kenya (and Southern Ethiopia), has not only improved the coping ability of post-drought effects of livestock keepers, but are also the farmers were found to be 25% less likely to ration meals especially to children. In addition, IBLI has been found to be a more cost-effective strategy for dealing with hunger and drought-related effects compared to other household safety net programs (HSNP) in Northern Kenya. Success of IBLI endorses research-for-development innovations as a more effective method of solving social and economic challenges of vulnerable livelihoods.

During the same workshop that attracted both public and private sector stakeholders in livestock insurance, different speakers outlined the role of both the state and private sector in progressing the agenda of upscaling mechanisms for strengthening resilience of livelihoods of communities in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). To this end, it was proposed that governments should support the private sector in creating an integrated social protection system for the ASALs specifically, certification and regulation roles. On the other hand, private sector should take cue from the success of IBLI to develop more innovative insurance products that are sustainable and are acceptable to the target communities.

<http://ibli.ilri.org/2015/07/13/ibli-partners-discuss-how-project-partnerships-are-shaping-livestock-insurance-policy-in-kenya/>

1.7 Improved breeds of Goats and Sheep as a coping mechanism against climate change for Small-scale farmers and Pastoral Herders

According to scientists working with the ‘Small ruminants’ project of ILRI, improved breeding of small ruminants provides a better pathway for enhancing resilience of poor pastoral and farming households against climate change. Also, small ruminants can enhance incomes of women and youth as they tend to have control over them. Using participatory community approaches, the project aims to increase production of milk and meat of small ruminant thereby increasing households’ incomes. Piloting of the project started in 2014 in the Nyando climate-smart villages (CSVs) in Western Kenya where collective action in seven villages is helping smallholders integrate science approaches to address the effects of climate change.

In realization that breeding of small ruminants in East African has been between indigenous breeds in the region that take long to mature and fetch poor market prices, the new project will be providing beneficiaries with crossbreeds as an alternative. The crossbreeds are able to withstand heat stress and recover from drought, utilize poor forage and cope with diseases, in addition to attaining mature market weights within shorter periods of time.

This project is an ‘upscale’ from a 2011 ILRI initiative that successfully introduced improved red Maasai sheep, bred at ILRI’s Kapiti Ranch, in eastern Kenya, among pastoralists in Kajiado District, which experiences droughts and extreme weather events similar to Nyando. The project resulted in increased adoption of sheep rearing among households in Isinya, Kajiado, and a new market for sheep milk in the district.

<http://news.ilri.org/2015/07/10/kenyas-native-goats-and-sheep-expertly-crossbred-are-key-to-helping-farmers-cope-with-climate-change/>