

# MONTHLY DIGEST (Livestock/Dairy Sub sector)



## EAC LIVESTOCK SECTOR NEWS UPDATES

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## Acronyms/ Abbreviations

AGP	Antibiotic use for Growth Promotion
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
DED	District Council Executive Director
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
KCB	Kenya Commercial Bank
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PPR	Peste des petits ruminants
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

## **1. Technology for Revolutionizing Livestock Industry in EAC**

### **1.1 An ICT solution for traceability of cattle in Tanzania**

A public initiative to establish an electronic system to keep cattle records is set to transform the livestock subsector in Tanzania. According to the Director of Research, Education and Extension Services in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, the move is geared towards improvement of traceability of animals, an important prerequisite in boosting quality of livestock products and trade in the country. Special gadgets with special numbers identifying the region, district, village and farm where animals are coming from will be fitted to the animals. The special identification numbers will also contain other details such as medical history which are important when accessing international markets. The technology will also be critical in enabling producers of good quality livestock products get better prices a situation that is hitherto not the case. Good quality livestock products still fetch the same prices as sub-standard products which ultimately demotivates producers/farmers.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201510030082.html>

### **1.2 “Adopt Modern Technology to increase honey production and get new markets:” Beef Farmers in Uganda Urged.**

Recent market trends for honey in Uganda have sent positive signals for a growth trajectory of the sub-sector that is very good news to the industry’s players- what with access of certified honey from the country to EU markets and increasing use of honey as a healthier alternative to sugar in many households in Uganda. However, these gains appear that they might not translate to much as honey producers in the country are unable to increase production by 100% from the current 500,000 MT per annum to meet these emerging market opportunities. The biggest culprit of this status quo is said to be the inability of farmers to adopt modern bee keeping technologies such as high yielding beehives.

According to “The Hive”, an organization that promotes bee-keeping in 12 African countries including Uganda, a modern beehive would yield 54-78kgs of honey per annum; compared to the traditional one which gives very little at the same time destroying the colonies. As such, beekeepers in Uganda are urged to adopt new honey production technologies not only because of increasing demand for honey nationally and internationally but also due to the commensurate increase in demand of other more premium bee products. These calls from the private sector have been backed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) which is imploring farmers to seek advice from district entomology officers to help them in their bee-keeping projects.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/674391-embrace-modern-technology-to-earn-more-from-bee-keeping.html>

## **2. Regulation to Streamline Dairy Industry**

### **2.1 Rwanda institutes a legal mechanism towards regulation of dairy industry to boost its growth**

The Government of Rwanda is showing commitment to develop the dairy sub-sector in the country by instituting a legislative instrument to regulate the industry. Observing that the country has made major progress towards revolutionizing the dairy sub-sector exhibited in increased milk

production, processing and trade in the last few years, the State Minister for agriculture said these gains could be watered down by lack of regulation that has resulted in unfair market competition and production of substandard dairy products that put the health of consumers at risk. This has warranted the Rwandan cabinet to approve a ministerial order to reverse this trend. The order states that every milk aggregation centre shall have a qualified milk technician in charge of quality testing while all the milk from these centers will be required to have a certificate of origin to facilitate traceability.

Indeed, production of milk in Rwanda has been continuously increasing as occasioned by the country-wide one-cow-per-family flagship programme which was introduced in 2007. The programme has seen over 200,000 cows distributed to vulnerable families across the country. It is targeted that by 2017, an additional 150,000 cows will be distributed thereby increasing milk production from the current 706,030 to 730,133 MT during the same period.

<http://africanfarming.net/livestock/cattle/rwanda-issues-new-guidelines-for-dairy-industry>

### **3. “Last Mile Infrastructure and Services” triggers positive change among livestock Keepers**

#### **3.1 Bringing Livestock services closer to Pastoralists in ASALs of Kenya changing their lives**

Livestock keepers in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya such as Isiolo are faced with perennial loss of their animals due to drought that causes scarcity of pasture and water as well as spread of diseases. The latter is especially compounded by migration of pastoralists and limited veterinary support. Putting this into better perspective, a veterinary officer in the area notes that when a large numbers of animals aggregate at watering and pasture areas, the spread of highly contagious and often deadly viral diseases such as rinderpest, goat plague, and CCP (contagious caprine pleuropneumonia) ensues, potentially leading to large-scale deaths. In addition, pastoralist usually have to wait over two weeks to get diagnosis of their animals as samples have to be transported to laboratories more than 200Km away.

However, fortunes for livestock keepers in Isiolo are changing with the launch of “The Isiolo adaptation pilot project funded by the UK Department for International Development through the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to the tune of \$1 million. The funds have been used to build a new veterinary laboratory, drill a new water well and build/rehabilitate 11 water-trapping sand dams, six water pans and a rock catchment area. Another three small veterinary laboratories are scheduled for completion in December 2015. The pilot project is aimed at availing veterinary services to pastoralists to improve milk production, reduce transmission of livestock diseases as well as building resilience in the face of a changing climate. Anecdotal evidence indicates that access to water, pasture and veterinary services has improved lives of pastoralists as time hitherto used to look for these vital commodities is now being diverted to improvement of household hygiene and attend to other chores especially those performed by women. It is such registered success that has the pilot project set to be up-scaled-up to other ASALs in Kenya.

<http://www.scidev.net/global/agriculture/multimedia/vet-care-nomad-livestock-herders.html>  
<http://africanindy.com/features/as-droughts-worsen-joined-up-adaptations-build-resilience-in-arid-kenya-1283355/>

### **3.2 Free Health clinics for livestock producers in Kilifi County, Kenya launched**

A public-private initiative is benefiting livestock farmers in Kilifi County in Kenya by providing a free health clinics where more than 35,000 livestock will be vaccinated, dewormed and treated in an effort to stop disease outbreaks. The project is under the auspices of the Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation, the county government of the largely semi-arid area of Kilifi and Kenya Veterinary Association. An official of the Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation which is running the free clinics observed that the project is aimed at increasing livestock production against the backdrop of rapidly increasing demand for animal products and dependency on livestock for livelihoods in this area.

<http://www.the-star.co.ke/sites/all/themes/star/logo.png>

### **3.3 Livestock Market in Isiolo Kenya opens up trade for Livestock Keepers in the county**

Isiolo Country in Kenya is receiving good tidings in support of the back-borne of its economy- livestock- going by the recent initiatives aimed at developing the sub-sector. All these are towards ensuring that the livestock sub-sector plays its rightful role of improving the livelihoods of the residents of the county who highly depend on it. To remove the marketing bottlenecks that have for a long time curtailed livestock farmers from receiving good prices for their animals, a livestock market has been set up in the country by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) within its Feed the Future Programme at a cost of Kshs 50 million. Already, this intervention is bearing fruits as livestock keepers sold stock worth more than Sh10 million in less than six hours of the launch of the market. The market is attracting buyers from Nairobi, a major hub for trade and consumption of livestock products, and surrounding counties notably Nyeri, Laikipia, Kirinyaga Murang'a, and Meru. In addition, the market is also availing a platform where the livestock farmers can access other goods such as fresh farm produce thereby improving their overall nutritional wellbeing. Success of this market has leveraged establishment of one more major livestock market and four other smaller ones in the country to be completed later in the year. This initiative is a classic case of how last-mile infrastructure can revolutionize an agricultural value chain to the benefit of all actors involved.

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2000180066/us-ambassador-opens-sh50-million-livestock-market-in-isiolo>

## **4. Livestock Diseases and Control Interventions in the EAC**

### **4.1 ILRI, FAO and veterinary service providers in Kenya discuss control of peste de petits ruminants**

Kenya is joining global efforts in eradicating Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), also known as 'goat plague' by developing its national strategy towards this end. PPR is a deadly and highly contagious viral disease that affects sheep and goats. Currently, the disease causes heavy losses especially in goats and is one of the most damaging livestock diseases in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Various components of the strategy were discussed during a workshop convened by ILRI and FAO and

attended by county veterinary service providers earlier in October 2015. The African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) was also represented at the workshop. The workshop focused on determining the current incidence and prevalence rates of this deadly disease in seven semi-arid counties and formulating scenarios for estimating costs and benefits of various control strategies. It emerged that county governments are implementing different approaches towards PPR control. As such, it was recommended that an investigative study be carried out to determine effects of these different approaches in addition to informing ongoing discourse on PPR control at national level.

Earlier in 2015, a strategy towards eliminating the disease by 2030 was formulated under the patronage of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) at a conference in Côte d'Ivoire. The strategy of the Kenyan government focuses on strengthening veterinary services across affected countries and creation of more cost effective ways to control other priority livestock diseases. It postulates a consistent approach at national level towards PPR eradication which is based on four main stages ranging from epidemiological and socio-economic assessment.

<http://clippings.ilri.org/2015/10/19/ilri-fao-and-kenya-veterinary-service-providers-discuss-control-of- peste-de-petits-ruminants/>

#### **4.2 Nagana rears its 'deadly head' in Karamoja region of Uganda**

Recent reports from Karamoja region of Uganda largely characterized by livestock keeping indicate that Trypanosomiasis also known as "Nagana" has killed more than 100 heads of cattle and affected livelihoods of more than 3,000 cattle keepers in two districts in the region from September 2015.

<http://news.ugo.co.ug/thousands-of-cattle-attacked-by-nagana-in-karamoja/>

### **5. Multi-faceted Research Developments in the Livestock Subsector Globally and in Uganda**

#### **5.1 To use Antibiotics as growth promoters in Livestock production or Not? The debate rages on**

Can the gains made globally by use antibiotic in reduction of mortality rate caused by bacterial infections in both man and animals since their accidental discovery be watered down by the negative impact of use of antibiotics as growth promoters on the same health of human being and animals they serve to preserve? This is the question that has sparked renewed debate in the global arena. The debate is indeed warranted as recent studies show that misuse of antibacterial drugs has resulted in development of bacterial resistance over time. These studies revealed that farmers are the biggest culprits in use of antibiotics in livestock production directly or indirectly through a veterinary practitioners. Antibiotics have been found to boost poultry, beef cattle and pig production as they accelerate growth rate and increase muscle weight. However, withdrawal period within which the antibiotics undergo total disintegration and excretion from the animal's biological system before the animal or its products can be consumed is supposed to be observed. Unfortunately, due the ever increasing demand for livestock products, farmers do not observe the withdraw period before off-loading their products to the market thereby predisposing consumers of animal products to health complications related to mis-use of antibiotics.

Although the subject is not short of controversy the world over, the problem is premised on the fact that the same antibiotics used in man are used to control the same strain of bacteria in animals that kill “friendly bacteria” in humans thereby interfering with the floral balance in their bodies with ensuing adverse health effects. Compounding the situation is also that prolonged use of antibiotics is said to cause bacteria to change their genetic composition resulting to resistance to antibiotics that would ordinary work. Resistant strains can also be spread through water, soil or meat into human body system thereby predisposing even farm workers and farmers indirectly to infections.

This debate has attracted the attention of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) which has raised a red flag on adulteration of antimicrobials and their widespread use by untrained personnel. As a result there is need for a harmonized framework worldwide for surveillance of antibiotics use in animals to safeguard the health of the people. In the same light, animal welfare activists are decrying use of antibiotics as growth promoters where animals are kept in hygienically neglected and crowded conditions without due regard to biosecurity. Calls to halt use of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock production for public health safety are boosted by a study conducted in Denmark that found no economic losses for not using growth promoters after the country banned their use in poultry and pig production in 1999.

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2000180582/kenyan-farmers-should-not-use-antibiotics-to-promote-growth-in-livestock?pageNo=1-3>

## **5.2 Does livestock ownership affect animal-based foods consumption and child nutritional status? Case of Uganda**

There is a positive correlation between promotion of (small) livestock ownership and human nutrition especially that of children in rural Uganda. This was a finding of research conducted by World Bank which sought to investigate the relationship between ownership of various livestock species and consumption of animal source foods to improve nutritional status of children. In Uganda, like in many developing countries, consumption of animal source foods among the poor is still very low. Although these findings are encouraging, the reports recommends further research to determine more succinctly the direction and magnitude of the positive effects.

<http://clippings.ilri.org/2015/10/09/asf-children-uganda/>

## **5.3 Nutritious and cost-effective pig feeds within reach of Smallholder Pig farmers in Uganda**

Seasonal variations in feed quality and availability is a rampant problem that constrains smallholder pig farmers in Central Uganda. However, this need not be as a recent study found out that locally available feed stuff, when properly rationed can provide sufficient and cost-effective feed for optimal pig production. The study, whose objective was to abridge nutritional value of locally available feed ingredients additionally established that pig farmers are also constrained with high cost of feed and limited knowledge to formulate low-cost nutritionally balanced formulas. Indeed, nutritious feed materials for pigs such as low- to no cost planted forages and opportunistic forages (weeds) and fruits, crop residues and agricultural co-products are available and within reach of

farmers seasonally. These materials could be ingredients of nutritious rations to meet pigs' dietary requirements to improve growth performance while minimizing feed costs.

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/68569/ResearchBrief55.pdf?sequence=1>

## 6. FDI in Livestock Markets a sign of Investor Confidence in the Industry

### 6.1 Modern Abattoir to boost Beef Markets in Uganda

Uganda beef market is set for a take-off with the establishment of an \$11 million modern abattoir in Luwero District, 32 Km from Kampala by an Egyptian firm Egypt-Uganda Food Security. Currently, the country falls short of supplying the market with 900,000 tonnes of both processed and unprocessed beef products per year, a situation that is poised to change when the abattoir gets fully operational. The Egypt-Uganda Food Security abattoir will have an operational capacity to slaughter 1,000 cows daily and hold up to 5,000 animals waiting to be slaughtered. In addition, the abattoir will perform other functions such as cooling and processing of the meat in accordance with requirements of the relevant authorities: Kampala City Council Authority and the Uganda National Bureau of Standards.

The management of the abattoir is expressing enthusiasm at the prospects of exploiting a burgeoning demand for beef products in the EAC region and beyond and plans to use the strategic location of Uganda to process, package and distribute products in regional export markets. According to industry players, there is commendable growth in the beef industry in Uganda which has moved from 191,280 MT in 2012 to 230,000 MT between 2014 and early 2015 a trend that can be improved to target emerging markets. Currently, production constraints abound in Uganda majorly due to largely subsistence and existence of slow maturing indigenous breeds coupled with sluggish transition to commercial production. Secondly, with only two meat processing companies with recognizable standards in the country - Quality Fresh Cuts and Rosa, the country cannot poise itself to meet demand for beef products with the same speed with which it is growing. According to Uganda Meat Producers Co-operative Union Ltd, there is no shortage of abattoirs in Uganda- however, they are sub-standard and largely do not observe hygiene requirements. The Union also cautions that market growth for processed meat is a long shot as currently, most Ugandans prefer freshly cut meat; processed meat products is only a preserve of just a small fraction of high end consumers.

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/Uganda-eyes-local-export-beef-market-with-11m-investment/-/2560/2928806/-/4opr9jz/-/index.html>